



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the aim of the Shared Island Initiative? 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. This involves: More information on the implementation of the Shared Island Initiative is available at gov.ie/sharedisland

What is the Shared Island dimension to the Creative Ireland programme?

In December 2025, the Government announced funding for the development and implementation of a Shared Island dimension to the government's Creative Ireland Programme 2026-2028.

The Creative Ireland Programme will seek 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 post-conflict societies;
- deepen collaborations for a more environmentally and socially sustainable island.

What is the closing date for applications?

Applications must be completed online and submitted via Submit.com by Friday 27th February 2026 at 1pm.

What are we looking for?

The **Creative Communities – Shared Island strand** 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.

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 by consolidating existing local authority networks or relationships or innovating to create new local authority-led community/creative collaborations.

Applications are welcome which progress cultural and community projects that adopt a creative approach, engaging across a range of sectors and themes that will enhance cooperation and

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

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



collaboration between communities, recognising that culture and creativity are essential to sustaining and developing vibrant communities.

Who is eligible to apply?

Applications must **only** be submitted by one of the 31 Local Authorities in the South.

However, we are looking for collaborative applications from them with (but not limited to):

- Arts and cultural organisations or institutions
- Creative organisations, networks, museums, galleries and art centres
- Community groups and networks
- Charities or not-for-profit organisations
- Philanthropic and research bodies, foundations and universities
- Individuals
- Social enterprises
- Business, commercial companies
- All Ireland Networks
- Local authorities in Northern Ireland

Applications should ensure that funding is **shared fairly** with partners.

Does the whole project need to be completed in 2026? Or can some element run up to 2028

Projects can run from May 2026 to November 2028.

What is the total funding available?

A total budget of €1.6 million is available.

We envisage 3 awards of €250,000 and 4 awards of €150,000 and 5 awards of €50,000 will be awarded.

What is considered a creative or cultural project? The Creative Ireland Programme invites applications from local authorities in the south 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 FILM LITERATURE CREATIVE WRITING MUSIC (all genres) DANCE (all types) STREET ARTS AND SPECTACLE THEATRE TRADITIONAL ARTS VISUAL ARTS CULTURAL HERITAGE MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTS	ARCHITECTURE MURALS (all kinds) ANIMATION TECHNOLOGY	PODCASTING AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY DIGITAL CREATIVE DIGITAL GAMES TECHNOLOGY CODING
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What dates will the awards be announced?

April 2026

Are there any 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
- Application relating to Television series or a standalone advertising campaign
- Standalone conferences

Can funding be used to appoint personnel for a proposed project?

Yes

I am based in Northern Ireland. Can I still make an application?

The lead applicant must be a Local Authority based in the South. Applications with both East/West as well as North/South dimensions will be welcomed. Applications should ensure that funding is shared fairly with partners and ensure opportunities for meaningful exchanges between all people across the island.

Can I submit multiple applications?

Only local authorities can submit applications under Creative Communities on a Shared Island.

Strand 1 - One application in this strand will be considered for each lead applicant, however you may be included as part of a collaboration led by another local authority.

Strand 2 – Two applications in this strand will be considered for each lead applicant; however you may be included as part of a collaboration led by another local authority.

Strand 3 - Two applications led by local authorities can be submitted; you may be included as part of a collaboration led by another local authority

Who will be assessing the projects?

Projects will be evaluated by an assessment panel which will include representation from officials in the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport the Department of the Taoiseach.

What are the scoring criteria for applications?

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



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Shared Island
Initiative

We would encourage you to sign up to the [CreativeIreland Newsletter](#) to hear about future creative opportunities under the Government Shared Island Initiative.