

**COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND**

**2024/2025**

The closing date for applications is 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

Please note late applications will not be accepted

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

All projects must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

This is an application form for the Coastal Communities Fund managed by South Ayrshire Council. Please complete all parts of the form. If you require any clarification or additional information then please contact [grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**Amount of grant requested**

TYPE OF GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	SELECT ONE
*Small grant	Up to £1000	To support small grass roots groups and organisations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Development grant	Up to £4,950	The Development Grant will assist groups to plan & develop small scale projects that will link into one of the priorities of the Coastal Communities Grant Fund. Projects will essentially make communities a more attractive place to live & work.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Section 1: Organisation Details**

Organisation Name	<b>The Iris Arts Ayr CIC</b>
Organisation Address	<b>Darlington Church, Main street, Ayr, KA8 8AB</b>
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	<b>CIC</b>

If a charity or Limited Company please include your number	<b>SC636814</b>
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

Contacts	Lead Contact
Name	Kelly Craig
Position in Organisation	Director

## Section 3: Project Details

### Project Title

The Iris Community Meeting Room

### About your project/what are you seeking funding for?

The Iris Arts will develop a community room that people living locally can call their own. Aligning with local priorities, Adult and Family Learning, Youth Work, Financial Inclusion and Community Development, we can develop a space adjoining our Community Studio where people living locally can meet, share and learn. This will provide a space for our Youth Volunteers to meet, learn and create, families to engage in creative learning classes and older people to learn and feel less isolated. We will work towards a Peer Empowerment model where people can engage, learn from our team and in turn teach each other.

We are developing the former Darlington church, a B listed building, in the heart of Ayr North to create a community hub, a creative learning centre and an accessible community cinema and theatre so that people living locally can engage in creative learning at a reduced cost or for free. This will build confidence in the community and support self-esteem amongst people living there who want to learn new creative skills.

We are seeking capital funding to support the development of the space to create an accessible place where people can come together, learn and share. To develop this space we are looking for funding for building work, a new window, fire door, flooring, a staff

toilet and a joinery work to create desks and shelves for a creative community library, and chairs for groups.

Funding will allow us to build a room in the former Vestry of a building that has lain derelict for 17 years and complement the development of our community studio so that people can access groups that align with local priorities and make Ayr North a more accessible place to live and help the community to feel more empowered.

The building sits in an area of high deprivation and many people live in poverty, and are marginalised, have disabilities, face addiction issues and social isolation. Many young people living here are Young Carers and/or are at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Having a space that they can use to learn means that diversionary activities like film education, film making workshops and creative activities can empower them and lead them to more positive destinations.

By having a space to meet and learn, people living locally can have the opportunity to create valuable work in a space that they can take ownership of and we have a successful track record of award-winning work created by Young People living here.

Having a space for them to learn in will give them the opportunity to meet more regularly and take pride in their place and work so that they can work together, learn from our team and teach each other. People can become familiar with the space and have opportunities to volunteer at events taking place in the adjoining studio, creating employability opportunities and supporting Young People to feel empowered. Older people can engage in volunteering opportunities, meet new people, and feel less socially isolated.

We have already received in kind support from the community payback team who have cleared the room out and made it accessible for development and funding would allow us to develop the space into a useable, functioning space that serves and inspires people living locally.

We have received many donations of plays, books and film education texts so building a small library space will make it more user friendly and people can access specialist books for creative learning, have a cuppa and chat to others or find solace in what interests them.

We have applied for funding for laptops and digital learning equipment and have recently received funding for new filmmaking equipment that can be used by people who want to learn and create. We have received funding to develop our community studio that will be open to the public and host events and workshops and by having a dedicated space for learning and meeting, people living locally can engage, volunteer and find the confidence to host their own events and screenings in the adjoining studio.

Young People and Older People alike can learn the following skills-

To make films from a professional film-maker

To write scripts from a professional playwright

To express themselves and their feelings through film so that we can make change in our communities

To learn podcasting skills

To produce podcasts

To create costume and set

To create make-up and hair design from professionals

To build and design set

To create content for business

To host their own cinema exhibition events

Entrepreneurial Skills to develop content for business and create events

Digital Literacy

Fashion Design

By learning these skills people in the community can improve mental health and well-being, feel less isolated and work towards employability goals by improving confidence and self-esteem. By having a dedicated meeting space, we can ensure people can work with our team and develop ways to work with each other to share and empower each other towards more positive futures and inform the development of the studio space next door at the same time

**What community will this project be delivered in and what communities will benefit?**

The Iris is situated in Ayr North and while this project will benefit people living locally, the development of the building as whole will benefit the wider Ayr Community, the whole of South Ayrshire and attract people and tourists from further afield when the building is open.

