



Kilkenny

*Creative
Kilkenny
2025*

where medieval meets modern



Creative Communities Engagement Officer

- Enhancing community engagement in creative activities.
- Co-ordinating with the Creative Ireland team.
- Supporting local organisations and community groups through creative activities and events.
- Administration of the Creative Ireland Grant scheme, collaborations and targeted projects.
- 2025 budget €207,000. Funded through the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, and An Roinn Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt.

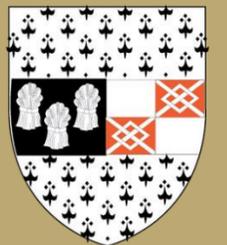
BROADEN ACCESS AND INCREASE PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES LOCALLY

- Inter departmental consultation.
- Interagency collaboration.
- Outreach.
- Collaborative projects.
- Additional funding streams.

The Creative Ireland Programme Five Pillars



Kilkenny Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-27 Priorities



Creative Ireland Kilkenny Team

Climate Action

LAIT Team

Healthy Kilkenny

LEO

Libraries

Biodiversity

PARKS

PPN

Community

Team



Youth

Culture

Arts

Environment

Town Regeneration

Age Friendly

Heritage

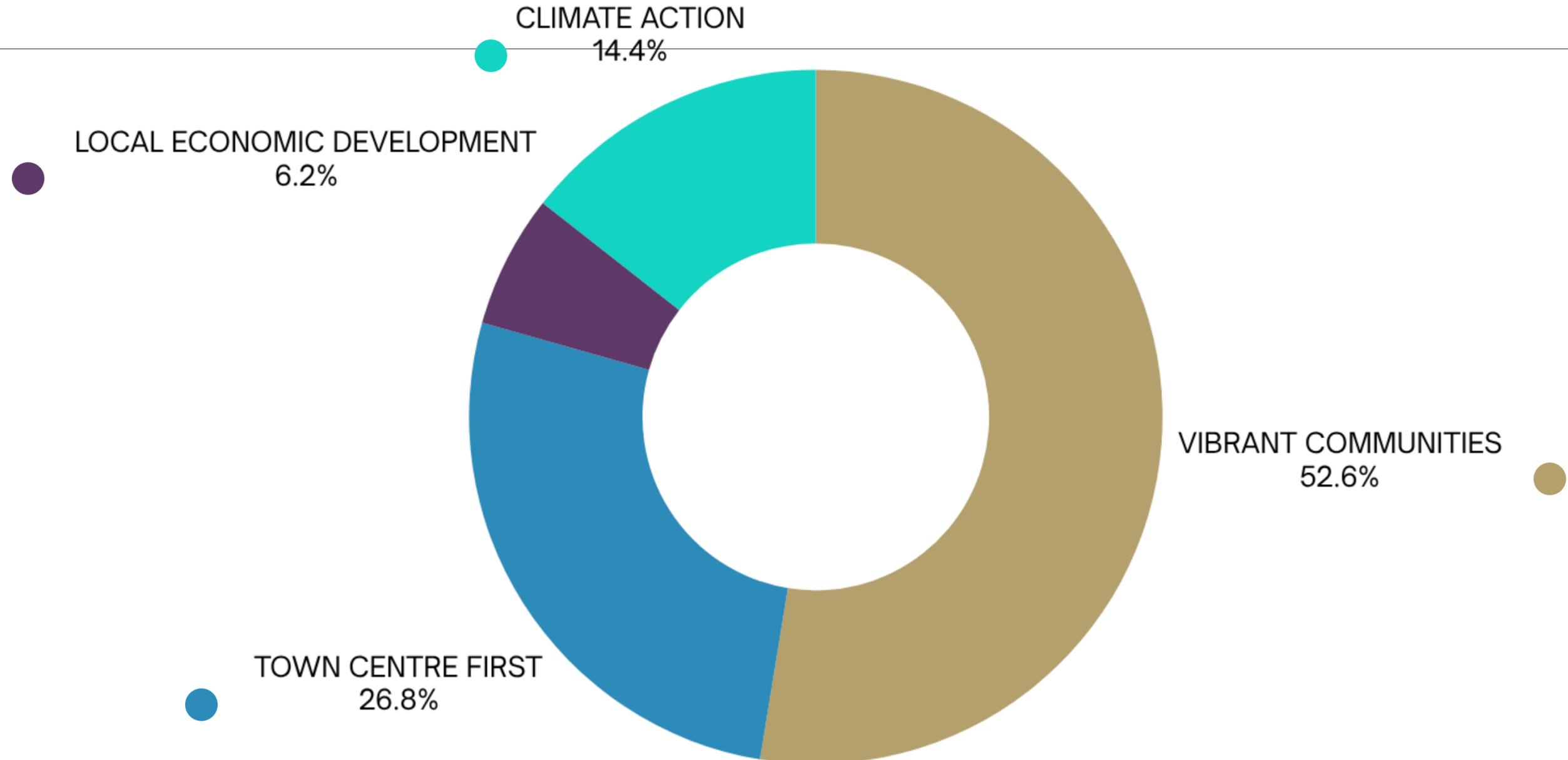
Tourism



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

Culture & Creativity Strategy Priorities

% of alignment 2025





CREATIVE IRELAND GRANT

Assessment Process

Open Call Launch, January 6th, 2025.

Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg grant applications were assessed by an independent panel.

Creative Ireland Grant

- 67 applications received (requesting €220,700).
- 39 have been approved.
- 28 were ineligible as they did not meet the standard criteria.

Cruinniú na nÓg and Night Time Economy

24 applications: received (requested €57,851).

20 have been approved following the assessment, generating over 52 events across Kilkenny.

