

# Open Call for Applications

Strategic Partners in the  
delivery of Cruinniú na  
nÓg  
2025–2027

# The Creative Ireland Programme

The Creative Ireland Programme was established in 2017 to enable the creative potential of people and communities, to enhance their wellbeing and the collective wellbeing of our society.

It focuses on encouraging and supporting new ways and opportunities to participate in creative and cultural activities. It is a Government of Ireland culture and wellbeing programme running until 2027.



**Creative  
Youth**



**Creative  
Communities**



**Creative  
Industries**



**Creative  
Health and  
Wellbeing**



**Creative  
Climate  
Action and  
Sustainability**



# Creative Youth

Creative Youth Plan  
2023-2027



## The Creative Youth Plan

The Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027 aims to place creativity at the heart of children and young peoples' lives through a series of expanded and new initiatives for those aged 0-24 between 2023 and 2027.

It ensures children and young people retain a key voice in decision-making on its implementation and will prioritise those that are seldom heard and most at risk of disadvantage.

You can read more about the Creative Youth Plan here:  
<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-youth/>

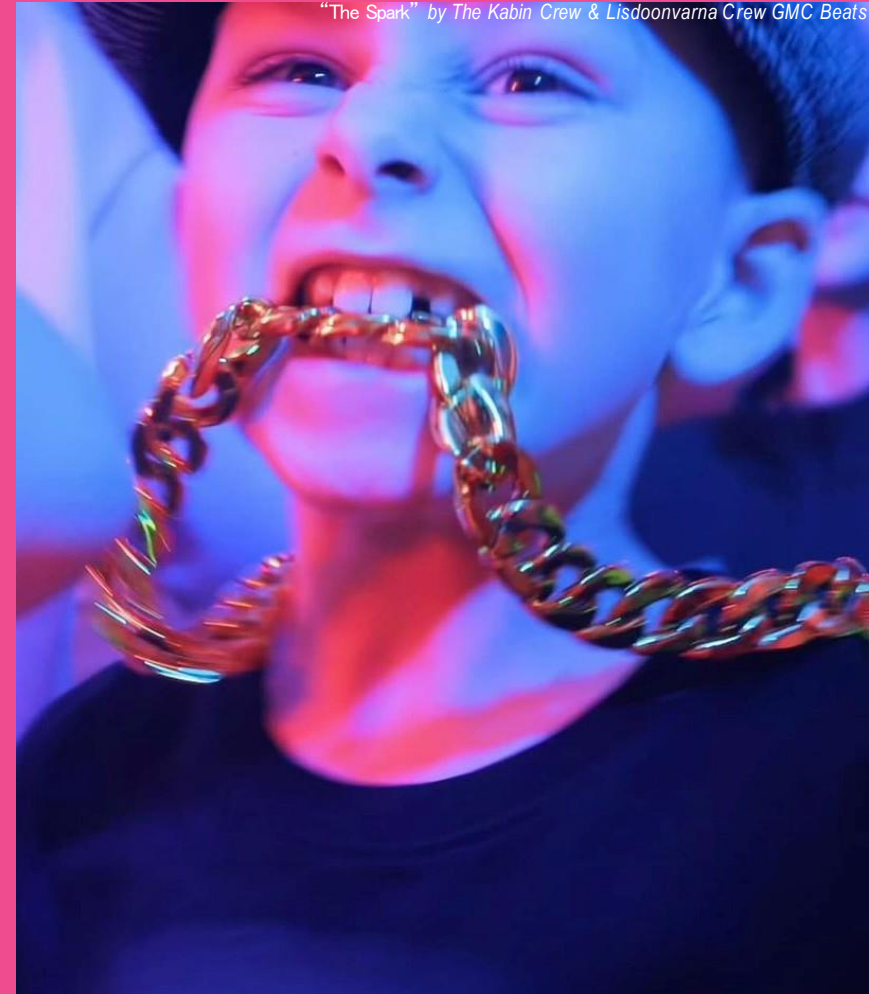
## Cruinniú na nÓg

Open Call for Applications

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18.

Ireland is the first, and only, country in the world to have such a day.

It is one of the key actions committed to in the [Creative Youth Plan](#). Celebrated annually, young people are invited to participate in a programme of free creative activities, demonstrate their creative skills, try a new creative activity, and above all have fun.



## Cruinniú na nÓg

Open Call for Applications

The primary objectives of Cruinniú na nÓg are to:

- empower children and young people to develop their creative potential by providing opportunities for them to participate in free creative activities in their local communities;
- increase awareness of the benefits of participation in creative activities.

