

# **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council**

## **Arts Office**

### **Call for Poet in Residence**

**September 2021 to June 2022**

**Closing Date: 15<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon**

#### **Introduction**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council invites applications for a poet in residence for the period September 2021 to June 2022. The writer in residence scheme is managed by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office and this year the focus is on poetry.

The residency is open to poets. The residency is envisaged as a part-time residency which will allow time for the poet's own work in addition to engagement and interaction with both the general public and, more specifically, with those with an interest in writing poetry themselves.

The poet in residence will have access to a shared room on the top floor of the Lexlcon. S/he will also have access to the meeting rooms in dlr Lexlcon and where available to the studio space in dlr Lexlcon.

Applicants must live in, work in, be originally from or have studied a relevant discipline in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Applicants may not have previously been a writer/poet in residence for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

#### **Budget information**

The fee for the residency is €12,000. A separate budget of €3,000 for public engagement and events will be managed by the dlr Arts Office.

This is a part-time residency and will require flexibility around contact hours.

The poet in residence will be paid via the payroll system. They will not become employees of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and are treated as employees solely for taxation purposes. Standard deductions will apply.

#### **Residency objectives**

To create opportunities for the poet to:

- Develop her/his own work
- Engage with other writers and/or artists within dlr
- Provide opportunities for the public to engage with poets and poetry writing

### **Poet's brief**

Applicants must include in their application an outline of the project/s that they would work towards over the course of the residency. This should include both the development of their own work and also ideas about their engagement with other writers/artists and the public. In the past, writers in residence have engaged with book clubs, writers groups, leisure centre users, hospital patients and others. They have organised workshops, created newsletters and engaged in one to one public interviews with other writers. An innovative and original public engagement strand is desirable and new approaches and responses are welcomed. It is important to follow government public health recommendations in relation to Covid 19 and applicants should consider contingency plans for online activities or activities that can ensure social distancing.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council organises the annual 'Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival' and it is envisaged that there may be potential links with the poet in residence during the proposed Festival in 2022. There will be a separate budget for events associated with this which will be managed by the Festival team.

It is envisaged that approximately 50% of the time on this residency should be focused on the writer's own work while approximately 50% will be allocated to the engagement aspect.

### **Selection process**

Writers should submit a proposal together with details of previous work to date as follows:

- A typed curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages), this should make the applicant's connection to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown clear and also include 2 referees;
- Examples of previous work (no more than 15 poems);
- Supplementary materials such as reviews or profiles;
- Typed proposal outlining artistic ideas and approaches (no more than three typed pages); this should include an outline of the benefits of the residency to her/his stage of development as a poet and ideas in relation to engagement with other writers/artists and the public during the residency.

Please ensure that all submitted materials are clearly marked with the applicant's name.

**Closing date: 12 noon on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021. No late applications will be accepted.**

### **Criteria for selection**

- Artistic merit and distinctiveness of proposal (25/100)
- Quality of previous work (25/100)
- Suitability of the proposal to the context (25/100)
- Ability and experience in public engagement (25/100)

**The details of the programme will be agreed in consultation with the appointed poet. The programme will be supervised by the Assistant Arts Officer. In advance of the residency the following will be agreed:**

- Clear goals, roles and responsibilities and agreed criteria for the poet in residence and the Arts Office;
- An agreed programme of work that is flexible and responsive and takes into account public health guidelines;
- The administrative support that will be provided by the Arts Office;
- A timetable that balances time for the poet's own work and time for interaction with various publics;
- Ongoing review and evaluation; regular meetings.

It should be noted that this is a part-time residency, which will require flexibility around contact hours.

### **Summary of key dates**

April 2021 :	call for submissions
8th June at 12 noon:	closing date for receipt of submissions
July 2021:	applicants informed of outcome
September 2021:	start of residency
June 2022:	residency concludes

### **Background Information :**

[Previous Writers in Residence](#)

Previous writers in residence with the Arts Office have included fiction writer and journalist Sara Keating, screen writer James Phelan, writer and academic Selina Guinness, and novelist and journalist Katy Hayes.

#### dlr Lexlcon Library, Dún Laoghaire

In autumn 2014 Lexlcon, the new Central Library & Cultural Centre opened to the public. This iconic public building is a crucial part of a programme of regeneration in Dún Laoghaire. It includes a major commitment to provide public facilities and represents the single biggest investment by the Council in a civic amenity. Lexlcon is a key component in the delivery of the cultural programme in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and its environs. It is a vibrant centre of learning and creativity for all those who live, work in and visit the county. It accommodates general reading rooms with a rich collection of some 80,000 books.

The library includes a public 'living room' floor overlooking a park; this floor accommodates informal access to a taster collection, the Internet, newspapers and magazines. In addition there are extensive resources for the local community and a dedicated suite for young people. The Municipal Gallery and Project Room are also on this level also.

The main lending library includes a state of the art children's library and caters for the varied needs and interests of all children. It plays a pivotal role of support for the Primary and Post Primary Schools in the County. The top floor in the building will be dedicated to Local Studies, recording the history and heritage of the county. It also acts as a repository for the county's extensive local history collection. The room for the writer-in-residence is on this level.

A multi-purpose performance space adjacent to the café on the ground floor seats 120 people.

#### Arts Office

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the development of the arts at a local level and aspires to provide opportunities for all who live in, work in and visit the County to engage with the arts as creators, participants and spectators.

Since the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office was established in 1994, the County Council has developed a high quality programme including exhibitions, learning and participation initiatives, festivals, public art projects and artists' residencies.

The goals of the Arts Development Plan 2016 -2022 are:

Goal 1: Public – Engage and Inspire

Goal 2: Artists – Time and Space

Goal 3: Partners - Enrich and Strengthen

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

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Arts Office will act as the liaison support between the poet, the local authority and local communities throughout the residency. It will also provide a limited amount of administrative support where required. The Assistant Arts Officer will be responsible for administering contracts and payments to the writer.

### **Child Protection**

In accordance with the national Child Protection Guidelines *Children First*, the selected candidate will be required to follow child protection procedures as specified by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo Garda Vetting.

### **Insurance**

The writer in residence agrees to keep the 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 residency 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 writer in residence to ensure that other person(s) not employed by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, but employed by the writer in residence to assist them with the residency have adequate Public Liability (€6.5 million) and Employer's Liability (€13 million) cover which indemnify both Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the writer.

### **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.

### **Payments**

The Writer in Residence will be paid via the payroll system. They will not become employees of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and are treated as employees solely for taxation purposes. Standard deductions will apply.

**Applications should be submitted to:**

Carolyn Brown

Email: [cbrown@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:cbrown@dlrcoco.ie)

**Closing date: 12 noon on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Queries**

Please refer any queries to Carolyn Brown, Assistant Arts Officer

E:cbrown@dlrcoco.ie or Phone: (01) 236 2760.

*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.*