All the applications were of a very high standard.

4 were ineligible as they did not meet the standard criteria.



Creative Ireland Grant allocation Summary

- 8 Kilkenny County Council projects €72,050
- 31 External projects €66,520
- 20 Cruinniú na nÓg projects €43,720

Kilkenny County Council Creative Ireland Grant allocation 2025

No	Details of Applicant	Project	Municipal District	Awarded
1	Parks KCC	Mural/ Greenway in Ferrybank positive collaborative response to anti-social behaviour.	Piltown	€11,000
2	LEO Office NTE KCC	The Night Creates – range of workshops during Culture night at the Abbey Quarter.	Kilkenny	€6,000
3	LEO Office KCC	Monkey around the Mile – Research to develop a Creative Orientation for Medieval Kilkenny Visitors.	Piltown	€6,000
4	LAIT Team KCC	I Am Me – Not Just a Refugee: A Migrant Photography Project.	Kilkenny	€3,300
5	Biodiversity KCC	Biodiversity on the Block - workshops with 3 schools, a farming community group, and a business group.	Callan – Thomastown and Kilkenny	€7,500
6	Arts Office KCC	Art of Change workshops, working with young people to creatively explore environmental and climate issues through art.	Kilkenny	€7,250
7	Age Friendly KCC	Kilkenny’s Age of Creativity - 19 Workshops & Demonstrations: Focused on community, social, creative, and cultural development, featuring music, dance, storytelling, and crafts.	Castlecomer, Callan – Thomastown, Kilkenny	€10,000
8	Arts Office KCC	Patrick’s Pilot - Engaging Ossory Youth and Irish Young Filmmakers in the 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade	Kilkenny	€10,000
Total				€72,050



Creative Ireland funded project - Kilkenny County Council LAIT Team

"I Am Me - Not Just a Refugee"

Exhibition launch at 12pm, on June 17th in the Butler Gallery.

This exhibition is part of Refugee Week, celebrating the stories, talents, and contributions of refugees in our community.

