

Overview

Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creativity for children and young people, will take place on Saturday, 6th June 2026.

Creative Ireland Kerry invites artists, creative practitioners, organisations, and community groups to submit proposals for grants that offer a free creative activities, workshops, or events designed for and with children and young people (ages 0–18 years).

This is a unique opportunity to help young people in Kerry explore their creativity, by doing, making, creating, and sharing. This year all initiatives will process led so that young people can extend their access to the creative activities.

1. Programme Objectives

Cruinniú na nÓg aims to:

- Empower children and young people to express their creativity through meaningful participation in creative activities in their local area.
- Raise awareness of the benefits of creative participation.
- Involve children and young people in shaping and delivering creative programmes.
- Prioritise inclusion of harder-to-reach young people, such as those with disabilities, seldom-heard voices, or those in isolated circumstances.

All activities and events must:

- Have an artist or creative professional involved
- Take place in County Kerry
- Be free of charge to participants
- Showcase or conclude on Saturday, 6th June 2026

2. What We're Looking For

Projects should:

- Be hands-on and participatory: focus on doing, making, and creating
- Offer process-led engagement (e.g., workshops leading up to a final day showcase)
- Include the voice and ideas of young participants in the design and delivery of activities
- Address meaningful themes such as identity, place, nature, climate, or community.
- Identify target groups or named partners (schools, youth clubs, community organisations) or include a plan for open participation.
- Result in a public event or showcase on Saturday, 6th June 2026.

3. Who Can Apply

Applications are invited from:

- Individual artists and creative practitioners (e.g., visual artists, musicians, filmmakers, coders, performers, designers, storytellers, craftspeople, etc.)
- Professional and cultural organisations
- Community and youth organisations
- Collaborative partnerships between creative professionals and local groups

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Capacity to devise, facilitate, and deliver quality creative experiences for children and young people.
- Appropriate remuneration for creative professionals included in the projects proposed budget.

4. Event Categories

(a) Daytime Events

- Activities typically take place from 9am to 4pm.
- Focused on participatory, creative activities for children and young people (0–18 years).

(b) Evening Events

- Grant funding is available for evening events designed for young people aged 14 to 18 years.
- Events must:
 - Take place after 4pm, continuing at least until 8pm.
 - Be youth-led and activity-based, allowing participants to create or perform.
 - Encourage innovative engagement in creative spaces after traditional hours.

5. Funding and Geographic Spread

Funding will be awarded across Kerry's five Municipal Districts:

- Tralee
- Killarney
- Kenmare
- Listowel
- Castleisland / Corca Dhuibhne

Available funding per district: between €1,000 – €5,000, depending on merit and project scale.

Expected number of awards per district: 1 to 3 subject to budget availability.

6. Budget Requirements

All proposals must include:

- A clear and feasible budget, identifying all projected costs.
- Evidence of appropriate artist/creative professional payment aligned with industry standards.
- Additional supports or access resources where applicable to facilitate participation by children and young people with additional needs or those with limited access to creative activities.

7. Eligibility and Key Criteria

To be eligible, proposals must:

- Take place within County Kerry.
- Be free to all participants.
- Demonstrate feasibility for completion and/or public presentation by 6th June 2026.
- Align with the principles and objectives of Cruinniú na nÓg.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Reach underrepresented or harder-to-reach children and young people.
- Demonstrate co-creation with participants.
- Offer a high-quality creative experience that enriches participants' local community engagement.

8. Application Process

How to Apply

Our online application form is available here:

<https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en/content/cruinni%C3%BA-na-n%C3%B3g-2026>

A word version application forms is available at: <https://arts.kerrycoco.ie/cruinniu-na-nog>

Each application should include:

1. Completed application form (online or downloadable, as desired) and an image to represent the project.
2. Detailed description of the initiative, including concept, target participants, and anticipated outcomes.
3. Timeline for preparation, delivery, and final showcase on 6th June 2026.
4. Budget breakdown, including artist fees and materials.
5. Letter(s) of support from partner organisations (if applicable).

Submission Deadline

5pm Friday 20th March 2026

Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

9. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Participation and inclusion: Level of direct engagement with children and young people. (25 marks)
- Artistic and creative merit: Quality and originality of the idea. (25 marks)
- Feasibility and Impact: Capacity to deliver within available time and resources. Potential benefit to participants and the wider community. (20 points)
- Budget clarity and appropriateness: Realistic costing, including fair artist fees. (15 points)
- Geographic balance: equitable distribution of funded projects across the population of Kerry's young people. (15 points)

10. Contact and Further Information

For queries or guidance contact:

Creative Ireland Kerry at Kerry County Council Arts Office

arts@kerrycoco.ie 066 7183541

Visit:

[Cruinniú na nÓg | KerryArts](#)

[Cruinniú na nÓg - Creative Ireland](#)