

How To Make A Commonwealth Quilt – Participation Guidelines

Submit your creative thread and be a part of the Commonwealth Quilt

1. About the Commonwealth Quilt and the Commonwealth People’s Forum

The [Commonwealth People’s Forum](#) has been a central part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) for decades, providing a unique opportunity for Commonwealth citizens to engage directly with each other; to celebrate shared values and diverse cultures; to interact with government leaders, and to participate in shaping both policy and practice.

Creativity has increasingly become an integral part of the People’s Forum; it is important catalyst for justice, understanding and hope and connects the hearts and minds of global citizens through shared experiences and imaginative empathy.

In the lead up to the 2026 Commonwealth People’s Forum, **we invite all Commonwealth citizens to participate in the making of a virtual Commonwealth Quilt. Artists and non-artists are invited to add to the fabric of today’s Commonwealth by sharing your creative submission; your submission will make up the first-ever virtual Commonwealth Quilt. In addition to being featured on the virtual Commonwealth Quilt, up to three creative submissions per region will be awarded £200 each to be featured in a physical art exhibition in Antigua, in conjunction with the 2026 Commonwealth People’s Forum.**

2. Who can participate? (Eligibility requirements)

- a. Entrants must be citizens of a Commonwealth country – please refer to Section 8 for the list of countries. Entries from citizens of non-Commonwealth countries are not eligible.
- b. There is no requirement for the entrant to have current residence in a Commonwealth country, if they are a citizen of a Commonwealth country.

- c. Both artists and non-artists can participate and make a submission.
- d. You can submit as an individual or organisation/interest group.
- e. To allow a larger spread of submissions across the Commonwealth, each entrant is permitted to submit only one submission.
- f. There is no age limit but entrants under 18 years of age at the time of submission must seek parental/guardian's consent and upload the consent form together with their submission.
- g. The Commonwealth Foundation reserve the right to disqualify submissions that are:
 - Offensive or discriminatory
 - Produced using Generative AI tools
 - In breach of the eligibility requirements or submission guidelines
- h. Entries from current members of staff at the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth Secretariat are eligible.

3. How can I participate in the Commonwealth Quilt project?

- a. To participate in the project, please ensure that you first meet the eligibility requirements.
- b. If you are eligible, we invite you to make your submission in response to the prompt explained in Section 5. Your creative submission could be a painting, a poem, a song, a dance sequence or an illustration. We encourage you to tap into your inner creativity to respond to the prompt in your unique way.
- c. When you make your submission, we ask that you also provide a short explanation about your submission. If your explanation is in a non-English language, please provide an English translation.

The creative submissions received will culminate in two outputs:

- a. A **virtual Commonwealth quilt** where all eligible submissions will be displayed alongside each other, each accompanied by a short description that you provide. We invite you to participate on a voluntary basis; there is no fee for making a submission and being featured in the virtual quilt.
- b. A selection of creative submissions will be showcased in a **multimedia art exhibition in Antigua and Barbuda, in conjunction with the Commonwealth People's Forum in November 2026**. Should your creative submission be selected, we will contact you separately regarding next steps.

4. Timeline of activities

Timeline	Activity
9 March to 9 June 2026	How To Make A Commonwealth Quilt project opens for creative submissions.
By end July 2026	Review of submissions for eligibility.
By end September 2026	Selection of submissions to be showcased in Antigua in a physical art exhibition. Entrants who are selected will be notified and awarded £200 each separately.
By November 2026 (before the People's Forum)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Launch of virtual Commonwealth Quilt. Entrants will be notified once the virtual quilt goes live. b. Multimedia art exhibition to take place in Antigua and Barbuda.

5. Prompt and Call to Action

The prompt for the Creative Open Call is ***Thread***.

Dancers thread movement between bodies, musicians thread melody through rhythm, painters thread colours, storytellers thread narrative, photographers thread light. Thread is universal and we invite you to respond to the prompt and share your 'thread'.

What Thread do *you* bring to the Commonwealth?

Share your creative 'thread' to be a part of the first virtual Commonwealth Quilt!

6. What types and formats of submissions will be accepted?

- a. Creative submissions in the following mediums and formats will be accepted.

Type of submission accepted	Formats accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual art such as paintings, digital art, illustrations, photography, short film, textile art. • Literary art such as poetry or prose. 	<p>Video / audiovisual submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum duration: 2 minutes • Maximum file size: 128 MB • Accepted formats: MP4, MOV • Videos recorded in 4K may exceed the file size limit. If possible, record in HD (1080p) <p>Audio submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum file size: 20 MB

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing arts such as a song, music video, rap, dance, movement video, spoken word performances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted formats: MP3, M4A <p>Image/Photo submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum file size: 10 MB • Accepted formats: JPG, PNG (HEIC accepted) <p>Text submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum length: 300 words • Text must be entered <u>directly</u> into the entry form
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- b. All creative submissions should be submitted in a digital format and in high resolution. If your submission cannot be photographed or scanned into a digital format, please let us know by emailing creatives@commonwealthfoundation.com.

7. How can I submit an entry?

Please submit your entry on the Commonwealth Foundation website.

8. List of Commonwealth Countries

Africa: Botswana, Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia. Overseas Territories: Saint Helena, Tristan Da Cunha, Ascension Island.

Asia: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong.

Canada and Europe: Canada, Cyprus, Malta, United Kingdom. Overseas Territories: Gibraltar, Falkland Islands.

Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago. Overseas Territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Pacific: Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa,

Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Overseas Territories: Cook Islands, Niue, Pitcairn.