

Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival 2012

Poetry Now Curator's Brief

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council invites applications for the curation of Poetry Now at Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival which will take place in September 2012. Poetry Now will be an integral strand within the festival and follows on from the success of the dlr Poetry Now International Poetry Festival. We are seeking a creative enthusiastic person with a strong literary background and experience in programming events or festivals. The closing date for applications is Friday the 23rd of September at 12 noon.

It is envisaged that there will be three curators for Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival, one for the Primary Programme, one for Poetry Now and one for the Family and Schools Programme.

The 2011 Mountains to Sea Festival takes place September 1-11th.
See www.mountaintosea.ie

Background

Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival

Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival honours the unique literary landscape of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown by providing opportunities for the public to hear the very best of Irish and international writers read from their work. Literary fiction is at the heart of Mountains to Sea Book Festival but events cover an array of genres. The aim of the festival is to engage the public with a quality literary event that has at its core the meaningful engagement between author and audience.

In addition to the core events of author readings and interviews other, strictly non-literary events, have been part of previous programmes (i.e. political cabaret, musical events, book swaps, children's picnics, etc). In 2011 a series of writing workshops have been introduced.

Uniquely for an urban book festival the town of Dún Laoghaire offers an opportunity to create a festival atmosphere using a variety of locations that range in capacity from 50-500. These include the

Pavilion Theatre, County Hall, Joyce's Tower, the East Pier, Royal St. George Yacht Club, the Royal Marine Hotel, etc.

The Poetry Now Curator will report to the Assistant Arts Officer and work with a festival team made up of relevant County Council employees (including the Festival Director) and an event management team. The Assistant Arts Officer and the Festival Director report to a Festival Steering Committee.

The key elements of the Festival are:

- A strong local dimension with writers from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown taking part in events;
- A strong international dimension;
- A programme of family events;
- A programme of events for schools;
- Events celebrating past writers who have a historical connection with the county;
- In 2012 for the first time Poetry Now will become another integral strand within the festival.

dlr Poetry Now International Poetry Festival

The dlr Poetry Now International Poetry Festival has been a core strand of the Dún-Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Arts Office programme for the last sixteen years. It is highly regarded for its artistic excellence and has become the most anticipated event on the annual poetry calendar in Ireland. The outgoing curator is Belinda McKeon, who has curated the festival since 2008.

The dlr Poetry Now International Poetry Festival has developed strong partnerships with The Arts Council, the Pavilion Theatre, The Irish Times, the Strong Family, Poetry Ireland, Ireland Literature Exchange, cultural embassies and local businesses. The Festival has developed a reputation for bringing new names to the attention of its audience by providing a platform for the best of Irish and international poetry.

Poets who have read at the festival in previous years include Seamus Heaney, Derek Mahon, Robert Pinsky, Michael Longley and Anne Carson.

In 2012 for the first time dlr Poetry Now International Poetry Festival will become an integral strand within Mountains to Sea dlr Book

Festival. Although there will be fewer events than in previous years the aim is to retain the quality and variety that the festival is renowned for while introducing new audiences to poetry and providing them with enriching artistic experiences.

Curator's Role

The Poetry Now Curator is responsible for curating the poetry strand within Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival. The curation is to be sympathetic with the draft dlr Arts Development Policy which is available on www.dlrcoco.ie/arts and the overall Mountains to Sea Programme.

The curator will have overall responsibility for:

- Selection and curation of the participating national and international poets and contributors;
- Negotiation of fees and schedules with poets and contributors within an assigned budget;
- Convenor and Chairperson of an Award selection panel (subject to funding);
- The artistic direction of the public mediation programme that in line with the draft dlr Arts Policy 2011-14 has a focus on public engagement and enriching artistic experiences;
- Writing text for Poetry Now at Mountains to Sea for the brochure and website in conjunction with the Mountains to Sea Festival Team;
- Assisting with the PR and marketing strategy;
- Liaising with the Mountains to Sea Director and other curators regarding venues and schedules;
- Attending meetings with the Festival Team on a regular basis;
- Working to raise the profile of Poetry Now both publicly and within the media;
- Attending the festival and liaising with the poets throughout the festival;
- Moderating events as required;
- Introducing the poetry readings at the festival;
- Where required giving press interviews;
- Giving the curator's lecture about the Poetry Now programme;
- Other creative duties as they arise.

