

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL CREATIVE ROSCOMMON OPEN CALL 2025 GUIDELINES

Roscommon County Council is tasked with the implementation at local level of the Creative Communities Strand of the Creative Ireland Programme.

What is the 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. The Creative Ireland Programme will deliver through collaboration and partnership, promoting understanding, and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms — whether through the arts, culture, heritage, or technology.

The Creative Ireland Programme defines creativity as:

A set of innate abilities and learned skills: the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and, by drawing on imagination, to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.

The following genres will be considered relevant under the definition of Creativity:

- Archaeology
- Architecture/Architectural Heritage
- Biodiversity/Natural Heritage
- Community/Social
- Crafts/Artisan/Gastronomy
- Creative/Cultural Development
- Dance
- Design, Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths
- Film Screen Cartoon
- Folklore/Archives
- History
- Literature and or poetry
- Multidisciplinary
- Music/Spoken Word
- Promoting the Irish Language
- Story telling/Oral Heritage

- Street art/Spectacle and or Circus
- Tangible/Intangible Heritage
- Theatre/Drama and or Comedy
- Visual Art (painting, photography, sculpture etc)

Creative Roscommon Grants 2025

The key objective of the **Creative Roscommon Grants 2025** is to provide support to local communities and creatives to deliver collaborative, innovative, ambitious projects and to enable creativity in every community. All proposals received will be evaluated by the Roscommon County Council Culture Team. The scheme is now open and we are inviting applications which will respond to the Priorities in the Roscommon Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 under the following four strands:

Strand 1: Community/Creative Collaboration

Community Groups in the county working collaboratively with artists and creatives are invited to apply for funding support for creative projects in their locality.

This fund is open to not-for-profit organisations, local community groups, arts, heritage, environmental and cultural groups, venues and all those involved in the culture and creative sectors. **Applications by individuals must be in partnership with groups or organisations.**

Strand 2: Creative Climate Action/Heritage/Biodiversity Collaboration

Community Groups working collaboratively with artists and creatives are invited to apply for funding to support projects that look specifically at the areas of Climate Action/Heritage/Biodiversity in the county.

Projects may address Climate Awareness, Impact of Climate Change, Biodiversity Awareness (loss and/or links to Irish folklore and culture), Built and Natural Heritage in creative ways. Projects would be encouraged to have a final presentation that coincides with National Heritage Week, Biodiversity Week and other such events, this should be mentioned in your application where relevant. **Applications by individuals must be in partnership with groups or organisations.**

Strand 3: Individual Creative Bursary – New Work

These bursaries offer Roscommon artists and creatives the opportunity to develop new bodies of work and consider how they will engage with the public in the final presentation of their work in 2025.

A key aspect of this scheme is to foster new exciting and innovative projects that may not otherwise be realised. While not a requirement, a project could engage with young people in the lead up to and on the day of Cruinniú na nÓg 7th June 2025 and/or could see its final presentation on Culture Night 19th September 2025.

Strand 4: Outdoor Cultural Events

Roscommon County Council, through our Creative Roscommon Open Call, seeks proposals for outdoor events at any of the Council's newly developed outdoor spaces in the County - The Square Roscommon; Amphitheatre Loughnaneane Park; Somers Park Castlerea; Pleasure Grounds or King House Grounds Boyle. Events for Bealtaine (month of May), Cruinniú na nÓg, Culture Night or Christmas would be especially welcomed.

The level of grant assistance for any one event/project will typically range from €2,000 to €5,000.

Strategic Priorities for the Roscommon Open Calls 2025

We wish to drive collaboration and ambitious thinking. Every project should have a principal focus on a priority but its design and delivery should include elements of all four. Fundamentally all projects must have an output for, and an impact on, communities, for each project annually or as part of a developmental project over a number of years.

The Creative Vision for Roscommon is: A Creative Place: A Creative People. The Roscommon Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 provides an opportunity to encourage a multiplicity of voices and forms of expression, from which new ideas can emerge and old stories can be reimagined.

