

COMMON SHORES

A Cross-Border
Diversity Arts Project

Take part in our fun Creative Workshops!

Take part in our multi-cultural creative workshop programme in Derry and Donegal.

Activities planned throughout summer and autumn 2026!

Build confidence, make new friends, improve your English and share stories through singing, acting, painting, storytelling, songwriting and circus.

Workshops are free to attend and open to everyone in the majority and minority communities.

No artistic experience and no English necessary - just curiosity and a willingness to take part!



Stay Up to Date ~

Workshop details may change, and new workshops may be announced throughout the autumn. Please check our websites, Facebook and Instagram for the latest information, or get in touch using the contact details below.

Contact Us ~

Sole Purpose Productions

5 - 7 Artillery Street, Derry, BT48 6RG
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The Exchange Inishowen

Castle Avenue, Buncrana, Co. Donegal
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About COMMON SHORES

Common Shores is a year-long cross-border arts project bringing together migrants, refugees and local people from Derry and Donegal through creative workshops, performance and film. Delivered in partnership by Sole Purpose Productions (Derry) and The Exchange Inishowen (Buncrana), and funded by the PEACEPLUS Change Makers programme, the project runs from April 2026 to March 2027. Throughout the year, the project will be recording for a documentary film about our participants' experiences of living in the North West, to be released in March 2027.

Our Partners ~

Sole Purpose Productions

Founded in 1997 and based in Derry, Sole Purpose Productions is a multi award-winning theatre company that uses the power of imagination to explore social and public issues. For nearly 30 years the company has produced dynamic new theatre that promotes good relations and brings art to the heart of community life, locally, nationally and internationally.

The Exchange Inishowen

Founded in 2013 and based in Buncrana, The Exchange Inishowen is a voluntary-run, not-for-profit community centre and registered charity. Community, creativity and wellbeing sit at the heart of everything The Exchange does, bringing people together to build relationships and explore shared interests through the arts.



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solepurpose.org | exchangeinishowen.ie

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Derry ~ Summer Programme

Songs Without Borders

Build confidence and friendships through group singing and conversation, led by Natural Voice facilitator Maeve Leahy.

Tuesdays, 6.30 - 8.30pm | April - June

WHERE TO GO....

Carlisle Road Methodist Church Hall, 21 Carlisle Rd, Derry Londonderry BT48 6JJ

WHERE TO GET MORE INFO....

Contact Sole Purpose

Circus skills with IYSC

Fun and games through circus for kids, delivered by facilitators from In Your Space Circus.

Thursdays, 6-8pm | 18th & 25th June, 2nd, 9th & 16th July

WHERE TO GO....

Carlisle Road Methodist Church Hall, 21 Carlisle Rd, Derry Londonderry BT48 6JJ

SPECIAL FINAL SESSION: Sunday 19th July, 2-4pm, St. Columb's Park

Empowerment Workshops Using Narrative Acting Techniques

Theatre games, movement and storytelling with theatre practitioners Shamim Hasan and Latifa Yeasmin.

Thursdays, 6 - 8pm | 18th & 25th June | 2nd, 9th & 16th July

WHERE TO GO....

Carlisle Road Methodist Church Hall, 21 Carlisle Rd, Derry Londonderry BT48 6JJ

SPECIAL FINAL SESSION: Sunday 19th July, 2 - 4pm, St. Columb's Park

Donegal ~ Summer Programme

Your Story Your Song

Tell your story, write your own song with singer, songwriter and music facilitator Bernie Doherty - ideal for first timers.

Wednesdays, 7.00-8.30pm | 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th June

WHERE TO GO & GET MORE INFO....

The Exchange Inishowen, Castle Avenue, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Early Years Music

Music for parents/caregivers and babies/toddlers!

Thursdays, 7pm | 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th June

WHERE TO GO....

The Exchange Inishowen, Castle Avenue, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Intercultural Music Event

An Intercultural evening of music

Friday 26th June, 7pm

WHERE TO GO....

The Exchange Inishowen, Castle Avenue, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Songs We Carry

Share a song, poem or story - a relaxed and welcoming singing circle led by community musician Bernie Doherty. Bring an instrument, or come just to listen.

Wednesdays, 7pm | 1st, 15th, 22nd & 29th July

WHERE TO GO....

The Exchange Inishowen, Castle Avenue, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Public Speaking

Learn new skills, overcome fear of speaking in public, communicate with confidence and create inspiring presentations, with theatre facilitator Ruth Garvey Williams.

Mondays, 7pm | 6th, 13th & 20th July

WHERE TO GO....

The Exchange Inishowen, Castle Avenue, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Band Camp

Form a band and learn new music skills in sound, performance and songwriting for young people. All instruments and singers welcome!

20th to 24th July

WHERE TO GO....

8-13YRS ~ 10.30am - 1pm, The Exchange Inishowen
14-17YRS ~ 1.30 - 4.00pm, OTB @ O'Flaherty's

Music Camp

Learn songwriting, performance, stage and singing skills at this summer camp for ages 13-17.

29th Jun - 3rd July | 10.30am - 1pm,

WHERE TO GO....

The Exchange Inishowen & OTB @ O'Flaherty's

Acrylic Painting Workshop

Unlock your creativity with painting, for beginners and beyond. Lunch and materials provided, take your artwork home.

Saturday 25th July | 10am to 4pm

WHERE TO GO....

The Exchange Inishowen, Castle Avenue, Ardaravan, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Derry ~ Autumn Programme

Songs Without Borders

Build confidence and friendships through group singing and conversation, led by Natural Voice facilitator Maeve Leahy.

Tuesdays, 6.30 - 8.30pm | September- December

WHERE TO GO....

Carlisle Road Methodist Church Hall, 21 Carlisle Rd, Derry Londonderry BT48 6JJ

WHERE TO GET MORE INFO....

Contact Sole Purpose

Confidence workshops with Non-Verbal Theatre

Confidence-building through non-verbal theatre with Nigerian actor and facilitator David Olugbenga Lawal.

Thursdays, 7-9pm | 10th, 17th & 24th September

WHERE TO GO....

The Playhouse

Creative Writing & Storytelling

Share your stories and folk tales in words, poems or prose with performance poet Abby Oliveira.

Thursdays, 6 - 8pm | 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd October, 5th & 12th November

WHERE TO GO....

Carlisle Road Methodist Church Hall

..... WATCH THIS SPACE

Confidence Through Acting

Learn how to present yourself with confidence through actor training, with actor and facilitator Sarah Munro.

Dates, times & venues TBC

Your Story Your Song comes to Derry

Bernie Doherty's fantastic songwriting workshop comes over the border to Derry!

Dates, times & venues TBC

Good Relations Week - SHARED EVENTS IN DERRY & DONEGAL

12th - 18th October

Dates, times & venues TBC

Showcase / Performance for Human Rights Day - SHARED EVENTS IN DERRY & DONEGAL

Thursday 10th December, 7pm

Venue - TBC

Donegal ~ Autumn Programme

..... WATCH THIS SPACE

Coming up at The Exchange . . .

Teen Sewing - create your own tote

African / Irish Fashion Fusion - garment making

Public Speaking

Drama / Theatre

Painting

Podcasting

Dates, times & venues TBC

Songs Without Borders comes to Letterkenny

Maeve Leahy will bring her popular singing workshop across the border to a venue in Letterkenny!

Dates, times & venues TBC

..... August ~ Summer Break!