The Poetry Now Curator will liaise primarily with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office and will have a close working relationship with the other Festival Curators and the Mountains to Sea Festival Team. The Festival Team (which will include an event management company) will be responsible for administration of the festival including co-ordination of the accommodation, transport, technical, award, pr and marketing requirements and liaison with the venues. Poetry Now at Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival is produced and funded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with partnership support from The Arts Council.

Poetry Now at Mountains to Sea will take place over approximately ten days in September 2012 and will consist of:

Readings: Approximately five poetry readings (each reading will involve two poets) from national and international poets (the number of events may vary depending on the budget);

Children's Reading: A children's reading for schools (the Poetry now Curator will be required to liaise with the Family and Schools Curator regarding this reading);

Award: A poetry award (subject to funding);

Public Mediation Programme: A mediation programme that will deepen the public's understanding of the artform and make it accessible to audiences as creators, spectators and participants (this may consist of, but is not limited to master-classes, workshops lectures, panel-discussions, publications, etc);

Lecture: A lecture (by the curator) about the Poetry Now programme.

Provisional schedule of engagement

The Curator will be engaged from October 2011 until the end of September 2012 with a suitable time schedule to be agreed. It is envisaged that the role will require a part-time commitment throughout the duration of the contract.

The Curator will be engaged initially for one year. At its discretion the Council may engage the Curator for an additional two years at the same remuneration. If the number of events to be programmed increases substantially during this time the fee would increase to an amount agreed by both parties.

Remuneration

The fee of €8,000 should include the curator's fee, all VAT and expenses.

Payment will be made in two installments, one upon signing of a contract and the second upon completion of the festival.

All necessary withholding tax and tax clearance requirements must be fulfilled before any payments are issued.

Please note that non-VAT registered service providers may be liable for Professional Services Withholding Tax.

Child Safety Policy

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council is currently in the process of developing a Child Protection Policy. In the interim Mountains to Sea has developed Child Protection Guidelines. In the advent that the successful applicant is working directly with children and/or young people s/he will be required to:

- a) undertake a short introductory session re: Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures
- b) sign a declaration form
- c) agree to adhere to the Arts Council guidelines around photographing children and young people (please refer to the Arts Council website, Guidelines for taking and using images of Children and Young People in the Arts Sector, March 2009)

Selection Criteria and Process

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1) Curatorial Abilities and Experience 70%
(This may include but is not limited to an ability to programme poetry readings and a public mediation programme, an ability to critically read new work, strong writing skills, a knowledge of the poetry community within Ireland and internationally, an ability to build relationships, an ability to enable a greater understanding of the artform, an ability to engage in public speaking)

2) Organisational Skills 30%

(This may include but is not limited to managing logistics, managing budget and an ability to work independently and as part of a team etc)

Applicants must score a minimum of 35 out of 70 under the first criteria, 15 out of 30 for the 2nd criteria and over 75% in total in order to be short-listed. Short-listed applicants will then be invited to attend an interview on the week starting October 17th 2011.

Summary Timeline

Application deadline:	Fri 23 rd of Sept at 12 noon
Shortlisting:	October 2011
Interviews:	Week starting October 17 th
Curator starts work	October 2011
Programme of events finalised	End of May 2012
Festival	September 2012

Application

Please submit four typed copies of the following:

- An expression of interest;
- A curriculum vitae;
- Two written references;
- An outline of curatorial approach including the public mediation programme (maximum 3 A4 pages);
- Two detailed examples of your work on previous projects (such as a festival or conference) including budget.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday the 23rd of September at 12 noon

Late applications and applications by e-mail will not be accepted.

Applications should be sent to:

Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, to arrive by the deadline stated above.

Queries

Please refer any queries to Carolyn Brown at cbrown@dlrcoco.ie

Please note that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right not to appoint if none of the applications received are deemed to be suitable or funding is not secured. In this instance Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right to pursue a different procurement process.

www.mountainstosea.ie and www.poetrynow.ie