

Heritage Organisations Support Fund 2027

Application Guidance Document

Information Webinar for Applicants
27 November 2026 at 12 noon
Register here

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

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What's the fund about?

The Heritage Organisations Support Fund 2027 offers core funding to non-profit organisations working in Ireland's heritage sector. If your work has national or regional significance, this fund is here to help you grow stronger and make a lasting impact.

What the fund supports

Through this fund, the Heritage Council aims to support organisations to:

- **Build long-term strength and stability**
- **Plan for the future and grow strategically**
- **Adopt environmentally friendly practices and contribute to climate action**

This fund supports core operational work, not standalone projects. It helps heritage organisations to remain stable, plan for the future, invest in staff and governance, and contribute to climate action and public benefit. All funded work should align with the goals of the **Heritage Council's** Strategic-Plan-2023-2028.pdf.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, your organisation must:

✔ Be a **Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG)**

✔ **Not be controlled by a public or state body**

✔ **Prohibit director remuneration** in its constitution

✔ Operate in **two or more local authority areas** and demonstrate a sustained regional heritage role, impact or reach beyond a single local community

✔ Align with **at least one national strategy,** such as:

- Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2023–2028
- National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030
- Heritage Ireland 2030
- National Climate Action Plan 2024
- Places for People: National Policy on Architecture

Not eligible

✘ Individuals, private companies, public bodies, or state-controlled entities.

Maximum funding available

Up to **€50,000** per organisation.

New for 2027: Multi-Annual Funding Pilot

Organisations awarded funding under HOSF 2027 may be invited to apply for a further two years of funding under a pilot multi-annual funding programme.

Participation in the pilot will be subject to:

- **satisfactory performance against agreed targets**
- **submission of all required reports**
- **compliance with grant conditions**
- **availability of funding**
- **approval by the Heritage Council**

Participation in the pilot does not guarantee future funding. Further information will be provided to successful applicants.

How and when to apply

You'll need to submit your application through the Heritage Council's online grants system.

Please note: online applications only - we can't accept submissions by post or email.

- **Deadline:** 5:00 PM on **22 January 2027:** To keep things fair for everyone, late applications or documents submitted after this time won't be accepted.
- **Notification:** We'll contact you in writing via the online grants system at the **end of March 2027** to let you know the outcome.
- **One application per organisation:** Each organisation can submit **just one application** to this scheme.
- **One grant per organisation in 2027:** If your application is successful, your organisation cannot receive funding under **any other Heritage Council grant scheme** in 2027.

Key dates summary

Application Timeline

Stage	What Happens	Date
Scheme Launch	Application guidance and application form published	20 November 2026
Information Webinar	Online information session, guidance and Q&A for applicants	27 November 2026 at 12 noon
Submission Deadline	Final date for submission of applications and supporting documentation	22 January 2027 at 5:00pm
Assessment Phase	Applications reviewed and assessed	January to March 2027
Notification of Outcome	Applicants notified of funding decision	Late March 2027
Terms & Conditions Agreement	Successful applicants confirm acceptance and submit grant documentation	April 2027

Grant Management Timeline

Please note: The dates outlined below are provisional and may be amended at the discretion of the Heritage Council. Successful applicants will be notified of any changes by email in advance of the relevant reporting deadline

Stage	What Happens	Date
Workplan Start	Commencement of funded activities	April 2027
National Heritage Week Update	Confirmation of public engagement activity and project update	July 2027
Progress Report	Interim report on delivery of the approved workplan	October 2027
End of Year Report & Grant Claim	Report on progress to date and claim for up to 90% of approved funding, supported by financial documentation	31 December 2027
Final Report & Financial Documentation	Final narrative and financial report submitted for review and approval	31 March 2028
Final Grant Payment	Balance of grant released following approval of final reporting requirements	Following approval of Final Report

Important: If your application is successful, you'll need to commit to **engaging the public in an inclusive way and acknowledge the Heritage Council's support**. This includes **planning and hosting an engaging in-person event during National Heritage Week 2027**, where people can learn more about the work you've been funded to do.

Payment Schedule

Grant payments may be released in phases and are subject to the satisfactory fulfilment of reporting requirements.

