



## **CREATIVE BURSARY AWARD SCHEME – COMMEMORATIVE INITIATIVES 2024**

This scheme is intended to support Creative Practitioners (all creative art forms) to engage communities in creating new work that explores the theme of commemoration in Westmeath

### **INTRODUCTION**

Westmeath County Council Culture and Creativity Team, with funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, invites submissions for a special bursary which will enable creative practitioners to explore, in a creative way (be that music, performance, film, writing or another form) themes of commemoration and/or significant anniversaries and historical events.

### **THE BURSARY**

#### **Aims:**

The aim of the bursary is to enable Creative Practitioner/s to engage meaningfully (be that through workshops or other means) with relevant individuals, communities and groups and to create work that captures the themes and stories which relate to historical events and commemorations, with a particular focus on themes and events relevant to Westmeath. All such themes and events should be remembered appropriately, proportionately, respectfully and with sensitivity.

See Appendix 1 for a list of suggested themes to consider. Applicants may also wish to reflect on local events during the year 1924, some of which are outlined in the appendix.

- The Bursaries are intended to encourage engagement and interaction with the general public, community groups, schools and with people interested historical events and the themes of commemoration. The successful applicants will work from their own base but will have access to meeting room space in Westmeath County Council offices/libraries if required.
- In-person creative engagement (workshops, activities, show/s, performance/s or other output) is strongly encouraged. 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 bursary is encouraged. An existing platform is available.
- The successful applicant/s 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 and/or digital outputs generated as part of this project will be considered the property of Westmeath County Council.

### **Amounts**

It is anticipated that one or two bursaries will be awarded ranging from €2,000 - €5,000 each dependant on available budgets and proposals received. The bursary award is to include all project costs, materials, travel, etc.

### **Timeline:**

Work funded under the bursary must be completed by **25<sup>th</sup> October 2023** and payments may be made in instalments as the project progresses.

## **APPLICATION**

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

Applicants' proposals should include the following:

- A typed proposal outlining creative ideas and approaches to the bursary (no more than two pages). The proposal should include specific ideas on work and methods of engagement on the theme of commemoration and/or historical events (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.

- Only one application per individual creative practitioner will be accepted under this scheme.
- The decision of the independent assessment panel will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning an award.

Please send application and a current CV marked 'Creative Bursary' by email to: [heritage@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:heritage@westmeathcoco.ie)

Note: capital costs, e.g. for equipment, are ineligible.

**The deadline for completed applications is Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

Any queries should be addressed to Melanie McQuade, commemorations initiative coordinator via [heritage@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto: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 and 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 and the coordinator of the Commemorations Initiative 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 under their commemorative initiative.

## Appendix 1

### **Suggested themes and initiatives set out by Dept. for consideration in 2024**

Community-led commemoration and reflection; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that had particular significance for counties and communities in 1924 and in the early years of the State. Exploring local connections with nationally important events and how these events were experienced or received locally.

Ireland and the Wider World; Exploring the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the early years of the State. Exploring how events in Ireland were received and reported abroad.

Experiences of Women; Exploring the experiences of women during the early years of the State and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society.

Democracy and Politics; Exploring the prominent personalities and local issues associated with elections during this period.

Establishing a New Order; Exploring the evolution of political and administrative structures at national and local government level; Exploring the establishment and development of the various institutions of the State; Exploring the development of new infrastructure, e.g. transportation, communications, postal services, energy, etc.

Re-building a Nation; Reflections on healing, repairing and re-building in the context of the traumatic legacy of the Civil War.

The partitioning of Ireland; Exploring the impacts and legacies on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.

A changing society during the early years of the State; Exploring the themes below in the context of the early years of the State...

- Popular social, cultural, and civic movements;
- Social class and gender;
- The Irish language;
- Social policies and welfare;
- Education;
- Family life and children in the early years of the State;
- Labour and employment;
- Land and rural life;
- The role of religion and faith;
- The significance of sport in communities;
- Experiences of people in Ireland during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;

- Experiences of immigration to the local authority area and of minority ethnic groups in Ireland;
- Innovation and developments in the fields of industry, agriculture, science, commerce, health and medicine, communications, technology, recreation.

Emotions, experiences, and expectations; Exploring what was felt and what was hoped for following the Civil War and in the developing Irish State.

Creative thinking and the arts; Exploring poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms from 1924 and the early years of the State.

Other significant anniversaries, events and themes; Exploring other historical events and related themes, and their significance for the local authority area (e.g. the Great Famine; the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829; the 75th anniversary of the Republic of Ireland Act).