Wetlands Without Borders

Creativity, Community and Landscape Exchange

Wetlands Without Borders is a unique cross-border gathering bringing together artists, community leaders, environmental organisations, landscape professionals and funders from across the island of Ireland to explore how creativity can help connect people with wetlands and landscape heritage.

Across these islands, communities are finding new ways to engage with nature through arts, storytelling, culture and place-based learning. This event will create space for participants to share experiences, learn from innovative projects, build new relationships and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Taking place on the 17th and 18th November in the Sperrins, participants will have the opportunity to hear inspiring examples from community-led wetland projects, engage in creative exchanges and help shape a shared vision for future cross-border initiatives that connect people, nature and culture. The event will be hosted in the Seamus Heaney Homeplace on 17th November and An Creagan on 18th November. Overnight accommodation and all catering will be provided for successful applicants.

The event is jointly supported by the **Community Wetlands Forum** and forms part of a wider ambition to develop long-term partnerships, creative projects and community engagement opportunities across wetland landscapes. It has been funded through the Peace Plus initiative.

Landscapes NI is seeking expressions of interest from people living and working in one of our member areas in the sectors of arts and culture, community development, landscape and environmental management, heritage and place-making as well as nature conservation.

Through workshops, discussions, site-based learning and networking, participants will examine:

- Innovative examples of arts-led environmental engagement
- Community experiences of wetland stewardship
- New approaches to participation and place-making
- Opportunities for future cross-border collaboration
- Ideas for joint creative projects and exhibitions

We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals and organisations who want to work across sectors and who believe that culture, creativity and community participation have an important role to play in shaping the future of our landscapes.

Community Wetlands Forum

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Who should apply?

- Artists and creative practitioners
- Representatives from community organisations
- Representatives from Environmental NGOs
- Staff and/or board members from Landscape and heritage organisations
- Staff from local authorities
- Researchers and educators
- Community development practitioners
- Funders and grant-making bodies

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Build New Connections and meet artists, communities, environmental organisations and decision-makers from across the island of Ireland.
- Learn from good practice by exploring examples of how creativity has been used to engage communities in caring for wetlands and landscapes.
- Influence Future Projects by helping to shape future programmes and collaborative initiatives planned for 2027 and beyond.
- Generate New Ideas and develop project concepts with potential partners and contribute to the development of future creative opportunities and exhibitions
- Shape a Shared Vision by contributing to a growing movement that recognises wetlands not only as environmental assets, but as places of culture, identity, creativity and community wellbeing.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the event we aim to have established new cross-border relationships and networks and identified opportunities for collaborative arts, heritage and environmental projects. Through shared practical experience and lessons from community-led wetland initiatives we plan to develop concepts for future creative programmes and a longer-term programme of community and creative engagement in wetland landscapes.

We also hope to explore the development of a collaborative network with a memorandum of understanding to support future joint working.

To apply for a place at this exciting event please go to **Wetlands without Borders - Expression of Interest – Fill in form**