



Call for Proposals: Children's Arts Workshops Hullabaloo! Offaly's Children's Arts Festival 2026

Hullabaloo! Offaly's Children's Arts Festival is a long-established annual festival, now in its 20th year, presenting engaging arts experiences for children aged 3–12 and their families. The 2026 festival will take place over four days during the October mid-term break, Wednesday 28 – Saturday 31 October 2026, across Birr, Tullamore, Edenderry, Clara, Kilcormac and Kinnitty.

The festival is delivered by Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Esker Arts and Creative Places Edenderry, with support from Offaly County Council Arts Office, and in partnership with Offaly Libraries, Clara Family Resource Centre and Kilcormac Development Association.

We now invite proposals from artists, musicians, filmmakers, drama practitioners, dancers, writers and other creative practitioners to deliver workshops, performances and small “mini-camps” as part of Hullabaloo! 2026, including activity in libraries across Offaly.

Workshop Proposals

Proposals should offer a short, creative and age-appropriate arts experience for children up to 12 years (in the following age brackets: 3–5, 6–8 or 9–12 years). A limited number of proposals for the 0–3 age group will also be considered. All art forms are welcome.

- Ages 0–8: 45 minutes to 1 hour
- Ages 9–12: 1–2 hours, depending on art form
- Hullabaloo! recommends a max capacity of 12 participants
- Workshops supporting creative confidence, experimentation and skills development are welcome
- Workshops may take place in Birr, Tullamore, Edenderry, Clara, Kilcormac and selected Offaly Libraries

We welcome proposals for workshops rooted in socially engaged practice, including projects that encourage participation, collaboration and community connection.



Please Note

Applicants should be aware of the following:

- Facilitators must provide their own transport. Public transport between festival locations is limited, and festival staff cannot provide transport.
- It's preferable that selected artists are available across all four festival days to allow for scheduling. Confirmed workshop dates will be issued to successful applicants in August/September 2026 at the latest.
- Parents will be required to accompany children aged 5 and under to all workshops. Please note: in accordance with Creative Places Edenderry policy, parents must accompany ALL children in Edenderry

Assessment Criteria: Proposals Will Be Assessed on The Following:

- Quality of Submission, Innovation of Workshops/Performances 25%
- Experience of delivering similar work 25%
- Quality of the art experience for children 25%
- Value for Money 25%

Note:

Successful Applicants will be required to sign our festival agreement including Child Safeguarding statements and Health & Safety Policies and submit public liability insurance details

How to Submit Your Proposal

Proposal to be submitted in a SINGLE PDF document, by email to: info@hullabaloofestival.ie. Proposal document should include all the following:

- CV with referees
- Description of the proposed workshop(s)
- Age range that the workshop(s) is/are intended for
- Workshops capacity and duration
- Please indicate location preferences if any i.e. Birr (Birr Theatre and Arts Centre), Tullamore (Esler Arts), Clara or Edenderry (varied) or all locations
- Total Budget should be inclusive of all costs including any artist fee*, materials** and travel*** (please outline each element separately)
- Image of proposed workshop activity (a high-quality image will be requested in due course)
- All artists are required to hold an in-date tax clearance number and access number - please include them in your proposal
- It is standard practice within the arts and cultural sector for artists to hold their own public liability insurance. Artists are therefore advised to have appropriate cover in place
- Please state if you have had any child protection training. Facilitators must comply with project partners Child Safeguarding Statements and Health and Safety Policies

Workshop Fee*

Workshop fees are standardized:

- €100 45min – 1hr workshop
- €120 1.5-hour workshop
- €140 2-hour workshop

Do not include VAT as VAT is not charged on educational workshops or performances.

Materials**

Reasonable costs will be paid for materials. Please list breakdown and total cost of materials required.



Travel expenses**

Travel expenses are standardised and are based on your return journeys KM from Home/work to Venue

- Should you require travel expenses, please state an estimate distance for your journey in your proposal, (including return journey in KM to the location(s) you propose to facilitate workshops).
- Mileage rates are applied on the basis of 50 cents a km up to a maximum of 200 km.

Closing Date: No later than 5pm on Monday 18th May 2026

**Proposal to be submitted in a SINGLE PDF document, by email to:
info@hullabaloofestival.ie as outlined above.**

Please submit all information saved in one PDF no larger than 5mb as it will get refused by our firewall. Further information or clarification can be sought from Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Esker Arts or email us directly at info@hullabaloofestival.ie