Priority 1: Creative People

Support, develop and deliver projects that support the ambitions of creative people, that develop creative skills, and build valuable relationships and networks.

Priority 2: Creative Place

Support, develop and deliver projects that build on, and celebrate, the creativity of communities of place and interest, and that bring communities together to share experiences, skill, and ambition.

Priority 3: Creative Practice

Support, develop, and deliver projects that practice creativity, that centre on community-engaged arts practice, that support professional development, and that lead to sustainable careers.

Priority 4: Creative Partnership

Support, develop, and deliver projects that foster unique, unexpected and creative partnerships between agencies, individuals and communities to drive scale, impact and ambition.

These strategic priorities are elaborated upon in the **Roscommon Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027** which can be found at: <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Creative-Ireland/>

Roscommon County Council welcomes applicants who represent the diversity of Irish society. We encourage applications from all areas of the community regardless of your gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community, or socio-economic background. We welcome applications from artists whose first language is not English.

Although not obligatory requirements, applicants might consider demonstrating how their proposed activity addresses the themes of **inclusivity, equality and cultural diversity** and how their project contributes to sustainable outcomes, encouraging creativity over consumption.

Roscommon County Council is committed to equitable remuneration and a policy to **Pay the Artist**.

Your attention is also drawn to **safetocreate.ie** where you will find more information about the Safe to Create Dignity at Work programme which aims to impact change on the culture and practices of the arts sector in Ireland to provide safer working conditions for artists and arts workers.

Selection Criteria

Grant applications received will be evaluated in respect of the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed event/project is aligned to the Strategic Priorities of the Roscommon Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 (outlined above);
- The extent to which the proposed event/project maximises community and citizen engagement;
- The extent to which the proposed event/project is new, ambitious, innovative and fosters creativity;
- The potential scope of the event/project and anticipated target audience;
- The cost of the proposed event/project and any additional supports and funding that may be required or have been confirmed;
- The event/project must be based in County Roscommon;
- Completion of the project within the current year.
- For the Individual Creative Bursary, it is advantageous to include supporting material that enhances your application. Applicants should not assume that the Culture Team are familiar with your work or your previous funding history. The panel will use the supporting material to get a better understanding of your track record, that of your creative collaborator(s) and the feasibility of your proposal.

Funding

- Payment must be made to community groups or organisations and not to individual(s) for the purpose of strands 1, 2 and 4.
- Funding may only be used to support events/projects that focus on cultural activity involving the arts, creativity, heritage, environment and the Irish language.
- Funding may not be used to support pre-existing obligations or plans, or for any other purpose unrelated to Creative Ireland.
- The quantity and value of awards will depend on available funding, number of applicants and quality of applications.
- The level of grant assistance for any one event/project will range from €2,000 to €5,000. In very exceptional circumstances, Roscommon County Council reserves the right to award a sum in excess of this to Creative Roscommon projects.

- The Creative Ireland Programme must be publicly acknowledged in all advertisements and publicity in relation to any event/project funded under this initiative with appropriate use of the Creative Ireland and Roscommon County Council logos.
- Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer that will form the contract between Roscommon County Council and the organiser and will detail all conditions and requirements.
- A list of successful projects will be published on Roscommon County Council's website.
- All applicants who have been awarded grant assistance must produce evidence of the following before commencement of the event/project:-
 - Evidence of legal structure (e.g. CLG, Ad-hoc Group etc)
 - Evidence of registration for VAT (if applicable)
 - Proof of tax clearance
 - Evidence of insurances where applicable
 - Evidence of registration/willing to register with the Public Participation Network (PPN)
 - Child Protection Policy where applicable
- Please note it is the responsibility of the organiser to have secured all approvals, permissions, licences or consents needed for the event/project.
- Following completion of the event, and in order to draw down funding, the successful applicant must submit a detailed report together with the following:
 - Evidence that the event has taken place e.g. photographic evidence
 - Receipts for the full costs
- Payment to successful applicants will be made by electronic fund transfer only.

Ineligible expenditure

- Capital requests for building improvements to workspaces and venues.
- Purchase of equipment.
- Charitable events.