External projects - Creative Ireland Grant allocation 2025

No	Details of Applicant	Project	Municipal District	Awarded
1	Abbeyhall Graiguenamanagh	Re-create – Series of creative workshops through the women’s shed in Graiguenamanagh. Utilising eco-friendly techniques and materials.	Callan – Thomastown	€2,800
2	Acorn project	Connecting Communities to Rathbeagh Ringfort and Northern Nore	Castlecomer	€2,000
3	Ancient Voices	Ancient Voices of Kells Priory – series of cultural performances	Callan – Thomastown	€2,000
4	Alternative Kilkenny Arts Festival	2025 Outreach and Development workshops in the AKA Festival	Callan – Thomastown, Kilkenny	€3,000
5	Barnstorm Theatre	Moving Up – series of theatre workshops for transition year students	Kilkenny	€1,500
6	Better Together	Our Voices Rising: A Collective Creative Journey series of workshops	Kilkenny	€2,500
7	Butler Gallery,	National Drawing Day at Butler Gallery full day of events and workshops	Kilkenny	€3,000
8	Callan Open Doors	Callan Open Doors 2025 - Pop up flash mob dance and art installation	Callan – Thomastown	€3,000
9	Conscious Crafting	Creative workshops – Slieverue Youth project mapping the area for biodiversity project.	Piltown	€1,000
10	Core Theatre	MórScéal – Alice Kyteler themed workshops and performances	Kilkenny	€1,000
11	Dreamstuff Youth	Improv Ensemble Improbable Improvs community outreach drama workshops	Callan – Thomastown and Kilkenny	€3,020
12	Glenmore Women’s Shed	Bothán na mBan Gleann Mór. Historical sculpture project celebrating local fishing techniques	Piltown	€3,000
13	Helium Arts	Community Summer Art Camps for young people dealing with long term illness	Kilkenny	€3,000
14	Ionad Lachtain	Feile Lachtain 2025-Traditional Crafts and Skills-Reflection and Celebration	Castlecomer	€2,400
15	Kilkenny Collective for Arts Talent	Celebrating Creative Change – workshops supporting accessibility for people with disabilities.	Callan – Thomastown	€3,000
16	Keep Her Lit Festival	Tribes and Celebrations: Mask Making Workshops for targeted groups	Callan – Thomastown	€1,000
17	Kilkenny Comedy Club	Comedy in a Crisis performance raising awareness on climate change	Kilkenny	€1,800
18	Kilkenny Female woodworkers	Reassembling Histories: Kilkenny’s Female Woodworkers. Research and public workshops held in the Butler gallery	Kilkenny	€3,000
19	Kilkenny One Parent Community	Immersed in Nature – series of grounding workshops for participants	Kilkenny	€1,000
20	Killure Lodge	Oíche Cultúr & Foloír – series of performances and workshops	Castlecomer	€800
21	Lamb, Susie	Songlines – series of workshops with the travelling community exploring traditional songs	Kilkenny	€2,900

External Projects - Creative Ireland Grant allocation 2025

No	Details of Applicant	Project	Municipal District	Awarded
22	Music Generation	Southside Sounds: Discover, Play, Record series of outreach workshops in rural areas.	Kilkenny, Piltown, Castlecomer	€1,500
23	Neuro – divergent Art and Wellbeing	Vibrant Art for Neuro-diverse Young People – series of art workshops	Kilkenny	€1,000
24	Ossory Youth	Youth Arts Summer Programme Ossory Youth – series of creative workshops	Kilkenny	€1,500
25	Plein Air Town of Books	Series of workshops building to an open air Plein Air event in Graiguenamanagh during the Town of Books Festival	Callan – Thomastown	€1,500
26	Slieverue Youth Club	Spread your Wings – Community project in the linear park	Piltown	€3,000
27	St Luke’s Hospital	Hearts and Mind; Knitting, care and Compassion. – series of workshops with staff and volunteers.	Kilkenny	€1,400
28	Task	Set in Stone - Pathways in recovery, past and present - Upcycling stone sculpture project	Kilkenny	€2,100
29	Tea House	With An Inclined Ear	Kilkenny	€2,800
30	Walton Institute	Shed the light - collaborative series of workshops with the mens shed in Ferrybank	Piltown	€3,000
31	Workhouse Union	Colour Field series of workshops Syrian and Traveller women in Thomastown and Urlingford.	Callan – Thomastown	€2,000
Total				€66,520



