

# **Caterpillar Commissions**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office with support from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee is looking to commission new interactive arts based experiences for pre-school children. These commissions are grant aided by the Arts Council.

## **Project Outline**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council recognises the importance of life-long learning and the positive impact that early intervention has in addressing education inequality. We work to ensure that children that live in our County have access to cultural education regardless of circumstance from an early age. With this in mind in 2015 we developed the Early Years Arts Commissions so that pre-school children based in our local community childcare facilities\* can access quality, age appropriate arts experiences.

The successful applicant/s will engage the children (from 1-5 years) and early childhood educators in one of our local community childcare facilities to learn from, be inspired by and develop their ideas. It gives the successful applicant/s time to reflect on and develop the work with their target audience.

We envisage awarding 2 commissions to a maximum of €7,500 each.

There must be a minimum of two showcases/performances/documentation of work in the dlr LexIcon or other suitable venues in the County that are free to the public as outcomes from the commission/s.

\*Community childcare facilities provide support for parents in low paid employment and training or education by enabling qualifying parents to avail of reduced childcare costs at participating community childcare services.

## **Recommendations**

We recommend the following for applicants based on our learning from the first round of these commissions:

- Identify time at the start of the process to facilitate introductory meetings between the artist/s and staff of the childcare facility.
- Allocate at least 24 hours contact hours to engage with the children and early childhood educators.
- Provide some contact points/opportunities for parents/guardians to engage in the process.
- Allocate time for 3 meetings with dlr Arts Office throughout the process.

## **Timeline**

The projects will commence in late 2016 for a maximum period of 6 months. Successful individuals/companies must engage in on-going communication and feedback with dlr Arts Office.

## **Selection process**

Please apply in writing clearly marking the application Caterpillar Commission and include 3 copies of the following:

- One A4 page statement outlining why you have applied for this commission and the relevance on work to date.
- Proposal outlining artistic ideas and approaches (no more than three typed A4 pages). Please clearly indicate how you would work with the children as co-creators to develop the work.
- Budget including proposed fee and other expenditure related to the creation of new work.
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 3 A4 pages).
- 2 x References (must be relevant).

In addition please include one copy of supplementary materials – these may include reviews, programmes, images, etc.

**Closing date: Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions without 3 hard copies of requirements will not be accepted.

### **Criteria for selection**

- Quality of previous work  
(30/100)
- Artistic merit of proposal  
(30/100)
- Suitability of the proposal to pre school children  
(20/100)
- Feasibility of proposal  
(20/100)

**Please note** Applicants will be short-listed on the basis of their submissions and short-listed applicants may be called for interview. Selection panel will comprise of dlr Arts Office staff and peer selector(s).

### **Support from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Arts Office will match the successful applicant/s with a local community childcare facility with the aid of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee. We will act as the liaison support between the successful applicant and the childcare facility in the start-up stage of the project and if further support is required during the lifetime of the project.

### **Insurance**

Please note that the successful applicant will be required to have Public Liability Insurance with cover of €6.5 million. Non-Vat registered service providers may be liable for Professional Services Withholding Tax. The successful applicant may be required to provide Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with a tax clearance certificate prior to signing of contracts.

## **Freedom of Information**

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997-2003 apply to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive.

## **Garda Vetting**

Successful applicants will be Garda Vetted.

## **Please send applications with 3 hard copies to:**

Caterpillar Commission, dlr Arts Office, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, to arrive by the deadline stated above.

Email submissions will not be accepted.

## **Queries**

Please refer any queries to Máire Davey, Assistant Arts Officer – Participation and Learning

E:mdavey@dlrcoco.ie or Phone: (01) 236 2756.

*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. In this instance Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right to pursue a different procurement process. Additionally the Council reserves the right to determine the number of awards granted and the commission amount/s offered.*

## Past Early Years Commissions

### **Early Years Commissions 2015-16**

In 2015 dlr Arts Office with support from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee sought individuals or organisations to research, develop and perform brand-new artistic and interactive experiences for pre-school children. The following were commissioned:

#### **Spine by Helen Barry**

'Spine' is made up of a number of interactive art works that invite very small children to move, to get into and out of, to fit together in different ways and to play with on their own or with their parents. The idea for 'Spine' came from observing how early years children learn, how and when they respond and how they express themselves through movement from the tops of their heads to the tips of their toes.

'Spine' was created by visual artist Helen Barry and the children from Casa Rosa Montessori in Dún Laoghaire. Every week over 5 months Helen led the children through a series of challenging and exciting workshops that explored movement, sound and construction through play and the visual arts.

#### **The Tail of Herman by Irma Grothuis**

'The Tail of Herman' was written by Irma Grothuis and strongly influenced by the children attending the Early Years' Service facilitated by Ballyogan Family Resource Centre. The performance is suitable for 3-4 year olds.

"Herman the mouse lives and plays in a beautiful garden with all his friends. But one day the animals meet a little bird who's lonely and has travelled far from home and they decide to help her."

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u\\_0LKzfyw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u_0LKzfyw&feature=youtu.be)