

# **Creative Sustainability:** Training programme for artists and arts practitioners

ReCreate Ireland in partnership with Birr Theatre and  
Arts Centre

## **Call out for participants**

**Closing Date: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September, midnight**



## OVERVIEW

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre in collaboration with Recreate Ireland are seeking **eight** creative practitioners from Offaly to participate in a new Creative Sustainability training programme focussed on the ethos and practices of ReCreate Ireland. The aim of the training is to support the professional development of artists in creative sustainability practices. The programme is funded (so no cost to the artist/s) and will be delivered in person and online this autumn 2022.

We are seeking practitioners at all stages of their careers from a range of disciplines, art forms and informal educational settings. We welcome applications from recent graduates, youth workers, as well as seasoned artists and facilitators interested in furthering the sustainability credentials of their practice.

## ABOUT BIRR THEATRE AND ARTS CENTRE

Birr Theatre and Arts Centre (BTAC) is a dedicated purpose-built theatre which dates from 1888 and is now a high-quality facility, which provides a base for year-round development of the Arts in Birr and environs, the rest of the County of Offaly and the wider region. It is our objective to encourage, develop, foster, and stimulate public interest in all aspects of the arts and in general social and cultural affairs. Our aim is to provide facilities and opportunity for artists (established and aspiring) for the organisation of artistic and cultural events and maintain a centre for the holding of workshops, exhibitions, conferences and performances of all kinds, notably theatrical performances. Also, to promote the knowledge, appreciation, and practice of the Arts.

## ABOUT RECREATE IRELAND

ReCreate is an established social enterprise, focussed on **creative sustainability and reuse** with a nine-year track record. Our vision is to inspire curiosity, creativity and care for people and our planet. We do this by collecting unused and unwanted materials from industry and distributing them to our members as affordable creative supplies. We have an active membership base of 1000+ across Ireland and a supplier network of 100+ businesses. We champion awareness around the potential of creative reuse. We also facilitate a year-round programme of events, workshops and projects, and provide creative sustainability consultancy to schools, community groups and businesses. We also provide valuable work opportunities to adults with additional needs or those who are distant from the labour market.

## THE PARTNERSHIP

Birr Theatre and Arts Centre and ReCreate's partnership developed from the mutual ambition to support artists to embed greater sustainability within their creative practices. The training provides BTAC with the opportunity to support local artists in their professional development and ReCreate with the opportunity to play a vital role in expanding its creative reuse educational reach nationwide, beginning with Offaly.

## WHY

In nature, nothing goes to waste. However, as humans we are still largely operating in a linear economic system, out of sync with nature, that transforms raw materials into something new, then disposes of it. The European Environment Agency (EEA) says the amount of waste recycled in Europe is still less than half of total waste generated. The good news is that Ireland, the EU and many other countries worldwide are slowly moving towards a circular economy, where we perpetually reuse, repair and recycle products, keeping them in circulation within the economy and out of landfill.

Whether working within participatory arts settings or within a studio practice, artists can be effective educators, advocates, and practitioners of the circular economy. In ReCreate, we are continuously working to find creative solutions to keep our reuse materials in circulation. This training is an invitation to join us and a new community of artists, to innovate creative circular solutions and contribute new knowledge and practices, which benefit our growing creative circular economy.

## **CREATIVE SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING**

The successful applicants will participate in a hands-on training programme delivered by ReCreate Ireland and in-house team of full-time artists. Based on the ethos and practices of ReCreate, the training will support artists to devise and facilitate innovative creative reuse educational programmes and provide an introduction to entrepreneurial circular economy solutions.

*The aim of the training is to*

- To deliver high quality sustainable creative reuse practices in Offaly
- To develop and support a new community network of artists in Offaly
- To support the development and deepening of artists practices through reflection and sustainability
- To further promote the concept and potential of 'creative reuse' across all disciplines as well as sustainable solutions and practices to waste within formal and informal creative educational/workshop settings
- To potentially form an artists panel for BTAC and ReCreate\*

*\*Though a panel of artists may be selected from the participants, there is no guarantee of work.*

## **TRAINING SCHEDULE**

The training will take place in October 2022.

