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Public art commission – preparing a proposal

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council Arts Office/ DLR na hEalaíona



Public art – challenges and opportunities

- Create a new artistic work
- Opportunity for public engagement / access
- Quality and longevity of work
- Quality of participation / access
- Creating a new work / managing a holistic project

Public art – challenges and opportunities

- Artistic research
- Artistic creation
- Public engagement / access
- Production and presentation
- Managing relationships and partnerships
- Planning and keeping to budget

Look at publicart.ie for examples of public art projects in other artforms



The screenshot shows the homepage of publicart.ie. At the top left is the logo "publicart.ie" in a large, dark teal font. To its right is a search bar with a "GO" button. Below the logo, the text "You are here: [Directory](#)" is displayed. A navigation menu on the left includes "Directory", "View all public art", "Search", "Links", and "Featured Projects". The main content area features a search bar with the text "SEARCH THE DIREC" and a "GO" button. Below this is the heading "Public art directory" followed by a paragraph: "This directory is an archive of selected public art projects which have been commissioned throughout Ireland, predominantly since the late 1990's, with the inclusion of some notable more historic 20th century works and of works made by Irish artists abroad. The directory currently contains over 250 public art projects. It aspires to present a broad range of diverse practices in many different contexts and social spaces." A large image shows a public art installation consisting of several tall, vertical, cylindrical pillars of varying heights and colors (brown, blue, and grey) standing on a grassy area near a body of water. Below the image is the caption "Hold-Fast, Hang-Ten, S.L.I.G.O. - Stephen Hurrel". At the bottom of the image area is a series of small circular icons, with the first one being larger and white, indicating the current slide in a gallery.

publicart.ie GO

[directory](#) | [thinking](#) | [commissioning](#) | [news](#) | [open](#)

You are here: [Directory](#)

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SEARCH THE DIREC GO

Public art directory

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Hold-Fast, Hang-Ten, S.L.I.G.O. - Stephen Hurrel

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[The studio that has no roof](#)

Some general tips for planning a project

- Clearly identify your artistic aim
- Is there a really strong artistic reason to make this work?
- Describe what you want to do artistically and why it is artistically important or interesting
- Visualise what you will have made by the end of the project

Tips for planning a project

If you are planning artistic collaboration;

- Identify who you would like to work with and why
- Talk to everyone who you hope to work with
- Once you have identified your main collaborators keep them informed

Tips for planning a project

- When you have finalised your project proposal show it to the other artists involved and make sure everyone is happy with how they are described and what their role will be in the project
- If there are any issues about ownership of work make sure you talk about them in advance

Tips for planning a project

- Plan the start date and the end date of your project
- Identify what marks the completion of your project
- Plan when and where everything will take place
- Identify what resources you need in order to create your work and carry out your project (e.g. spaces)
- Identify how you are going to get those resources and who is going to help you

Tips for planning a project

Planning a realistic budget;

- Get quotes – don't rely on ball-park figures
- Talk to people about fees so you can cost accurately the involvement of other artists and specialists (e.g. sound engineers)
- Write down every cost in detail
- Be realistic about income and expenditure

Tips for preparing a project

Planning access to your artistic work:

- Prepare a realistic plan for developing an audience
- And / or for involving voluntary participants
- Prepare a plan for promoting your new work / the project
- If working in partnerships, prepare plans in collaboration with your partners, such as venues, community groups, festivals etc.

A note on arts participation

How is arts participation commonly defined?

- When individuals or groups volunteer to work with a professional artist to create an artistic work
- And / or when they work together to interpret an artistic work
- Links with particular areas of practice, such as: art and health; arts and disability; cultural diversity

Summary tips

Planning a project and making a proposal:

- Describe your artistic vision and artistic goal clearly – don't be shy of artistic detail
- Be clear about your role and the role of any other artists involved in the creation or presentation of work
- Good relationships – good communications and discussion with participants and partners

Summary tips

Planning a project and preparing a proposal:

- Discuss / consider what you will do if you are not awarded the commission
- Plan for audiences / access to the artistic work
- Clear processes for working with voluntary creative participants (if relevant to your artistic proposal)

Summary tips

Making an application

- Plan your project well in advance of the deadline
- Prepare good information about yourself and any other artists that will be involved in the creation of the work / delivering the project
- Prepare high quality supporting documentation
- Demonstrate that the artistic work /project is feasible and that it is a good way to invest public money

Top tip

Refer regularly to the brief when preparing your proposal

www.dlrcoco.ie/en/arts/funding-opportunities/traditional-music-commission



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FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

Traditional Music Commission

DLR Arts – call for proposals / brief