

Who is organising the call?

The Creative Ireland Programme was set up to enable the creative potential of people and communities, to enhance their wellbeing and the collective wellbeing of our society.

We focus on encouraging and supporting new ways and opportunities to participate in creative and cultural activities. The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-Government culture and wellbeing programme running until 2027. Plenty more information is available at www.creativeireland.gov.ie.

Encouraging creativity at all stages of life is a key element of our approach, and supporting young people from all walks of life to celebrate and explore their creativity is at the heart what we do. Together with young people and communities, we have created the first ever day celebrating the creativity of children and young people — Cruinniú na Óg, gathering of young people.

It takes place in June every year and showcases this creativity with 1,000 events engaging thousands of young people across the island of Ireland. The events range from dance to gaming, rap music, circus, drawing, theatre and much more.



Arts Over Borders Creative Ireland Derry

Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. Ireland is the first, and only, country in the world to have such a day.

It is one of the key actions committed to in the <u>Creative Youth Plan</u>. Celebrated annually, young people are invited to participate in a programme of free creative activities, demonstrate their creative skills, try a new creative activity, and above all have fun.

The primary objectives of Cruinniú na nÓg are to:

- empower children and young people to develop their creative potential by providing opportunities for them to participate in free creative activities in their local communities;
- increase awareness of the benefits of participation in creative activities.

As of 2023, Cruinniú na nÓg is programmed on an all-island basis consistent with the aims of the Government of Ireland's <u>Shared Island</u> initiative which aims to deepen beneficial cooperation and connections across the island of Ireland. This forms a central part of the Shared Island-dimension of the overall Creative Ireland Programme (see appendix 1).



"The Spark"
by The Kabin Crew &
Lisdoonvarna Crew
GMC Beats

Background Information

Over the past 7 years Cruinniú na nÓg has become a key date in Ireland's cultural calendar, now providing opportunities for over 1.5 million children and young people across the island of Ireland, to be inquisitive and curious, to be inventive and innovative, and to fulfil a creative ambition or showcase an inner creative talent.

What is it?

Oruinniú na nÓg is an all-island event held annually in June, for children and young people under 18. It is designed to encourage and enable participation in a diverse range of creative activities that empower children and young people to develop their creative potential and foster the expression of creativity, engaging with a variety of audiences locally.

When is it?

A Saturday in June every year.

Where is it?

In your neighbourhood, with local communities, cultural venues, libraries, galleries, museums, youth work settings, national cultural institutions, open air settings, parks, heritage sites, community halls, historic buildings, civic spaces and other innovative programmed spaces where children and young people can gather.

Who is it for / Target Audience?

All children and young people under 18, with a particular focus on engaging children and young people who don't or wouldn't have the opportunity to participate in creative activities.

Who are our key stakeholders?

Local Authorities, the Department of Education, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Comhairle na nÓg, Hub na nÓg, RTÉ (Media Partner), TG4, our young Ambassadors chosen every year and other community and voluntary organisations across the island of Ireland.

Our audiences?

- Young people.
- Parents of younger children as they decide what to attend and young people themselves.
- Our strategic partners and stakeholders in local authorities and across government.

Our partners?

The Creative Ireland Programme select a number of strategic partners that further develop, diversify and expand the offering for Cruinniú na nÓg. Strategic Partners work closely with Local Authorities to support initiatives that deliver content and activities for an audience of children and young people.

What are we seeking from partners?

To empower children's creativity and creative expression by providing opportunities for engagement in a diverse range of high quality activities on the day.

To create widespread momentum behind the event so as to encourage maximum participation by children and young people either on the day or in projects that are developmental beforehand and showcase on the day.

What are the key values of Cruinniú na nÓg

Creativity | Accessibility | Participation | Partnership | Empowerment

- Creativity all activities facilitate the creative expression of children and young people, beyond just the traditional arts and cultural activities e.g. tech, coding, local heritage-based projects.
- Accessibility all activities are free of charge so as to encourage participation of as many children and young people as possible
- Participation programme events are ideally activity based providing opportunities for children and young people to make, see, do and try a new creative activity
- Partnership engage local creatives, arts organisations, cultural centres, local libraries, communities and relevant local organisations to support the event. All artists and creatives involved in programme events should be paid.
- Empowerment where possible, involve children and young people in the planning of Cruinniú na nÓg.

