

# Guidelines for Create Artist Mentoring Award 2026

## 1. Who is eligible?

Applicant artists must be:

- be based in the Republic of Ireland and meet the criteria as set out in [Who is this award for?](#)
- collaborative, socially engaged artists, or mid-career/established artists with an individual arts practice who are transitioning into the collaborative arts\*, socially engaged practice.

**\*Collaborative arts** involve artists and communities (non-arts professionals) working together, often over extended periods, to make art. By facilitating wider participation, collaborative arts expand and diversify public engagement with the arts, enriching its contribution to society. For an expanded version see Create [website](#)

## 2. Who is not eligible?

- Previous recipients of this award
- Individuals currently in undergraduate or postgraduate education (or who will be during the period for which this award is offered) are not eligible for the Mentoring Award.

## 3. How to apply and Deadlines

### Step 1: Apply Online

**Deadline:** 5pm, Monday, 27 April 2026

You must submit: (All applications must be made using the online form *[See section 4]*)

### 1. Complete application form

There are seven compulsory questions for you to answer in the application:

1. Briefly describe **who you are** and your current **preoccupations** as an artist (**main focus of your work**).
2. What have you done – highlight your **most recent artistic achievements**.
3. How you have done it: Outline your **collaborative methodology**- **how** you collaborate/ engage with communities. Or if you are new to collaborative practice, tell **why** you want to work collaboratively with communities and your **anticipated** approach to this work.
4. Describe your **mentoring needs**- for example what specific challenges are you facing in your practice, and/or what areas of your practice require heightened reflection and focused critical discussion.
5. How mentoring will **benefit** your practice at this stage in your career
6. Beyond mentoring, what other **developmental skills** or **additional supports** would help you achieve your ambitions? Consider resources, connections, or other forms of professional development.
7. Please describe a **project or a potential project** you have in mind that you would like to work towards.

2. Upload your **CV**- of max 3 A4 pages, to give a sense of previous projects

3. Upload up to **5 images or examples** of recent projects with short descriptions. If you have relevant links to images and videos, please include them.

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

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 collaborative, socially engaged practitioner.

**Step 2: Short interview and presentation of your practice**  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a zoom call with Create and a selection panel for a brief and informal discussion of what your ambitions are for this mentorship award.

This is an opportunity for the panel to hear about you and your practice, and why you believe the award will contribute to the development of and/or consolidation of your collaborative arts practice. It is also an opportunity for you to ask questions.

**Step 3: Notification of award outcome**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026

The result of your application will be sent by email. Feedback on applications must be requested within 2 weeks of notification of the panel's decision.

#### 4. Making your application

All applications must be made using the online form, which you will find on the Create website. If you have preference in applying via a different format, please contact Create two weeks in advance of the deadline.

Use the previous and next buttons to navigate through the form. However, please note that you cannot advance through the form without completing all compulsory questions.

There are seven compulsory questions in Section 3 of the application form. These are designed to give the selection panel a clear understanding of an applicant's need for mentoring and readiness to participate in the award programme. Please allow enough time to consider the questions carefully before submitting your application.

#### 5. How can we support you?

If you have any questions on the award, contact Jennifer on [jenniferfitzgibbon\[at\]create-ireland.ie](mailto:jenniferfitzgibbon@create-ireland.ie)

Create and the Arts Council aim to make the application process accessible to all. We have increased supports to remove barriers for artist applicants to Artist in the Community awards. These additional supports may include: translation to other languages, Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpretation for advisory sessions, or transcription of audio and video files. We will use all reasonable endeavours to assist people with disabilities or access

requirements who are eligible under the conditions of the award. To find out more please contact Create at least 3 weeks in advance of the closing date. Email us at [info@create-ireland.ie](mailto:info@create-ireland.ie) or call us on (01) 473 6600. If you feel your needs are not outlined here please contact us and we will do our best to support you.

The open call is being advertised through usual arts channels.



**create** national development  
agency for collaborative arts



**funding  
the arts**



**Artist in the  
Community  
scheme**