

Creative Ireland

Creative
Communities



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Information Session

we will talk about...

- What is Creative Westmeath?
- 2025 ongoing projects
- How to get involved



Creative Ireland in *Westmeath*



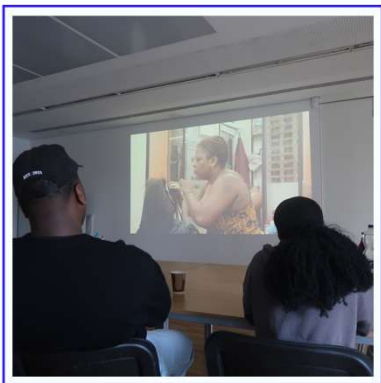
76 Initiatives funded in 2024

Over 30,000 participants involved, over 1 million engaged since 2019.

Total funding of over €289,000. 71% went directly towards creative practitioners, with over 200 creative practitioners engaging with the programme.

Culture & Creativity Team increased budget by 50% through application

Since 2020, 1200 creative practitioners in Westmeath have engaged with Creative Ireland



Westmeath Culture and Creativity Team

Grace Dignam

Creative Communities
Engagement Officer

Jackie Finney

Director of Service - Housing,
Community Development,
Culture

Barry Kehoe

Chief Executive-
Westmeath County
Council

Paula Leavy-McCarthy

County Librarian
Creative Ireland Co-Ordinator

Melanie McQuade

Heritage Officer

Deirdre Reilly

Director of Service
- Regeneration
Team

Paula O'Dornan

Senior Executive
Librarian

Sarah McManus

Healthy Ireland
Co-ordinator Westmeath

Carmel Duffy

Athlone Arts &
Tourism

Sarah Nally

Mullingar Arts
Centre

Laura McCormack

Acting Arts Officer

Margaret Broome

Development Officer,
MG Westmeath

Annette Barr Jordan

SEO - Community &
Enterprise

Una Doris

Tourism Officer -
LEO

Ruth Holton

Climate Action
Co-ordinator

Cllr. Ken Glynn

Councillor for Mullingar-
Kinnegad District

Shane Boyne

Environmental
Awareness Officer

Christina Sweeney

Biodiversity Officer

Strategic Priorities for *Westmeath*

set by the Culture and Creativity team in Westmeath, the strategic priorities represent the principals that must underpin all Creative Westmeath programmes

creativeireland.gov.ie/westmeath

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Strategic Priorities for *Westmeath*



Creative Industries

support creative
initiatives that boost
the local economy

Strategic Priorities for *Westmeath*



Creative Industries

support creative initiatives that boost the local economy



Diversity and Access

facilitate creative initiatives that prioritise diversity and accessibility

Strategic Priorities for *Westmeath*



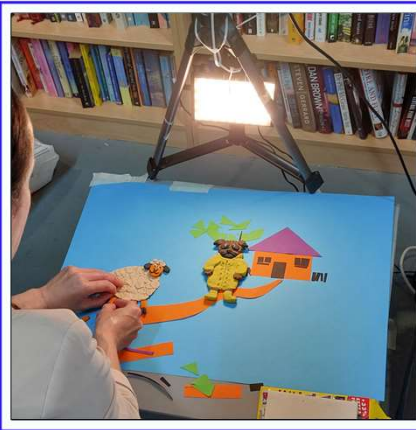
Creative Industries

support creative initiatives that boost the local economy



Diversity and Access

facilitate creative initiatives that prioritise diversity and accessibility



Creative Youth

empower young people through cultural and creative processes

Strategic Priorities for *Westmeath*



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Creative Youth

empower young people through cultural and creative processes



Climate Action and Sustainability

harness creativity for meaningful Climate Action initiatives

Strategic Priorities for *Westmeath*



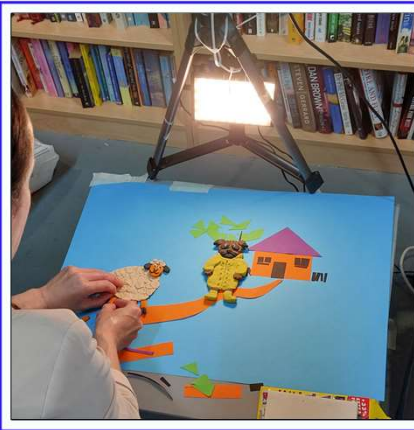
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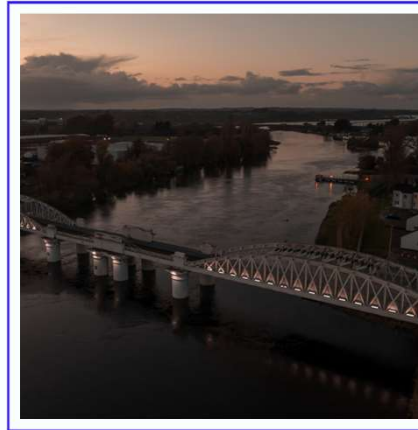
Creative Youth

empower young people through cultural and creative processes



Climate Action and Sustainability

harness creativity for meaningful Climate Action initiatives



Westmeath Culture Team

support capacity building of the Culture & Creativity team



*Creative
Practitioner in
Residence*

*Creative
Communities
Projects*



Projects in 2025



Creative Practitioners in Residence *Westmeath*



Maria Corcoran

Playful Pathways to Senior Vitality

Promoting senior wellness through circus-inspired games and activities designed to enhance mental cognition and social engagement.



Jonathan Farrelly

Seniors Telling Stories

Seniors Telling Stories aims to engage elderly individuals living in rural, often isolated areas in the creative process of writing an audio drama script.



