



CONNECT

Artists' Brief for New Public Art Commissions

IN CONTEXT 5 – CONNECT

Strand 1. Every Individual is Part of Our Story

South Dublin County Council's

Public Art Programme 2023 – 2025

under the Per Cent for Art Scheme

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Introducing

IN CONTEXT 5

CONNECT

South Dublin County Council would like to invite proposals from Artists, in any discipline, for six new Public Art commissions which will focus on the artist working with early years, children and young people (and their wider families and communities) to create new artworks.

Imagined as a series of dynamic and ambitious public art commissions, IN CONTEXT 5 aims to gather temporary communities around inspirational ideas. Collaboration between artists and local, national or international partners will help to extend the depth of public engagement.

Artists should take into account that South Dublin County Council administrative area is formed by multiple cultural backgrounds and stories of its people. It is a place for experimentation and new forward thinking that respects the foundations upon which it has been built. Its future is made up of the individual and community life stories of the people who have chosen to live there. Its outward face is made up of the pride that people find in the local communities that they have built. Every INDIVIDUAL is part of OUR story.

Artists, working within each area, will consider the following:

- Neighbourhoods
- Identity
- Community
- Perpetuity
- Environment

The natural environment and ecology, history and heritage, architecture, and the built environment, intercultural, multicultural, citizenship, play and well-being, these are all areas of interest for us.

All six commissions arise from social housing schemes and the commissioners would envisage interaction with the children and young people from the community in which the funding originates.

IN CONTEXT

These commissions are part of IN CONTEXT (1998-2025) South Dublin County Council's Public Art Programme under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. It is now coming into its fifth phase of commissioning public art.

As commissioners of artworks, South Dublin County Council follow best practice in Public Art commissioning as outlined in the Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme General National Guidelines 2004 (Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism 2004).

IN CONTEXT 5 aims to build upon the strengths of earlier phases of the programme, which are widely considered models of best practice in Public Art commissioning. The most recent phase, IN CONTEXT 4 – In Our Time, created a framework for artists to reflect on the situation of the County, respond to themes and issues that are prominent in our time, gathering temporary communities around an inspirational idea that aspires to a legacy.

IN CONTEXT 5 Strand 1 is aligned with South Dublin County Council's Arts Development Strategy 2022-2026 and in particular, it supports [South Dublin County Children's and Early Years Arts Strategy 2020-2025](#).

These strategies are a commitment to increasing investment in Arts Services for Children and Early Years; increasing access and participation in the Arts for Children and Early Years across the County and promoting the significant value that meaningful arts participation can play in the life of the child. To support work in this area, an assistant arts officer for early years, children and young people was appointed in 2022.

IN CONTEXT 5

CONNECT

Programme of

Commissions

Strand 1 – Public Art Commissions

It is planned to commission six public art works as Strand 1 of the IN CONTEXT 5 programme that engage children, young people and their communities in Firhouse, West Tallaght and Clondalkin.

Locations

The locations are as follows:

- **Early Years Commissions (0-6 years)**
Local Area A: St, Aiden's Brookfield, Tallaght
Local Area B: Mayfield Court, Clondalkin
- **Childrens Commissions (7-12 years)**
Local Area C: Killinenny, Firhouse
Local Area D: St. Cuthbert's Meadow, Deansrath, Clondalkin
- **Youth Arts Commissions (13-18 years)**
Local Area E: Killinarden, Tallaght
Local Area F: Letts Field, 9th Lock, Ronanstown, Clondalkin

Timescale

Ideally all commissions will be realised by **April 2024**. There is a degree of flexibility to this date but final date for completion is June 2024 including all reporting.

Support For Artists and Public Engagement

The selected artists will work closely with the South Dublin County Council Arts Office towards realising these significant commissions in the county.

In particular, they will be supported by South Dublin County Council Assistant Arts Officer for Early Years, Children and Young people and a programme coordinator, who will work across the programme managing contractual agreements, communications, marketing, timelines, and budgets, and mentor local curators/producers.

Artists will also be supported by a local curator/producer whose role is specifically focused on support to artists in the creation of ambitious new work, logistics, building relationships and communications with artists and groups in the county.



Paula Mongrey, Cruinniú na nÓg

Application Proposals

Interaction with South Dublin County

Proposals should show a clear willingness to engage with the County and its children, young people and their wider communities and the voice of children and young people should be central to the proposal.