Successful organisations may claim up to 90% of the approved grant following the submission and approval of the End of Year Report and supporting financial documentation.

The remaining balance will be released following the receipt and approval of the Final Report and supporting financial documentation.

Guidance for first-time applicants

If you're applying to the Heritage Organisations Support Fund (HOSF) for the first time - welcome! The Heritage Council is delighted to support new organisations, and we want to make the process as smooth as possible. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- **What the fund is for:**
  The fund is designed to support your organisation's core operational costs - things like staffing, overheads, planning, and long-term development. It's not meant for one-off projects or short-term initiatives.
- **Is your organisation ready?:**
  You should have a clear strategy and be able to show how your work contributes to heritage at a regional or national level.
- **Other options:**
  If your organisation is still in the early stages or you're focused on a specific heritage project, the Community Heritage Grant might be a better fit. That scheme is expected to open in September 2027 for the 2028 funding round. Please check the Heritage Council website for current information.

Need help?

- Join the Information Webinar for Applicants on 27 November 2026 at 12 noon
- View further information on the general rules for grant funding from the Heritage Council here
- Contact us at: grants@heritagecouncil.ie

How we assess your application

Every application goes through several steps to make sure the process is fair, transparent, and consistent.

Keep in mind: this is a competitive process, and only the applications that score highest across four key areas will be awarded funding.

The four main criteria

Your application will be scored based on:

1. **Strategic Alignment**
   How well your work supports the goals of the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan 2023–2028 and national priorities.
2. **Organisational Capacity, Governance and Sustainability**
   Your team's ability to deliver the work effectively and sustainably. How strong and reliable your financial and governance structures are.
3. **Heritage, Social & Climate and Nature Impact**
   The difference your organisation makes in heritage, community, and climate action.
4. **Workplan & Monitoring**
   How clearly you've planned your activities and how you'll measure success.

Stage 1: Initial check – screening and eligibility

Before your application is scored, we check to make sure everything's in order. Here's what we look for:

- Your proposal meets the fund's basic requirements
- Your organisation has sound financial and governance structures
- You've submitted all the required documents and information

Important: Eligibility is assessed on a **pass/fail** basis. If your application doesn't meet all the criteria at this stage, it won't move forward to full scoring.

Stage 2: Review and scoring

Eligible applications are then:

- Scored by assessors based on the published criteria
- Scores are standardised to ensure fairness and consistency across assessors
- Shortlisted based on the highest scores and available budget

Important: Applications must score **at least 10 marks in each of the four scored sections** to be considered for funding. If an application scores below 10 in any one area, it will not be eligible for funding - even if the overall score is high.

Score Guide

Score	Interpretation
21-25	Excellent
16-20	Good
10-15	Adequate
Below 10	Does not meet the minimum standard

Stage 3: Expert panel assessment

Shortlisted applications move on to an independent panel of assessors who:

- Review the scoring
- Make funding recommendations to the Heritage Council Board

Funding is offered to applications that:

- Receive the highest scores
- Clearly align with the fund's goals and priorities
- Show strong potential for impact and successful delivery

Scoring summary table and application overview

The following table shows how your application will be scored. Each section is reviewed based on its clarity, relevance, and alignment with the fund's goals. Some sections are scored, while others are used to provide context.

Section	Maximum score	What assessors look for
Eligibility Criteria	Pass/Fail	Whether your organisation meets all the eligibility requirements
Section 1: Workplan Overview	Not Scored	This section gives you the chance to introduce your organisation and outline the key activities that are planned. It's the first impression for reviewers, so it's important to keep it clear, concise, and focused.
Section 2: Strategic Alignment	25 marks	This section helps assessors understand how your organisation's work supports the Heritage Council's strategic goals and national priorities. Use specific examples and explain the connection clearly.
Section 3: Organisational Capacity, Governance and Sustainability	25 marks	This section helps assessors understand whether your organisation has the right people, structures and partnerships in place to successfully deliver the proposed work. It also examines the strength of your governance arrangements, financial management and overall organisational sustainability. Assessors will consider the organisation's financial sustainability, including income diversification, reserve policies, fundraising approaches and long-term resilience planning.

