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**creativeplaceswci.ie**

**Creative Places West Cork Islands – *Ocean and Environment,* Public Art Open Call Stage 1 Application. GUIDANCE NOTES on page 2.**

**Timeline:** January 2025 to Summer 2026

* **Stage 1:** General open call
  + - download application [creativeplaceswci.ie/oceanandenvironment](https://creativeplaceswci.ie/oceanandenvironment/)
* **Stage 2:** Limited invitation to develop the project.
* **Stage 3:** Project selection and activation

**Budget:** €35,000 inclusive of VAT.

Please download the application from [creativeplaceswci.ie/oceanandenvironment.](https://creativeplaceswci.ie/oceanandenvironment/) All information should be included with a maximum files size of 20MB and sent via wetransfer.com to [arts@CorkCoCo.ie](mailto:arts@CorkCoCo.ie) with ‘Ocean and Environment’ in the subject line.

**Applicant Name**\*  
**Email Address**\* **Contact Number**\*  **Postal Address**\*

**Project Title**\*  
**(working)**

**Do you or members of your group have any connections or have worked with the communities of the West Cork Islands previously? Please elaborate**

**Is this a group application?** \* Yes No

**Max 500-word Project Summary**

**Draft Budget**\*

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### **Additional Details** \*(required)

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| Upload PDF examples of similar and relevant work in this area you have done previously, images should include captions or short descriptions. **\*** |  |
| Upload a short statement/or CV with background information on you or your group **\*** |  |
| Link to examples of your previous work(s), if applicable. For videos/films/audio, please provide URL links (with a description) to your own website, Vimeo page, YouTube page, etc |  |
| Please upload any supporting documents relating to your proposed project |  |

Please note: Additional information may be requested by the panel.

Date:

**Creative Places Project Partners**

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**Creative Places West Cork Islands – *Ocean & Environment*** **GUIDANCE NOTES**

**Creative Places West Cork Islands** welcomes creative submissions from socially engaged artists, designers, craft-makers, or creative teams[[1]](#endnote-1) in relation to a new socially engaged commission that will respond to **all** of the seven inhabited islands of West Cork under the theme *Ocean and Environment.* This socially engaged commission will run from January 2025 to Summer 2026 and will be managed by Creative Places West Cork Islands. The remuneration is €35,000.

The aim of this commission is for art to create a space for dialogue and understanding, promoting social progress and cultural innovation in response to contemporary challenges. The climate crisis represents one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring collective efforts to mitigate its impacts and ensure sustainability for future generations. The arts can foster a sense of urgency around the need for environmental stewardship and connect communities in an increasingly divided world.

The open call is looking for applicants to respond to the theme of Ocean and Environment by exploring concerns relating to the West Cork Islands. Examples of these concerns and questions may include:

* Resilience of coastal communities and means by which island populations interact with land and sea in the context of the climate crisis.
* Does the climate crisis have an impact on contemporary island life and what would it mean for the islands when the facts of climate science materialise.
* Plastic (including microplastics and oceanic pollution),
* Coastal erosion
* Food, fishing, and farming,
* Renewable energy
* Ocean & environmental ethics
* The cognitive dissonance associated with our responsibility to our world against the ethical approach to contemporary living.
* Waste management, recycling, upcycling, and sustainability as a way of life on the islands.
* Housing, dereliction, island habitability and the growth of island communities
* Heritage: Cultural, built environment, including the unique flora & fauna, nature, and habitats of the West Cork Islands
* Ferry / cable car travel, sustainable transport, physical connection to other islands and the mainland
* Island interconnectedness as a tool for climate action.

This open call is also informed by Oileán Chléire, Bere and Sherkin Islands’ participation in [30 Renewable Islands for 2030](https://clean-energy-islands.ec.europa.eu/news/journey-begins-30-renewable-islands-2030-ready-set-30). The overarching goal of this programme is to drive a holistic transition towards sustainable energy practices, encompassing both technological advancements and community engagement across diverse regions and energy domains.

We encourage applicants to consider site specific art initiatives, use of areas of interest, island expertise and island infrastructure.

