



## Offaly County Council

### Creative Ireland Community Project – call for applications 2025

### Grant Information

#### 1. Introduction

Offaly County Council, with financial support from the Creative Ireland programme, seeks to award grants to communities and artists working together **to explore and present aspects of Offaly’s heritage through varying art forms**. These grants will range from incubator grants (exploring a project idea) to project delivery grants. Projects may be **phased over a few years**<sup>1</sup>, exploring concepts and developing relationships between the artist and community in year one and building on this in future years.

Heritage includes the following - monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects including archives, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, geology, heritage gardens and parks, inland waterways, folklore, and local history. Projects exploring the impact of climate change on our landscape, built, natural and cultural heritage are included in this project call.

Art can include any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever art form, including visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium within those art forms.

#### 2. Context

The 2023-27 five-year Culture and Creativity Plan can be viewed on the link below.

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

The Creative Ireland Programme has collaboration at its heart – between central and local government; between heritage, arts, culture, and industry; between artists, communities, and policy makers– to facilitate a culture of creativity.

This grant programme, drawing together heritage, arts, libraries, communities, and artists fits in with *Pillar Two of Creative Ireland, Enabling Creativity in Every Community*. See <http://creativeireland.ie/>. There is a vibrant library network in the county which can be utilised as a resource as part of this call.

#### 3. Budgets and finance

It is envisaged that grants will range from €250 - €1,500 for incubator /exploratory concept grants and developing the artists’ work with the community – to a range of projects supported up to €5,000, with grants up to €8,000 (awarded for the delivery of exceptional projects). An interim grant payment to assist with project delivery can be made depending on the project circumstances and progress.

- The grants are inclusive of all costs, fees, transport, expenses, materials, insurance, services required and any VAT that falls due. Please note that grants will not cover capital costs.

<sup>1</sup> Subject to the Creative Ireland funding being provided annually

- All groups/ individuals awarded must have a valid Tax Clearance Number/access number, a bank account (not credit union) in the name of the group and an email contact.
- A detailed breakdown of costs associated with all elements of the project **must** be included in your application. This is essential for your grant application to be assessed.
- Grants will be awarded based on a fixed price, and as such, all costs must be quoted (and clearly indicated) as a fixed price in Euro. No other amount over and above the negotiated amount will be paid.

#### 4. Timetable

- The closing date for receipt of submissions is **noon on Friday 21 February 2025**
- An offer to successful communities /artists will be notified by mid-March with a request for additional information for the Creative Ireland portal. On completion of information needed for Creative Ireland a formal offer will issue.
- The project must be completed with the required information (report, invoices, testimonials, audience numbers, artists engaged and 3 images with consent for people featured) submitted by the **end of October 2025**.

#### 5. Selection Process

- The selection panel will include representatives of the Offaly Culture Team. For details see <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-communities/offaly>
- We reserve the right to ask for clarity of information or to reconsider elements such as delivery procedures, budget, time schedule or any such factors deemed necessary for a successful outcome.
- The decision of the selection panel is final.

#### 6. Assessment Criteria

This is a competitive process, and your proposal will be assessed using the following criteria;

- **Community Reach** – estimate of target group and depth of contact. (25 marks)
- Demonstrating the dynamic of **bringing an artistic approach to explore and communicate an aspect of heritage**. (25 marks)
- **Artistic quality, creativity and originality of the proposal** presented, on a standalone basis, with reference to other competing applicants and in relation to the brief. (25 marks)
- **Feasibility of the commission**, such as time/budget/ and the record of accomplishment of the community / artist to deliver (25 marks)

#### 7. Contract Conditions

- All work activities must be carried out in accordance with current Health and Safety Guidelines and Legislation.
- The successful community groups/ artists will be required to provide regular updates to Offaly County Council Creative Ireland team.
- Offaly County Council will not be liable for any other expenses incurred by the community group/artists.

- Offaly County Council undertakes to use their best endeavours to protect confidential and commercially sensitive information provided by you in this application subject to the Council's obligations under Law and including the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. Should you wish that any of the information supplied by you not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, you should, when providing the information, identify same and specify reasons for its sensitivity. If your application is successful, the price will as a matter of course, be available to the public outside of the scope of F.O.I. legislation.

Offaly County Council will consult with you about the release of confidential and commercially sensitive information before making decisions on any F.O.I. request received. If, having considered your views, Offaly County Council is of the opinion that the information should be released in the public interest; you will have the option of appealing the decision to the Information Commissioner. Please note that if no information is identified by you as sensitive, with supporting reasons, then it is likely to be released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Acts.

- Offaly County Council's own Child Protection Policy requires that any project involving young people has the appropriate Child Protection Policies and/or certificates in place. We are unable to fund projects that do not have this assurance; therefore, it is the organisation's responsibility to ensure that any person hired by them has the appropriate Child Protection Training.

## **8. How to Apply**

Please submit by emailing **one PDF** document of the fully completed application form to [kgray@offalycoco.ie](mailto:kgray@offalycoco.ie) Please note the total maximum size for emails is 10 MB. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that emails are received. You are advised to send a separate email without attachments to confirm the delivery of your submission. Do not assume it has arrived until you have a confirmation email!

Please address your application to  
Creative Ireland Open Call Community Project  
email [kgray@offalycoco.ie](mailto:kgray@offalycoco.ie) (max size per email 10MB)

For further enquires please contact Creative Communities Engagement Officer at [kgray@offalycoco.ie](mailto:kgray@offalycoco.ie)