



Creative Communities on a Shared Island

Briefing Document

Overview

The Government's Shared Island¹ initiative aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation, connection and mutual understanding on the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future. A shared sense of community across the island of Ireland can be achieved by fostering creative opportunities for connection through social interaction, engagement and dialogue.

Creative Communities on a Shared Island seeks to build on the experience and expertise of local authorities' existing strategic north-south and east-west (Ireland-Britain) ambitions and transform them into a collaborative network across the island of Ireland. It intends to recognise and utilise the inherent creativity of all who live on the island of Ireland.

What are we looking for?

The Programme is seeking creative proposals of scale from any of the 31 local authority Culture and Creativity Teams². The proposals should meet the objectives below by consolidating existing local authority networks or relationships, or innovating to create new local authority-led community/creative collaborations.

Objectives

1. Connect people-to-people, community-to-community. Deploy culture and creativity - innovatively and collaboratively - as a strategy for wellbeing, social connection, or local economic development;
2. Enable communities, working with artists and the wider cultural and creative sectors (see definition later in the document), to experience creativity through the lens of their counterparts, and ensure opportunities for meaningful exchanges between all people across the island;
3. Enhance broader community and civic understanding of the value of consensus amongst communities around a shared future, through the lens of cultural and creative engagement – particularly communities which have yet to experience all-island collaboration on an extensive basis;
4. Ensure that initiatives are planned collaboratively on a Shared Island basis, to generate tangible and sustainable legacies into the future.

Who can apply?

The Creative Ireland Programme invites applications from the 31 local authority Culture and Creativity teams in the south working in partnership with local community, cultural and creative organisations across the island of Ireland.

¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c3417-shared-island/>

² <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-communities/>



Applications must have a clear North/South basis, and relate to implementation of the broad objectives of the Creative Ireland Programme and the Shared Island Initiative. East/West (Ireland|Britain) dimensions and partners to such projects will also be welcomed.

Applications are to be made by a lead Local Authority in the South, in partnership with at least one other partner from the below list:

- Community groups and networks
- Arts and cultural organisations or institutions
- Creative organisations, networks and collectives including all-island networks
- Public sector bodies, including local authorities in Northern Ireland, or established networks
- Charities or not-for-profit organisations
- Social enterprises
- Business, commercial companies
- Philanthropic and research bodies including universities
- Communities of place and communities of practice
- Individuals (in Strand 2 only)

There are two strands of funding available during the period 2023-2025. Local authorities in the South may apply under both strands. Both strands require partners

Strand 1

Collaborative proposals are being sought from a partnership of local authorities in the South (operating on a regional and/or networked basis). One local authority must be named lead applicant who will apply on behalf of all partners and who will be the central point of contact for the project.

The timeframe for the project is September 2023 to November 2025.

Grant funding up to €250,000 will be awarded to four such proposals. At least one grant will be awarded to a partnership specific to the border region (i.e. involving one or more of the following local authorities: Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth).

Strand 2

Proposals are being sought up to the value of €50,000 from individual local authorities in Ireland.

The timeframe for the projects is September 2023 to November 2025.

We envisage twenty-five awards of €50,000 are available.

How is funding allocated?

Consistent with the aims of the government's Shared Island initiative to deepen cooperation and connections across the island of Ireland, funding will be offered on the basis that the all-island (North South, East West) or cross-border dimension is central to the project. Applications are particularly sought which will foster sustained engagement between communities at a regional, national or sectoral level as distinct from stand-alone events or engagements.



What do we mean by ‘creativity’?

The Creative Ireland Programme defines creativity as:

A set of innate abilities and learned skills: the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and, by drawing on imagination, to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.

The Creative Ireland Programme invites applications from local authorities in Ireland with project partners that include creative or interpretive expression (whether traditional or contemporary) from across communities, arts, cultural and creative sectors. These are comprised of all sectors whose activities are based on cultural values, or other artistic individual or collective creative expressions. It may include, but is not limited to:

CIRCUS	ARCHITECTURE
FILM	PODCASTING
LITERATURE	MURALS
CREATIVE WRITING	AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY
MUSIC (all genres)	FASHION
DANCE (all types)	COMEDY
STREET ARTS AND SPECTACLE	DESIGN (all kinds)
THEATRE	DIGITAL GAMES
TRADITIONAL ARTS	CREATIVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
VISUAL ARTS	ANIMATION
CULTURAL HERITAGE	CODING
MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTS	

What are we looking for?

We want to see cultural projects that adopt a creative approach, engaging across a range of sectors and themes that will enhance cooperation and collaboration between communities, recognising that culture and creativity are essential to sustaining and developing vibrant communities.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how their proposed project will do one or more of the following

- **By working together** develop key enablers around shared strategic themes for the development of *Creative Communities* on a Shared Island basis;
- **Value of Culture and Creativity:** Promote the value creativity and culture offers to society including the transformative effect it can have on the lives of individuals and communities as acknowledged in The Good Friday Agreement i.e. the importance of active and inclusive civic engagement on a cross-border basis, in supporting and developing the relationships;
- **Recognise and Support Interdependencies:** in supporting cultural expression as a tool for building a Shared Island, projects should share insights on specific topics or themes including diversity and inclusivity and enable harder to reach communities to participate;
- **Enduring connectivity:** Networks and people continue to work together beyond the life of the project.