Cruinniú na nÓg funded projects

- 20 Cruinniú na nÓg projects
- 52 Community Led Events

St. Luke's General Hospital



Cruinniú na nÓg Grant allocation 2025

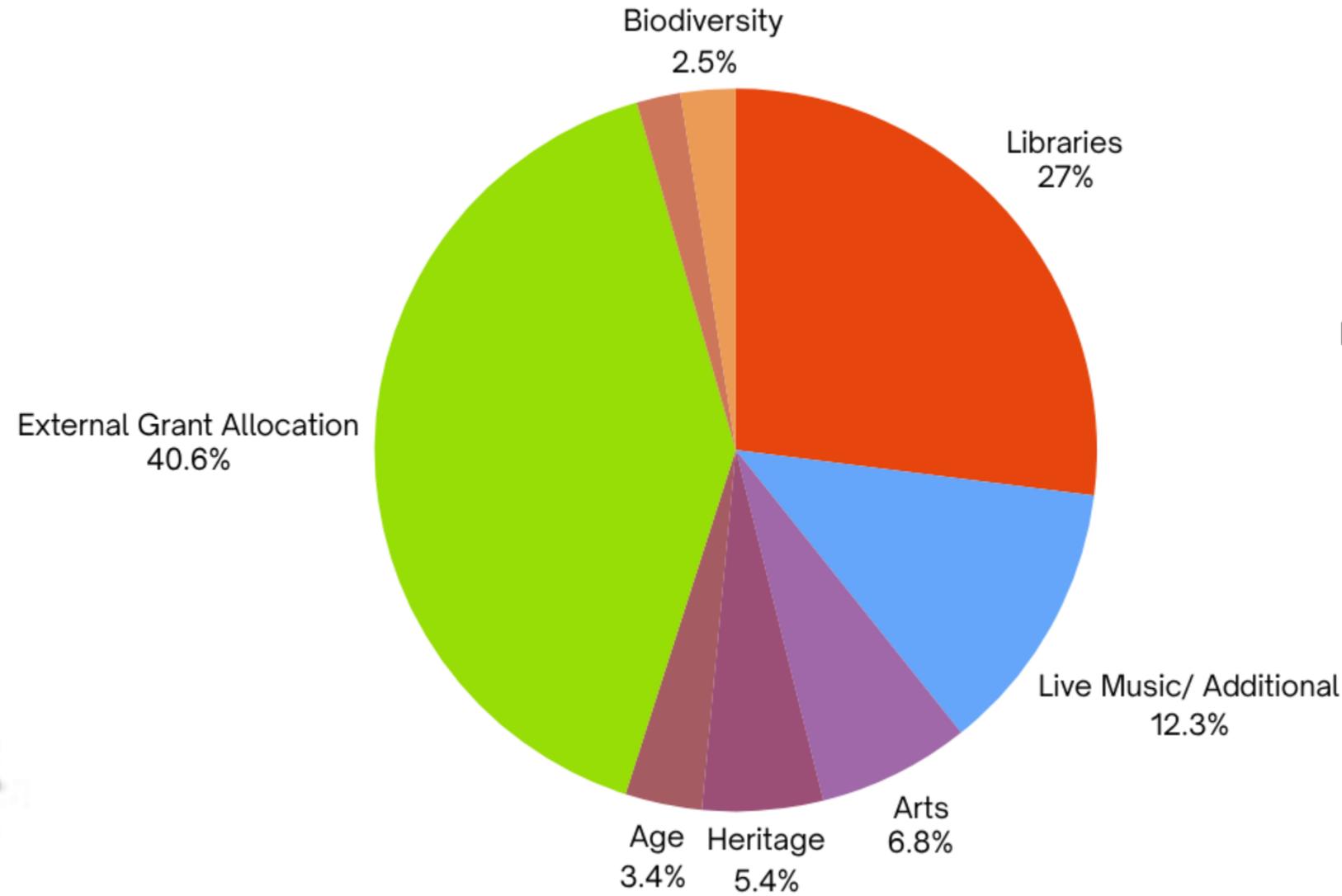
No	Details of Applicant	Project	Municipal District	Awarded
1	3rd Kilkenny Graiguenamanagh Cub Scouts	Graig Cubs Inspired – series of workshops	Callan – Thomastown	€2,000
2	Barnstorm Theatre	A FREE Dose of Drama by Barnstorm	Kilkenny	€2,200
3	The Butler Gallery	Camera less Filmmaking workshops at Butler Gallery	Kilkenny	€2,500
4	Craobh Osraí Comhaltas Ceoltoirí	Epic Digital music Workshop	Kilkenny	€500
5	Droichead FRC	Step Into the Spotlight: Performing Arts Workshops & Talent Showcase	Callan – Thomastown	€1,890
6	Glenmore Parish	Little Einstein’s Dancing Bubblelicious Fun and games in the Glenn	Piltown	€2,000
7	Happy Pottery	Express yourself- Pottery workshops	Kilkenny	€2,000
8	Kilkenny Library network	Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 programme of 13 events	Kilkenny, Piltown, Castlecomer, Callan – Thomastown	€5,000
