



Open Call: Artist in Residence 2026–2027

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

Base: Armagh City

Duration: 1 Year

Supported by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Application deadline: Monday 16 February 2026 | 4.00pm

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council invites applications from professional artists, resident and working in Northern Ireland, aged 18+ for an ambitious year-long Artist in Residence programme based in Armagh City. This residency offers an opportunity for an artist to deepen their practice while contributing meaningfully to the cultural life of one of Northern Ireland's most vibrant and diverse boroughs.

Co-funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, this programme reflects the Council's commitment to nurturing artistic excellence, expanding access to the arts, and strengthening creative engagement across communities. The residency aims to embed an artist within the heart of the borough, its people, its stories, and its creative potential, while providing the time, space and support needed to develop new work.

A) A Residency with Purpose and Ambition

The Artist in Residence programme champions individual artistic development while placing community engagement at its core. The selected artist will have the opportunity to:

- Develop their own creative practice with dedicated studio time and professional support.
- Inspire and collaborate with local schools, community groups, and residents.
- Contribute to a thriving cultural ecosystem that values creativity, participation, and shared experience.

This is a unique opportunity for an artist to shape a year of meaningful creative activity, build new relationships, and leave a lasting impact on the borough's cultural landscape.

B) About the Residency

The appointed artist will work closely with the council's Arts Development team and The Market Place Theatre and Arts Centre team. The residency is structured to balance community engagement with personal artistic development.

Time Commitment

- 1 day per week delivering workshops, engagement sessions, or collaborative projects with schools, community organisations, and local groups. Engagement will be both outreach and centre based.
- 1 day per week dedicated to the artist's own practice, working from a studio space provided by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

C) Residency Objectives

The Artist in Residence will:

- Deliver a programme of arts engagement activities tailored to schools, community groups, and diverse audiences. The artist will engage in projects with three community groups and three schools across the borough during the residency (Min: 6 weeks with each group)
- Encourage creative participation across all ages and backgrounds.
- Build collaborative relationships with local organisations, educators, and community leaders.
- Contribute to the cultural life of the borough through workshops, talks, demonstrations, exhibitions, or public events.
- Produce a body of personal work supported by dedicated studio time.
- Share insights into their creative process through open studios or public conversations.
- Document their work and engagement activity for evaluation and promotional purposes.
- Inspire children and young people in schools and community groups to explore their creative potential.
- Support the council's wider goals of:
 - Empowering and uniting the creative community across the borough and celebrating and sharing creative skills and talents.
 - Linking creativity, heritage and community for social and environmental benefit

D) What the Residency Provides

- A dedicated studio space two days per week, including access to a hot desk, internet access and other facilities if required.
- Access to the Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre facilities and other council venue facilities if required.
- Support from ABC Council's Arts Development team.
- Opportunities to exhibit or present work developed during the residency.

- Connections with schools, community organisations and local networks.
- A platform to develop new ideas, methodologies, and community-focused artistic approaches.
- **Please Note: Accommodation is not provided as part of this residency.**

E) Who Should Apply

This opportunity is open to professional artists resident and working in Northern Ireland in any discipline, including visual arts, craft, digital arts, performance, music, photography, creative writing/poetry, socially engaged practice, or interdisciplinary work.

(Film cannot be funded under this programme)

Applicants should demonstrate:

- A relevant third-level qualification in a relevant arts or humanities discipline **and** a minimum of three years' experience delivering high-quality participatory or community-based arts projects.
- **Or**
A minimum of five years' experience delivering high-quality participatory or community-based arts projects.

APPLICANTS THAT CANNOT DEMONSTRATE THE NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS AND / OR EXPERIENCE WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROCESS

- A strong and evolving artistic practice.
- Experience in planning and delivering creative programmes with schools and/or community groups.
- The ability to develop and manage relationships with partners and stakeholders.
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills.
- A commitment to inclusive, accessible and meaningful engagement.
- The ability to work independently and collaboratively.

F) Application Requirements

Applicants must complete the online application form and submit their response.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The deadline for applications is Monday 16 February 2026 at 4.00pm. Late applications will not be accepted.

G) Fees and Expenses

This is a freelance contract for 12 months (maximum 96 days), scheduled in agreement with the Creative Programme Development Manager, Market Place Theatre and Arts Centre (ABC Council)

The Artist in Residence will receive:

- £1,250 per month for 12 months
(8 days per month at £156.25 per day)
Total fees: £15,000 (includes all expenses and mileage)
- £5,000 materials budget (Payment made upon submission of receipts)
- **Total residency value: £20,000**

Fees are paid monthly on receipt of invoice.

H) Duration

The contract will run from **09 March 2026 to 05 March 2027**

I) Location & Travel

Engagement sessions will take place across the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. The role requires regular travel across multiple locations. Applicants must be able to meet this travel requirement through their own means.

J) Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

- Artistic quality and originality.
- Experience and suitability for community engagement.
- Feasibility and clarity of the proposed residency approach.
- Potential impact on local communities.
- Commitment to developing new work during the residency.

K) Contact Information

For all application queries, please contact:

Christine Donnelly

Creative Programme Development Manager

The Market Place Theatre and Arts Centre

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