

Wexford Quay – Community Engagement and Creative Placemaking Project

Creative Ireland Wexford Programme and Culture Team Project 2026

Wexford MD

Budget/Fee: €8,000 with €2,000 for travel and materials

Timeline: August - October 2026

Wexford Quay is one of the most recognisable and well-used public spaces in County Wexford. Stretching along the waterfront in the heart of Wexford Town, the quay is a place of gathering, work, recreation and social connection. It is a working quay used by fishermen and mussel dredgers, but also a social and civic space used daily by walkers, runners, parents with prams, older residents, tourists, cyclists, local businesses, young people, motorcyclists, community groups and visitors attending festivals and events throughout the year.

The quay occupies a unique place in the life of Wexford Town. It is both historic and contemporary — a place where people pass through, linger, meet friends, exercise, reflect, celebrate and observe the changing harbour landscape. From early morning walkers to evening social gatherings and large-scale public events, the quay reflects the rhythms and diversity of everyday life in Wexford.

Wexford Quay has also become an increasingly important cultural space, hosting civic celebrations, Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the Wexford Opera Festival launch, Art in the Open, Winter Wonderland

and the Maritime Festival. Alongside these large events, the quay remains fundamentally a people's space — shaped by ordinary daily use and personal connection.

Creative Call Out

Creative Ireland Wexford Programme, in partnership with Wexford Municipal District and Wexford County Council Arts Office, now seeks applications from creatives or collaborative creative teams to develop and deliver a participatory arts project exploring the social life, identity and lived experience of Wexford Quay.

The project should meaningfully engage with the people who use the quay regularly and creatively explore questions such as:

- Who uses the quay?
- Why do people come there?
- What memories, routines or connections are associated with the space?
- How does the quay function as a social and civic meeting place?
- What stories exist within the everyday life of the quay?

The successful proposal should place community participation at its centre and create opportunities for engagement with a broad range of users and communities connected to the quay.

The project must also result in a tangible artistic outcome or legacy. This may be temporary or permanent and could include, but is not limited to:

- Installation or sculptural work
- Audio or digital storytelling
- Photography or film
- Socially engaged performance
- Textile or craft-based work
- Public exhibition
- Participatory archive
- Creative mapping
- Sound work

- Printed publication
- Interactive public engagement outcomes

Artists are encouraged to think imaginatively about how participation, storytelling, visibility and placemaking can connect within a busy public waterfront setting.

The project should:

- Deliver a meaningful programme of creative engagement with people who use Wexford Quay regularly
- Respond to the social, cultural and historical identity of the quay
- Encourage participation from diverse communities and age groups
- Foster social connection, inclusion and shared ownership of public space
- Create a tangible artistic outcome that reflects the process of engagement
- Animate and enhance Wexford Quay as a welcoming civic and cultural space
- Consider accessibility and inclusivity in all aspects of delivery

Profile

The creative/team must:

- Demonstrate experience of socially engaged or collaborative practice
- Have experience working with communities and diverse participant groups
- Be comfortable working within a busy public environment
- Demonstrate strong communication and project management skills
- Be available to work regularly on-site in Wexford throughout the project timeline

Desirable experience includes:

- Public realm or placemaking projects
- Work connected to heritage, identity or storytelling
- Projects involving intergenerational engagement
- Experience creating durable or publicly accessible outcomes

Applications are open to creatives of all disciplines including visual art, socially engaged practice, theatre, performance, film, photography, music, literature, digital media, design, architecture, craft and interdisciplinary practice.

Project Management

The selected creative/team will be responsible for planning, managing and delivering the project, including community engagement, scheduling, documentation and budget management.

Support will be provided by the Creative Communities Engagement Officer, Wexford Municipal District and Wexford County Council Arts Office where appropriate.

Timeline

The project must be delivered between August and October 2026.

Application

To apply, please email the following to artsoffice@wexfordcoco.ie by Sunday 26th July 2026 and ensure that you put 'Wexford Quay 2026' in the title of your email. Please ensure you submit:

- A detailed proposal of 2-3 pages setting out your approach to community engagement, and outlining what your vision for the project looks like
- A statement outlining why you would like to lead this project
- An up-to-date CV outlining your experience of working with communities, your experience of heritage projects, and your experience of project management
- Up to 5 examples of previous work that are relevant to this project.

Scoring:

Artistic merit	200 points
Quality of the approach to community engagement and creative vision	200 points
Project management experience	100 points
TOTAL	500 points

General Conditions

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Wexford County Council reserves the right not to award the commission.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to discuss their proposal.

The successful creative/team will be required to hold appropriate insurance and comply with Child Protection and Health & Safety requirements where relevant.