The condition is made in order to create a direct link between the public art programme, the artist and the County as a site of production and a place of different communities. Artists will be invited to carry out research in local areas, establish relationships and partnerships, and in consultation with local residents/ stakeholders commission artworks that are innovative and ambitious that reflects the needs, cultures and potential of the children of that area. Legacy is an important consideration for the IN CONTEXT 5 - CONNECT programme.

Considerations for the brief will be to promote the value of community, connection and public engagement; to provide opportunities for reflection on the personal, on environment and on questions of identity; to enable communities to become more familiar with and involved in risk-taking and experimentation in artistic processes and to support artists to make new work that engages with the dynamics of the context.

Art forms

The Commissions can include work in any of the recognised art forms; architecture, dance, film, literature, music, opera, theatre and visual arts and can be achieved through once-off interventions, residencies, collaborative projects, interdisciplinary responses and time-based work.

The proposed process must involve artists making new work as the central aspect of the commission. Curators, artistic directors and creative producers whose practice is in early childhood arts, childrens arts or youth arts may also make proposals.

Overview of the commissioning process

- The commission for IN CONTEXT 5 - CONNECT will be procured through a competitive open submission process. Artists will submit a proposal in response to the brief, and to the criteria.
- Artists proposals are invited for temporary public art projects and no permanent works of art are envisaged.
- Artists are not required to be living in or from the county and may work with artists/collaborators from elsewhere in the County, Ireland or internationally. Artists may apply from outside of Ireland, and while artists are not expected to live in the county, they will need to be in regular contact, making regular visits so as to engage with the locality.
- Fees and operating budget inclusive.



Paula Mongrey, Cruinniú na nÓg

Outline of the **Assessment and Selection Process**

Selection Panel

The Selection Panel for will be composed from the following

- SDCC Arts Officer
- SDCC Assistant Arts Officer early childhood, children's and youth arts
- Representatives of SDCC Public Art Working Group
- External art experts (artist and/or curator) in early childhood, children's and youth arts

Selection Criteria

- Artistic quality and originality of ideas / proposals
- Potential to engage with the situation and context in innovative, radical and risk taking ways
- Artistic ambition / potential of artist
- Proposed process and public engagement
- Feasibility and how the proposed funding costs relate to the production of the commission
- Track record / potential of the artist (s) to develop, manage and deliver the project in proposed time and budget

Proposals

All proposals to be made through <https://sdcc.submit.com> where you will be asked to upload the following:

A written response of that includes the following information:

- Artistic concept and intentions, with a clear outline as to how the identified age group is at the heart of the project (max 800 words)
- Intended process / nature of intervention (max 800 words)
- Outline plan with how artists will engage with communities of interest, with a clear reference to an age group within the age range that has been identified with each local area/community (max 800 words)
- How the proposed commission will relate to the context (max 600 words)
- How the commission will be achieved. This should include an outline of known / projected technical or health and safety issues and licences that the artist / art groups will need and how it is intended to achieve these. (max 800 words)
- Proposed timescale (uploaded as an attachment)
- Proposed budget which should include where relevant:

Summary breakdown of costs to include (inclusive of VAT):

- Artist's / team member fees
- Development costs
- Production costs
- Interaction with communities / localities
- Insurance and other related costs
- Contingency
- Total value of proposed commission inclusive of VAT

Supporting Documentation

- 5 examples of relevant work (including film, images, scores, recordings, transcripts, visualisations)
- Summary biographies of team members and CV's (to include all key members of the team if applicable)

Value of the Commissions

Early years (0-6)	St. Aidens, Brookfield, Tallaght	€45,000
Early years (0-6)	Mayfield Court, Clondalkin	€23,000
Children's Commissions (7-12 years)	Killinenny (Firhouse)	€25,000
Children's Commissions (7-12 years)	St. Cuthberts Meadow, Deansrath, Clondalkin	€38,000
Young people Commissions (13-18 years)	Killinarden Tallaght	€29,000
Young people Commissions (13-18 years)	Clondalkin	€38,000

Timescale

- Application open week of the 25th September
- Online information session – 17th October – please register for the online session by email to Meabh Butler: mbutler@sdblincoco.ie
- Deadline for queries – 5pm Friday 20th October – all queries to Meabh Butler, Assistant Arts Officer, Early Years Children and young people: mbutler@sdblincoco.ie
- Deadline for applications – 5pm, 15th November
- Review of applications – 20th November

Appendix

Additional Information

About South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County is one of four local authority areas in the Dublin region. South Dublin County Council provides a broad range of services including housing, roads, cultural and recreational facilities, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports. It also serves as a platform for local democracy with 40 Councillors spread across six electoral areas.