Section 4: Heritage, Social & Climate and Nature Impact	25 marks	This section helps assessors understand the positive difference your organisation's workplan will make for heritage, for people and for the environment. Applicants should demonstrate clear and measurable heritage, social and climate and nature outcomes, including improvements in participation, accessibility and engagement, particularly for underrepresented communities where relevant. Applicants should also identify at least one specific climate action and/ or biodiversity measure. Use measurable examples wherever possible.
Section 5: Workplan Monitoring & Evaluation	25 marks	This section helps assessors understand how your organisation will track progress, learn from delivery and report on results. A strong answer demonstrates that you're committed to learning, adapting, and staying accountable throughout your workplan.
Section 6: Supporting Information	Not Scored	These documents are required to establish eligibility and help support the overall assessment
Total Possible Score	**100 marks**	**Reflects the overall strength, clarity and readiness of the proposal.**

Final submission checklist

- ✔ All sections completed clearly
- ✔ Strategic alignment and impact explained
- ✔ Budget and income tables filled
- ✔ Workplan and Monitoring plan filled
- ✔ Supporting documents attached
- ✔ Submitted online before **22 January 2027 at 5:00 PM**

Appendix 1: HOSF Application Form

Full text questions & example answers

The following example answers are provided for general guidance only. They are intended to demonstrate the level of detail and type of information that may be included in a strong application. Applicants should adapt their responses to reflect their own organisation, objectives, and local context. All names, locations and project details used here are illustrative

Section 1: Contact details and overview (not scored)

Instruction: Geographic reach - Please tick the counties in Ireland where your organisation's workplan will be delivered or have direct impact. This helps us understand the scope of your activities.

Question: Can you briefly describe your organisation and the activities you're planning to carry out? (Max 300 words)

Example answer:
"Living Roots Heritage Network is a national non-profit dedicated to preserving and revitalising Ireland's intangible cultural heritage. We work across six counties to support community-led initiatives that celebrate traditional crafts, oral histories and seasonal customs. Our 2026 programme will focus on expanding our "Heritage in Hand" initiative, which includes training in traditional skills, intergenerational storytelling events and the creation of a digital archive. We plan to hire a part-time Programme Coordinator and a Digital Archivist to lead this work. Our goal is to deepen public engagement with heritage, foster regional collaboration and contribute to climate-conscious practices."

✦ **Tips:**

- It's the first impression for reviewers, so it's important to keep it clear, concise and focused.
- Describe what your organisation does, who it serves and what you're hoping to achieve.
- Focus on your mission, your reach and the key elements of your proposed activities.

Section 2: Strategic alignment (25 marks)

Instruction: Tick relevant pillars and explain how your work aligns with each. Use the examples and table below to guide your response.

☐ Leadership & Stewardship ☐ Climate Change & Biodiversity

☐ Research ☐ Partnership

☐ Communities ☐ Education & Engagement

Question: Describe how your work supports the selected strategic pillar(s). Explain your contribution at a national and/or regional level.

✔ **What to include:**

- Tick the strategic pillars that best match your organisation's work
- Describe how your activities support each pillar
- Mention any national strategies your work aligns with (e.g. Heritage Ireland 2030, Climate Action Plan)

