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Paisley Arts Festival 2026

Open Call for Proposals

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Paisley Arts Festival 2026

Open Call Out for Proposals

Deadline: Friday 7th Nov 2025

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

Fees must include all artist fees, materials, travel and delivery costs.

Paisley Arts Festival is looking for locally-led events to be part of our 2026 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 'The Paisley Sound'

Paisley has always been bold, passionate and unafraid of noise. The Paisley Sound captures both the musical celebration and the town's radical energy. It's not empty noise, but sound with meaning – the roar of protest, the clatter of industry, the joy of music, and the creative defiance that defines Paisley.

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 those applying 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, to be launched in March 2026.

The festival programme should take inspiration from Paisley's unique stories, culture and locations where possible, animating the town centre, physically connecting the newly transformed cultural venues through 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 and 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:

- Creative, engaging and rooted in Paisley's communities, responding to the festival theme.
- Realistic and deliverable within the budget
- Have a clear target audience
- Able to take place in either indoor or outdoor settings

How to Apply

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

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

Deadline

Deadline: 5pm, Friday 7th November 2025

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.

Assessment Process

A panel of staff from OneRen will read proposals and related documents. In order to create a shortlist, the panel will assess the application upon the following essential criteria:

- Artistic vision (Relevance to festival objectives, theme, quality and ambition, diversity and inclusion)
- Skills and experience
- Collaboration
- Impact and feasibility

Timeline and Key Dates

Successful applicants notified by Wednesday 19th November 2025

Event title, description and image to be provided to the festival by Friday 12th December 2025

Let's weave together something brilliant for Paisley Arts Festival 2026!



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