How does it fit into the Creative Ireland Programme

Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the <u>Creative</u> <u>Youth Plan</u>, the all-of-Government plan to enable the creative potential of children and young people. Creative Youth aims to put creativity at the heart of our education system and support increased access to creative activities for young people outside of school.

Local authorities are the main delivery partners for Cruinniú na nÓg concentrating on the development and delivery of bespoke programmes of activities for their local area, delivered "in-person" at local authority facilities and suitable public places.

What is a Strategic Partner?

The Creative Ireland Programme wishes to engage Strategic Partners to increase the suite of events and initiatives available, alongside those produced by each local authority, in order to further develop, diversify and expand the offering and audience for Cruinniú na nÓg in 2025, 2026 and 2027.





Strategic Partners are organisations, or a partnership of organisations, who have a capacity to deliver Cruinniú na nÓg on a regional or an all-island basis through the provision of free creative activities for children and young people.

We are seeking 3 Strategic Partners that can deliver initiatives that are of significant scale and ambition with a wide geographical spread in both urban and rural areas.

At least one of the Strategic Partners will have to have capacity to deliver programming and activities on an all-island basis, including providing exchanges that can bring children and young people together between both jurisdictions. This partnership should include at least one partner organisation based in each jurisdiction. Organisations based in either jurisdiction can apply on behalf of the partnership. In any application with multiple partners, at least one organisation must be a creative/cultural organisation.

We envisage a maximum grant of €150,000 per Strategic Partner per year. (Maximum of €450,000 for the 3 years). The activities can take place both in advance from Jan-May every year (where young people can try out different activities or get a taster of a new creative practice) and on the day itself. Please note there must be activities, initiatives or events available on the day of Cruinniú na nÓg (Saturday 7th June 2025), in-person at a number of geographical locations that young people can engage with and experience.

Strategic Partners must have the necessary expertise to engage with 'Culture and Creativity teams' within local authorities. Further information on the role of Culture and Creativity teams in Appendix 2.

Ideally your project can complement local Cruinniú na nÓg programmes, by providing opportunities to connect with the overall project/initiative.

We are therefore inviting applications from organisations who have the capacity to devise and deliver a creative programme of activities nationwide or an all-island audience of children and young people.

Applications are welcome which:

- Focus on process based work as distinct from once off stand-alone events or engagements which take place in the day in June;
- increase the choice of creative activity across a wide genre, available to children and young people and in particular seldom heard young people (see appendix 3 for definition):
- grow the awareness of Cruinniú na nÓg

The timeframe for the Strategic Partners is from January 2025 to December 2027.

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how they will:

- Connect and engage children and young people from 0-18 in creative activities across a wide geographical area. Please outline what age cohort you will target, e.g. early years (0-4), younger children (5-8 and 9-12), young teens (13-15), older teens (16-18)
- Commit to supporting children and young people to access culture, creativity and the arts (see broad definition Appendix 3) including seldom heard children and young people;
- 3. Be innovative and bring forward new ideas in creative genres;
- 4. Provide opportunities for in-person meaningful exchanges that bring childre and young people together from across all communities and traditions on the island of Ireland in line with the aims and objectives of the Shared Island Initiative;
- Create content for Cruinniú marketing campaigns to help build awareness of Cruinniú na nÓg including production o videos, social media content and photo opportunities to highlight the project;
- Nominate a youth Ambassador for the initiative:
- Evaluate and report on the process and outcomes.

"The Spark' by The Kabin Crew & Lisdoonvarna Crew GMC Beats



What do we mean by creativity?

Creativity involves innate human abilities and learned skills. Everyone has the capacity for creative engagement and expression; and this experience is an act of personal fulfilment. As expressed by children and young people, creativity has no limits and is creating ideas from one's own mind to share with others. At the heart of creativity, is the freedom to take risks, to use imagination and the potential to evoke a sense of fun, wonder and happiness. For the purposes of the Creative Ireland Programme as outlined in the Creative Youth Plan, the most appropriate skills and behaviours are those which support development and learning such as curiosity, resilience, imagination, discipline, and collaboration.