9	Kilkenny Nerd Club	Miniature Painting and board game development	Kilkenny	€2,400
10	Kilkenny School Project	Biodiversity Mural	Kilkenny	€2,470
11	Kilnaspic People’s Shed	6 Ghluin go Gluin – T shirt printing, irish music and dance	Callan – Thomastown	€1,000
12	Martin Keaveney	Kilkenny Kreatives – poetry and writing workshops	Kilkenny	€3,000
13	Music Generation	From Scratch: DJing and Rapping for beginners	Kilkenny, Piltown, Castlecomer, Callan – Thomastown	€2,500
14	My Skin	Scent and Sensibility: Sustainable Skincare and Block Printing Fun	Kilkenny	€2,700
15	Ossory Youth	Let’s Get Creative!	Castlecomer, Callan – Thomastown	€2,700
16	St. Canice’s Cathedral and Round Tower	Windows of Imagination: Exploring Art and Heritage	Kilkenny	€1,610
17	St. Canice’s Community Action – Fr. McGrath Centre	The Butts Mini-Festival of Children’s Creativity	Kilkenny	€2,900
18	St. Luke’s General Hospital	Bio Diversity at Gailearaí na nÓg	Kilkenny	€2,400
19	Scouts Thomastown group,	Beats and Curled Copper	Callan – Thomastown	€1,450
20	Creative Communities Engagement Officer	Slieverue and Kilmacow targeted groups	Piltown	€500