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October (Attendance essential\*)**

Location: Zoom (online)

Online creative workshop and process discussion with artist Liz Smith

7 – 8.15pm

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October (Attendance essential\*)**

Location: Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, Offaly (in-person)

2-day training with Jo May, Liz Smith, and Aisling Folan

10 – 5pm each day

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October (Attendance essential\*)**

Location: Zoom (online)

Emma Connors (CEO of ReCreate) will host the review learning/post training takeaway session

2-time options: 11am and 7pm

*Note: You must be available on the dates\* above in order to apply. You must also finance your own transport, travel, accommodation and per diems, as these costings are not covered by the training programme.*

## TRAINING THEMES

<b>HEARTS &amp; MINDS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is creative reuse?</li> <li>• Developing a 'creative sustainability' mindset</li> <li>• Mapping the current sustainability landscape</li> <li>• Circular principles into practice</li> <li>• Modelling curiosity</li> <li>• Creativity &amp; Change</li> </ul>
<b>BODIES &amp; SPACES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping the current inclusion landscape</li> <li>• The relationship between inclusion and ecology</li> <li>• Inclusive sensitive spaces</li> <li>• Ecological and reuse environments</li> <li>• Site specific art with guest artist speakers</li> <li>• Inclusive school design</li> </ul>
<b>MATERIALS &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials Matter - Trash to Treasure</li> <li>• Assemble/Dismantle</li> <li>• Greenwashing</li> <li>• Devising new solutions to workshop waste</li> <li>• Purposeful play (outdoor/green play)</li> <li>• Sustainable school design</li> </ul>
<b>ARTIST &amp; IDENTITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artist as programmer</li> <li>• Artist as consultant</li> <li>• Participatory &amp; socially engaged practices</li> <li>• What is a sustainable artist?</li> <li>• Reflections on your own practice/s to date and where they might develop</li> <li>• Exploring different types of sustainable practitioner             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>The Reggio ReCreate artist</i></li> <li>– <i>Eco-artist</i></li> <li>– <i>Inclusive artist</i></li> <li>– <i>Ethical artist</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### The training programme will be delivered in a number of ways including:

- Discovery box exercises
- Case studies (CuriousB, Sensitive Spaces)
- Group challenges
- Presentations
- Maker sessions and pop-up builds
- Creative building challenges
- Co-creation: Real time project design & development
- Seed sessions: Developing future programmes/project ideas
- Readings and references

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

We wish to support artists and arts practitioners with an interest in developing a sustainability mindset and creative reuse approach within their participatory art practices.

We are looking for dynamic and creative practitioners at all stages of their careers from recent graduates to seasoned practitioners from multivarious disciplines, including (but not limited to) sound design, visual arts, early years arts, architecture, theatre, and youth work.

## REQUIREMENTS

- A level 8 degree in art, or relevant area, or equivalent in professional creative practice/ experience.
- A quality of practice and reflection demonstrated within personal artwork, design, or in participatory creative practices.
- An interest in sustainable, inclusive, and ethical art practices.
- An interest in developing your own practice and collaborating with other artists.
- An active interest in to working with Birr Theatre and Arts Centre and ReCreate.
- A small portfolio of work (3 images or audio files or videos, max 10mb) and CV
- A completed application form

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The application for interested applicants 2022 is open to professional practicing artists and creative workers currently residing and or/working predominantly in County Offaly.

To apply, you must fill out the online application form linked below and in *Section 6: Supporting Documentation*, you must upload your cv and three images (10mb max), or audio files (1GB max), or videos of work (1GB max). This can be from a workshop setting, of participant's work or personal work.

Link to application form: <https://forms.office.com/r/PeH2TdiWdh>

## CONTACT

- To discuss this training opportunity before applying, please contact Emma Nee Haslam  
Email: [emma@birrtheatre.com](mailto:emma@birrtheatre.com) Ph: 057 9122893
- Please send all supporting documentation to Liz Smith: [lsmith@recreate.ie](mailto:lsmith@recreate.ie)

**The closing date for applications is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of September (midnight)**