



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



CATHAOIRLEACH'S  
AWARDS

2022

# CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS 2022

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CLOSING DATE: Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council

Cathaoirleach's Awards  
2021

Young Environmentalist  
of the Year  
Award





# GENERAL INFORMATION

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Community and voluntary activism is thriving in Mayo, and it is vital that the services of the many community volunteer groups that work among us, and the valuable impact that this work has on the quality of life of the citizens of County Mayo, is acknowledged publicly.

In recognition of this, Mayo County Council is delighted to invite nominations for the second annual Cathaoirleach's Awards.

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## WHAT ARE THE CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS?

The Cathaoirleach's Awards honour and celebrate the many groups that work quietly behind the scenes to make our communities stronger, more vibrant and caring, often inspiring and motivating others to become actively involved in their communities.

Unsung heroes are to be found in every town, village, street and road in County Mayo. They are of all ages and from all backgrounds, while working across diverse areas of interest, they all share one important characteristic; they give freely and generously of their time to make life better for their communities.

The public nomination process is now open, and we invite you to nominate those whom you would like to be recognised for the work they do.

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## THE CATEGORIES OPEN FOR NOMINATION ARE:

- Mayo Publication Award
- Contribution to Local Heritage Award
- Contribution to Community Life Awards:
  - Community Partnership Project Award
  - Community Social Inclusion Project Award
- Community Tourism Award
- Environmental Awards:
  - Green Community Group of the Year Award
  - Burial Ground of Year Award
- Contribution to the Arts in Mayo Award
- Contribution to the Preservation and Promotion of the Irish Language Awards:
  - Gaeltacht based Groups/Individuals Award
  - Non-Gaeltacht based Groups/Individuals Award
- Contribution to Diaspora Wellbeing/Engagement Award

Full descriptions and category criteria are in the Award Categories in Detail section of this document.

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## WHAT PRIZES ARE AWARDED?

All winners will be presented with a specially commissioned trophy, hand crafted in Mayo, at the Cathaoirleach's Awards Presentation Evening in early 2023.

Winners will also receive a bursary to use for their community work.

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## HOW DO I MAKE A NOMINATION?

There is one Nomination Form for all categories.

- On this form, indicate which category you are making the nomination for at the top of the Nomination Form. **An individual or Group can be nominated under one category only.**
- Read the Nomination Form carefully: Information about the group or person being nominated for an award and information about the person or group making the nomination should be entered on **Page 1**. Give your reasons for making the nomination on **Pages 2 – 4**. Please confirm that you have read our Data Protection Declaration on **Page 5**.
- **Up to 4 high resolution photographs and 1 short video clip can be submitted in support of your nomination.**
- The closing date for nominations is **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Nomination Forms may be submitted by post to the Communications Department, Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, Castlebar, Co Mayo F23 WF90, or by email to [communications@MayoCoCo.ie](mailto:communications@MayoCoCo.ie) no later than Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.

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## JUDGING/SHORTLISTING:

Nominations will be considered by panels consisting of invited external experts and local authority staff.

All those shortlisted will be invited to the Cathaoirleach's Awards Presentation Evening in early 2023, at which the winners will be announced.

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## ARE THERE ANY TERMS OR CONDITIONS?

There are a few simple conditions:

- The shortlisted nominees should be present on the night when the winners will be announced. Shortlisted nominees will be notified in advance.
- Except for the Diaspora Award, nominees should normally live or carry out the activities for which they are being nominated within County Mayo.

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#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS *continued*

- While groups may nominate themselves, self-nominations from individuals will not be accepted.
- Before submitting a nomination, please ensure that you have notified the nominee.
- The work of all nominees must be on a voluntary or not-for-profit basis.
- Nominations will only be considered on the official Nomination Form, which must be fully completed, signed by the nominator(s) and submitted by post to the Communications Department, Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, Castlebar, Co Mayo F23 WF90 or by email to [communications@MayoCoCo.ie](mailto:communications@MayoCoCo.ie) no later than Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2023.
- The Data Protection Declaration on Page 5 of the Nomination Form must be completed.
- Canvassing will disqualify.

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# AWARD CATEGORIES IN DETAIL

## MAYO PUBLICATON AWARD

(Individual and Group Nominees accepted)

This Award is for the best book on any aspect of life in Mayo. Entries may include local heritage and history, biography and autobiography, folklore and traditions, natural history, sport, parish annuals and any other aspect of life in the county. Publications from individuals, organisations and communities are accepted. Fiction, poetry and drama entries are not eligible.

**Is féidir iontrálacha a bheith í mBéarla nó í nGaeilge.**  
**Entries may in Irish or in English.**

Entries must have been published between the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.

