

## CREATIVE COMMUNITIES GRANT SCHEME ANNOUNCED WITH LAUNCH OF NEW CORK CITY COUNCIL STRATEGY

Cork City Council is inviting applications to a new grant scheme for communities working with arts and creative practitioners to enable creativity in every community. The 'Creative Communities' grant scheme was announced to mark the launch of a new, five-year, Culture and Creativity Strategy for Cork. The strategy is one of 31 local plans launched under the Creative Ireland programme, a national programme that connects people, creativity and wellbeing throughout Ireland. The strategies were launched by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, Catherine Martin, TD, at an event in Farmleigh Estate, Dublin. Cork City will be building on the success of the initial five-year programme which saw €1.2 million invested in nearly 100 community-facing projects and events since 2018, including Ardú Street Art Initiative; One City One Book; Kinship Creative Climate Action and the annual Cruinníú na nÓg.

The aim of the Cork City Creative Communities Grant Scheme is to open up new opportunities for communities to work with artists. The grants will support projects that seek to develop and sustain creativity in communities across at least one of five strategic themes: to tell our own story; to enrich our sense of place; to support creative industry, ambition and risk taking; to promote wellbeing through creative engagement; and to be climate active.

Speaking on the announcement, Lord Mayor Cllr. Deirdre Forde welcomed the new and exciting phase of the Creative Ireland programme in Cork city saying "These strategic priorities respect and build on the culture, heritage and values of the city which include a strong commitment to leadership and action on inclusion, diversity, equality and access, and to innovation, experimentation and enterprise."

Applications to 'Creative Communities' can be submitted online until the closing date 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Awards up to €3000 are available to support engaging, creative proposals that will extend the impact of the aim of the national Creative Ireland programme in Cork City "enabling creativity in every community". A grant clinic will be hosted online by Cork City Council in March and funding decisions will be announced in early May. Projects must be complete by early November 2023.

For more information about Creative Ireland in Cork City and the 'Creative Communities' grant scheme go to <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/arts-culture-heritage/creative-ireland/> or visit Cork City Council's social media pages:

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