

Expressions of Interest

Creative Limerick, Limerick City & County Council
Creative Communities, or Creative Health & Wellbeing in the
Community, on a Shared Island 2026 – 28

Deadline date for receipt of Expressions of Interest:
Monday 12th January 2026, 12noon

E-mail address for return of submissions: creativeireland@limerick.ie

- ✓ Are you a Creative or Community Organization?
- ✓ Would you like to partner with Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) to develop, and submit, an application to the Creative Ireland Shared Island Initiative?
- ✓ Do you have a project idea that meets the criteria for either Creative Communities on a Shared Island 2026-28, or Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community on a Shared Island 2026-28?
- ✓ Have you identified a partner in Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and/or Wales?
- ✓ Does your organisation have the capacity to deliver a project of scale and ambition over a 2.5-year period?

1. Introduction:

In late 2025, Creative Ireland and the Shared Island Initiative announced their intention to partner once again for 2026 - 28. In December 2025, they launched three separate grant calls: Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community on a Shared Island 2026-28; Creative Communities on a Shared Island 2026-28; and the Creative Youth Nurture Fund on a Shared island 2026-28.

For both the Health & Wellbeing, and the Creative Communities, grant call the lead applicant must be a local authority based in Ireland, such as LCCC. In order to



determine potential partners, in a fair and equitable manner, for these applications, LCCC is now requesting those interested to submit an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) to creativeireland@limerick.ie no later than **12noon on Monday 12th January 2026**.

All submissions will be assessed by the Creative Ireland Coordinator and Creative Communities Engagement Officer, in consultation with the Limerick Culture & Creativity team. From this assessment we will determine which organisations / individuals we will work with in January and February with a view to developing an application for these grant calls. Please note there is no guarantee that Creative Ireland will chose to fund any of the applications received from LCCC. Further, the preparation work in January and February is unpaid.

Please carefully read both this document, and the national grant call briefing documents [Creative Grant Call 2025 - Creative Ireland Programme](#), before making a submission.

Please note that should your organisation wish to apply for the Creative Youth Nurture Fund on a Shared island 2026-28, this application cannot be led by a local authority. However, should you wish any advice or guidance please contact creativeireland@limerick.ie.

2. What are the objectives of the Shared Island / Creative Ireland Initiative?

- A. 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;
- B. Enable communities, working with artists and the wider cultural and creative sectors to experience creativity through the lens of their counterparts, and ensure mobility of people across the island;
- C. 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;
- D. Ensure that initiatives are planned collaboratively on a Shared Island basis, to generate tangible and sustainable legacies into the future.



3. Who can apply?

LCCC is looking for submissions from potential partners including: 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; community groups and networks; business, commercial companies; philanthropic and research bodies including universities; communities of place and communities of practice; and individuals (Strand 3 only).

Please note that youth projects are only permitted under the Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community Strand B.

4. What are we looking for?

Prospective projects must meet the objectives of the Shared Island / Creative Ireland initiative (see section 2 above). Please note youth projects are not eligible for this 'Expression of Interest'. We want to see creative projects that will enhance cooperation and collaboration between communities of place and or practice, recognising that culture and creativity are essential to sustaining and developing vibrant communities. The project must relate to the objectives of the Shared Island initiative, and have a clear North/South or East/West basis. Projects must enable quality in-person creative engagement between people from the relevant jurisdictions, with at least one prospective project partner based in each relevant jurisdiction. Please read the national grant call briefing documents [Creative Grant Call 2025 - Creative Ireland Programme](#) for further details.

In the case of Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community Strand B we are looking for proposals for creative arts and health projects that:

- Support the objectives of the Strategic Action Plan for Creative Arts & Health, the Healthy Ireland Framework, and at least one major health strategy or plan in Ireland or Northern Ireland;
- Where possible, leverage the Irish Social Prescribing services to support access and participation. You can access the contact details of HSE-funded

social prescribers at this link:

<https://www.allirelandsocialprescribing.ie/service-list-by-county>

- Contribute to at least one of the following:
 - the core determinants of health
 - playing a critical role in health promotion and improvement
 - supporting positive mental health, in particular for harder to reach groups such as older men
 - promoting positive ageing
 - building an inclusive society where every disability is understood and supported
 - prevention and management of chronic disease
 - supporting end of life and bereavement care for patients and their families.

5. Timeframe:

The closing date for prospective project partners to submit an 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) to LCCC is **Monday 12th January 2026, 12noon**. These submissions will be considered, and decisions will be communicated to all who submitted an EOI no later than **Friday 23rd January 2026**. The LCCC Creative Ireland Coordinator and/or the LCCC Creative Communities Engagement Officer and/or other members of the LCCC Culture & Creativity team will then meet with prospective partners to develop and refine our applications to the Shared Island / Creative Ireland Initiative.

Applications will be submitted to Creative Ireland no later than **Friday 27th February 2026, 13:00**. In **May 2026**, all applicants, including LCCC, will be notified of the outcome of their applications. The timeframe for project delivery is **May 2026 to November 2028**.