Strategic pillars – with sample answers

Pillar	Example Activities	Sample Answer (What You're Doing, Why It Matters, What You Hope to Achieve)	Expected Outcomes	Evidence of Impact
Leadership & Stewardship	Governance workshops for heritage groups.	"We are delivering governance workshops for eight heritage groups in the Midlands. This matters because strong governance ensures better planning and compliance, helping groups secure funding and sustain projects. We aim to build confidence and long-term resilience."	Stronger governance, better long-term planning.	Board meeting notes, stewardship plans.
Climate Change & Biodiversity	Craft workshops using sustainable materials aligned with the Climate Action Plan.	"Our craft workshops promote sustainable materials and practices, reducing waste and emissions. This supports the Climate Action Plan and encourages communities to adopt eco-friendly traditions. We hope to see lower carbon footprints and richer biodiversity."	Lower emissions, richer biodiversity.	Photos, carbon audits, biodiversity surveys.
Research	Collect and digitise oral histories contributing to Heritage Ireland 2030.	"We are collecting and digitising oral histories from rural communities to preserve cultural memory. This matters because these stories are disappearing, and by archiving them, we contribute to Heritage Ireland 2030. Our goal is to create accessible digital archives for future generations."	New insights, publications, digital archives.	Reports, audio recordings, online platforms.
Partnership	Collaborations with local authorities and schools.	"We partner with six local authorities and 20 schools to share resources and expertise. This matters because collaboration expands reach and strengthens biodiversity projects. We aim to build a network that supports heritage and environmental goals."	Shared resources, wider community reach	Signed partnership agreements
Communities	Co-designed events with local groups	"Our events are co-designed with local groups to ensure relevance and foster pride of place. This matters because community ownership drives sustainability. We hope to increase volunteer involvement and strengthen local identity."	Greater local pride, increased volunteer involvement.	Attendance records, community testimonials
Education & Engagement	School programmes and online archive for cross-generational learning.	"We deliver heritage education through school programmes and an online archive. This matters because it connects young people with their heritage and fosters cross-generational learning. We aim to increase awareness and engagement across all age groups."	Increased awareness, learning across generations	Feedback forms, website analytics

✦ **Tips:**

- Use the examples and table to guide your response.
- Choose the strategic pillars that genuinely reflect your workplan's focus.
- For each one, explain clearly how your activities support that area - what you're doing, why it matters, and what you hope to achieve.
- Be sure to mention if your work connects with national strategies like Heritage Ireland 2030 or the Climate Action Plan.
- Use simple language and real examples to show your impact.

Section 3: Organisational capacity and governance (25 marks)

Question: Describe your organisation's capacity to deliver the proposed workplan. Include team roles and partnerships. (Max 300 words)

✔ **What to include:**

- A clear overview of the **team structure** and relevant experience
- Details of any **partnerships** or **permissions** that support the work

Example answer: "Our team includes a Programme Coordinator (8+ years in heritage education), a Digital Archivist, and a Finance & Operations Lead. We have active partnerships with three local authorities, two universities, and the Irish Traditional Skills Network. Permissions for site access and event hosting have been secured. Our organisation has successfully delivered multi-county projects since 2019, including the award-winning "Voices of the Hearth" oral history series."

✦ **Tips:**

- Highlight past successes and what the organisation has learned from them
- Show how the team is ready and equipped to deliver the proposed activities
- If working with others, explain how those relationships will support delivery.

Instruction: Enter costs using the budget table. Include income sources.

✔ **What to include:**

- A detailed budget that clearly links costs to planned activities
- A breakdown of income sources, including any co-funding

Budget table - with sample answers

Category	Example Description	Cost (€)	Why It Matters
Staff	Programme Coordinator & Digital Archivist	38,000	Core delivery of heritage programme
Overheads	Rent, Insurance, Utilities	7,000	Operational stability
Administration	Office supplies, project management software	3,000	Efficient delivery
Materials	Sustainable craft materials	4,000	Climate-conscious engagement
Travel	Regional site visits for workshops & oral histories	3,000	Multi-county coordination
Evaluation	External impact review	2,000	Accountability & learning
Contingency	5% of total	2,000	Flexibility for unforeseen costs
Total Expenditure		**59,000**	

Income table - with sample answers

Source	Example Description	Amount (€)	Status
Local Authority Funding	Midlands County Councils	8,000	Secured
Other Grant Funding	Heritage Ireland 2030 small grant	5,000	Pending
Sponsorship/ Fundraising	Regional craft businesses	2,000	Secured
Philanthropic Donations	Private donor contribution	1,500	Secured
Other Income (specify)	Membership fees	500	Secured
Total Income		**17,000**	

Grant amount requested: €42,000 (Calculated as €59,000 – €17,000)

Question: What financial controls and governance structures does your organisation have in place to ensure accountability?

✔ **What to include:**

- An explanation of financial controls and how the organisation ensures accountability and sustainability

Example answer: "Financial oversight is managed by the board's finance subcommittee, which meets every quarter to review budgets and spending. We use cloud-based accounting software to track income and expenses, and our accounts are independently reviewed each year to ensure transparency and accuracy."

Question: Have you taken any steps to make your organisation more financially secure over time? If so, please describe them.

