



WESTMEATH CREATIVE PRACTITIONER IN RESIDENCE – DECADE OF CENTENARIES

Open Call to Professional Creative Practitioners (all creative art forms)

INTRODUCTION

The Decade of Centenaries was initiated in 2012 with a focus on the many significant centenaries occurring during the period 2012–2016. The Centenaries Programme complements the on-going programme of annual State commemorations with special commemorative events on the centenary of key historical events. The aim of the State centenary commemoration programme for the years from 2021 – 2023 is to ensure that this complex period in our history, including the Struggle for Independence, the Civil War, the Foundation of the State and Partition, is remembered appropriately, proportionately, respectfully and with sensitivity.

Westmeath County Council Culture and Creativity Team invites submissions for a special residency which will creatively explore the themes and events of the Decade of Centenaries. The Creative Practitioner in Residence open call invites submissions from creatives working in any art form (be it music, performance, film, writing or another form).

This programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Decade of Centenaries Programme.

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY

Creative Practitioners are invited to apply for a residency of between 3 months and 6 months during the time frame of May - October 2023 (inclusive) with an award of €7,5000 - €15,000 (to include all project costs, materials, travel, etc.), to be paid in monthly instalments. One or more residencies may be awarded.

The aim of the Residency/Residencies is to enable Creative Practitioner/s to engage meaningfully with relevant individuals, communities and groups and to create work that captures the themes and stories which relate to the Decade of Centenaries, with a particular focus on themes and events relevant to Westmeath.

See Appendix 1 for a list of suggested themes to consider during 2023. Applicants may also wish to reflect on local events during the year 1923, some of which are outlined in the appendix.

- The Residency will be on a part-time basis, which may require flexible hours to allow engagement and interaction with the general public, community groups, schools and with people interested the themes and events of the Decade of Centenaries. The successful applicant will work from their own base but will have access to meeting room space in Westmeath County Council offices/libraries if required.
- It is hoped to facilitate some in-person creative engagement (workshops, activities, show/s, performance/s or other output). Applicants are also encouraged to consider engaging with community participants on a virtual/ online/ blended basis, where possible and appropriate.
- An online presence for the work of the residency is encouraged. An existing platform is available.
- The Creative Practitioner in Residence will be encouraged to liaise with the Westmeath Historian in Residence, where relevant, to ensure historical accuracy and complimentary programming.
- The successful applicant/s will liaise mainly with the Decade of Centenaries Coordinator (the Heritage Officer) and the project steering group (which may include, the Arts Officer and staff from Westmeath Library) may also review progress of the residency.
- Any print, film or digital outputs generated as part of this project will be considered the property of Westmeath County Council.

APPLICATION

The Residency is open to all creative practitioners (writers, musicians, performers, film makers etc.)

Requirements for applicants:

- A current tax-clearance certificate will be required. The successful applicant will be required to hold their own insurance cover.
- Demonstrate ability to deliver and coordinate by means of prior experience and/or proven track record.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Proficiency in the use of social media and digital technologies is desirable.

Applicants' proposals should include the following:

- A typed proposal outlining creative ideas and approaches to the residency (no more than two pages) and indicating the term of residency for which you wish to apply (e.g. 3-month residency May – July or 6-month residency May - October). The proposal should include specific ideas on work and methods of engagement on the theme and/or events of the Decade of Centenaries (refer to Appendix 1), an outline of suggestions for public/schools/community engagement to include an indicative breakdown of proposed time for public engagement.
- A typed curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages) with two named referees, which should include someone who has previously worked with you on community engagement opportunities.
- Proposals should include images where relevant.

Please send application and a current CV marked 'Creative Practitioner in Residence' by email to: heritage@westmeathcoco.ie

The deadline for completed applications is 5pm Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

Any queries should be addressed to Melanie McQuade, Decade of Centenaries co-ordinator via heritage@westmeathcoco.ie

Applications will be assessed under the following criteria:

Criterion	Mark
Project proposal – quality of proposal, Artistic merit of the proposal	30 Marks
Experience/proven track record; Quality of previous work	30 Marks
Demonstrate good communication skills including proficiency in the use of digital platforms, track record in public engagement activities including any related online activities	20 Marks
Demonstrate familiarity with and interest in the subject matter. Relevance and suitability of the proposal	20 Marks
	Total: 100 Marks

Westmeath County Council reserves the right to shortlist candidates and interviews may be held with selected candidates prior to the final evaluation. Westmeath County Council reserve the right not to appoint if the applications received are deemed to be unsuitable. In such an instance the right is reserved to pursue a different procurement / selection process.

In advance of the residency the following will be agreed with the successful applicant

- Goals, roles and responsibilities between the creative practitioner in Residence and the Decade of Centenaries co-ordinator and/or the Culture Team of Westmeath County Council
- Agreed programme of work with appropriate flexibility and responsiveness
- Administrative support
- Ongoing review and evaluation; regularity of meetings

This residency is funded under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Decade of Centenaries Programme. The objectives of this programme are set out on the Department website.