

Artist-Researcher (3 years part-time)

Closing Date: 4pm, Friday 14th November 2025

Roscommon County Council Arts Office, in partnership with Roscommon Leader Partnership and a local steering group, has secured a Creative Places Seed Award from the Arts Council to continue the development of Creative Places Ballaghaderreen. This is next phase funding for a three-year developmental arts programme from 2025-2028.

We are now looking for an Artist-Researcher for 3-years to join our project, from any arts discipline, to engage with the Ballaghaderreen community and deliver evolving, socially engaged research and programming in the area.

The Artist-Researcher will work closely with and report to the programme's Project Coordinator who will lead the development, implementation, and delivery of the programme. They will also link with the projects Steering Group and Artists undertaking the annual artist residencies.

As part of the overall Creative Places Ballaghaderreen programme, the socially engaged Artist-Researcher role (appointed for the full three-year term) will be funded through Creative Ireland Roscommon. Insights from the programmes year one showed that long-term residencies foster trust and meaningful engagement, with time invested in building relationships proving essential to creating valued, relevant programming.

About Creative Places

Creative Places is an opportunity for places to build local arts programmes which will benefit the communities living in these areas. The funding builds on existing cultural strengths by supporting artists to work with local businesses, community groups and individuals to lead an inclusive, diverse programme, rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles, to enable sustained and vibrant cultural activity in the areas.

The Arts Council-led programme is underpinned by a commitment in its Making Great Art Work 2016–2025 strategy to increase engagement in the arts, whereby the Arts Council invests directly in a place and its people, working with key local partners to uncover each location's key assets, resources and ambitions. To learn more about the Creative Places programme nationally, visit:

<https://arts council.ie/developing-the-arts/flagship-programmes/creative-places/>

Fee and Budget:

A fee of **€10,000 annually** (3 years total €30,000) is allocated for the Artist-Researcher to work with the community. Budget is inclusive of the artist's time, travel & accommodation.

The Artist-Researcher will also be allocated a budget of **€5000 annually** (3 years total €15,000) for their evolving programme materials / costs. Funded through the Creative Places Ballaghaderreen programme.

Role of the Artist-Researcher

The Artist-Researcher will engage over the 3-years in an exploratory residency with the local community. They will work take initiative and work creatively with the community under the principles and aims of the overall programme.

The role involves strong, accessible presence in Ballaghaderreen. Schedule flexibility is required, and is supported, for the programme and some evenings/weekends will be required.

Artists from any arts background or medium are welcomed to apply, but experience in socially engaged arts practice and community facilitation and engagement is required.

The ideal candidate will be expected to have the following capacities and experience -

- Proven track record of socially engaged arts and collaborative arts practice.
- Self-motivated, with strong initiative and problem-solving skills.
- Skilled in consultation, facilitation and building partnerships.
- Foster a culture of deep active listening and meaningful engagement of all stakeholders.
- Seek the input and consider the needs of the whole community in programming.
- Experience working with socially disadvantaged communities and socially excluded groups.
- High level of multi-cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- Develop and implement the creative vision for the programme in collaboration with the Project Coordinator, Steering Committee and stakeholders.
- Timely delivery of milestones and compliance with funding requirements.
- Share gained knowledge and feedback to support the continuous development and improvement of the programme.
- Contribute to the programme's media coverage and digital platforms including newspapers, radio, websites, blogs, social media, and e-bulletins to share information on and promote programming.
- Show commitment to broad arts participation and promote inclusive participation and cultural diversity in line with the Arts Council / Creative Places Programme values.
- Adhere to LEADER and Roscommon County Council's policies on child protection, health and safety, insurance, climate action and other relevant policies.

Note: The programme will also offer smaller residency opportunities during the 3-years and shortlisted artists from this call may be offered an opportunity at the discretion of the Steering group.

Period of engagement

The project is for a period of 3 years with dates and format of the residency to be discussed further with the Project Coordinator. We are proposing activity to commence from November 2025 onwards.

Roscommon County Council Arts Office will arrange to meet with the Project Coordinator and Artist Researcher regularly to plan future project steps, ensure a cohesive and collaborative research enquiry process and outcomes, and support the artist and programme.

The Creative Places Ballaghaderreen Steering Group hold a quarterly meeting with the Project Coordinator. The Artist-Researcher will be expected to share project updates with the Coordinator in advance of these meetings.

At the end of each programme year the appointed Artist-Research is expected to create a final report on their research and programming to be included in the larger evaluation of the project.

How to apply

To apply for the position, please submit the following to creativeplacesballagh@gmail.com :

1. Curriculum Vitae (2-page max)
2. Three or four examples of relevant work with community groups to include images, a description and links to any video and documentation.
3. Two references relating to the examples.
4. A short letter of interest / cover letter (2 page of A4 max) which highlights:
 - Your relevant skills and experience to this position
 - What interests you about this project and this place
 - Your approach to working with communities

Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated by the Creative Places Ballaghaderreen Steering Group, which includes the Project Coordinator, representatives from the local authority, local community development organisations, arts organisations and community groups.

Applications will be evaluated based on the applicants' experience and ambition for the project.

Creative Ireland Programme

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland's culture and creativity. The vision of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023–2027 is to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, in our personal lives and in our institutions, we can realise our full creative potential thereby promoting individual, community and national wellbeing.