



Funded by
UK Government

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND
2025/2026**

The closing date for applications is Thursday 1st May 2025 at 5pm.

Please refer to the associated guidance when completing this application form.

All projects must be completed by 28th February 2026

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED

TYPE OF GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	SELECT ONE
*Small grant	Up to £4950	To assist with any barriers to sustaining your group. For development of smaller projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Community ownership/Community Asset Transfer (CAT)/ Community empowerment	Up to £15,000	For groups who are taking ownership of land or assets. To support groups going through CAT or who have successfully achieved this, as well as supporting groups who are taking the lease of an asset. To support groups to achieve the priorities identified within their place plans or Community Action Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*** only one type of grant can be selected**

SECTION 1 – ORGANISATION DETAILS

a	Organisation Name	The Iris Arts Ayr CIC
b	Organisation Address	Main Street, Ayr KA8 8AB
c	Website	www.theirisayr.com
d	Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	CIC



e	If a charity or Limited Company please include your number	SC636814
f	Is your organisation VAT registered?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g	Does your group/organisation have a bank account?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 2 – CONTACT DETAILS

The contacts below will be required to read the guidance notes and consent to being contacted by the council officers managing this fund including for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

	Contacts	Lead Contact	Secondary Contact
a	Name	██████████	██████████
b	Position in Organisation	██████████	██████████
c	Contact E-mail	██████████████████	██████████████████
d	Contact Telephone Number	██████████	██████████

SECTION 3 – PROJECT DETAILS

a	Project Title	Studio Renovation – Stage 2
b	<p>About Your Project</p> <p><u>The Iris</u></p> <p>The Iris is a community arts organisation that aims to enrich the lives of people in the Ayr North, and wider South Ayrshire community via the medium of Film, Theatre and Music. Our ethos is to provide a platform for participation in the arts by removing barriers to access; regardless of age, background, or experience anyone can engage in our projects.</p> <p>The Iris Arts Ayr CIC are developing a community arts venue at the former Darlington Church in Ayr Town Centre, a prominent Category ‘B’ listed church that has lain derelict for over a decade. Following a period leasing the property, The Iris took ownership in September 2022, bringing this building into</p>	



	<p>community ownership and essentially saving it. We are now completely responsible for the full repair and maintenance of the building. We are wholly invested in the renovation of this building, it sits within a prominent position driving into the centre of Ayr and we are committed to assisting with the regeneration of Ayr town centre.</p> <p>The venue will open in phased stages, and we aim to open the ground floor community studio in the first instance if we are able to procure funding to develop the entrance, hallway and toilet space. Thereafter, development plans include a 160 seater community cinema/theatre, workshop space and live music venue, With the café/bar and studio space available to hire. The Iris will create a safe space place where barriers to accessing arts and entertainment are constantly challenged.</p> <p>Stage 1 clearing existing dry rot and making the building wind and watertight has been completed</p> <p>Stage 2 is the completion of the back area of the building to form a community studio. This has been partially renovated thanks to a grant from the Asda Foundation and we are seeking funding to complete this stage so that we can open part of the building to form a community hub and generate income for the next stage. We expect that funding of around £15,000 will allow us to complete this stage and open this area to the community.</p> <p>By opening the studio space it will enable the community to essentially start using the building again, something that has not happened for years. This will also enable us to start generating an income through Community Cinema screenings, Accessible theatre shows, room hire, events and a café bar.</p> <p>Stage 3 is the completed renovation of the remainder of the building. We are seeking a large capital grant to complete this stage. Last year we were chosen for an intensive support programme from Community Ownership to work towards a large capital grant of £400,000 to complete the renovation. Support from community ownership halted during the election period and our application is still awaiting submission. We hope to submit this in the coming months now that the fund has reopened</p>
c	<p>What community will this project be delivered in and what communities will benefit?</p> <p>The Iris sits in Ayr North and while this project will be of great benefit to the people of the Ayr North community, the impact of The Iris and projects like our Community Cinema and Screen Academy can reach far beyond Ayr North and benefit all of the South Ayrshire community.</p>
d	<p>If your project will require maintenance in future years how will your organisation achieve/fund this?</p> <p>Our business plan ensures that we can reach self-sustainability with our project in the years to come via our ticket sales for community cinema, theatre and events, however, given that we have taken</p>