The principles and values of **Creative Communities 2023-2027** are as follows and can be used as a reference point for developing project concepts;

- i. Broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally.
- ii. Use culture and creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social connection and economic development.
- iii. Strengthen the capacity of Local Authorities to integrate culture and creativity across place-making, regeneration, renewal, and the development of more vibrant, creative, and sustainable places.
- iv. Investing in culture and creativity to support environmental, social, and economic returns that help deliver your own local authority agendas – from local and regional, to national and international.
- v. Build on the agility and integrated approach of Culture and Creativity Teams in Local Authorities to sustain further delivery of targeted collaborative programmes.

Selection Criteria

The applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel and assessed against the criteria below. This is a competitive fund, and we expect there to be a large volume of high-quality applications. Unfortunately, we will not be able to fund all projects for which we receive applications.

It is our desire to produce a balanced programme with representation from across the island. As a unique fund, we are looking for projects which are unlikely to receive funding under other schemes, or look for core operational costs and instead look to support projects which are clearly driven by a creative and cultural approach, with strong creative partners that deliver on the aims of the Government's Shared Island initiative.

Applications must provide details of both cross-border partners and set out how collaboration between these partners will strengthen North South, East West collaboration in developing *Creative Communities*.

Criterion	Marks Available
Engagement (community to community) & legacy	50
Project Aims	25
Creative and Cultural Approach	25
Partners and Project Team	50
Evaluation Plan	25
Feasibility	25
Total	200

Important Dates

Phase	Details	Date
Fund Opens for Applications	The online application portal will open for submissions. via Submit.com	5 th May



Online Briefing Session	An online webinar which will provide an overview of the fund. This will allow prospective project partner applicants to ask questions. Further details on registration here on Eventbrite	15 th May
Clarifications	Queries can be submitted by email to creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie . Please use the subject heading ‘ Creative Communities on a Shared Island ’. We will endeavour to update the FAQ on the application portal as queries come in, however all final clarifications will be made by this date.	May/June
Fund Closes for Applications	Only applications received before 5.00pm on this date will be considered. Applications must be completed online and submitted via Submit.com	Friday 30 th June
Evaluation of Applications	The evaluation panel including representatives from the Creative Ireland Programme and Shared Island Unit, together with independent experts, will evaluate applications according to the criteria above.	July 2023
Applicants Notified	All applicants are notified of the outcome of their applications.	August 2023

Budget Considerations

When creating the project budget, please make sure you have discussed individual fees and project budgets with partners. We expect all members of Project Teams to agree your budget prior to the allocation of funding from Creative Ireland. We encourage you to consider:

- Project Management - This fee should cover administrative staff time (for example to cover project management and/or financial administration), as well as any contribution towards overheads or other reasonable costs required to deliver the project.
- Remuneration - We are looking for a transparent and competitive budget that remunerates individuals and organisations properly for their time. Fees for artists should be in line with recognised industry guidelines ([see information from the Arts Council on the remuneration and contracting of artists](#))
- Materials – We are interested in supporting low carbon solutions and environmentally friendly practice in project planning and delivery, as well as your choices of partners and suppliers.
- Given the important learning that will emerge from these projects, we recognise project evaluation and reporting will have a cost and can be included.
- Communication and engagement costs are eligible expenses and should form part of the budget for this funding.
- We recognise there will be travel costs for communities north and south to visit and work with each other

Other costs may include;



- Costs to appoint a project coordinator with experience in project management
- Costs to convene cross-border community events
- Documentation costs
- Networking and/or show-casing of initiatives awarded funding

Ineligible Costs

Please note that ineligible expenditure includes:

- Costs not directly related to the project
- Retrospective costs i.e. expenditure which has taken place prior to the project approval date
- Capital requests for building improvements to workspaces and venues
- Applications relating to Television series or a standalone advertising campaign
- Standalone conferences
- Youth projects*

*Creative Opportunities for Children and Young people are being supported under [Creative Youth](#). These include, a creative writing initiative around the Border Region in partnership with Fighting Words. [Cruinniú na nÓg](#) strategic partners will be delivering all island activities in June 2023. ISACs ([Circus Explored](#)), GMC Beats (Rhyme Island) and RTÉ Kids ([This Is Art](#)). Details on further opportunities that will aim to reach children and young people most at risk of disadvantage on an all-island basis will be available later in the year.

How to apply

Applications must be completed online and submitted via [Submit.com](#)

The portal will close at 5pm on Friday 30th June 2023.



Appendix 1

Government of Ireland

- [Shared Island Initiative Report 2022 – Action on a Shared Future](#)
 - [Arts & Culture on a Shared Island, Shared Island Dialogue, 13 October 2022. \(Report and video\)](#)
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National Economic and Social Council:

- [Shared Island; Shared Opportunity: NESC Comprehensive Report Council Report No 157, April 2022](#)

Cavan County Council and UCD

- [Building Capacity for the Cultural Industries: Towards a Shared Island Approach for Dance and Theatre](#)
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Donegal County Council & Derry City & Strabane District Council

- [Audience Development in the North West](#)
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iCommunity A Vision for Addressing Challenges on our Shared Island

- [Community and Voluntary Sector](#)

The Future of cross-border cooperation in the arts

- [Policy Briefing and Executive Summary](#)