Taz Kelleher

From Soil to Sculpture

Exploring Westmeath's ceramic heritage, foraging wild clay, and running inclusive workshops, to make creativity accessible



Andrea Cullen

Leading with Creativity

Introducing secondary school students in Westmeath to creative direction, fostering skills in leadership, communication, and problem-solving



Shane Kelleher

West Studio

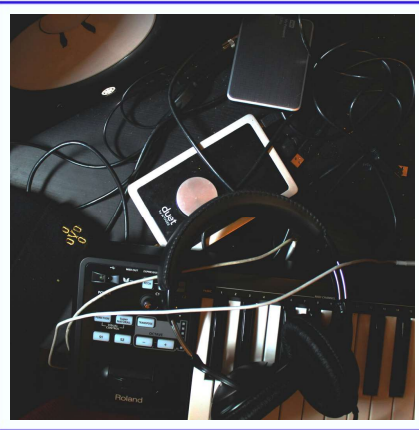
Empowering small businesses in Mullingar with branding skills through workshops, training, and mentorship.

Creative Community Projects in *Westmeath*



The Crafty
Yellowship

Raising awareness of biodiversity loss and carbon footprint through creative workshops.



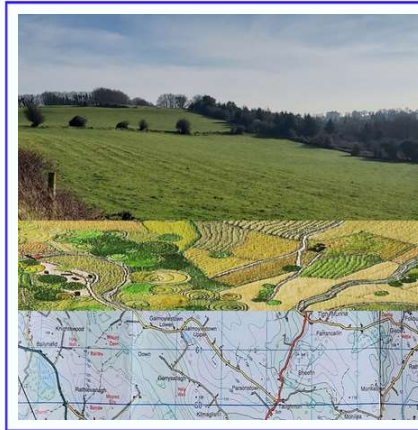
Foróige Creative
Gateway Project

Exploring creative development through DJing, Filming, Art, and Upcycling



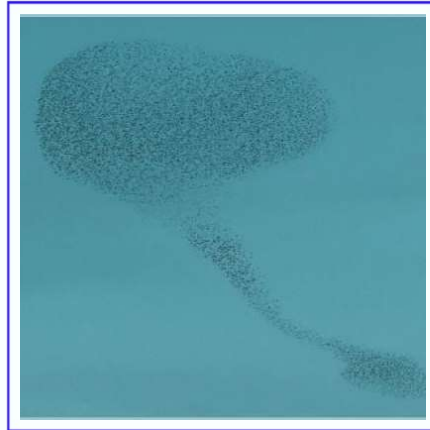
Enjoyable
Masterpieces

Soothing workshops in a relaxed atmosphere with clients of Cancer Support Sanctuary LARCC.



Mapping Memories

Community art project focusing on elements of personal memory and stories associated with the local landscape



Our Vision Our Voice
2025

Professionally facilitated, empathic, inclusive and structured art project with mental health service users

Creative Community Projects in *Westmeath*



A Simple Meal
Part 2

A one-day event that seeks to explore deeply the relationship between our land, our food and our community



Garden to Gallery:
Climate Outreach
Programme 2025

Fostering creativity and climate change awareness by learning about historical Irish ecology and garden herbology using natural materials and resources.



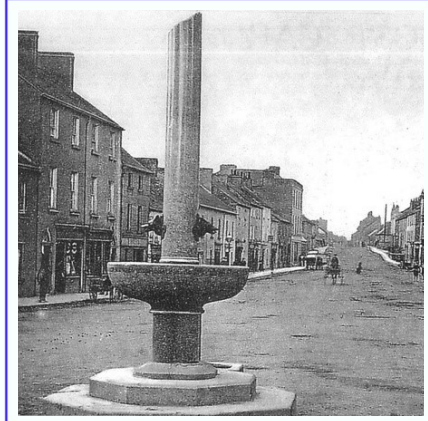
Mary Molesworth Art
& Heritage Festival

Festival aiming to highlight the rich heritage of Rochfortbridge, with tours of local graveyards, talks, and an art competition



Athlone Gaeltacht

A programme delivering a series of events from Seachtain na Gaeilge in March through to Culture night in September



Doing Local Studies -
the How and the Why

Series of workshops enabling participants to undertake research, reflect on and analyse primary and secondary sources, write up and present research

Creative Community Projects in *Westmeath*



Westmeath Whisperings

An inclusive composition project that pairs a professional composer with young people from participating County Westmeath schools



Planting the Seeds of Change

A dye garden will be planted in Dún na Sí, and a series of workshops hosted exploring the ways plants can be used to create art



Ballinderry Bog: A Tapestry of Time

A collaborative community project, which fosters a sustainable relationship with the bog, recognizing its ecological and cultural significance

Who can get involved?



Community Groups, Organisations and Venues, Artist Collectives, Creative Practitioners, and Curators.

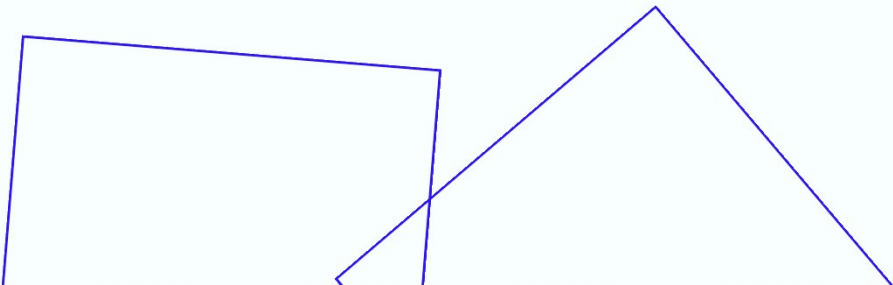
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Get in touch-
grace.dignam@westmeathcoco.ie
arts@westmeathcoco.ie

Join us at Chruthú le Cheile this
Autumn



How to get
involved



Thank you for
joining us