Two copies of the nominated publication must be submitted with the Nomination Form for consideration.

## CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL HERITAGE

(Group Nominees only)

This Award recognises the contribution by groups to the conservation, management, protection or promotion of Mayo's natural, built or cultural heritage.

The award recognises:

- fresh approaches and initiatives that link heritage to communities, promoting active engagement with heritage and its appreciation by the public.
- the application of good heritage practice in managing sites, collections or objects.
- efforts/activities to ensure the survival of a heritage feature or structure.
- contribution to heritage knowledge through research or data collection.

**Publications will not be considered for this award category.**

## CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY LIFE (2 AWARDS)

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT AWARD

(Group Nominees only. See 'Tips for Applicants' for further application advice)

This Award recognises community groups that show initiative, leadership and involvement in projects and activities that embody the spirit of genuine partnership and benefit the overall community.

## COMMUNITY SOCIAL INCLUSION PROJECT AWARD

(Group Nominees only. See 'Tips for Applicants' for further application advice)

Social Inclusion is about involving everyone within communities and this Award recognises those groups working to strengthen local communities, increase participation and promote social inclusion through their organisation, its activities and events.

## COMMUNITY TOURISM AWARD

(Group Nominees only. See 'Tips for Applicants' for further application advice)

The Community Tourism Award seeks to recognise the efforts of voluntary groups or social enterprises in contributing to the development of outstanding experiences for visitors to County Mayo.

The Award will recognise any of the following initiatives that contribute to outstanding visitor experiences or extend the Céad Míle Fáilte in our towns or rural areas:

- collaborative initiatives between visitor destinations in the County.
- efforts that support a balanced calendar of annual events/activities.
- new or innovative attractions, activities or festivals.
- collaboration with tourism and hospitality providers to ensure high-quality integrated visitor service.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS (2 AWARDS)

### GREEN COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

(Group Nominees only)

This Award recognises the work that local voluntary groups have done to reduce emissions and improve their local environment.

Please explain what the group has achieved so far, under the following five headings, particularly over the past 12 months, and what the group hopes to achieve in the future. Please write a maximum of 250 words per heading:

- describe any activities the nominated group has recently taken to conserve biodiversity, use biological resources sustainably and/or improve natural habitats (20 marks).
- describe the steps the nominated group has taken to improve energy efficiency and/or water efficiency (20 marks).
- Describe any sustainable transport initiatives the nominated group has taken, for example, to reduce congestion, to green their fleet, or any other actions that result in fuel savings and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (20 marks).



- Describe the steps taken to reduce and recycle waste within the community (20 marks)
- Outline the impacts on engagement with the wider community (20 marks)

### BURIAL GROUND OF THE YEAR AWARD

(Group Nominees only. See 'Tips for Applicants' for further application advice)

This category is open to all burial ground committees and other organisations who maintain burial grounds to a high standard and with care for the environment.

This Award recognises the **exceptional** efforts made to upkeep burial grounds as respectful and peaceful places while protecting and enhancing the environment.

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS AWARD

(Group Nominees only. See 'Tips for Applicants' for further application advice)

This Award recognises the work that local voluntary groups do to encourage and promote the Arts in their community, including groups that:

- take every opportunity to promote the Arts in their community.
- who have been involved in activities and initiatives that stimulate public interest in the Arts.
- who have been involved in activities and initiatives that promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the Arts.
- who have been involved in activities and initiatives that assist in improving standards in the Arts.

### CAOMHNÚ AGUS CUR CHUN CINN NA GAEILGE (2 GHRADAM)

(Féadfar daoine aonair agus grúpaí a ainmniú. Féach ar 'Moltaí d'Iarratasóir' í gcomhair tuilleadh eolais)

Leis na gradaim seo, déantar comóradh orthu siúd a thapaíonn gach deis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i Maigh Eo.

Ina measc sin áirítear grúpaí agus daoine aonair:

- a eagraíonn tionscnaimh, féilte nó imeachtaí a chuireann úsáid na Gaeilge chun cinn
- a chothaíonn feachtas agus tuiscint ar an nGaeilge i measc an phobail
- a thugann cosaint do sheachadadh na Gaeilge mar theanga dhúchais.

Bronnfar dhá ghradam ar leithligh ar iarratasóirí atá:

- lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht.
- lonnaithe taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht.

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE (2 AWARDS)

(Individual and Group Nominees accepted. See 'Tips for Applicants' for further application advice)

These awards celebrate those who take every opportunity to promote the Irish Language in Mayo.