Bounded by the River Liffey to the north and the Dublin Mountains to the south, South Dublin County administrative area lies 16 kilometres southwest of Dublin city centre and has an administrative footprint of 223sq. kilometres. The County has 9 main villages Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Templeogue, Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle and is bounded by adjoining counties of Wicklow, Kildare, Dublin City, Fingal and Dun Laoghaire.

The county is in the process of rolling out ambitious and forward-thinking strategies in the areas of housing, economic development and environment, looking to create communities where common ground is cultivated and social interaction, community, and individual wellbeing, are fostered in culturally rich environments, It is our ambition that the integration of culture and creativity supports these initiatives to establish sustainable communities and create areas of national significance.

The county is home to 278,7467 people. Tallaght, the administrative centre of the county, is regarded as a thriving centre of business, culture, recreation and education. South Dublin is one of the most diverse areas in Ireland, with over 93 nationalities living here and over 17.5% of the overall population born outside of Ireland. There are 58 named languages spoken in the area, apart from English and Irish.

South Dublin County also has one of the youngest populations in Ireland, with over 35% of the population children and young people, higher than both the state average and the Dublin average. These factors make South Dublin a very vibrant place right now.

Local Areas

Location A: St. Aidan's, Brookfield, Tallaght (Early Years 0–6 years)

St. Aidan's estate is located in Brookfield, an area to the west of Tallaght town centre. It is part of the former village of Jobstown, now a town with dense housing estates, including Brookfield.

Nearby is Tallaght Leisure Centre, St Aidan's Senior National School, St. Aidan's community School, Brookfield Youth and Community Centre (who work with / host a varied group of childcare groups), a Community Café and Cheeverstown Luas stop.

Funding for this commission arises from the development of Rapid Build Project of 80 unit infill housing project on St. Aidan's site, Brookfield Road / R136 Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, and 5 Traveller Accommodation units on the existing site at St. Aidan's site, Brookfield Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Location B: Mayfield Court, St Cuthberts (Early Years 0–6 years)

Development of an 18 unit infill housing project on undeveloped lands located in the south eastern corner of the east of the entrance road access to Mayfield Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. The overall site comprises lands to the north abutting the Nangor Road and will be in close proximity to the Grand Canal.

The site is in walking distance of historic Clondalkin Village, where the Round Tower is located and is a designated Lionrai Gaeilge area – part of the Irish Language Networks, outside of the traditional Irish-speaking Gaeltacht, with the Irish Cultural Centre Áras Chrónáin (which also houses Naíonra Chonain – a preschool for children from 2.5 – 5 years old. The Naíonra is a feeder preschool into both Gaelscoileanna in Clondalkin), located in the village, along with Clondalkin library and shopping and other amenities in close proximity, with public transport services available in the area. It is located close to the Camac Valley.

Location C: Kilininney, Firhouse (Childrens Commission 7–12 years)

Killininney, gateway to Dublin Mountains, and close to the rural areas of Glenasmole and Bohernabreena reservoir, popular place of walking, cycling and running paths. The area has a deep history going back to the mythologies of Fionn Mac Cumhaill and holds one of the oldest graveyards in Ireland. Bohernabreena Reservoir is a stunning fixture deep in the Glensamole Valley with unique and vibrant wildlife to be found there.

Close to Ballycragh Park, the Park Community Centre, Firhouse Community and leisure Centre. Local schools include Holy Rosary Primary school and Firhouse Educate Together.

Development of Rapid Build Social Housing Project of 24 unit infill housing project on undeveloped lands on site at the junction of Firhouse Road & Killininny Road, Killininny, Dublin 24.

The works include: New access off Killininny Road, landscaping works to boundaries and new park/play area, ancillary works to landscape housing areas, and all necessary associated ancillary works on the site and adjacent areas.

Location D: St. Cuthbert's Meadow, Lealand Road, Deansrath, Clondalkin (Childrens Commission 7–12 years)

The works include new access off Lealand Road, landscaping works to boundaries and new green space / play area, ancillary works to landscape housing areas and all necessary associated ancillary works on the site and adjacent areas. The housing provision is for 2 story houses primarily grouped in terraces and semi detached and detached homes.

The site is accessed off Lealand Road and due to existing site constraints at St Cuthberts Park, the development is linear in shape along the parks southern boundary line. The linear development creates a secure backdrop for Deansrath Community College and the existing established housing of Lealand Avenue and Lealand Walk. Alongside Deansrath Community Schools are St Ronan's National School, Talbot Senior School and shopping facilities.