**Please provide information you have about the need and support for the project, eg community consultation**

Since we began our journey as a CIC in 2019, we have been consulting with the community on our plans to develop the building into a community arts hub via consultation. We have carried out online consultation, social media consultation and face to face consultation at events and by meeting and visiting groups.

During lockdown we hosted online cinema sessions, followed by consultation an evaluation and we developed and delivered Scotland's first Covid Safe Drive in Movie Event. Although restricted, this supported us to continue to consult with the public regarding the need for the project and helped us to evaluate what we needed to do to make sure the future of the building was shaped by people living locally. We engaged with 8000 people during these events and continue to engage with them today. In the last 3 years we have delivered free or reduced cost cinema to 30,000 people living locally delivered projects with over 10,000 people via our film making, theatre and cinema workshops, and continue to engage with people via online surveys and consultation.

We developed and produced the Inaugural Wallacetown Community Arts Festival in 2024 with over 1000 attended at events running over the course of a week, and produced the second festival in 2025 with greater numbers and improved engagement meaning we could engage with the heart of the community on our doorstep. This has helped us to keep our consultation current and user led, and the number of people engaging in a wide variety activity has produced powerful evaluation, meaning people can shape the future of the building and the activity they wish to engage in.

We deliver projects from infant age to older people which gives us a real grasp on what our community want to engage in, learn about and it helps us to shape the projects we offer, empowering the community to learn. We have bank of volunteers ranging from 15 to 75 and our creative youth volunteer group and women's drama group have gone from strength to strength, offering a space for people to learn and find confidence to create on their doorstep. They are keen to see the building open and have dedicated space to learn but also to offer peer support sessions in time too, so that they can teach others living locally to be empowered by the arts like they were.

Positivity for our project has been overwhelming and we have on average 20 new requests per month for space for groups to meet or classes and workshops where people can learn. Anecdotally, last month, our signage blew down in the storm and we have had

120 messages enquiring about what was happening to the building because the sign had come down.

**Which of the following Council plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:**

Priority 1 – Spaces & Places ☒

Priority 2 – Live, Work, learn ☒

Priority 3 – Civic & Community Pride ☐

**Please select the grant you are applying for and the relevant priority (you can select more than one priority, if applicable)**

**For small grant only:**

- To assist with barriers to sustain the group ☐
- To develop new projects/ideas ☐

**For development grant only:**

- Deliver improvements to public places that will increase the number of visitors ☒
- make coastal communities more attractive places to live and work ☒
- demonstrate a strong link to local strategies and local place plans ☒

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

Our work aligns strategically with local outcomes and planning and fits with  
Ayr North Locality Planning priorities of  
Promoting good mental health and wellbeing  
Supporting an inclusive economy that reduces poverty and inequality  
Reducing harms from alcohol, tobacco and drugs  
Supporting our ageing communities

Estimated start date:	November 2025
Estimated completion date:	March 2026

#### Section 4: Project Costs

How much funding are you requesting from the Coastal Communities Fund?

£

Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?

Revenue ☐ £

Capital ☒ £

Please provide a full break down of costs for your project.

If applying for both revenue and capital, then please detail costs separately.

Item/Activity	Cost
Replacement Window	900
Flooring purchase and Fit	850
Toilet plumbing and installation	650
Carpentry work for library	500
Replacement Fire Door purchase and installation	750
Paint	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>3950</b>

#### For development grant only:

Individual item costs over £1000, 3 quotes need to be provided – if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.

#### Section 5: Checklist

Please confirm you have the following documents:

Constitution/Memorandum & Articles ☒

Audited or independently verified accounts ☒

Last 3 months bank statements ☒

#### Section 6: Declaration & Conditions

I, on behalf of, (organisation name):

- 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

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.

Name of Person Completing Application: Kelly Craig \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_11<sup>th</sup> September 2025\_\_\_\_\_

Completed application only should be saved as a PDF document and uploaded to the [Your Area Your Voice Your Choice](#)

Supporting documents should be e-mailed to [grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

These include:

- Constitution
- Last 3 months bank statements
- Independently verified accounts
- Quotes (where required)



