



Cultúr Éireann
Culture Ireland
 Promoting Irish Arts Worldwide



Shared Island
Initiative

Shared Island 2026-2030

Culture Ireland Touring, Production and Platforms Fund

Information for Applicants

The Main Points to Note	
When does this Fund run?	The Shared Island Touring, Production and Platforms Fund runs from mid-2026 to November 2030.
What funding is available?	<p>The Culture Ireland Touring, Production and Platforms fund, with a value of €1m, will enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An enhanced all-Island approach to showcasing cultural talent of professional artists from across the island of Ireland internationally by Culture Ireland; €0.2m (2026 – 2030) (ii) All-Island support for international co-productions and international touring involving at least one partner from Northern Ireland; €0.8m (2026 – 2030)
How do I apply for funding?	Closes at 1pm, 7 th April 2026. Applications can be made online only via the application portal which can be accessed here . Please ensure that Shared Island – Strand 2 is noted at the beginning of your proposal.

What is the [Shared Island](#) initiative?

The Shared Island initiative was set up in 2020 and aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation, connection and mutual understanding on the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future.

Funding for cultural co-operation

In February 2025 the Government approved an allocation from the Shared Island Fund of up to €10m for the period 2025-2030 for a new Shared Island Cultural Cooperation Fund with objectives to increase cooperation, connection and mutual understanding on the island of Ireland through strengthened cultural institution cooperation and enhanced support for all-island cultural collaborations and audience engagement. It will contribute to building sustainable models and networks of all-island cultural collaboration and the development of cooperation and exchange across the island and between cultural organisations, North and South, and international partners.

These guidelines relate to ***Strand 2: Culture Ireland Shared Island Touring, Production and Platforms Fund €1m (2026 – 2030)***. This strand will support:

- (i) An enhanced all-island approach to showcasing professional artists from across the island of Ireland to international presenters;
- (ii) All-Island support for international co-productions and international touring involving at least one partner from Northern Ireland.

Funding will facilitate the platforming/showcasing/international touring and co-production of work by professional artists from across the island of Ireland and in particular will facilitate arts organisations and venues in Northern Ireland to undertake tours, co-commission new works and enable new island-wide co-production partnerships; and engagement of audiences across the island and internationally with cultural programming on a Shared Island basis.

Objectives of the Scheme

The **specific objectives** of *this call for proposals* are:

- Showcase professional artists across the Island of Ireland to international presenters on a Shared Island basis;
- Develop new co-production partnerships on an island-wide basis, including with international partners;
- Develop audiences' engagement North and South on the island and internationally;

- Build a sustainable model for cross-border cultural cooperation between cultural institutions and agencies/bodies on the island;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Programme for Government commitment to extend access to touring support to arts organisations and venues in Northern Ireland.

Who can apply for funding?

Arts and cultural organisations, institutions and bodies who have the capacity and demonstrable experience to:

- Commission, curate and/or deliver artistic projects for domestic (i.e. all-island) touring with potential for additional international presentation;
 - Create platforms to showcase artistic excellence from across the island of Ireland either domestically or internationally;
 - Have a background in supporting artists from across the island of Ireland.
- Applicants must demonstrate a track record or capacity to work on all-island basis in a meaningful and sustained manner.
- **Priority** will be given to projects that promote professional artists from across the island of Ireland, facilitate audience engagement North and South, including performances, programming and exhibitions, co-creation and development of new work and artistic exchanges.
- Funding must **support new work**, in addition to any ongoing programmes or planned activities. Each scheme will require applicants to demonstrate how funded work would be new or supplement and add distinctively to any existing programmes and detail the contribution to the objectives of the Shared Island Cultural Cooperation Fund Strand 2.
- Strand 2 will specifically target funding for new/additional all-island programming and avoid “replacement” funding or supports towards ongoing capital development projects.

Who is running the Touring, Production and Platforming Shared Island Fund?
Culture Ireland runs the Fund.

About Culture Ireland

Culture Ireland is responsible for promoting Irish arts worldwide, creating and supporting opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present and promote

their work at strategic international festivals and venues. Culture Ireland also develops platforms to present outstanding Irish creative work to international audiences through showcases at key global arts events, including the Edinburgh Festival and Venice Biennale. Culture Ireland supports sustainable careers in the arts in Ireland by helping Irish artists to realise their international ambitions and grow their global audiences. In 2025, Culture Ireland supported over 5,500 artistic presentations in over 50 countries to audiences of almost 7 million.

What types of proposals is the Touring, Production and Platforming Shared Island Fund looking for?

- Opportunities to showcase and platform artists from across the island of Ireland internationally;
- International co-commissions and/or co-productions;
- International touring opportunities for artists from across the island of Ireland; with at least one institutional partner based in Northern Ireland.

Does a proposal need a lead applicant?

