

**Research Opportunity:** arts-based multisensory approach to working with people with dementia.

dlr Arts Office is looking for suitably qualified individuals or organisations to research, consult and collate learning from an arts-based multisensory approach to working with people with dementia. The purpose of this research is two-fold:

1. For dlr Arts office to understand better how we can further develop our services for people living with dementia locally.
2. To support artists to develop their skills as facilitators in this area.

This research is being commissioned by dlr Arts Office and generously funded by Creative Ireland's Creativity in Older Age Programme 2022, designed to support the wellbeing of our older people.

## **Background**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County has an ageing population, this has been evidenced in policy documents, planning tools and census data. The population at the last census was 218,018, with a higher than state average of 15.9% aged 65 years and over (Census, 2016). As a local authority Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is acutely aware of these figures and endeavours in all areas of service delivery to incorporate the needs of older people and to plan for the future.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has been involved in developing creative supports for people living with dementia, and services that support people with dementia, particularly over the last ten years. Examples of these supports include the award-winning Musical Memories Choirs, the Azure Dementia Inclusive Gallery Tours, the Tovertafel 'Magic Table', along with various events and talks over the years that created awareness around dementia for both the general public and for carers.

Since mid-June this year 'A Collection of Conversations, a dementia inclusive exhibition' is on show in the Municipal Gallery, dlr LexIcon, Dún Laoghaire and the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda. The artworks featured are from the dlr County Collection and the Drogheda Municipal Art Collection, and both exhibitions have been specially selected by artists and trained Azure facilitators, Claire Halpin, Julie Merriman and Orla Goodwin. A series of free dementia inclusive events and gallery tours is taking place during the exhibition run in both galleries. In addition, a

multi-sensory installation is being created in Gallery 2, dlr LexIcon by the artist Joanna Hopkins, with the aim of being engaging as possible for people with dementia who visit the exhibition.

From September to November a programme based in two local residential care settings will take place. The programme will consist of the development of sensory boxes based on artworks from the dlr County Collection. They will be used in tandem with reproductions from the dlr County Collection in the care settings that can held in participants hands.

The idea for this programme is based on multisensory work that is ongoing in residential care settings. It is being developed with a view to extending access to our dementia inclusive work for people who for various reasons may not be able to travel to the Gallery.

### **Research brief**

The scope of this work includes desk research, consultation with the artists/facilitators and service providers involved, and where appropriate, people with dementia involved in the programme.

**The expected outcome from this process will be a written report with the following outputs required:**

**1. Undertake to describe the programme approach and delivery.**

Description of the arts based multisensory approach and programme. How can dlr Arts Office communicate and best describe this approach outside the parameters of a residential care setting (medical model)? The basis for this description will be the two multisensory based projects as mentioned above; the multisensory installation in Gallery 2 and the project based in two residential care settings from September to November 2022.

**2. Create an understanding of the potential public value of this work (may be a literature review).**

Through researching this approach, little evidence or data was found to support an arts-based approach to multisensory work. With support from the Alzheimers Society of Ireland, dlr Arts Office was able to offer insights to artists interested in this area of work as to how the senses are affected by dementia. There is interest from artists in developing their skills in this area and to creating projects and work that is cognisant of people living with dementia and their needs. Creating a greater understanding from an arts (as opposed to medical) perspective would be beneficial for future development and inform service delivery.

### **3. Make recommendations for future vision and delivery at local level.**

Capturing data and developing an understanding about arts-based multisensory work is one of the primary motives for this programme. Creating a greater understanding of what works well and what needs to be adjusted or altered is essential. Identifying the resources that are required to undertake this work is vital in order to build capacity.

**Research Fee:** A maximum budget of €6,000 is available to include all associated costs and VAT. (Please note dlr Arts Office will pay any of the artists/facilitators involved in this work for their time directly from a separate budget to a maximum agreed amount).

#### **Timeline:**

Deadline for applications: Wednesday 3 August at 17.00 IST.

Research is required to be completed by mid-November 2022 and final report submitted to dlr Arts Office by Monday 28 November 2022.

#### **Selection Criteria:**

The following criteria will apply and be weighted accordingly:

1. Demonstrated understanding of requirements and approach to this research opportunity. This must include Methodology and Project Plan (35/100)
2. Evidenced research experience in similar contexts (50/100)
3. Value for money (15/100)

## **Requirements:**

The proposal should provide the following information:

- Outline of research approach (please outline proposed methods and project plan).
- 3 examples of relevant previous experience (please include the names of referees for each example).
- Cost – include full breakdown of costs.

Queries: Please contact Máire Davey, Assistant Arts Officer

email: [mdavey@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:mdavey@dlrcoco.ie) or phone: 01 2362756

**Deadline for applications: Wednesday 3 August at 17.00 IST.**

Email application to [mdavey@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:mdavey@dlrcoco.ie)

## **Insurance**

The selected researcher agrees to keep Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council fully indemnified against all claims howsoever arising and howsoever caused in respect of any damage, loss or injury of any kind or nature, whether arising directly or indirectly from the provision of the research and to provide evidence of Public Liability insurance which indemnifies Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with a limit of indemnity of €6.5 million.

It is the responsibility of the selected researcher to ensure that other person(s) not employed by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council but employed by the researcher to assist them with the project have adequate Public Liability (€6.5 million) and Employer's Liability (€13 million) cover which indemnify both Dún LaoghaireRathdown County Council and the researcher.

## **Freedom of Information**

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997-2003 apply to Dún LaoghaireRathdown 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 Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive.

## **GDPR**

All information provided for this expression of interest will be held in line with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Data Protection Policies and will remain in the sole ownership of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office. Information supplied in the application will only be used by dlr Arts Office and the local services involved for the purposes of administering and managing this research opportunity.

You may withdraw your consent to the retention of the information relating to your application at any point by sending an email to [arts@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:arts@dlrcoco.ie)

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right not to select 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.