

PRESS RELEASE

25 August 2023

Nature and Place – artists invited to explore the forests in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Our forests and woodlands are vital as we face increasing challenges with the climate emergency leading to extreme weather events happening on a more regular basis. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office has just launched an open call for applications from professional artists to observe, explore, and respond to the public forests in DLR. These projects are supported by Coillte Nature and the Dublin Mountains Partnership. The total budget available for each project will be €10,000 and the closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 25 September.

Artists are asked to submit proposals for temporary work which is lens and/or audio-based, taking inspiration from Ticknock, Tibbradden, Barnaslingan, Carrickgollogan, Kilmashogue and/or Ballyedmonduff. These forests are all part of the [Dublin Mountains Makeover](#), a long-term project, managed by Coillte Nature, to change the forest management focus to forests where biodiversity and recreation objectives are the priority. Ideas for projects that could be carried out between mid-December 2023 and mid-March 2024 are invited.

Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Councillor Denis O’Callaghan said: “The rural and forested part of DLR is an important part of our County. We are excited to have this opportunity for artists to look at these special places and respond creatively to them.”

Chief Executive of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Frank Curran added: “The Council is very pleased to have the support of Coillte Nature and the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) on these projects. DLR has been a partner organisation in the DMP since it was formed, and we welcome the chance to work with them on this exciting arts initiative.”

Applications must be made online, and the deadline is 1pm on Monday 25 September. For further information on how to apply: [see here](#)

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About dlr Arts Office

dlr Arts Office supports, programmes, and develops a wide range of arts activities and opportunities across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. It works in partnership with early years services, schools, youth services, community organisations and residential care settings, as well as with its colleagues in the Council to develop the arts at local level for those that wish to attend and participate in cultural events and activities. It programmes the Municipal Gallery in dlr Lexlcon and manages several residencies and artform development opportunities in the Studio, dlr Lexlcon. It provides annual arts grants and professional development opportunities for artists and arts organisations, has a significant public art programme, and manages the new Baths Artists' Studios in Dún Laoghaire. For further information, please visit: <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/arts>

About Coillte Nature

Coillte Nature is a not-for-profit branch of Coillte that is dedicated to the restoration, regeneration, and rehabilitation of nature across Ireland. The mission is to deliver real impact on the climate and biodiversity crises, through large-scale projects based on the best ecological evidence.

Coillte Nature is building on 30 years' experience in forestry, land management and habitat restoration to deliver real impact through innovative projects-of-scale across four strategic themes:

1. **Afforesting** our landscapes by planting new native woodlands on un-forested land
2. **Restoring** important biodiversity areas by investing in major habitat improvements
3. **Regenerating** urban forests for the benefit of people and nature
4. **Rehabilitating** ecosystem services by bringing sensitive or degraded lands into better health

The approach is underpinned by principles of partnership, integrity, and accountability, informed by the best ecological evidence, and supported through collaboration and engagement with public, private, non-governmental and community partners.

About the Dublin Mountain Partnership

The Dublin Mountains Partnership or DMP was set up in May 2008 with the ultimate aim of improving the recreational experience for users of the Dublin Mountains, whilst recognising the objectives and constraints of the various landowners. The original partner organisations involved were Coillte, South Dublin County Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Dublin Mountains Initiative*, since 2018 Fáilte Ireland has attended DMP Board meetings. The DMP was formally launched by Minister Eamon Ryan on Friday 24th October 2008 at a ceremony in Tibbradden Forest. The establishment of the DMP addressed the key need to manage the area as an integrated entity and provides for commitments on funding and resources to underpin the DMP's work. The [DMP Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) was launched in February 2023.