**Location E: Killinarden Tallaght (Youth Arts Commissions
13–18 years)**

Development of a 26-unit infill housing project on lands between the Whitestown Stream and in Killinarden Estate.

The site is accessed off Killinarden heights and the primary road access to Killinarden Estate by the Whitestown Stream bridge. The overall site has an older estate with many of the terraces facing each other but with the rear of the houses addressing the open space.

It is served by public transport, schools and local facilities including the Killinarden community centre, a pivotal part of the community. The Centre strives to look after the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and house the Killinarden Community Council Youth Project. Killinarden Community School is a co-educational and multi-denominational primary school.

Killinarden Park and Elderheath Downs are in close proximity.

Location F: (13–18 years)

This is a development of 48 unit infill housing project on what was undeveloped; lands located at Letts Field abutting both the Neilstown Road and Ninth Lock Road, Neilstown, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

The housing provision included two storey houses primarily grouped in terraces, or semidetached with four number two storey units at end of terrace with attic converted. The houses are orientated to overlook the remaining green space. A distinct line of footpaths and planting, with intimate open spaces adjacent to the new housing, crosses the two areas of site from east to west, defining a new park area. The park area is landscaped, with a new play area closest to the housing installed.

Lett's Field is in close proximity to Collinstown Park, Collinstown Park Community College, North Clondalkin Library and Rowlagh Park. It is well serviced by buses and Clondalkin Fonthill train station.

Research that informs the Artists Brief

The brief is informed by research and consultation and is centred around the following key questions:

- What do we do now to have the same pride in the heritage that we leave behind for future generations?
- What are our hopes for their and our futures?

The responses to these questions have helped to characterise our understanding of the population and inform this artists brief and programme.

South Dublin County is characterised by a population that:

- Supports a human-centric approach in the development and support of our communities;
- Encourages an environment of learning and development;
- Looks forward and encourages experimentation;
- Safeguards public interest and trust;
- Embraces local and personal histories;
- Does not fear the digital future;
- Promotes equitable opportunity for all;
- Expands our understanding of diversity and inclusion;
- Fosters local strengths;
- Embeds climate action and sustainability;
- Nurtures culture and the arts;
- Respects the individual needs of each member of our communities.

The natural environment and ecology, history and heritage, architecture and the built environment, intercultural, multicultural, citizenship, play and well-being, these are all areas of interest for us.

Terms and Conditions

- Applications will only be accepted via the South Dublin County Council online application platform sdcc.submit.com. Emailed, faxed or posted applications will not be accepted.
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- South Dublin County Council and its agents reserve the right to document artists' applications.
- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise during the course of the selection.
- South Dublin County Council reserve the right not to award the commission if none of the proposals received are deemed to be suitable and in this instance reserve the right to pursue another procurement process.
- The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 apply to South Dublin County Council. Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed in response to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive. Submissions will be kept for twelve months for the purpose of documenting the selection process and ensuring transparency of the selection process.
- The successful artist/s will be issued with a contract.
- The artwork must comply with Health and Safety standards. The successful submission will be subject to Health and Safety checks.
- Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection: Selected artists will be required to follow national policy with regard to commissions involving interaction with children, young people and, vulnerable adults and where applicable undergo training in this area, as per national requirements.

The appointed artist/s will be required to have the following insurances:

- Public Liability Insurance cover of €6.5 million with an indemnity to principal extension.
- Employers Liability cover of €13 million with an indemnity to principal extension (where employees are engaged by the Artist in connection with the Commission).
- Professional Indemnity insurance €1 million.
- South Dublin County Council will not insure equipment belonging to the Artist or her/his associates.
- The contracted artist/s will be required to furnish a valid Tax Clearance Certificate for all stages of the commission.
- Applicants should note that all commissions awarded are VAT inclusive, (whether VAT liability lies with the artist or the Commissioner).
- Payments to the Artist will be made in accordance with the Prompt Payments of Accounts Act 1997 and shall be processed on receipt of a valid invoice from the artist upon the sum becoming due.

Applicant is fully compliant with the following legislation:

- Employment Equality Acts 1998-2011
- Equal Status Acts 2000-2011
- National Minimum Wage Act 2000 as amended
- Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 as amended
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007
- Disability Act 2005
- Have procedures in place to ensure that subcontractors, if any are used for this contract, apply the same standards.
- Artists must be garda vetted before commencing.
- Artists will work closely with and receive support from the Arts Office towards realising these significant commissions in the county.

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