This includes individuals and voluntary groups who:

- organise initiatives, events and festivals that increase the use of the Irish Language.
- foster awareness and appreciation of the Irish Language in the community.
- protect the transmission of Irish as a mother tongue.

Separate awards will be made to applicants based:

- In the Gaeltacht.
- Outside the Gaeltacht.

### CONTRIBUTION TO DIASPORA WELLBEING/ ENGAGEMENT

(Individual and Group Nominees accepted)

In general, this Award recognises an overseas group or individual who has contributed to furthering the cause and wellbeing of Mayo people or causes overseas. The nominees for this Award would be sought from Mayo Associations, but any person or group can nominate.



### AN CATHAOIRLEACH'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

(not open for public nominations)

To be presented by An Cathaoirleach of Mayo County Council, Cllr Seamus Weir, this award recognises outstanding contributions to the ideals and spirit of Mayo at home or overseas.

This award allows Mayo County Council to acknowledge groups or individuals who do not fall within any of the other award categories.

# TIPS FOR APPLICANTS

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT AWARD

This Award recognises community groups that show initiative, leadership, and involvement in projects and activities that embody the spirit of genuine partnership and benefit the overall community. Only groups are eligible to apply.

In your nomination include the following detail about:

### THE NOMINATED GROUP

- Must be a member of the Public Participation Network to be eligible for an Award. To apply for membership, visit <https://mayoppn.ie/join-mayo-ppn>.
- Include some details on the membership of the group – set out how it represents the community.
- How long is the group in existence?
- How many members are in the group?
- What is the group working to achieve? Why was it set up?
- Is it open to new members?
- Does the group work with any other groups/organisations/agencies to achieve its goals?
- What values does the group hold?

### COMMUNITY

- Provide a brief profile of the community the group represents, i.e. the area’s population/ demographic, whether rural/urban etc.
- How does the group actively involve members of the community to participate in community-based activities?
- What initiatives has the group run that have encouraged greater involvement from the community?
- How has the group’s activities impacted on the area?
- What important positive impact(s) has the group made to the community and how has it made a positive difference?

### PAST & FUTURE PROJECTS

- Provide specific examples of projects the group has been involved in.
- Provide examples of what the group has achieved through use of grant applications, local fundraising resulting in a project/activity.
- What projects are the group currently working on or plan to do?
- How did the group respond to Covid -19, e.g. shopping delivery, online classes, outdoor activities?
- Provide documentation to support your application including photographs.

## COMMUNITY SOCIAL INCLUSION PROJECT AWARD

Social inclusion is about involving everyone within communities and this Award recognises those groups working to strengthen local communities, increase participation and promote social inclusion through their organisation, its activities and events. Only groups are eligible to apply.

Include the following detail in your application:

### THE NOMINATED GROUP

- Must be a member of the Public Participation Network to be eligible for an Award. To apply for membership, visit <https://mayoppn.ie/join-mayo-ppn>.
- Include some details on the membership of the group. Set out how it represents the community.
- How long is the group in existence?
- How many members are in the group?
- What is the group working to achieve? Why was it set up?
- Is it open to new members?
- Does the group work with any other groups /organisations/agencies to achieve its goals?
- What values does the group hold?

### COMMUNITY

- Provide a brief profile of the community the group represents, i.e. the area’s population/ demographic, rural/urban etc.
- What need in this community did the group work to address?
- What important positive impact(s) has the group made to the community and how has it made a positive difference?

### PAST & FUTURE PROJECTS

- Provide specific examples of projects/activities/ events the group has been involved in.
- Provide examples of what the group has achieved through use of grant applications, local fundraising resulting in a project/activity/events.
- What projects/activities are the group currently working on or plan to do?
- Did the group become involved in a community response during Covid -19?
- How does the work the group does strengthen networks/relationship with all members of the community?
- What projects has the group carried out to promote social inclusion?
- Provide documentation to support your application including photographs.

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## COMMUNITY TOURISM AWARD

The Community Tourism Award seeks to recognise the efforts of voluntary groups or social enterprises in contributing to the development of outstanding experiences for visitors to County Mayo.

The Award will recognise any of the following:

- initiatives that contribute to outstanding visitor experiences or extend the Céad Míle Fáilte in our towns or rural areas. This could include town or village, ambassadors, enhanced visitor orientation services, new tourism product offerings, etc.
- collaborative initiatives between visitor destinations in the County, including cross selling initiatives, county wide product development, marketing and promotion.
- a balanced calendar of annual events/activities which should have a particular focus on events held in the off and/or shoulder seasons.