As of 2023, Cruinniú na nÓg is programmed on an all-island basis consistent with the aims of the Government of Ireland's [Shared Island](#) initiative which aims to deepen beneficial cooperation and connections across the island of Ireland. This forms a central part of the Shared Island-dimension of the overall Creative Ireland Programme (see appendix 1).





# Cruinniú na nÓg Strategic Partners

Strategic Partners are organisations, or a partnership of organisations, who have a capacity to deliver Cruinniú na nÓg on a regional or an all-island basis through the provision of free creative activities for children and young people.

The Barceló Brothers

# What Are We Looking For?

We are seeking projects for **0-18** year olds from organisations and/or partnerships that are of significant scale and ambition.

We envisage a **maximum grant of €150,000 per project** and funding of at least **3 projects**.

Projects can be delivered with a number of partners working in collaboration. The timeframe will run from **December 2024 to December 2027**.

Due to the commitment within the *Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027* to young people who are considered seldom heard, we see at least one of the projects funded would target a cohort in this category.\*

\*Please see Appendix 2 of the briefing document for more information regarding this category





## Applications are welcome which:

- Focus on process based work as distinct from once off stand-alone events or engagements which take place on the day in June;
- increase the choice of creative activity across a wide genre, available to children and young people and in particular seldom heard young people (see appendix 3 for definition);





## What is a Strategic Partner?

The Creative Ireland Programme wishes to engage Strategic Partners to increase the suite of events and initiatives available, alongside those produced by each local authority, in order to further develop, diversify and expand the offering and audience for Cruinniú na nÓg in 2025, 2026 and 2027.



Open Call for Applications

The activities can take place both in advance from Jan–May every year (where young people can try out different activities or get a taster of a new creative practice) and on the day itself.

There must be activities, initiatives or events available on the day of Cruinniú na nÓg (Saturday 7th June 2025), in-person at a number of geographical locations that young people can engage with and experience.

Strategic Partners must have the necessary expertise to engage with ‘Culture and Creativity teams’ within local authorities. Ideally your project can complement local Cruinniú na nÓg programmes, by providing opportunities to connect project/initiative.

## Seldom Heard Children and Young People

Children and young people who have fewer opportunities and more obstacles in their lives.

They may include those children and young people who are children in care:

- Engaged with the youth justice system/ incarcerated persons and ex-offenders;
- Experiencing domestic violence;
- From a minority ethnic background;
- Homeless or at risk of losing their home/ living in temporary/ unsuitable accommodation;
- In hospital (including those with mental health issues);
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT);
- Living in poverty;
- Living in rural isolation;
- Living with mental health issues;
- Living with parental addiction;

- Living with strained family relationships;
- Not in school;
- Living with physical and intellectual disabilities;
- Have special education needs;
- Refugees and asylum-seekers;
- Traveller and Roma;
- Unemployed;
- Young carers;
- Young people heading up a one parent/caregiver family;
- International protection applications;
- Low paid employees;
- Long term unemployed; and
- Those at risk of social isolation.



# Defining Creativity

Creativity involves innate human abilities and learned skills. Creativity has no limits and is creating ideas from one's own mind to share with others. At the heart of creativity, is the freedom to take risks, to use imagination and the potential to evoke a sense of fun, wonder and happiness.

For the purposes of the *Creative Youth Plan*, the most appropriate skills and behaviours are those which support development and learning such as curiosity, resilience, imagination, discipline, and collaboration.

Many forms of creativity are welcome, just some of which are listed below:

CIRCUS, FILM, LITERATURE, CREATIVE WRITING, MUSIC (all genres), DANCE (all types), STREET ARTS AND SPECTACLE, THEATRE, TRADITIONAL ARTS, VISUAL ARTS, CULTURAL HERITAGE, ARCHITECTURE, PODCASTING, AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITY, FASHION, COMEDY, DESIGN (all kinds), DIGITAL GAMES, CREATIVE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, ANIMATION, CODING, COOKING, MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTS

# Who Can Apply?

All applications must contain at least one art/culture/creative/heritage partner. Proposals may include partners from different geographical areas and/or areas of expertise who will work together to deliver a project across Ireland.