Yes. The lead applicant must be either (i) a professional arts organisation based on the island of Ireland, or (ii) an international applicant who is planning on platforming a NI artists in collaboration with a NI arts body.

What funding is available?

Two strands of funding are available during 2026-2030.

- (i) An enhanced all-Island approach to showcasing cultural talent of artists from across the island of Ireland internationally; €0.2m (2026 – 2030)
- (ii) All-Island support for international co-productions and international touring involving at least one partner from Northern Ireland; €0.8m (2026 – 2030)

Strand 2 will target funding at organisations/projects which can deliver supports at scale and projects of strategic value, supporting long-term outcomes. To ensure this, only projects in excess of €10,000 for projects funded under Strand 2 (i) and in excess of €50,000 for projects funded under Strand 2 (ii) will be considered.

When must the project take place?

Projects must be delivered between May 2026 and November 2030. Projects can apply for a single project to take place in one year or a multi-year project.

How does the payment of funding work?

Funding will be offered to the lead applicant under a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Exact outputs will be added to an appendix to the Service Level Agreement.

The fund is administered by Culture Ireland through the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, the administration of the grant must adhere to [Circular 13/2014 - Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds](#). You must read and be familiar with this information before your project begins.

Assessment Process

The following assessment process will apply:

1. Initial Assessment: Culture Ireland will carry out initial review/technical assessment of applications for their strands for eligibility.
2. Independent Peer Review Panellists will assess the grants to make recommendations to Culture Ireland as to the artistic merit of the applications.
3. Culture Ireland will review the assessments of applications and make recommendations for funding to the Oversight Committee.
4. Oversight Committee examines the recommendations in accordance with the review process set out above and makes recommendations on funding to the Minister.
5. Decision: Minister makes final funding decision.

In order to **apply for this funding**, proposals should include the following details:

- Name of proposed project
- Partner organisation(s), must include a partner from Northern Ireland
- Overall objective of project
- Planned co-operation between the applicant and its partner organisation(s), including timeline of activities.
- The oversight structure which the applicant and its partner(s) will put in place to manage the project.

- How the project will deliver the objectives of Strand 2 of the Shared Island Cultural Cooperation Fund
- How the project will enable significant new North-South cooperation or interaction, and contribute to island-wide connections or relationships (or significantly expand the scope or impact of existing co-operation).
- If it is proposed to include an international partner as well as the partner(s) on the island of Ireland, it should be detailed how this will contribute to the overall objectives of the Shared Island Cultural Cooperation Fund and the objectives of the project itself.
- The additional resources (including expertise of existing key personnel, physical resources, leveraging of networks) which the applicant and its partner(s) will bring to the project.
- Full details of the project costs; and the funding amount that is being requested to address these matters, including a detailed year-on-year expenditure forecast. This may be uploaded as an additional document with the application.
- How the funding being applied for will deliver substantial meaningful activity across the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. Expenditure outside the island of Ireland, if relevant, may be allowable but a clear rationale for this must be provided.
- The anticipated reach of the project with audiences North and South or internationally.
- A commitment that there will be appropriate acknowledgement of Shared Island funding on all materials associated with the project.

It is anticipated that this will be a competitive fund, and it is likely that not all projects will be funded to the requested level.

Shortlisted applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

Criterion	Marks Available
How project meets the strategic aims of Strand 2	50
Partners and Project Team experience	50
The overall project and its aims	50
Feasibility including costs	20
Total	170



How to apply

Applications can be made online only via the application portal which can be accessed [here](#). Please ensure that [Shared Island](#) – Strand 2 is noted at the beginning of your proposal. Applications should be submitted no later than 1pm, 7th April. Please ensure that all additional documentation, including budgets, is uploaded before final application is submitted.

Queries in relation to Strand 2 may be submitted to sharedisland@cultureireland.gov.ie no later than 1pm, 24th March 2026.

All personal data you submit to us as part of the application process, will be processed in accordance with the [Department’s Data Protection Policy](#).

We will not consider:

- Applications received after the above deadline.
- Applications submitted by post, hand or courier.
- Applications with a status of ‘draft’ at the closing date and time.

Please note these important dates

Phase	Details	Date
Fund Opens for Applications	Scheme opens for submissions.	10 th March 2026
Clarifications	Queries can be submitted by email to sharedisland@cultureireland.gov.ie .	24 th March 2026
Fund Closes for Applications	Only applications received before 1pm on this date will be considered.	7 th April 2026
Evaluation of Applications	Evaluation of applications according to the criteria listed in this document.	April-May 2026
Applicants Notified	All applicants are notified of the outcome of their applications.	May 2026

What costs cannot be included?

You may not include the following in your budget

- Costs not directly related to the project (including capital expenditure);
- Expenditure which takes place before the project approval date;
- Capital requests for building improvements to workspaces and venues;



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- Standalone conferences;
- Research projects;
- Artist residencies.