Collaboration with tourism and hospitality providers to ensure a high-quality integrated visitor service. Collaborative initiatives could include cross selling, bundling of products for ease of use, enhanced experiences and value for money.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS (2 AWARDS)

### GREEN COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD (Group Nominees only)

**This Award recognises the work that local voluntary groups have done to reduce emissions and improve their local environment.**

Please explain what the group has achieved so far, under the following five headings, particularly over the past 12 months, and what the group hopes to achieve in the future. Please write a maximum of 250 words per heading:

- describe any activities the nominated group has recently taken to conserve biodiversity, use biological resources sustainably and/or improve natural habitats (20 marks)
- describe the steps the nominated group has taken to improve energy efficiency and/or water efficiency (20 marks)
- Describe any sustainable transport initiatives the nominated group has taken, for example, to reduce congestion, to green their fleet, or any other actions that result in fuel savings and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (20 marks)
- Describe the steps taken to reduce and recycle waste within the community (20 marks)
- Outline the impacts on engagement with the wider community (20 marks)

### BURIAL GROUND OF THE YEAR AWARD

**This category is open to all burial ground committees and other organisations who maintain their burial grounds to a high standard and with care for the environment.**

Please consider the following when making your nomination:

- efforts made in relation to general upkeep and litter control.

- provision of waste segregation to allow for recycling and composting.
- measures in place to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- measures used to communicate to visitors their role in caring for the burial ground.
- other initiatives that protect the environment such as natural weed control, water and energy conservation or bike parking.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTS IN MAYO AWARD

**This category recognises the work that local voluntary groups have done to encourage and promote the Arts in their community.**

Nominations can be submitted by members of an Arts group or a member of the public can nominate an Arts group.

Please consider the following before making a nomination:

- when nominating a group, please ensure they have been notified and agree to the nomination before you submit the nomination form.

**Describe the work they have done to encourage and promote arts in the community.**

- Don't assume the judging panel will be familiar with the work of any group. Give some background information including: details of when the group was established, membership of the group, the aims and objectives of the group, examples of previous and current work and achievements and samples to support this.
- Outline the difference the group's activities have made to the local community, and how the work of the group meets the criteria of the award and the reasons why they deserve the award.

## CAOMHNÚ AGUS CUR CHUN CINN NA GAEILGE (2 GHRADAM)

**Bronnfar dhá ghradam ar leithligh ar ghrúpaí nó ar dhaoine aonair atá:**

- lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht**
- lonnaithe taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht.**

Is féidir le baill den phobal duine nó grúpa a ainmniú. Féadfaidh grúpaí féinainmniúchán a dhéanamh freisin.

Cuir an t-eolas seo a leanas ar fáil mar chuid de d'ainmniúchán:

- Céard iad na príomhéachtaí atá bainte amach ag an ngrúpa nó ag an duine ó thaobh na Gaeilge de?
- Cén chaoi a gcuireann an t-ainmní úsáid agus foghlaim na Gaeilge chun cinn?
- Cén fhís atá ag an ainmní don Ghaeilge sa phobal áitiúil?
- Cén nasc a chruthaíonn an t-ainmní le daoine éagsúla sa phobal (daoine scothaosta, daoine



lonnaithe i gceantair iargúlta, grúpaí imeallaithe srl) trína gcuid tionscnaimh teanga?

- I gcás chatagóir (i), cén chaoi a dtacaíonn an t-ainmní le caomhnú na canúna áitiúla agus le seachadadh na Gaeilge sa phobal?

### CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE (2 AWARDS)

Separate awards will be made to groups/individuals based:

(i) In the Gaeltacht.

(ii) Outside the defined Gaeltacht.

Members of the public may nominate individuals or groups. Groups may also self-nominate.

Please provide the following information in your nomination:

- Describe the nominee's main achievements in relation to the Irish language
  - How does the nominee promote learning and use of the Irish language?
  - What is the nominee's vision for the Irish language in their community?
  - How does the nominee connect with community members from various backgrounds (older people, those living in isolated areas, marginalised groups etc) through their language initiatives?
  - For category (i) how does the nominee protect the local dialect and support the acquisition of Irish in the community?
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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHAOIRLEACH'S AWARDS 2022, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

The Communications Department  
Mayo County Council  
Áras an Chontae  
Castlebar  
Co Mayo F23 WF90

[communications@MayoCoCo.ie](mailto:communications@MayoCoCo.ie)

094 906 4000

THE CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS IS

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup> 2023**

COMPLETED NOMINATION FORMS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO:

[communications@MayoCoCo.ie](mailto:communications@MayoCoCo.ie)

OR POSTED TO: The Communications Department, Mayo County Council, Áras an Chontae, Castlebar, Co Mayo, F23 WF90

LATE NOMINATIONS **CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**