Total €43,720

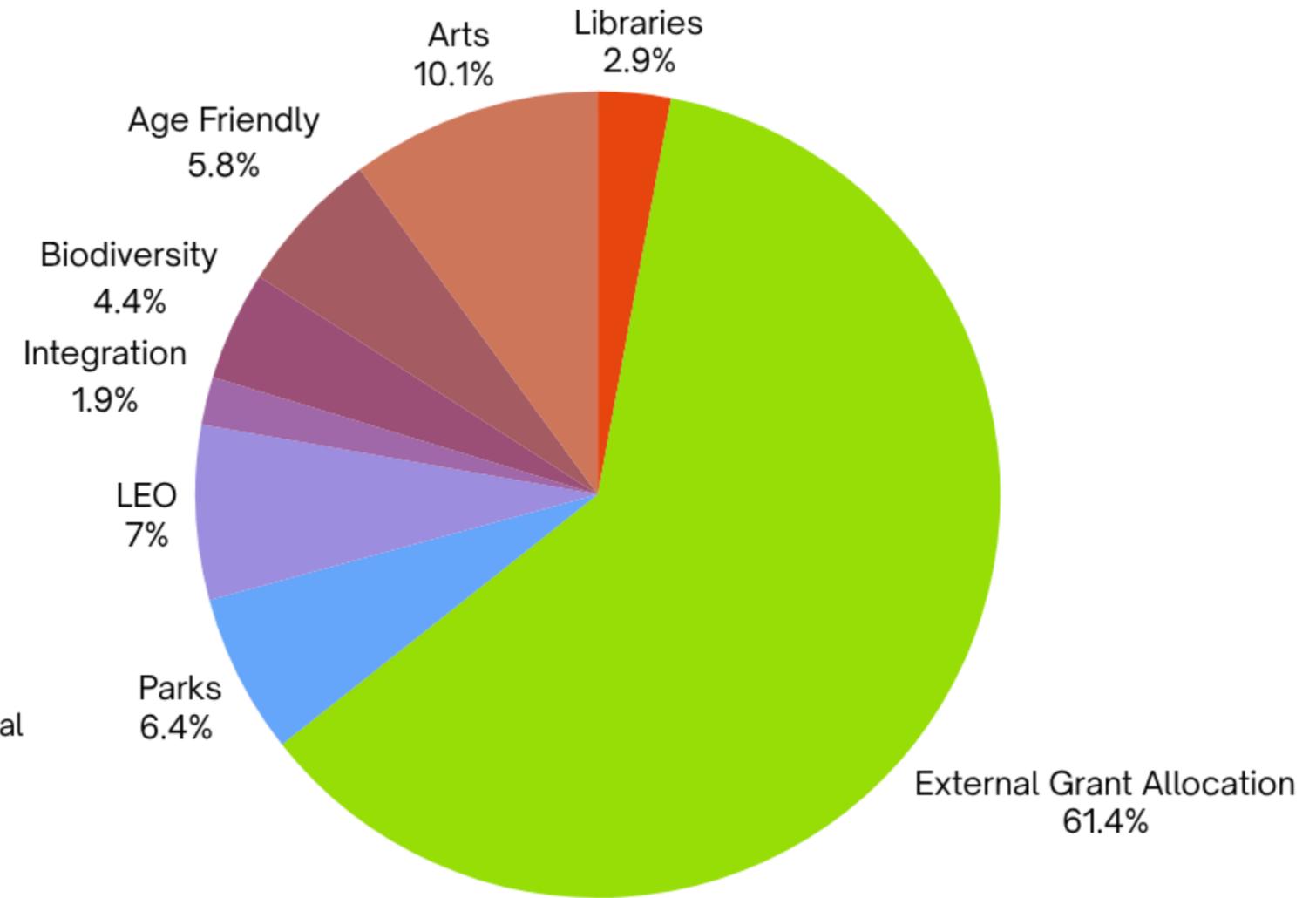


Percentage of Grant Allocation

2024



2025



Polling Scheme for County Kilkenny 2020



Increasing Accessibility

Delivering over 80% of projects in Kilkenny are being delivered in communities with low or moderate access to culture and creative activities.



● Cruinniú na nÓg

- 13 Kilkenny
- 7 Callan - Thomastown
- 3 Castlecomer
- 5 Piltown

● Creative Ireland

- 21 Kilkenny
- 10 Callan - Thomastown
- 5 Castlecomer
- 6 Piltown

Targeting seldom heard communities - Pobal Indices

- Urlingford
- Johnstown
- Kilmacow
- Ballyragget
- Paulstown

Legend
 □ Electoral Divisions
 Local Electoral Areas
 ■ Callan - Thomastown LEA
 ■ Castlecomer LEA
 ■ Kilkenny LEA
 ■ Piltown LEA

0 3 6 Kilometers



Approach

Foster collaboration and launch new initiatives to drive community-led creative activities across the county.

WHO?
WHAT?
WHEN?
WHERE?
HOW?

Ineligible

- Publications.
- Items for resale.
- Assets or equipment
- Accommodation.
- Festivals.
- Film production
- Individual personal gain.

Information

Open Call
Kilkenny County
Council website
[Majella.Keating@
kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:Majella.Keating@kilkennycoco.ie)

Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



- Economic Development
- Social Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing

Targeting Seldom Heard Communities:

- Carers
- Social/Rural isolation
- Unemployed
- Disadvantaged communities
- Young people

LIVING ARTFULLY

Over two years, the Living Artfully Project has worked with 9 groups to weave interconnected people, projects, and places. Our goal is to co-create thriving networks and communities that enhance wellbeing through creative practice. The evolving art forms contribute to a new vision of an integrated, responsive creativity program underpinned by a wrap around service provision with seldom heard community groups.





