

What do you mean by 'Hometown'?

The *Reimagine* programme believes in the power of local knowledge, skills, and insights for crafting solutions to local issues, championing co-design methods that foster a sense of agency and ownership among participants for projects happening in their locality. With the *Hometown Architect* project, we acknowledge all the varied relationships people might have with a 'hometown' – be it the place they grew up, where they live now, where their family is from or some other strong connection to a place. We also acknowledge that towns and villages serve a wider hinterland outside the immediate town boundaries as important community spaces. Our application process asks applicants to demonstrate a direct link to the location of their project proposal in some form.

How do you define a town or village?

Hometown Architect aligns with the goals of the [Town Centre First](#), [Our Rural Future](#) and [Project 2040](#) policy documents. We want to support small and medium towns outside of major urban centres. For the purposes of the call, and in line with these policies, a town or village is defined as:

- ↻ A minimum of 50 occupied dwellings, with a maximum distance between any dwelling and the building closest to it, of 100 metres, and where there is evidence of an urban centre (shop, school etc.).
- ↻ A population of 400 - 10,000 residents for the entire town or village. Separate areas of bigger towns or cities cannot be considered.

- 🕒 The *Town Centre First* policy aligns with the *Our Rural Future Development Policy*, focusing on areas outside of major urban centres. In line with these policies, this open call does not include urban towns/villages within the following districts: Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown CoCo, South County Dublin CoCo, Cork City Council

What if I do not have a community stakeholder or architect to make a joint application with?

If you are a community stakeholder or architect interested in applying, but do not currently have a partner, you can add your details to our list [here](#) to connect with other interested parties in your town or village. We also encourage you to reach out directly to architects or community stakeholders in your area. The RIAI [register](#) can be filtered by county to find architects in your area. Your local Public Participation Network or Local Authority may be able to suggest relevant community stakeholders.

As a community stakeholder or architect, can I make multiple applications with different partners applicants?

Yes, you can make multiple applications with different partners, once all the relevant eligibility criteria are met.

My town or village, or members of my project team have previously received project funding through *Reimagine*. Can we apply?

Yes, previously funded groups or towns/villages may apply again with a new proposal or a next stage proposal of a previous project.

Do I have to be an architect to apply?

The lead applicant does not have to be an architect, but the wider project team must include an architect. Architects applying as a lead applicant must likewise outline a partnership with other community stakeholders within the project team.

I am a graduate architect or a qualified architect but am not registered with the RIAI.

Can I still apply?

Individuals who are not registered with the RIAI but who hold a recognised qualification in architecture may apply as part of a project team, but not as the lead applicant. Only architects registered with the RIAI can be lead applicants and must be able to provide necessary project management and insurance cover requirements for the duration of the project. Unregistered architects may be asked to provide proof of qualification as part of the selection process.

I am a single interest group, but with a proposal that will benefit the wider community.

Can I still apply?

Yes, if you can outline in your application exactly how your proposal will be of benefit to the wider community and not just the specific interest of your group. You can also consider bringing other community groups into your project team who can also benefit from the proposal to strengthen your argument for a broader community impact.

Can the lead applicant be a recently established organisation or does it have to be a long established entity?

The length of establishment is not a criteria for the assessment of proposals. Both newly formed and long existing organisations can apply. The only requirement is that, if applying as the lead applicant, the organisation must have some form of legal registration, such as charity, CLG, DAC for example.

What if the architect does not have a connection to the town?

For this call the architect involved in the project is requested to demonstrate a connection to the area. This could be the town where they grew up, where their family lives, where they visit on a regular basis, where they have worked.

Applications that fail to demonstrate this connection cannot be considered.

What do you mean by co-design?

Co-design is a design practice and set of principles which allow for community involvement in the development and delivery of projects. Strong proposals should not have a fixed outcome but instead have a collaborative approach and have considered multiple forms of engaging with the community to co-design a solution that can benefit the wider community.

Does the €10,000 funding have to cover the entirety of the proposed project outcome?

If the Hometown Architect funding is the sole funding available for your project, then yes the €10k must cover all project costs including all fees for architects and any other professionals, and the necessary insurance cover. Alternatively, the €10k funding could be used for the initial phases of a longer term project, but additional funding from another source would be needed to produce the outcome.

How should I calculate architect fees for my project?

It is at the discretion of the individual architect to decide their fee for the proposed project. This fee, as well as any other professional fees, must be outlined in the indicative budget included in the application. The Irish Architecture Foundation supports the Arts Council's ['Paying the Artist'](#) policy on the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists (including architects) and expects all applicants to comply with the principles set out in their guidelines. Proposals that do not comply will not be considered.

Does the proposal have to include plans for a physical output or intervention?

No, a physical outcome is not mandatory. Previous *Reimagine* projects for example have put funding towards community consultation workshops, producing research reports, architect fees to prepare planning submissions to local authorities. We are open to considering a wide range of ideas, once they in some way work to improve the town centre.

My proposal requires access to a specific property or piece of land. Will I require prior permission to use this space before submitting an application?

Yes, we can only consider applications that can feasibly be carried out and have the necessary permissions. For private spaces, this requires prior agreement with the owner. For public spaces, contact your Local Authority to ask what permissions might be required. Please outline in your application that this has been done in advance.

Can I submit a proposal that has similarities to existing plans created by the Local Authority in my area?

Yes, in fact we actively encourage you to look at the long term plans developed by your Local Authority, such as County Development Plans and Public Realm Plans. We have found that projects that align with the goals of such plans have great potential to live on past the period of the *Reimagine* project and to have long term impact for the community. It is worth contacting your Local Authority for advice on how your proposal might align with their broader plans. The County Heritage Officer, Arts Officer, County Architect or Creative Ireland Officer are a good place to start.

Are the proposals from last year's projects available for review?

Past applications cannot be shared publicly.

Where can I find examples of previous projects that have received *Reimagine* funding?

The [Fieldwork](#) section of our website has details of all our projects to date, and would be worth looking at as inspiration for what kind of work the *Reimagine* programme can support. The *Hometown Architect* call is specifically focusing on town centre regeneration, so besides the projects selected for the first round of this initiative - Aughrim, Belmullet, Lisdoonvarna, Tipperary and Tuam - our projects in Letterkenny, Kilrush and Headford are particularly relevant.

The application form does not appear to allow attachments. Would it be possible to enable an attachment for supporting images and documents?

The application will be assessed based solely on the information requested in the online form to guarantee an equitable evaluation of the proposals. Supporting images or documents are not requested and won't be considered for evaluation.

Will there be an opportunity to ask questions on the brief or application process?

Two online information sessions were held to outline the application process in detail and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions during a Q&A discussion. The recording for the presentation part of the info session held in December can be watched [here](#). This FAQ document was updated to include questions asked during both sessions.

What if I have another question?

If you cannot find an answer to your question above, or require further clarification please contact reimagine@architecturefoundation.ie