✔ **What to include:**

- Include any steps taken to build financial resilience over time

Example answer: "We've taken a few steps to strengthen our financial security over time. We've started building a small reserve fund to help cover unexpected costs, and we've also worked on diversifying our income - like applying for different types of grants and offering paid workshops. These changes have helped us feel more confident about our long-term sustainability."

✦ **General Tips for this section:**

- You are encouraged to include co-funding where possible, as this strengthens the proposal and shows broader support.
- Be specific about **who** oversees finances (e.g. board, finance officer, external auditor), **how often** reviews take place, and **what systems** are used to manage and monitor funds. Mention any policies or procedures that ensure transparency and compliance.
- By keeping the budget realistic, transparent and well-aligned with the workplan, applicants can demonstrate strong planning and value for money.

How to Calculate Your Grant Request:

1. **Total Expenditure**
   Add up all expected costs related to your workplan - this might include staff time, materials, travel, equipment, and other expenses.
2. **Confirmed Income Sources**
   List any funding already secured or expected from other sources (other grants, sponsorships, fees etc)
3. **Calculate the Grant Request**
   Subtract your confirmed income from your total expenditure
   Grant Request = Total Expenditure – Confirmed Income
4. **Check the €50,000 Threshold**
   Make sure your grant request does not exceed €50,000. If it does, you'll need to either:
   - Reduce the scope of your workplan, or
   - Identify other sources of funding.

Section 4: Heritage, social, climate and nature Impact (25 marks)

Question: How will your workplan deliver measurable heritage, social, and/or climate and nature outcomes?

✔ **What to include:**

- Clear, measurable outcomes related to heritage, social inclusion, and climate and nature
- How the proposed workplan will improve participation, accessibility and engagement, particularly for underrepresented communities where relevant
- Specific climate and nature outcomes, such as biodiversity improvements, resource efficiency, reduced emissions, or other environmental benefits
- At least one specific climate action and/or biodiversity measure that will be delivered as part of the proposed workplan

Example answer:

Heritage
"We will run 12 traditional craft workshops, 2 training events to restore 150 metres of hedgerow, and digitise 80 oral histories. These activities will safeguard cultural practices, enhance biodiversity, and create a lasting digital record of community stories. Local heritage volunteers, asylum participants, and craft experts will play a central role in delivery."

Social Inclusion
"To ensure broad participation, we will provide free transport, multilingual materials, and accessible venues. Our target is 200 participants, with at least 30% from asylum-seeking communities, and resources available in three languages. This approach promotes equity and fosters meaningful engagement across diverse groups, including rural communities and schools."

Climate and Nature
"Our programme integrates sustainability through craft practices using eco-friendly materials, biodiversity workshops, and hedgerow restoration. We aim for a 25% reduction in material waste, to deliver two biodiversity workshops, and contribute to pollinator population growth. Biodiversity officers and community gardeners will support these initiatives, ensuring environmental benefits alongside cultural outcomes."

✦ **Tips:**

- Use the answer example to help structure your response.
- Be specific - include numbers where possible and describe how you'll track progress (e.g. "200 participants", "25% emissions reduction")
- Think about how your workplan will make a real difference in heritage conservation, community inclusion, and climate and nature.
- Be clear about how you will track and report these outcomes. Mention tools like surveys, attendance logs, or environmental sensors to show how you'll measure success.

Section 5: Workplan, monitoring & evaluation (25 marks)

Instruction: Use the Workplan Table to structure your activities, and make sure each one has a corresponding key performance indicator (KPI) in the Monitoring & Evaluation Table. If your application is successful, updated versions of both tables will be required as part of the reporting process.

Workplan table - with sample answers

Activity	Strategic Pillar	Timeline	Responsible Role	Expected Outcome
Craft workshops (basket weaving, stone masonry)	Communities & Education	Mar–Jun 2027	Programme Coordinator	12 workshops delivered; 200 participants (30% asylum seekers); 25% emissions reduction
Oral history collection	Research	Apr–Sep 2027	Digital Archivist	80 oral histories digitised; archive launched
Governance training	Leadership & Stewardship	May 2027	External Facilitator	3 governance sessions; 8 heritage groups trained
Hedgerow restoration	Climate Change & Biodiversity	Jul–Aug 2027	Local Contractor	150m hedgerow restored; biodiversity indicators improved

Question: How will progress be monitored? What key performance indicators (KPIs), data collection methods, and team roles are in place?