**Outline of the Project**

This is a socially engaged commission with the West Cork islands, its people, its areas of interest, and infrastructure.

The project timeline is from January 2025 to Summer 2026.

**Outcomes:**

The focus of this commission will be on co-created and socially engaged artistic works, projects, series of events, activities, or interventions. It will involve a professional artist, designer or craft maker co-creating with local communities of place or interest. The artwork(s) / activities / projects must be in dialogue with the local context in a meaningful way, support creativity on **all** of the West Cork Islands and take place within the timeframe. A public artistic output throughout and at the end of the project is desirable, however, this may take different forms on each island depending on community interest or facilitation. An open mind is required, and a different approach/response may materialise on each location. Applicants should also consider the potential legacy of their project.

**Community Engagement:**

It is intended that the commission will be community-centred and local communities of place and / or interest will be invited to actively participate in the creative and decision-making processes. Shortlisted applicants will identify potential community partners in the stage two proposal. The selected artist(s) may initiate new creative engagements or be invited to connect with existing creative projects. Applicants are asked to consider the geographic distance between the islands. Applicants are asked to be mindful of the environmental impact of their proposal on the islands. The successful candidate will schedule a research and consultation phase at the beginning of their project. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to consider the intangible outcomes of their project, including community involvement where possible and appropriate in climate action issues, increased knowledge and skills, development of new processes and methods, etc.

The final public-facing output should be socially engaged and community-centred. *It is expected that the successful candidate will work with communities in a wide variety of ways, for example*. workshops, creative consultation, action research, interviews, collaboration on research, digital platforms, collaborative spaces online, etc. Examples of public outcomes could be gatherings, public interventions, exhibitions, publications, readings, performances, and concerts etc. The successful candidate will receive support in identifying local communities. Applicants should also consider the intangible outcomes of their project, including community involvement in climate action issues, increased knowledge and skills, development of new processes and methods, etc.

**About Creative Places West Cork Islands**

Creative Places West Cork Islands is an ambitious three-year culture-based community development programme for and about the West Cork Islands. Creative Places aims to connect with people, artists and places, to allow ideas to develop into creative actions that are inspired by and enrich our island communities. The West Cork Islands include: Dursey, Bere, Whiddy, Long, Heir, Sherkin and Oileán Chléire. This programme is funded by the Arts Council and Cork County Council. Further information on the programme can be found on creativeplaceswci.ie

**Seven Islands under the programme:**

Oileán Chléire, Sherkin Island, Heir Island, Long Island, Whiddy Island, Bere Island & Dursey Island. The Project Partnership, who manage and advise the programme are, Cork County Council, Comharchumann Chléire, Sherkin Island Development Society, Bere Island Projects Group & Uillinn - West Cork Arts Centre. Letters of support for applicants cannot be given from the Project Partnership. However, the project partnership and Island development companies will be available to engage with the successful candidate to support project development.

**“Arts”** means any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance opera, film, circus, and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes. (Arts Act 2003)

**“Maker"** refers to anyone designing and making individual artefacts and objects, encouraging the development of intellectual, creative, and practical skills, visual sensitivity, craft and a working knowledge of tools, materials and systems.

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**Application Procedure:**

For **Stage One** of this open call, we are requesting:

* a short, max 500-word project proposal.
* examples of previous projects that may be related to this proposal including evidence of socially engaged practice.
* a CV.
* Outline budget for full project

Please download the application from [creativeplaceswci.ie/oceanandenvironment.](https://creativeplaceswci.ie/oceanandenvironment/) All information should be included with a maximum files size of 20MB and sent via WeTransfer to [arts@CorkCoCo.ie](mailto:arts@CorkCoCo.ie) with ‘Ocean and Environment’ in the subject line.

**Stage One Deadline:**

5pm on October 31st, 2024. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Stage Two:**

In Stage 1 the assessment panel will shortlist applications to proceed to stage 2. These shortlisted artists will be invited to develop their project further. The stage two project proposal should outline a community engagement plan and identify potential community partners. Stage 2 shortlisted applicants will receive a €400 stipend to develop an application. It is expected that the shortlisted candidates open a dialogue with the Island development companies and the Project Partnership.

