

Paisley Arts Festival

2nd – 4th April 2027

Open Call for Proposals

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Paisley Arts Festival

ONE REN

Details

Submission Deadline: Friday 6th November 2026

Fee: Up to £1000 depending on the activity and the project scale.

Fees must include all industry rates of pay for artist fees, materials, travel and delivery costs.

Paisley Arts Festival is looking for locally-led events to be part of our 2027 programme. We're inviting Renfrewshire based artists, collectives, producers, creative organisations, or community groups who produce creative work to pitch ideas that respond to the festival theme **Paisley, in the Making.**

Paisley has always been a place shaped by the people who live, work and create here. Every performance, story, song, artwork and new idea adds something to the continuing making of the town. In the Making celebrates Paisley as a place continually evolving, shaped by its history but constantly being remade by new generations, communities, cultures and creative voices.

Paisley Arts Festival becomes a moment to experience some of that making in action - remembering and reimagining what has come before, celebrating the creativity happening here now, and creating space for what might come next.

We are especially keen to receive pitches for the following:
- Performances
- Film screenings
- Workshops/creative sessions
- Discussions
- Or other creative events that connect with local audiences

We encourage you to consider environmental sustainability in the creation and presentation of the work. This could include for example, choice of materials, minimising waste or through the subject matter of work you are presenting.

Alongside our core programme, the festival will present a special Family Day. We also invite ideas that can engage our family audience in creative and ambitious ways.

About Paisley Arts Festival

Background

Paisley Arts Festival is a 3-day programme across performance, music and visual arts, taking place across OneRens cultural venues Paisley Town Hall and Paisley Arts Centre and surrounding spaces.

The festival programme will takes inspiration from Paisley's unique stories, culture and locations where possible, animating the town centre, physically connecting the newly transformed cultural venues though a unique and unexpected programme of activity and experiences, that create a platform for a diverse range of performers/artists to have an impact that will ripple throughout Scotland and beyond.

Audiences will experience the town in new and inspiring ways, access high quality, relevant cultural activity, discover the arts through carefully curated programming, participate in creative activity and immersive events, engage with new and challenging ideas



Paisley Arts Festival Outcomes

Through this open call, Paisley Arts Festival aims to:

- Raise the profile of Paisley and Renfrewshire as a place where inspiring cultural events happen.
- Animate the town with creative activity that connects people and places.
- Engage local communities by creating accessible and inclusive events for a wide range of audiences.
- Support and showcase local talent, providing paid opportunities for artists, promoters and organisations.
- Encourage collaboration between artists, community groups, and cultural organisations.
- Develop a sustainable festival model that nurtures creativity and builds lasting connections.

We're looking for proposals that:

- Are ambitious, high quality, and rooted in Paisley's communities.
- Respond to the festival theme.
- Realistic and deliverable within the budget.
- Have a clear target audience, can demonstrate demand and have considered equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Able to take place in either indoor or outdoor settings.



How To Apply

Send us a short proposal (max 2 pages / 500 words) including:

1. Your idea and how it connects to Paisley and the festival theme
2. Who it's for (your target audience)
3. How you'd deliver it (including venue or setting, if known and what technical support you might need)
4. Your budget request (£500-£1000, including a full breakdown including materials etc ensuring industry standard rates of pay for artists)
5. How your work might reflect or consider environmental sustainability
6. Your approach to access, diversity and inclusion within your application.
7. A short bio and examples of your previous work

Deadline: 5pm, Friday 6th November 2026

Submit to: OneRen_Programming@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Please state **'Arts Festival call out submission'** in the email title.

We welcome applications from artists and groups working across all artforms.
We welcome applications from all backgrounds and all sections of the community.
First-time applicants are encouraged, and support will be available to help shape selected ideas into a deliverable event.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Timeline and Key Dates

Successful applicants notified by **Friday 20th November 2026.**

Event title, description and image to be provided to the festival by **Friday 11th December 2026.**

Let's weave together something brilliant for Paisley Arts Festival 2027!