Monitoring & evaluation table – with sample answers

KPI	Method	Responsible Role	Frequency
Number of workshop participants (target: 200, incl. 30% asylum seekers)	Attendance logs; demographic surveys	Programme Coordinator	After each event
Oral histories digitised (target: 80)	Archive analytics; upload logs	Digital Archivist	Monthly
Governance sessions delivered (target: 3)	Session reports; feedback forms	External Facilitator	After each session
Hedgerow restored (target: 150m)	Before/after photos; biodiversity surveys	Local Contractor	Midpoint & Final
Biodiversity improvement (pollinator count)	Environmental sensors; species count	Biodiversity Officer	Quarterly
Archive engagement (target: 500 visits)	Website analytics; user feedback	Communications Lead	Monthly

✔ **What to include:**

- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that clearly link to your goals and activities
- Methods for collecting and analysing data (e.g. surveys, logs, analytics)
- Team roles responsible for monitoring and reporting
- How findings will be used to improve delivery and share learning
- Make sure your Monitoring & Evaluation plan is clearly linked to your Workplan—each activity should have a way to track progress and measure impact

✦ **Tips:**

- Make sure each KPI clearly connects to your organisation's goals and activities listed in your workplan.
- Use a mix of quantitative data (e.g. numbers, percentages) and qualitative insights (e.g. stories, testimonials).
- Show how you'll regularly review findings and use them to adapt your approach. Assign clear roles so it's easy to see who's responsible for tracking and reporting.

Section 6: Supporting documents (not scored)

Document	Purpose	What to include
1. Constitution	Confirms your legal status as a CLG and outlines governance structure.	A copy of your organisation's constitution or Memorandum & Articles of Association. **Must clearly state that director remuneration is prohibited.**
2. Most recent financial accounts	Demonstrates financial transparency and organisational stability.	Audited or independently reviewed accounts for the most recent financial year, including income, expenditure, and balance sheet. **New organisations** without audited or verified accounts should provide interim financial statements, bank statements, projected income, and details of confirmed funding sources to demonstrate financial readiness
3. Strategic plan or organisational background	Shows your long-term vision and alignment with strategic goals.	A current strategic plan (3–5 years) or a summary of your organisation's mission, objectives, and key achievements.
4. Letters of support	Validates partnerships and community or stakeholder support.	Minimum of **two letters of support**, e.g. from a local Heritage or Biodiversity Officer, community groups, or partner organisations confirming collaboration or endorsement. Letters of support from members of the applicant organisation will not be accepted.
5. Job descriptions (if hiring)	Clarifies roles and responsibilities for new or funded positions.	Job descriptions for any new roles funded by the grant (e.g., Programme Coordinator, Digital Archivist).

✦ **Tips:**

- Files should be in PDF or JPEG format and not exceed 10mb each.
- Use clear, descriptive filenames (e.g., “HO_Support_Let_2027.pdf”).
- Double-check that all documents are up to date and signed where required.

Examples of Letter for Support

Letter 1: Local Authority Heritage Officer

County Council
Heritage Office
Date: 20 January 2027

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to express my strong support for the application submitted by Living Roots Heritage Network to the Heritage Organisations Support Fund 2027.

Their proposed programme, which includes traditional craft workshops, oral history digitisation, and biodiversity-focused hedgerow restoration, aligns closely with our county’s heritage priorities and the objectives of Heritage Ireland 2030 and the local County Heritage Plan.

Living Roots has demonstrated exceptional capacity to deliver inclusive and impactful heritage projects. Their commitment to engaging asylum participants and rural communities ensures that heritage is accessible to all. The planned activities will strengthen cultural identity, promote sustainable practices, and foster community pride across multiple counties.

The County Council looks forward to continuing our collaboration with Living Roots Heritage Network and endorses their application without reservation.

Sincerely

[Signature]

[Name]

Heritage Officer
Named County Council

Letter 2: Community Group

Midlands Community Heritage Collective
Date: 16 January 2027

To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of the Midlands Community Heritage Collective, I am delighted to support the funding application by Living Roots Heritage Network.

