



Paisley Book Festival 2027 Open Call for Programme Proposals

Details

Submission Deadline: Friday 30th October 2026

Fee: Up to £300

Paisley Book Festival is seeking creative and inclusive contributions and ideas for events to be part of the programme for the 2027 Festival, taking place between **14th to 16th May 2027**.

Festival Theme: **Stories on the Move**

The festival seeks to showcase local writers, groups, and other contributors, and provide opportunities to develop local talent.

Family Day Programme: We would also like to hear from writers, creatives and artists who are making accessible and dynamic work for children and families (0 – 8 years) to be a part of our dedicated festival family day on **Saturday 15th May 2027**.

Here are some ways you could get involved:

BE A GROUP HOST / CONTRIBUTOR - are you a Renfrewshire based community and /or cultural organisation, project, or initiative that has an idea for an event to be part of the Paisley Book Festival programme?

BE A PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTOR - are you a Scottish writer / artist / creative / organisation with an idea or current strand of activity that fits the remit of the Paisley Book Festival? We welcome submissions from creatives working in a variety of disciplines.



About the Festival

The Paisley Book Festival is a platform for the celebration of books, reading and writing in Paisley over the course of 3 days. It is a festival with creativity and innovation at the heart of its programme, seeking to showcase some of the best and most diverse voices being published today in Scotland and beyond.

The festival will connect readers and writers with bold, contemporary ideas, engage established audiences, inspire new ones and be an effective marketplace for the writing and publishing world.

Now entering its 8th year, the theme for Paisley Book Festival 2027 is **Stories on the Move**.

Stories are on the move at this year's Paisley Book Festival! From a writer's pen to a reader's hands, passed down through generations, translated between languages, and adapted from page to stage and screen, stories are the beating heart of who we are and how we connect. Perhaps you've wondered where your favourite author gets their inspiration, or how a centuries-old story can offer insights into today's problems? Or maybe you want to know how the kernel of a tale ends up on the shelf of your local library or bookshop? And what happens when stories become fixed and lose their ability to shift into new shapes? Join us as we explore these questions and more with some of Scotland's finest storytellers.

The festival has the following outcomes:

- To raise the profile of Paisley and Renfrewshire as a place where inspiring cultural events happen
- To increase visitor numbers to Paisley
- To inspire more people to engage with the written and spoken word, particularly those with barriers to accessing culture
- To develop the careers of local and national writers



To Make a Proposal

Please consider how your activity responds to the festival outcomes and 2027 theme and provide the following information:.

- Idea/summary (up to 300 words)
- Target Audiences / Who your event is for (up to 250 words)
- A Biography (you/your group) and the type of work you make / what you do (up to 300 words)
- Please be sure to indicate your approach to access, diversity and inclusion within your application.
- Please tell us how you will consider environmental sustainability in the creation and presentation of your event / idea. For example, choice of materials, minimising waste or through the subject matter of work you are presenting.
- Links to previous work/relevant supporting material
- Details on what technical and production support you might need to deliver your project. Please be clear about what you can provide yourself and what you need. **Note:** There is no guarantee that the festival will be able to provide/facilitate technical needs

Our fee structure is informed by industry standard rates as set by the Scottish Artists Union and the Scottish Book Trust. We can provide funding of up to £300 to support successful applicants to the Open Call depending on the nature of your event.

Previous Festival programmes have involved innovative and site-responsive events of varying genres, so depending on the nature and length of the contribution, we are happy to discuss something a bit out of the box, and whether we have the resources to support it.

We welcome any questions and feedback you might have about the submission process.



Submission Proposal

Please send your proposal material saved as one document (PDF or Word). Please ensure to include all relevant contact details (contact details, email address, location)

We welcome applications from all backgrounds and all sections of the community.

Please submit to: OneRen_Programming@renfrewshire.gov.uk with 'PAISLEY BOOK FEST 27' in the subject line.

Timeline and Key Dates

Deadline: Friday 30th October 2026 at 5pm

Successful applicants notified by the w/c 16th November 2026.

Event title, description and image to be provided to the festival by **1st December 2026**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

OneRen is the local charitable trust in Renfrewshire providing culture, leisure and sporting opportunities to help people enjoy active and healthy lives.