The forms of creativity may include, but are not limited to:

— Circus

Multidisciplinary Arts

— Film

Podcasting

Literature

 Augmented / Virtual / Mixed Reality

— Creative Writing

— Fashion

— Music (All Genres)

Comedy

Dance (All Types)Street Arts, Circus

Design (All Kinds)

and Spectacle

Digital Games

— Theatre

Creative Digital

Traditional Arts

Technology

— Visual Arts

Animation

Cultural Heritage

— Coding

— Architecture

— Cooking

Applications

Applications are sought from the following types of organisations and /or partnerships:

- Arts, cultural and heritage organisations or institutions,
- Creative organisations and networks
- Youth organisations,
- Registered Charities or not-for-profit organisations,
- Museums, galleries and art centres,
- Social enterprises.

All applications must contain at least one art/culture/creative/heritage partner.

Proposals may include partners from different geographical areas and/or areas of expertise who will work together to deliver a project across Ireland. (A lead applicant is required to apply on behalf of all partners)

Proposals may focus on and champion a particular art form or creative activity or on multiple art forms and activities.

Budget Considerations

When creating your budget please make sure you have discussed individual fees and project budgets within your organisation and with partners. We expect all members of your project team to agree your budget prior to the contract signing with 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 participate.

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 <u>Arts Council</u> and the <u>Arts Council of Northern Ireland</u> on the remuneration and contracting of artists).

Evaluation

It is required that you factor in costs for evaluating the outcomes/impacts of your project. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in a comprehensive evaluation and share their learnings.

Other costs we can support include:

- Costs to appoint a project manager with experience in youth participation.
- Costs to convene a diverse group of young people to design and oversee the implementation of the project, including transport costs.
- Youth Exchanges that include connecting young people on an all-island basis with 2-3 in person creative collaborations together, including events on Saturday 7th June 2025.

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.

Ineligible Costs

- 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

Please note that applicants who are successful, must comply with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014 — Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds, see https://circulars.gov.ie/pdf/circular/per/2014/13.pdf.

Evaluation Process

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

Criterion	Marks Aavailable
The idea and creative approach	60
Project team, track record and feasibility	40
Experience of reaching and working effectively with children and young people	25
Approach to facilitating strong North/South participation for those projects applying on an all-island basis and/or to ensuring a wide geographic spread across Ireland.	25
Your evaluation plan	25
Scale and ambition to deliver a number of geographical events	25
Total Marks Available	200

Application Form

For an application form please click here.

- A project plan including proposed timelines.
- An outline of proposed schedule of events and geographical locations; in year one applicants may wish to target specific geographical locations and target different geographical locations in year 2 and 3.
- Proposed budget over 3 years.
- If you are planning to work as a partnership, please include a description of the partners, their practices and why you want to collaborate.
- Ensure you include information about your track record in delivering relevant creative projects for children and young people of scale and ambition.
- You will be asked to register an account and verification of the email address provided takes place before you make your final submission.
- You may save your application and return to it at a later time, however the portal will close at 5.00pm Wednesday 6th November and you will no longer be able to access the application.
- Once your application is submitted it cannot be amended.

The Creative Ireland Programme funding policy requires any organisation seeking funding whose activities involve children, vulnerable adults or animals to be in position to submit a copy of their current relevant protection policy. In Ireland when working with children or young people under eighteen years of age or presenting work to this age group, you must be in a position to provide a copy of your Child Welfare and Protection Policy and Procedures. You must ensure that your policy and procedures have been developed with reference to Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, and are consistent with the principles stated therein. Please see www.tusla.ie for more information.

Submitting a proposal		pe submitted online via <u>Submit.com</u> pm on the Wednesday 6th November.
	Any queries in relation to the Call for applications — Strategic Partners in the delivery of Cruinniú na nÓg 2025–2027 can be directed to by email to creativecommunities@tcagsm.gov.ie.	
Budget	Three grants of up to €150,000 per year will be awarded to successful applications in line with the aims and ambition of the proposals.	
Important Dates	11th September	The online application will open for submissions.
		We strongly encourage you to create a word version of the application form and the briefing document and have read these before the online briefing.
	4th October	Online Briefing Session. An online webinar which will provide an overview of the fund and a Q&A session. Register here.
	15th October	Belfast-based in-person briefing and a chance to meet possible partners. Register <u>here</u> .
	6th November	Closing date. Proposals should be submitted through submit.com by 5pm
	December 2024	Successful and non-successful applicants notified.
	7th June 2025	Cruinniú na nÓg
	November 2025	Deadline to draw down 2025 funds.