6. Requirements:

- Prospective partners must, should the application be successful, be set up as a supplier by LCCC. Therefore, you must have a bank account. All applicants **MUST** be tax compliant. LCCC can verify your tax clearance status through



Revenue's online facility at <http://www.revenue.ie/en/online/tax-clearance.html>.

- The administration of the grant must adhere to Circular 13/2014 Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds.
- Should the application be successful prospective partners must provide LCCC with evidence of appropriate insurance cover e.g. public liability. Please note no Shared Island grant funds may be used to pay insurance fees.
- All applicants must comply with the Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act 2005 and must comply with Limerick City & County Council Health and Safety requirements.
- Should your project propose working with children, all applicants must work in adherence to national legislation and with the Limerick City and County Council Policy and Procedures for the Protection and Safeguarding of Children 2020 (Section 4.2). Additionally, your organisation must have a Child Protection Statement / Policy and may be asked to furnish same to LCCC.

7. Assessment of Submissions:

All submissions will be assessed by the Creative Ireland Coordinator and Creative Communities Engagement Officer, in consultation with the Limerick Culture & Creativity team. We reserve the right to call applicants to interview as part of this process. The outcomes of this assessment will be communicated to all prospective partners no later than **Friday 23rd January 2026**.

We are looking for projects which are unlikely to receive funding under other schemes – instead we 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 Shared Island initiative. Applications must provide details of both cross-border partners and set out how collaboration between these partners will strengthen North South, or East West collaboration.

Criteria for Assessment of Submissions	
Criterion	Marks Available



Alignment with the Creative Ireland / Shared Island initiative, and the specifics of the strand indicated	15
Quality and creativity of proposal	20
Creative and Cultural Approach	15
Experience, and expertise, of the team	15
Alignment with the Limerick Cultural & Creativity Strategy 2023 – 27 and Benefits to the Limerick area	15
Potential for scaling and replication	10
Feasibility including budget	10
Total	100

What you need to include in your submission:

- Please indicate (one only) which of the following you would like to be considered for:
 - Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community Strand B (max €90,000 in 2026);
 - Creative Communities on a Shared Island Strand 1 (max €250,000 per project);
 - Creative Communities on a Shared Island Strand 2 (max €150,000 per project);
 - Or Creative Communities on a Shared Island Strand 3 (max €50,000 per project).
- Please note that youth projects are only permitted under the Creative Health & Wellbeing in the Community Strand B.

Project idea and methodology:

- Tell us about your project. Why do you want to partner with LCCC to apply to the Shared Island / Creative Ireland Initiative?



- How does your project align with the Creative Ireland / Shared Island initiative, and the specifics of the strand indicated?
- When describing the project and what you plan to do, give specific consideration to:
 - The Communities you are targeting and your approach to facilitating cross-border people-to-people and community to community opportunities.
 - The Creative engagement approach(s) /medium being employed (if known).
 - How it addresses the brief. Details of the proposed final outcome, what do you expect this project will have achieved.

Timeline:

- Outline expected timeline e.g. what might be done by end 2026, early 2027 etc.

Outputs & Outcomes:

- What are the expected outputs of your project e.g. Museum exhibition?
- What are the expected outcomes of your project e.g. new cross-border friendships?

Capacity to deliver:

- Please outline the experience, and expertise, of your team and demonstrate your capacity to deliver this project of ambition and scale over the 2.5 year timeline. Provide examples of any similar collaborative projects you have undertaken in the past.

Budget:

- Please provide an outline of how you would expect project budget to be spent. Please note that should your proposal be chosen this budget will be refined, in consultation with LCCC, prior to the LCCC led application being submitted to Creative Ireland.
- Please note that for most strands, some project budget must be spent on Project Manager (approx. 15%), Evaluation (approx. 5%), and a contingency



set aside for currency transfers / fluctuations (approx. 8%). Additionally, some monies must be set aside for local authority overheads e.g. travel expenses, advertising etc. (approx. 4%)

- Renumeration – Creative Ireland 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 – Creative Ireland 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.
- Communication and engagement costs are eligible expenses and should form part of the budget for this funding.
- Creative Ireland recognise that Shared Island projects will incur additional costs for project teams and project participants to travel and stay overnight as part of the project. This needs to be budgeted for at application stage.
- Ineligible costs:
 - Costs not directly related to the project;
 - Retrospective costs i.e. expenditure which has taken place prior to project approval date;
 - Capital requests for building improvements to workspaces or venues;
 - Standalone conferences;

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Appendix 1 – Key Dates

Details	Date
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Launch of LCCC EOI	Wednesday 17 th December 2025
Closing date LCCC EOI	Monday 12 th January 2026
Prospective partners notified	Friday 23 rd January 2026
LCCC, and prospective partners, to work together to develop application	January – February 2026
Funds Close for Applications	Friday 27 th February 2026
Evaluation of Applications	March – April 2026
Applicants Notified	April - May 2026