	<p>on such a big project with the refurbishment of the building, we have committed due care and attention to ensuring that this and our funding bids in progress such as Community Ownership, Lottery Communities and potentially RCGF later this year will address the needs of the fabric of the building to mitigate risk that might arise from large scale refurbishments. We have taken our time and applied diligence to ensuring that we have addressed repairs such as dry rot and roof tiles, in order that we can move forward secure in the knowledge that the building is wind and watertight. By opening the building, we will generate income via the hire of the space, ticket sales, event sponsorship and national cinema grants. When we open the building in full, we will generate income by hosting larger events in our 160 capacity theatre space upstairs, via our café bar that will hold 80 covers, sponsorship and cinema screening grant funding.</p>
e	<p>Can your project demonstrate that your project/organisation needs have been identified through consultation? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Happy to provide details of the consultation we have undertaken</p>
f	<p>Which of the following Council plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:</p> <p>Priority 1 – Spaces & Places <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Priority 2 – Live, Work, learn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Priority 3 – Civic & Community Pride <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>What UKSPF priority does it meet:</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> (Green Spaces, Active Travel, Sports Facilities, Cost of Living Support)</p> <p>Community Safety <input type="checkbox"/> (Crime Reduction/Prevention)</p> <p>Community Inclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Arts, Culture, Heritage, Volunteering, Digital Connectivity, Local Engagement and Regeneration)</p>



Does your project meet with any of the following objectives?

Ownership of local land and assets ☐

Community led regeneration ☒

Assist with Community Asset Transfer ☒

Align with Community Wealth Building Principles ☒

Link into your local place plan/community action plan priorities ☒

If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please details which priority it will be achieving:

Ayr Town Centre Framework - The Framework was approved by cabinet last March and it sets out a growth and investment delivery plan for Ayr. Within the plan it identifies 10 key target 'building blocks' and an 'Evening & Cultural economy' ie celebrating theatre/cinemas and arts. The Iris and our objectives sit significantly within this plan, as we aim to help with the regeneration of the town centre.

Ayr North Place Plan – The Ayr North Place Plan prepared by the Council with the communities of Ayr North in 2021 identifies the priority issues that they faced. The plan utilised the Place Standard tool and identified that the quality of streets and spaces as well as the care and maintenance of buildings were two of the highest priorities, this project will take a long-term vacant building and bring it back into use. In addition, the ability of residents to have influence and a sense of control over their own futures as well as having a place for social contact were issues raised. The project will seek to provide a safe place for the community to meet and express themselves, building confidence and giving them a mechanism for their voice to be heard.

The Place Principle – The community has been at the heart of the project as it has developed. One of the main principles of the project is the creation of a community facility within the community that it seeks to serve. The facility gives a location for local people to come together as well as to express themselves and develop a sense of identity for their area. The town centre location of the project means that the project will also be accessible to residents and visitors from across Ayrshire and Scotland.

Community Wealth Building – The IRIS Arts Ayr CIC has been working with South Ayrshire Council Community Wealth Building team to ensure procurement through the project maximises local impact. Once operational the building will provide opportunities for local people for employment and training utilising the living wage and ensuring fair work practices.



	<p>The British Film Institute - have recently launched Screen Culture 2033, a new 10 year strategy that has been written over the past 13 months to develop both screen culture and industry in relation to existing knowledge, collections, programmes, funding and assets. It aims to create a more financially resilient sector by injecting £45million a year for the first three years into the sector, to be distributed by the regional Film Hubs, including Film Hub Scotland. They hope to use this strategy to ensure that independents and cultural organisations are supported to achieve success in a changing economic and cultural landscape.</p>	
g	Estimated start date:	01/07/25
h	Estimated completion date:	30/09/25
i	<p>Is your application submitted in partnership with other organisations? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please detail.</p>	
j	<p>If your project relates to a property or land, please confirm whether you own, or lease the property or land</p> <p>own <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lease <input type="checkbox"/> (</p> <p>If lease, an indication that the owner is supportive or aware that plans will be required. Please detail how you will provide evidence of support, ie long term lease</p> <p>If lease, then a copy of the lease needs to be provided.</p>	
k	<p>Please tick/populate as appropriate:</p> <p>Are you aware of the appropriate consents required for this project? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Do you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory consents for your project in place <input type="checkbox"/> Planning, including listed building and conservation area consents <input type="checkbox"/> Building Warrants <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of Pre application discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Please include your reference number <p>_____</p> <p>Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Copies of any of the above need to be provided</p>	



