



# Galway City Creative Communities Programme 2026 Guidelines

## Deadline for Applications

Please submit your online application by **April, 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 4pm**

## Purpose of the Creative Communities Programme

The Creative Communities Programme is an initiative committed to broadening access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally. Within the broad range of available definitions, creativity is considered 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 vision of the Creative Communities 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.

Creative Communities delivers through collaboration and partnership. It promotes understanding of the value of creativity in all its forms – whether through the arts, culture, heritage, and the wider creative industries.

This scheme is supported by Galway City Council, through the Creative Ireland Programme, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

## Before starting your application:

Please read the guidelines below.

Please review Galway City Council's [Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027](#)

Apply online via [Submit](#)

### **Who is eligible?**

- Community groups, organisations, and creative practitioners, either based in Galway City, or with the proposed activity taking place in Galway City.

### **What the Creative Communities Funds**

- Project costs associated with creative activities and initiatives.
- Events and event costs such as artists' wages & fees, creative and technical crew, production technical costs for live performances: costume, set, sound, management costs, producer or conductor fees, technical equipment hire, venue costs, documenting of live events (film, photography, sound), marketing & promotion, evaluation, and other reasonable costs.

### **What the Creative Communities Does Not Fund**

- Top-up or substitute funding for existing events and initiatives, unless in respect of a new aspect or element
- Charity fundraisers
- For-profit projects and activities
- Purchase of equipment
- Activities taking place outside of Galway City

### **Budget and costs**

Creative Communities funding awards range from €1,000 to €5,000. In specifying how much funding you are applying for you will need to consider your expenditure and income in relation to your application.

- Expenditure relates to any costs you expect to have.
- Income relates to any source of funding that you have that is specifically earmarked for the project described in your application. For example, if another organisation is Track record and the quality of the proposed collaboration contributing towards your expenditure, you should include that as income in the application form. You should also include as income any contribution you are proposing to make from your own resources.

The work for which the funding is sought must be carried out on a not-for-profit basis and must reflect Galway City Council's commitment to supporting fair and equitable remuneration of artists and culture professionals in our funding programmes and schemes and in our

partnerships and working relationships. This is in accordance with the Arts Council's '[Paying the Artist Policy](#)' best practice principles.

### **Assessment Criteria**

Applications are assessed using the following criteria:

- A. Quality and impact of the proposal – 30%
- B. Alignment with the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 – 30%
- C. Track record, merit of the collaboration and partnership – 20%
- D. Feasibility – Finance – 20%

### **Assessment of Applications**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

A formal acknowledgement of your application will be issued within one week of the deadline. It is your responsibility to contact the Galway City Creative Ireland team at [creativeireland@galwaycity.ie](mailto:creativeireland@galwaycity.ie) if you do not receive a reply within this timeframe.

Your application will be considered by the Assessment Panel reporting to the Galway City Creative Ireland Coordinator who will make recommendations on eligible applications.

### **Conditions**

The funding must only be used for the purposes specified in your application.

The award must be spent before **9th October 2026**.

Where funding is allocated for a specific activity, organisers must ensure that insurance is in place before any activity takes place. Galway City Council will not be responsible for insurance.

All recipients of the Galway City Creative Communities funding must acknowledge the funding on their promotional material with Creative Ireland branding and return a final report upon completion of their project.

Please note: the only method of payment for any approval will be Electronic Funds Transfer.

### **Additional guidelines**

- Canvassing of any kind will disqualify the applicant
- Ensure that you enclose all requested documentation
- Funding is limited and the process is competitive, so not all applicants will be successful, and applicants may be awarded less than the requested amount.

- Funding will be awarded only where applications meet the criteria set down by Galway City Council.
- Galway City Council reserves its right to add to or reduce the value of support it may make, and to withhold support. The decision of Galway City Council on support is final.

**Enquiries**

Email: [creativeireland@galwaycity.ie](mailto:creativeireland@galwaycity.ie) with subject line 'Creative Communities 2026 Enquiry'

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for a response to your query.