- Youth organisations;
- Creative organisations and networks;
- Museums, galleries and arts centres;
- Registered Charities or not-for-profit organisations;
- Arts and cultural and heritage organisations or institutions;
- Social enterprises

Proposals may focus and champion a particular art form or creative activity or on multiple art forms and activities



# Marking Scheme

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Marks Available</b>
The project idea and its creative approach	60
Approach to facilitating strong North/South participation for those projects applying on an all-island basis and/or to ensuring a wide geographic spread	25
Experience of reaching and working effectively with children and young people	25
Project team, track record and feasibility	40
Your Evaluation Plan	25
Scale and ambition to deliver a number of geographical events	25
<b>Total Marks Available</b>	<b>200</b>

# Budget Considerations

## **Costs May Include:**

- Project Management - This fee should cover administrative staff time (for example to cover project management and/or financial administration), as well as any contribution towards overheads or other reasonable costs required to deliver the project.
- Remuneration - We 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.
- Materials – We 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.
- Evaluation - Given the important learning that will emerge from these projects, we recognise project evaluation and reporting will have a cost and should be included.
- Communication and engagement costs are eligible expenses and should form part of the budget for this funding.



# Budget Considerations

## **Other costs we can support include :**

Costs to appoint a project manager with experience in youth participation.

Costs to convene a diverse group of young people to design and oversee implementation of the project including transport costs

Youth Exchanges that include connecting young people on an all-island basis with 2-3 in person creative collaborations together, including events on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025

# Budget Considerations

## **Ineligible Costs:**

- Costs not directly related to the project
- Retrospective costs i.e. expenditure which has taken place prior to the project approval date
- Capital requests for building improvements to workspaces and venues
- Applications relating to Television series or a standalone advertising campaign
- Standalone conferences



# Important Dates

- **11<sup>th</sup> September** - Fund Opens for Applications.
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am** – In-person network event in the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.
- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 17.00pm** - **Closing date**
- **December 2024** - We will endeavour to inform all successful and unsuccessful applicants.
- **November 2025** – Deadline to draw down 2025 funds.
- **November 2026** – Deadline to draw down 2026 funds.



# Cruinniú na nÓg – Strategic Partners / Shared Island in person event

Belfast

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October Crescent Arts Centre

10:30am - 1:00pm

Register [here](#)

# For More Information

Applications through **Submit.com** only.

Please refer to the Briefing Document on Submit.com for more information before applying.

If your query is not answered by the FAQ or briefing document, please email [creativecommunities@tcagsm.gov.ie](mailto:creativecommunities@tcagsm.gov.ie) with the subject line 'Cruinniú na nÓg – Strategic Partners'.

**DEADLINE: 5.00pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024**





# Shared Island initiative - overview

- **Programme for Government - Shared Island chapter:**
  - “Work with all communities and traditions on the island to build consensus around a shared future, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement.”
  - **Significantly-enhanced level of ambition** for collaborative all-island investment cooperation (PfG and National Development Plan 2021-2030)
- **Whole of Government approach:**
  - Delivered by **Government Departments and Agencies**
  - Working through **All-Island partnerships** with NI, UK, Local Authority, Education and Civil Society partners
  - **Shared Island unit** in D/Taoiseach is a driver and coordinator for the initiative, working with line Departments and Agencies.
  - **Good Friday Agreement** - relationships (N/S and E/W), institutions, principles, commitments.



# Shared Island Initiative - Overview

## Building a Shared Island

- Deliver long-standing and new cross-border investments

## Inclusive Dialogue

- 15 events, 3200+ attendees from all communities, traditions and regions.

## Policy research programme

- High quality evidence and analysis on deepening co-operation and connections on the island.





# Shared Island Youth Dialogue

- Met for the first time on 8 September in Dublin Castle, and has held two meetings since then, with a further one to be held in mid-November.
- Membership includes 40 young representatives from NI and 40 from the South, reflective of gender, ethnic, community, faith and other identity diversities.
- The Forum will meet and deliberate over the next year and set out their vision and values for a shared future on the island.
- Focused on 5 themes: Sustainability; Opportunity; Wellbeing; Equality; and Culture and Identity.







Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Shared Island  
Initiative

Further Information:  
[gov.ie/sharedisland](https://gov.ie/sharedisland)

Any Questions?



**Creative Ireland Programme**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

—  
23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2,  
D02 TD30  
—

 [@CreativeIrl](#)

 [@creativeirl](#)

 [@creativeireland](#)

— [creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie](mailto:creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie) [creativeireland.gov.ie](http://creativeireland.gov.ie)