Living Artfully target groups

Minority groups including those accessing

01

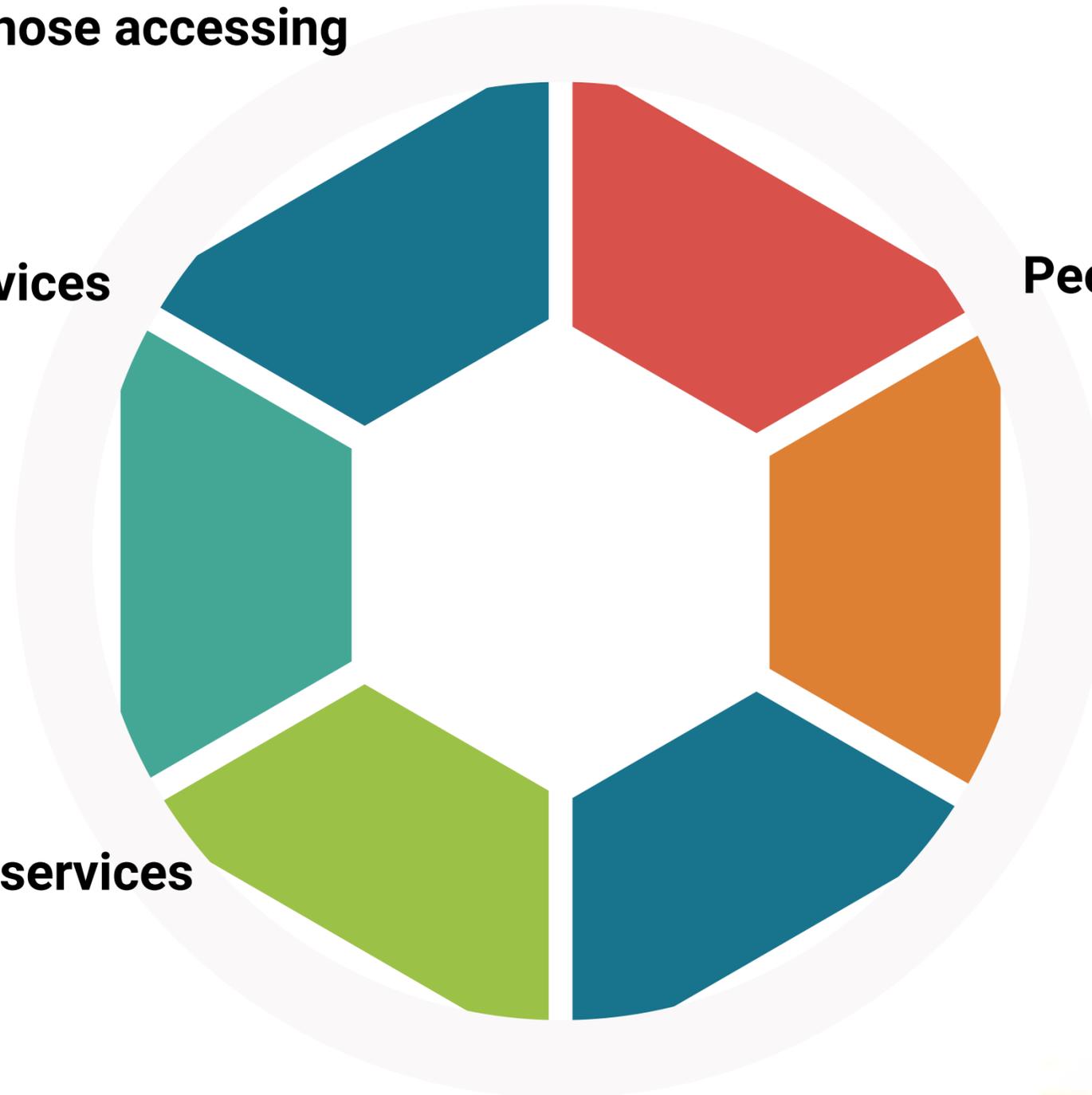
Cancer support services

02

Mental Health Services

03

Dementia support services



People with disabilities

04

Traveller community

05

Older residents

06

Creative

Health & Wellbeing



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

Kilkenny

THANK YOU