June 2026	Cruinniú na nÓg
November 2026	Deadline to draw down 2026 funds.
June 2027	Cruinniú na nÓg
November 2027	Deadline to draw down 2027 funds.

The timeframe for Strategic Partner projects to run are January 2025 to December 2027. We will endeavour to inform all successful and unsuccessful applicants by December 2024.

Additional Background Information

Previous Strategic Partners who devised and delivered for a national and all-island audience include:

_	Céilí in the Kitchen*

- Let's Go Fly A Kite*
- Branar Up Poetry for 'Lil Peeps
- Become a Young Story Keeper
- Coding for CruinniúCreate a VideoGame App*
- My Creative Life*

- Dance Ireland
- Sing Ireland <u>Oró,</u> Sé Do Bheatha 'Bhaile*

Dancing by Distance*

- 'We Create Magic' rap
- Circus Explored
- Rhyme Island
- This Is Art

*On-line due to COVID 19 Health Restrictions being in place.

Relevant Publications

The Systematic Review of The Creative Youth Plan 2017–2022

Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027

Appendix 1

The Creative Ireland Programme and the Shared Ireland Initiative

The Creative Ireland Programme has the opportunity, under the Shared Island initiative to explore creative opportunities to connect and create a shared sense of community, through social interaction, dialogue and engagement.

See https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/app/uploads/2023/06/Cl_Shared_Island_Flyer_AW_Screen.pdf.

The Shared Island initiative is a whole of Government priority to engage with all communities and political traditions to build consensus around a shared future on the island underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The initiative is backed by the Government's Shared Island Fund, with at least €1 billion out to 2030 ring-fenced for delivery of all-island investment commitments and objectives in the Programme for Government and revised National Development Plan 2021–30; and informed by a programme of engagement with people across the island through the Shared Island Dialogue series and a comprehensive policy research programme, which provides a stronger evidence base and analysis of the island of Ireland across a range of economic, environmental and social areas. Further details on the Shared Island Initiative is available at www.gov.ie/sharedisland.

The Shared Island dimension to the Creative Ireland Programme seeks to deploy creativity on a shared island basis to:

- Increase opportunities for cross-community cultural and creative initiatives between children and young people;
- Support local authorities to enhance networks of creativity in support of vibrant and inclusive people-to-people and community-to-community partnerships;
- Position Ireland as a global leader in demonstrating the value of creativity and mental health including in postconflict societies;
- Deepen collaborations for a more environmentally and sociall sustainable island.

In 2023 and 2024, Cruinniú na nOg was programmed on an all-island basis with cross-community events connecting children and young people from North and South.

Appendix 2

Culture and Creativity Teams in Local Authorities

This depth of technical expertise on individual Culture and Creativity teams affords each local authority a level of insight, resources, and delivery experience which few other public or private sector organisations can match.

The role of this team is to

- Provide a collective forum for the ambition of culture and creativity within the local authority;
- Focus on diversity and inclusivity and enable harder to reach communities to participate in cultural and creative activities:
- Build on existing in-house expertise and strategies across areas of wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development to leverage culture and creativity to deliver on targeted local authority agendas;

- Enable a shift in how the cultural and creative sector is valued within and across local authorities and ensure that culture and creativity is embedded across local authority
- Drive cross-collaborative actions that support change and positive outcomes locally, and potentially between local authorities at regional level:
- Be innovative and take risks try new projects and new ways of working.

Appendix 3

Seldom Heard Children and Young People

Children and young people who have fewer opportunities and more obstacles in their lives. They may include those children and young people who are children in care:

- Engaged with the youth justice system/ incarcerated persons and ex-offenders;
- Experiencing domestic violence;
- From a minority ethnic background;
- Homeless or at risk of losing their home/ living in temporary/unsuitable accommodation:
- In hospital (including those with mental health issues);
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT);
- Living in poverty;
- Living in rural isolation;
- Living with mental health issues
- Living with parental addiction

- Living with strained family relationships;
- Not in school:
- Living with physical and intellectual disabilities:
- Have special education needs
- Refugees and asylum-seekers;
- Traveller and Roma;
- Unempioyea:
- Young carers;
- Young people heading up a one parent/caregiver family;
- International protection applications
- Low paid employees;
- Long term unemployed; and
- I hose at risk of social isolation





Creative Ireland Programme

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