Our group has partnered with Living Roots on several initiatives, including oral history projects and local craft workshops. Their approach is inclusive, professional, and deeply rooted in community engagement.

The upcoming programme will provide invaluable opportunities for asylum participants and local residents to learn traditional skills, share stories, and contribute to biodiversity restoration.

We believe their work will have a lasting impact on heritage preservation and social cohesion in our region. We fully endorse their application and look forward to working together to deliver these important outcomes.

Warm regards

[Signature]

[Name]

Chairperson
Midlands Community Heritage Collective

Glossary of key terms

Assessment criteria
The set of standards used to evaluate applications. Includes strategic alignment, organisational capacity, financial planning, impact, and monitoring.

CLG (Company Limited by Guarantee)
A type of non-profit legal structure in Ireland. CLGs do not have shareholders and must prohibit director remuneration.

Climate and nature
Actions that protect the environment and respond to climate change. The goal is to care for natural habitats and reduce environmental impact while preserving heritage. Examples of this are:

- **Energy efficiency:** Installing solar panels or switching to LED lighting in heritage buildings to reduce energy use and carbon emissions.

- **Sustainable materials:** Using locally sourced, eco-friendly materials for restoration or craft workshops to cut down on waste and transport emissions.
- **Habitat restoration:** Planting native trees, restoring wetlands, or creating pollinator-friendly gardens to support biodiversity and healthier ecosystems.
- **Waste reduction:** Introducing recycling stations at events, reducing single-use plastics, and composting organic waste to minimise landfill impact.
- **Water conservation:** Implementing rainwater harvesting or low-flow systems in heritage sites to reduce water consumption.
- **Climate education:** Running workshops or exhibitions that teach communities about climate action and nature-based solutions.
- **Green transport:** Encouraging carpooling, providing bike racks, or using electric vehicles for project-related travel to lower emissions.

Co-funding
Additional financial support from sources other than the Heritage Council, such as local authorities, donors, or sponsorships.

Eligibility criteria
The basic requirements an organisation must meet to apply for the fund. These include legal status, governance, and geographic scope.

Governance
The systems and processes by which an organisation is directed and controlled. Strong governance includes clear decision-making structures and financial oversight.

Impact
The measurable difference a project makes—socially, environmentally, or culturally. Impact is assessed through outcomes and evidence.

KPI (Key Performance Indicator)
A specific, measurable value that shows how effectively a project is achieving its objectives.

Monitoring & evaluation
The process of tracking progress and assessing the success of a project. It helps organisations learn, adapt, and report on outcomes.

National strategies
Government-led plans that guide policy and funding priorities. Examples include Heritage Ireland 2030 and the Climate Action Plan.

Pass/Fail criteria
Eligibility checks that determine whether an application can proceed to full scoring. If any requirement is not met, the application is not considered further.

Regional Relevance
An organisation demonstrates regional relevance where its mission, activities, membership, partnerships and impact extend beyond a single town, village, parish or local community and contribute to heritage outcomes across a wider region. Applicants should demonstrate sustained engagement across two or more local authority areas through ongoing programmes, services, partnerships or audiences. Organisations whose activities are primarily focused on a single local area are unlikely to be considered regionally relevant.

Social inclusion
Making sure everyone has the chance to take part in activities, regardless of their background, ability, or circumstances. In the context of heritage projects, it's about creating opportunities for all communities—including those who might face barriers—to engage, learn, and contribute. This could involve reaching out to underrepresented and minority groups, providing accessible venues, multilingual materials, or free transport so that participation is open and fair.

Strategic alignment
How well a project supports the goals of the Heritage Council and national heritage strategies.

Supporting documents
Required attachments that validate an organisation's eligibility and strengthen its application. Examples include constitutions, financial accounts, and letters of support.

Workplan
A detailed outline of planned activities, including timelines, roles, and budgets. It shows how the project will be delivered.

Áras na hOidhreachta, Lána an Teampaill, Cill Chainnigh, Éire R95 X264
Áras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny, Ireland R95 X264

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www.heritagecouncil.ie

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council