

Cultural Companions – FAQ for participating venues

What is Cultural Companions

Cultural Companions is an Age and Opportunity Initiative designed to link older people interested in arts and culture through a network so that they can attend events together as a group. Tipperary Cultural Companions is based on Age & Opportunity's highly successful Cultural Companions initiative in Dublin. Cultural Companions Tipperary aims to provide increased opportunities for older people to engage with Tipperary's vibrant cultural scene. The initiative will create a local network of like-minded people with an interest in the arts. There is an emphasis on peer support and independence, so Cultural Companions can sign up to become part of the larger network by attending Cultural Companions events at roll out venues and other venues throughout the year.

Launch

Tipperary Cultural Companions will be launched in May 2019 to coincide with Bealtaine and will be promoted throughout May in Age Friendly Workshops across the county.

Locations

For the initial roll out of Cultural Companions in each district these are the nominated locations:

Clonmel Borough MD	Tipperary County Museum
Cashel Tipperary MD	Tipperary Excel Theatre & Arts Centre
Templemore Thurles MD	The Source Arts Centre, Thurles
Carrick on Suir MD	Brewery Lane Theatre and Strand Theatre, Carrick on Suir
Nenagh MD	Nenagh Arts Centre

This should in time progress to other Arts and Cultural venues across the county who would like to partner and participate in the network.

Who is the Cultural Companion

The cultural companion is a volunteer at the venue that will attend the nominated events, will be a meet and greet person at the venue to meet and welcome new members attending the nominated events.

How it will work

The venue has a listing of events for the next few months. The venue provides the Age Friendly Programme Manager (AFPM) with the event information. The AFPM meets with cultural companions for each venue and agrees with them what event they would like to promote and attend. The AFPM writes out to the registered members for that venue and informs the members of upcoming events that the Cultural Companion will attend and be present for at the venue, and advise of booking arrangements for the event.

Who

We have the Age Friendly Program Manager in the local authority who will administer this network.

We have the Cultural Companion volunteer who will welcome those attending the event, and agrees with the AFPM and possibly the venue contact of upcoming events for attendance.

We have the venue contact that provides a regular update to the AFPM

We have the Cultural Companion member who receives notifications every 8 weeks informing them on the events that are to take place at their nominated venues.

When

This will be launched in May and where the AFPM will be seeking nominations for Cultural Companion Volunteers for the venues and also look for members to register to receive notifications on events.

The AFPM will meet with the companion volunteer and the venue and agree events commencing in June and every 8 weeks from that point.

Bookings

The cultural companion does not make bookings on behalf of members. Each member makes their own bookings to attend the event.

Garda Vetting

We will work with each Cultural Companion Volunteer to progress Garda Vetting and support that volunteer in their capacity as the Cultural Companion for each venue.

What I would need from you in the venue?

A listing of upcoming events provided at 8 week intervals

For the first event to support the Cultural Companion Volunteer(s) in providing a designated area to meet and welcome the members before attending the event.

Benefits

For the venue increased attendance and wider audience

For the volunteer and member an opportunity to attend an event where they have a shared interest and to combat rural isolation.

For More information

Contact the Age Friendly Programme Manager in Tipperary Fiona Crotty 0761 06 6223, 087 1252938 or email fiona.crotty@tipperarycoco.ie