Roots Collective 2026

Participant Application Pack

Produced by Vivid Roots Collective.
Funded by the National Lottery via Creative Scotland
In partnership with Eden Court, Lyth Arts Centre, and Macphail Centre

LOTTERY FUNDED

Application Support

If you require this document in another format, if you would like to talk to a member of the team about your application before submitting, or if you need any other support, please email laura@vividrootscollective.co.uk

Project Overview

This year, we have made a big change to how we produce work. We have stepped away from the festival model and are delivering a year-long programme of work for the first time. Our entire programme is designed to up-skill theatre makers in and beyond the Highlands, and support local artists to showcase and develop their work. This includes workshops, scratch nights, residencies, and a revamp of Roots Collective (formerly Budding Collective), all of which are being delivered across the region.

Roots Collective is a free-to-attend group for local emerging and early-career theatre-makers. The group is designed to create a safe space for creative and professional development through peer-learning and devising new work. We have delivered Roots Collective in 2023 and 2024 Inverness. This year, we are also delivering Roots Collective with our partner venues in Caithness and Ullapool.

The Roots Collectives will work together to create a short work-in-progress performance for our second scratch night in November where the group will benefit from having the work seen by an audience. Through their participation, artists in the collective will develop their creative and professional practice by: working as an ensemble, establishing developmental goals relating to their chosen practice, and participating in a devising process.

Roots Collective is designed in response to our **FUTURES** research, which identified a need for emerging artists to develop work with their peers. The collective invites artists to build a community to empower each other pursue their chosen careers.

Key information for each Roots Collective is outlined below. Please read your relevant venue page carefully as there are small differences for each area, reflecting the specific needs of the local artists and the venue's existing programmes.

Eden Court, Inverness

The **Inverness Roots Collective** will work together to create a short work-in-progress performance for our second scratch night in November where the group will benefit from having the work seen by an audience.

Dates

The Roots Collective will take place at Eden Court, from 6-8pm in the MacLean Room on:

- ★ Monday 3rd of August
- ★ Monday 10th of August
- ★ Monday 17th of August
- ★ Monday 24th of August
- ★ Monday 31st of August
- ★ Monday 7th of September
- ★ Monday 21st of September
- ★ Monday 5th of October

Essential Criteria

For all roles, artists must:

- ★ Be over the age of 16
- ★ Be commutable distance from the venue
- ★ Be fully available for the delivery dates
- ★ Have an interest in pursuing a career in theatre-making

Decision-Making Criteria

When we are making decisions, we will be considering applicants who best meet the following criteria:

- ★ The applicant demonstrates their interest in theatre through previous engagement, participation, or experience
- ★ The applicant articulates the role(s) they wish to pursue as a career in theatre
- ★ The applicant describes how their participation in Roots Collective will support their creative and/or professional development

Lyth Arts Centre, Caithness

The **Caithness Roots Collective** will work together to create a short work-in-progress performance for our second scratch night in November where the group will benefit from having the work seen by an audience.

Dates

The Roots Collective will take place at Lyth Arts Centre, from 7-9pm on:

- ★ Thursday 20th of August
- ★ Thursday 27th of August
- ★ Thursday 3rd of September
- ★ Thursday 10th of September
- ★ Thursday 17th of September
- ★ Thursday 24th of September
- ★ Thursday 1st of October
- ★ Thursday 8th of October

Essential Criteria

For all roles, artists must:

- ★ Be between the age of 16-25
- ★ Be commutable distance from the venue
- ★ Be fully available for the delivery dates
- ★ Have an interest in pursuing a career in theatre-making

Decision-Making Criteria:

When we are making decisions, we will be considering applicants who best meet the following criteria:

- ★ The applicant demonstrates their interest in theatre through previous engagement, participation, or experience
- ★ The applicant articulates the role(s) they wish to pursue as a career in theatre
- ★ The applicant describes how their participation in Roots Collective will support their creative and/or professional development

Macpahil Centre, Ullapool

The **Ullapool Roots Collective** will work together to develop their performance skills by devising a short original piece of theatre. Depending on the group's preference, this may be performed as a work-in-progress performance for our second scratch night in November where the group will benefit from having the work seen by an audience, be performed to a local audience only, or may not have a performance element.

Dates

The Roots Collective will take place at the Macphail Centre in the Lochbroom Room from 6-8pm.

- ★ Tuesday 18th Aug
- ★ Tuesday 25th Aug
- ★ Tuesday 1st Sept
- ★ Tuesday 8th Sept
- ★ Tuesday 15th Sept
- ★ Tuesday 22nd Sept

Essential Criteria

For all roles, artists must:

- ★ Be over the age of 16
- ★ Be commutable distance from the venue
- ★ Be fully available for the delivery dates
- ★ Have an interest in pursuing a career in theatre-making

Decision-Making Criteria

When we are making decisions, we will be considering applicants who best meet the following criteria:

- ★ The applicant demonstrates their interest in theatre through previous engagement, participation, or experience
- ★ The applicant articulates the role(s) they wish to pursue as a career in theatre
- ★ The applicant describes how their participation in Roots Collective will support their creative and/or professional development

How to Apply

The deadline for applications is 9am Monday 6th July.

Please read the information pack in full before applying.

Please apply using one of the following methods:

- ★ Fill out the application form where we will ask for basic contact information and questions related to the essential and decision-making criteria
- ★ A video or audio application, which can be submitted using the online form, or shared via email
- ★ A note of interest sent via email, which addresses all of the essential and decision-making criteria.

If you choose to submit an application via email, please make sure that you include a phone number and postcode.

Links

Application form

Apply via email

We look forward to receiving your application.

About the Company

Vivid Roots Collective is a Highland theatre company and charity inspiring artists to pursue theatre careers from the region; we create professional opportunities for and support the creative development of local and emerging theatre-makers.

The Vivid Roots Team

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