



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



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CI

An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spórt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport

Shared Island
Initiative

Creative Communities on a *Shared Island*

Local Authority Partnerships with Creative and Community Organisations

2026–2028

Culture & Creativity Teams in local authorities

- The Culture and Creativity Teams are the cornerstone of *Creative Communities* across all local authorities.
- These teams bring together a significant range of expertise and, in many cases, include professionals from architecture, archives, the arts, climate action, community, enterprise and environmental development, heritage, information and communication technologies, Irish language, libraries, spatial planning, tourism and more.
- This depth of technical expertise affords each local authority a level of insight, resources and delivery experience which few other public or private sector organisations can match





	Timeframe	Funding
Strand 1	Mid 2026 to Nov 2028	Total of €750,000
Strand 2	Mid 2026 to Nov 2028	Total of €600,000
Strand 3	Mid 2026 to Nov 2028	Total of €250,000

TOTAL €1.6m over 3 years

Strand 1

Local authorities can make one application in Strand 1

We can award up to €250,000 each for a maximum of 3 large-scale proposals.

At least one grant will be awarded to a partnership specific to the border region (involving one or more of local authorities in Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth).

You may also be included as part of a proposal led by another local authority.

Strand 2

Local authorities can make two applications in Strand 2

€150,000 each for a maximum of 4 medium-scale projects to individual local authorities in Ireland.

Two applications led by local authorities can be submitted, and you may be included as part of a collaboration led by another local authority.

Strand 3

Local authorities can make two applications in Strand 3

€50,000 for 5 small scale-projects.

Each lead local authority can make two applications

and you may be included as part of a collaboration led by another local authority.



Criteria

Criterion	Marks Available
Community to Community Engagement and legacy	50
Creative and Cultural Approach	50
Partners and Project Team	50
Evaluation Plan	15
The overall project and its aims	15
Feasibility	20
Total	200

Shortlisted applications will be reviewed by an assessment panel made of representatives of the Creative Ireland Programme and other Departments.

This is a competitive scheme, and we expect a large volume of high-quality applications.

Funding is not guaranteed even if shortlisted.

We aim to produce a balanced programme with representation from across the island.

We intend to support projects which are clearly driven by a creative and cultural approach with strong creative partners



What else needs to be considered?

Evaluation

- Evaluator must be in place from the beginning of the project.
- End of project written report.
- Share the Shared Island Evaluation with partners.

Project Team

- Artists, creative practitioners(s) or cultural / creative organizations.
- Project Manager.
- Support for participants
- Accountant (or services)
- Independent evaluator.

Governance / Compliance

- Service Level Agreement.
- Circular 13/2014 Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds.
- GDPR

Engagement

- Capacity building and training events provided.
- Requests for budget updates, briefing material. Communications, PR materials, logos and event details.

Budget

- Project Management.
- Remuneration for creatives.
- Evaluation and documentation.
- Showcase/events.
- Travel costs.
- Materials.
- FX fluctuations (Shared Island).



How to Apply 5 Key Dates

In-person Networking Session Belfast	14th January 2026, The MAC	Link to register via https://creativeireland.submit.com/
In-person Networking Session Dublin	22nd January 2026, Radisson Blu Royal Hotel	Link to register via https://creativeireland.submit.com/
Clarifications and queries using “ <i>Creative Communities on a Shared Island</i> ” in the subject line	By Friday 13 th February	creativecommunities@ccs.gov.ie
Fund Closes for Applications	1pm, 27th February	https://creativeireland.submit.com/
Successful/unsuccessful applicants notified	Q2 2026	



Closing date:
February 27, 2026, 1pm.

In-person information sessions:
— Jan 14 Belfast
— Jan 22 Dublin

Frequently asked questions

- 1. Only a local authority in Ireland can make the application, however, it is incumbent on local authorities to collaborate with cultural organisations/agencies/ voluntary groups in the application**
- 2. Creative Communities will not accept applications relating to youth, but local authorities can be a partner on a Creative Youth application**



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*Creative Ireland
Shared Island*

Evaluation Report



Shared Island Initiative

Creative Ireland
Programme 2023-2027

Birds of a Feather



Connecting Women Through Creativity
to Build a Shared, Inclusive Future
Across Our Communities

Shared Island Initiative

Creative Ireland
Programme

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

My Creative Ireland
An Chlár Éireann
An Chlár Éireann
An Chlár Éireann

2024

THE THAT BUT ENDS

PROJECT
REPORT
MARCH 2025

CREATIVE
COMMUNITIES ON A
SHARED ISLAND
PROJECT.

LEVIS' CORNER
HOUSE, BALLYDEHOB
&
THE DUNCAIN, BELFAST



Q&A and Discussion

Hear from local authorities about their insights from working on a Creative Communities on a Shared Island Project 2023-2025

Katherine Collins – Waterford

Emer Sharkey – Fingal

Sarah O'Farrell - Limerick