**Assessment Criteria for Stage One and Two:**

* Artistic quality and originality of proposals
* Meeting the terms of the brief
* Intended outcomes for island communities.
* The contact details of two referees
* Feasibility & budget

**Terms and Conditions of the commission:**

1. A contract for services will be drawn up and agreed with the successful candidate

2. The successful candidate will be considered as self-employed for the purposes of the contract and will not be an employee of Cork County Council.

2. The total fee, including travel and expenses and VAT, is €35,000 and the residency will span an 18-month period. We are open to other funding partners being introduced, however CPWCI will be the lead organisation charged with both delivery and management of the project. The payment schedule will be 30% on commencement, 40% after 24 weeks to coincide with an interim report and 30% on completion of the residency and receipt of an evaluation report. The successful applicant will be a self-employed person for tax purposes.

3. The successful candidate must register with Cork County Council as a supplier and complete the relevant documentation.

3.Payment to the successful candidate will be on production of invoices via EFT to a bank account.

4. The successful candidate must be able to provide an up-to-date Tax Clearance certificate.

5. The successful candidate will undergo Garda Vetting with Cork County Council.

6. The successful candidate will be in a position to hold a public liability insurance policy with a minimum limit of €6,500,000 and be able to provide a specific indemnity to Cork County Council through an insurer licensed to operate in the State.

7. The successful candidate must sign and abide by Cork County Council Child & Vulnerable Persons Safeguarding, GDPR and other relevant regulations as applied by Cork County Council

8. The successful candidate will document the project’s progress, report to and engage with the project coordinator on a monthly basis. The successful candidate will provide monthly financial and progress reports in writing. A detailed interim report after 6 months and a comprehensive report on project completion will be requested.

9. The successful candidates must provide their own travel to and from the mainland ferry terminals.

10. Accommodation is not provided; the successful applicant will visit the islands when necessary

**Additional information**

*'…perhaps, at least as conceptual manifestations, archipelagos are fluid cultural processes, sites of abstract and material relations of movement and rest, dependent on changing conditions of articulation or connection.'*

(Stratford et al, “Envisioning the Archipelago”, Island Studies Journal 6(2), 2011)

The core concept informing this proposal is that of archipelagic thinking: an addition to the binary thinking of island and mainland or island and sea, this proposal focuses on the potential connections between the islands through the arts.

Life on an island is governed by nature: the tides, the weather, climate change. To be a resilient islander one needs to organise their time in a different way: according to ferry timetables, how long is needed to plan for additional supplies, how long generators can run for in bad weather.

The most valuable resource on any island are its young people: A family with children means a job for a teacher, more money through the grocery shop, and also a new generation to carry on cultural traditions that make a place unique while developing and adding to them. The school boat to the mainland has replaced the school bus on some islands: the daily commute now includes dolphin sightings. Tradition and technology sit side by side on an island: digital media to record folklore, green technology to ensure the islands are carbon neutral in their housing, energy & culture, thus preserving the land and sea. The potential for remote working on the archipelago is a post-COVID reality.

Participation in meaningful, long-term, socially engaged arts practice on a whole-island and whole-archipelago level will give expression to what it is to be an islander. It will create an equitable seat at the policy-making table: an arts-rich archipelago is of huge social, cultural, economic, and political benefit.

West Cork Islands Creative Places, while focussing on the contemporary and positive island experience, also acknowledges the real experience: climate change is visible and impactful, the permanent population is ageing, new affordable housing for potential additions to the permanent population is non-existent.

“Island relations are built on connection, assemblage, mobility, and multiplicities, and  a  commitment  to  critically  examine  the ways  in which  these  entanglements  affect  and  give  effect  to  island  life.” (Stratford et al 2011)

The term “Ocean Ethics” emphasizes reflection and reasoned actions based on scientific advances to develop the exploration and exploitation of the oceans.

1. If you are a creative group there must be a named lead applicant. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)