Age & Opportunity

Bealtaine Festival 2026 Volunteer

Deadline for application: Thursday 16th April 2026 at 12 noon

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation that provides a range of opportunities for older people who want to get more involved in arts and culture, sport and physical activity, civic engagement and personal development.

Our vision is an Ireland where all older people can be more active, more visible, more creative, more connected, more confident, more often. Our mission is to enable the best possible quality of life for us all as we age.

Festival information

Established in 1995, Bealtaine is one of Ireland's largest co-operative festivals and the world's first national celebration of creativity in older age. The festival brings people together to foster and inspire creativity among all of us as we age and to promote the skills, experiences and exposure that can lead to a rich creative life for all older people. Like last year, we are focussing the in-house festival events in one location in Dublin city centre from **28th to 30th May**. There will also be a large outdoor event on Sunday **3rd of May** and a literature event on **15th May** both taking place in Dublin

Why become a Bealtaine Volunteer?

- An opportunity to meet new people across generations.
- Attend at various venues and see new work first-hand.
- Greeting and meeting the public and artists in a fun and creative setting.
- Great experience to include on your CV.

Age & Opportunity is funded by HSE SPORT IRELAND the arts council an chomhairle ealaíon funding the arts

The Important role of our Bealtaine Volunteers

Volunteers play a crucial role as part of the festival team and have contributed to the success of the festival over a long number of years. Effectively, many of our volunteers are the public face of Bealtaine.

We are looking for people who are 18+ and have an interest in the Arts or Creative Ageing and who can commit a small amount of their time (over the key dates of the **28th to 30th May**) to joining our festival team. We hope to grow our volunteer base nationwide over the coming years, but for now we are looking to hear from people who can **volunteer for events taking place in Dublin**. (Please note we can only pay travel expenses up to a limited amount, so this opportunity may not suit those living some distance from Dublin).

There are a variety of important duties that our Bealtaine Volunteers may be asked to carry out which include but are not limited to:

- Being a key point for information at events in relation to the Bealtaine Festival programme.
- Being the public face of the Bealtaine Festival at relevant events.
- Carrying out surveys with the public at specific Bealtaine Festival events.
- Liaising with the Arts Programme Assistant Manager and others from the Age & Opportunity team.

You will be given every support and sufficient training so that you are well prepared for most eventualities.

Conducting surveys (if applicable)

- At some events, we may require volunteers to conduct surveys with the public.
- These surveys help us to evaluate how we are performing and identify needs and so are considered to be an extremely important part of our volunteer's role.
- Volunteers will be fully briefed about the surveys before the festival.

You may be asked to be a Venue Assistant. The key qualities for this volunteering role are:

- To be reliable and a good timekeeper.
- Be a self-starter and take initiative if you see something that needs attention.
- To be friendly and approachable.
- To be informed about the festival programme.
- To be informed about the venue.
- To liaise with venue staff / Bealtaine staff.

Documentation

- Volunteers may be asked to take some photographs on their phone for documentation purposes at events and share these with the organisation.
- Volunteers will be given guidelines on taking photos at the orientation session.

General Requirements

- To follow the procedures outlined in Age & Opportunity's Volunteer Handbook.
- To undertake any other reasonable volunteer tasks as may arise from time to time.
- To follow all Covid and Health and Safety Protocols.

What do we expect from our Bealtaine Volunteers:

We ask that you are free to commit to the following:

- Attend pre-agreed volunteer shifts over the dates of May 28th to 30th
- Attend the Tea Party on Sunday 3rd May (if available, will be pre-agreed)
- Attend the Literature event on Friday 15th May (if available, will be pre-agreed)
- A minimum of two shifts over the three day festival weekend (up to 4 hour shifts)
- Attend an informal interview online
- Attend an in person orientation if possible on Monday 25th May in Temple Bar from 2pm to 4pm. Orientation will also be delivered online for those who are unable to attend in person
- Sign and submit a volunteer agreement before volunteering

How to Apply

To apply to be a Bealtaine Volunteer please fill out the application form and return to Audrey.farrell@ageandopportunity.ie or fill out the online form by **12 noon on Thursday 16th April 2026 by 12 noon.**

- **Informal interviews will be held online via Zoom on the morning of the 22nd April. Other dates will be facilitated for those who cannot attend on that date.**