Bealtaine Festival
An Age & Opportunity arts initiative

Age & Opportunity

Older Traveller Artist Award of €1000 for artist from a Traveller heritage 2026

Deadline: 12pm, Thursday 18th, June 2026

Information for applicants

Age & Opportunity values and supports older artists in Ireland and is working with Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre to make an award to an older artist with a Traveller heritage.

Award for an Artist with a Traveller Heritage

We wish to recognise everyday creativity within the Traveller community and to support older artists/makers with a Traveller heritage. The award recognises how contemporary Traveller culture can be undervalued within mainstream society.

It is only recently that the term “artist” has become known and used in the Traveller community. This award is for creative people who might not call themselves artists but who carry out creative activities such as woodwork, writing, poetry, storytelling, dance, film and video, photography, sculpture,

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drawing, painting fabric and needle craft, metal work and theatre, drama and music and singing. You may be inspired by Traveller traditions for example wagon-making, tinsmithing, beady pockets or you may work in a modern-day context only.

The award is specifically intended to highlight and support creativity in Traveller communities and increase visibility for people who are not given a chance to showcase their work or to be celebrated by wider Irish society.

The award is intended to be spent by artists and makers to further develop their work by funding training, networking, transport and materials.

Notes on terms

*For the purposes of this award, an older Traveller artist is defined as someone over 40 years, (as per a Department of Health report 2019) and who is recognised in their community as contributing to Traveller creative culture.

One award of €1000 will be made to the successful applicant.

As above**,** the award is intended to be spent on artists/makers further developing their work including buying materials and any activity that supports their creativity. The award may also be used for mentorship for building industry contacts and networking.

Please note that Age & Opportunity also offers bursaries/awards for emerging artists and professional development which are open for everyone to apply to.

Call for Applications

Application Process:

There are two ways to apply for this award:

1. **Make a short video or audio recording** of yourself answering the questions on the application form. This can be sent to us by WhatsApp or email. Please also send some samples of work (2-3 photos or videos or audio files), which can also be sent by WhatsApp or email.
2. **Download or print out the application form**, fill it out and email it to arts@ageandopportunity.ie . Please also send examples of work (2-3 photos or videos or audio files).

Please first tell us these details so we can contact you:
Name:
Address:
Phone number:
Email:

Q1 – Tell us a bit about yourself: (1 min approx. speaking time)

- Do you identify as a Traveller or of Traveller heritage?
- Do you work creatively on a regular basis?
- Are you based in the Republic of Ireland
- Are you 40 years or over

Q2 - Why do you want this award? (1 min approx. speaking time)

Q3. – Please describe your artistic or making work, for example: (2 min approx. speaking time)

- What kind of things do you create / make?
- What are you inspired by?
- What is your style?

Q4 – Tell us about your past work (3 mins speaking approx.)

- How long have you been working in this artform / making?
- How did you learn these skills?
- Have you shown your work in any public setting?
- Have you taken part in any public festivals or events, such as Traveller Pride Week, Culture Night, Misleoir Festival or any others (please tell us more)?
- Have you received any recognition from a Traveller or other organisation for your work (please tell us more)?

Q5. Tell us about the importance of being an artist in your everyday life? (2 – 3 mins speaking)

Q6. How do you see your work developing? (1-2 mins speaking)

Q7 - How would you use the award to support your art/making practice? (1-2 mins speaking)

For e.g.

- Mentorship/support from another artist
- Professional development training course
- Materials / supplies for making

- Transport costs

How to qualify:

The Age & Opportunity Award for an Artist from a Traveller Heritage will be offered to one artist, (working in any artform) aged 40 + who:

- Self-identifies as Irish Traveller or of a Traveller heritage;
- Has a regular creative or artistic practice (as shown in the application and with, examples of work);
- Is working in any artform and based in the Republic of Ireland.

Selection Criteria:

Please note, applications will be assessed by an appointed panel which will include Traveller artists/makers. Selection for the award will be according to the following criteria:

- Strength of past achievements as an artist and future plans for your creative work. (reference from Traveller community);
- Artistic quality and ambition as shown through your **supporting material (photos, videos etc);**
- Examples of how this award with help your work as an artist/maker as shown by the application form answers;

Applications should be sent in by email or WhatsApp no later than **12pm, Thursday 18th June, 2026. WhatsApp Number - 089 4920728 or arts@ageandopportunity.ie**

For further information, including help filling out the application form, contact Caoimhe McCabe, Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Centre via caoimhe.mccabe@pavee.ie and mobile - 085 8162351.

Questions relating to the Award may also be emailed to arts@ageandopportunity.ie .

We aim to have the final decision by mid-August 2025. Should we receive a large volume of applicants, this timeline may be extended. All applicants will be kept notified of any changes or updates.

Health & Safety

Applicants should understand that they are responsible for their own Health & Safety during any activity undertaken associated with this Award, though Age & Opportunity's Safety Statement will be shared for information. The Award winner will be asked to sign a short contract to show they keep Health and Safety regulations.

Insurance

The awardee acknowledges they are solely responsible for ensuring they have Public Liability Insurance cover.

Equality, Human Rights, and Diversity

In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, and in line with our core funders, Age & Opportunity is committed to ensuring that it takes positive policy measures and commitments to promote equality of opportunity for all those living in Ireland, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community. Furthermore, Age & Opportunity notes the ground of socioeconomic background as a further basis for which equality of opportunity must be guaranteed.

Age & Opportunity is committed to increasing the diversity and inclusion of our work. As such, we have decided to offer this specific award, to address the historic lack of support for and recognition of artists from a Traveller background and to create awareness of same.

More Information

Age & Opportunity
Age & Opportunity is the national organisation that provides a range of opportunities for older people who want to get more involved in arts and culture, sport and physical activity, civic engagement and personal development.

Our vision is an Ireland where all older people can be more active, more visible, more creative, more connected, more confident, more often.

We work with local communities and organisations across the country to run a range of programmes and activities in three key areas:

- **Age & Opportunity Arts** provides opportunities for us to engage more in arts and cultural events and initiatives
- **Age & Opportunity Active** is designed to get us more active and participate in recreational sport and physical activity
- **Age & Opportunity Engage** offers a range of workshops and learning initiatives for our own personal development as well as opportunities for us to play an active role in our community.

Age & Opportunity **Arts** is our dedicated arts and culture programme running throughout the year in local communities all over Ireland. We host a range of different creative initiatives including the annual Bealtaine Festival which takes place throughout the month of May and is delivered in partnership with communities and organisations nationwide. Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival

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which uniquely celebrates the arts and creativity as we age and is 30 years old in 2025.