SECTION 4 – PROJECT COSTS

		£																				
a	<p>How much are you requesting from the Community Empowerment Fund</p> <p>Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?</p> <p>Revenue <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Capital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	£14,675																				
b	<p>Please provide a full break down of costs for your project. If applying for both revenue and capital, then please details costs separately.</p> <p><u>*For costs over £1000, 3 quotes need to be provided – if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item/Activity</th> <th>Total Cost</th> <th>In Kind</th> <th>Amount Requested from CEF</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Building Works</td> <td>12000</td> <td></td> <td>12000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electrical Work</td> <td>2445</td> <td></td> <td>2445</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plumbing</td> <td>630</td> <td>400 plumbing materials donated in kind</td> <td>230</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>15075</td> <td>400</td> <td>14675</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Item/Activity	Total Cost	In Kind	Amount Requested from CEF	Building Works	12000		12000	Electrical Work	2445		2445	Plumbing	630	400 plumbing materials donated in kind	230		15075	400	14675
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c	<p>Does your group require the full amount applied for your project? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If the fund is oversubscribed, would a part funded offer be considered? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, then would this impact the delivery of the project?</p> <p>we would need to try and secure additional funding.</p> <p>If you are successful, will this funding be used as match funding? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Match funding-Asda Foundation £20k that allowed us to start work on the studio renovation</p> <p>If yes, have the other sources been confirmed? Yes</p>											
d	<p>OTHER FUNDING. Have you applied for, or received, grants from any other body for your project/activity?</p> <p>If so, please give details of to whom and how much:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="165 1211 1525 1574"> <tr> <td data-bbox="165 1211 531 1330">Body:</td><td data-bbox="531 1211 1525 1330">Asda Foundation</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="165 1330 531 1449">Amount applied for:</td><td data-bbox="531 1330 1525 1449">£20,000</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="165 1449 531 1574">Amount received:</td><td data-bbox="531 1449 1525 1574">£20,000</td></tr> </table> <p>OR</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="165 1632 1525 1872"> <tr> <td data-bbox="165 1632 531 1751">When applied:</td><td data-bbox="531 1632 1525 1751"></td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="165 1751 531 1872">When decision expected:</td><td data-bbox="531 1751 1525 1872"></td></tr> </table>		Body:	Asda Foundation	Amount applied for:	£20,000	Amount received:	£20,000	When applied:		When decision expected:	
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e	<p>Please confirm you have the following documents:</p> <p>Constitution/Memorandum & Articles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Audited or independently verified accounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last 3 months bank statements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>We ask that you do not upload these documents when submitting your application due to GDPR regulations. These documents should be submitted via email to grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</p>
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SECTION 5 – DECLARATION AND CONDITIONS

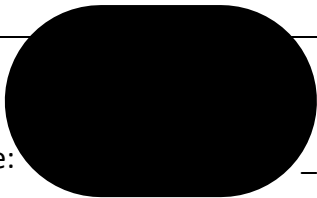
<p>I, on behalf of, (organisation name):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certify that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is true and accurate and will adhere to the following terms and conditions;• Understand that making this application does not entitle the organisation to funding as a right;• Will not commence or commit any expenditure before receiving approval of the funding;• Confirm that the quotations are bona fide competitive quotes;• Will provide the External Funding officer with digital colour photos of the work, both before and after the work has been completed. I understand that these images will be kept on record and used for future publicity;• Understand that this funding award does not cover retrospective work;• Understand that to make any misleading statement in relation to this application could make the application invalid, or may mean the organisation has to repay the funding;• Understand that this application is subject to appropriate checks and meets appropriate conditions such as planning, procurement guidelines, and other statutory consents; and• I Have read the associated guidance before completing and submitting this application form.• Understands that if I do not provide satisfactory evidence of spend then the council may request I repay the grant
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- Failure to return or complete and return any evaluations requested then I may not receive any future funding from South Ayrshire Council. I may be asked to repay the funds if I cannot provide evidence that they were used for the purpose intended.

Signature:



Date: 28/04/25

On behalf of: (Organisation name) The Iris Arts Ayr CIC _____

Please submit all supporting information to:

External funding Officer
grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk