

Guidelines: Summer School on Collaborative Practice and Social Change

1. Who should apply?

Artists, curators, creative producers and activists who:

- are based in the Republic of Ireland (with exception to those who have been invited to apply via the School fellowships)
- are involved or are interested in the intersection of socially engaged methodologies/social change/collaborating with and co-creating public art with communities of place.
- are interested in exploring several of the themes and *Focus Areas* of the 2026 Summer School, in relation to their individual and shared practice.

2. Who is not eligible?

- Undergraduate students are ineligible to apply

3. How to apply and deadlines

All applications must be made using the online form and all supporting material must be submitted. You will find the online form on the Create website. *(If for any reason you cannot use the online form and need to submit in a different format, please contact us via phone on 01 473 6600 or email info@create-ireland.ie).* Also see section 4. *Applicant Supports* for more details on access supports.

Step 1: Expression of interest

Deadline: 5.30pm, 20 April 2026

You are invited to submit:

1. An expression of interest - max 3 A4 pages (see below *guidance note* for more detail on what to include in the EOI)
2. A CV of max 2 A4 pages, to give a sense of previous projects
3. 1-2 short descriptions of collaborative and socially engaged practice projects and/or place-based work to date (please include any examples, ie., of links or samples of your work if relevant).

Please note: While apps like ChatGPT can be helpful for different forms of research, we ask that you answer our questions in your own words. We wish to get a sense of your original practice and your distinctive areas of interest as a socially engaged practitioner. Please note that responses identified as solely AI-generated will be rejected.

Expression of interest - *guidance note. Please read these guidance notes carefully and **respond to each of the point below***

The Summer School offers a unique opportunity for a learning exchange and peer-to-peer networking. It provides a space for participants to take time to reflect, think through and re-imagine projects, new collaborative and socially engaged methodologies and ways of practicing.

In 2026 we are inviting participants to come to the School with projects that are at different stages of development. The day-to-day framework of the School will be partly designed around participant projects, allowing for collective (un)learning and collaborative feedback and support.

The following questions are designed to help you frame your Expression of Interest, outlining your central ambition to attend the School. Please take the time to consider these questions in relation to the different *Focus Areas* of the 2026 School:

- Given the collaborative ethos of the Summer School, what do you wish to explore and learn alongside other participants?
- How and why do some of the specific *Focus Areas* of the 2026 School resonate with you at this point in time?
- What are the current issues, challenges, priorities for you as a collaborative and socially engaged artist? How would you describe where you are on your career path?
- In terms of ongoing projects and commissions, what are the biggest rewards and obstacles in doing collaborative work with a range of actors and communities especially in relation to place-based work?
- Do you have a project that could be worked on with peers at the School - at what stage of development? For example, are you developing or working on a particular project that connects with some of the *Focus Areas* outlined for the 2026 School - if so, please tell us about the challenges or achievements underpinning your project.
- What are your ambitions for the next stage of your practice as a socially engaged artist? What conceptual and practical tools do you need (if any) to reach the next stage of your practice?

**** ONLY ELIGIBLE & SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE INVITED TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THE PROCESS ****

Step 2: Short presentation on your practice & interview

Thursday 14 May 2026

You will be invited to a Zoom call with Create and the Learning Lab Agency. This is an opportunity for you to expand on the original EOI, and for both the panel and for you, the applicant, to ask any additional questions about the Summer School.

Step 3: Notification of award outcome:

Monday 25 May 2026

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by email.

4. Applicant Supports

Create and the Learning Lab Agency aim to make the application process accessible to all. We provide supports to remove barriers for applicants to the Summer School. These may include translation from other languages or transcription of audio and video files. We will use all reasonable means to assist applicants eligible under the conditions of the Summer School. To find out more, please contact Create (info[at]create-ireland.ie or 01 473 6600) at least 2 weeks in advance of the closing date. If you feel your needs are not outlined here, please contact us and we will do our best to support you.



create national development
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