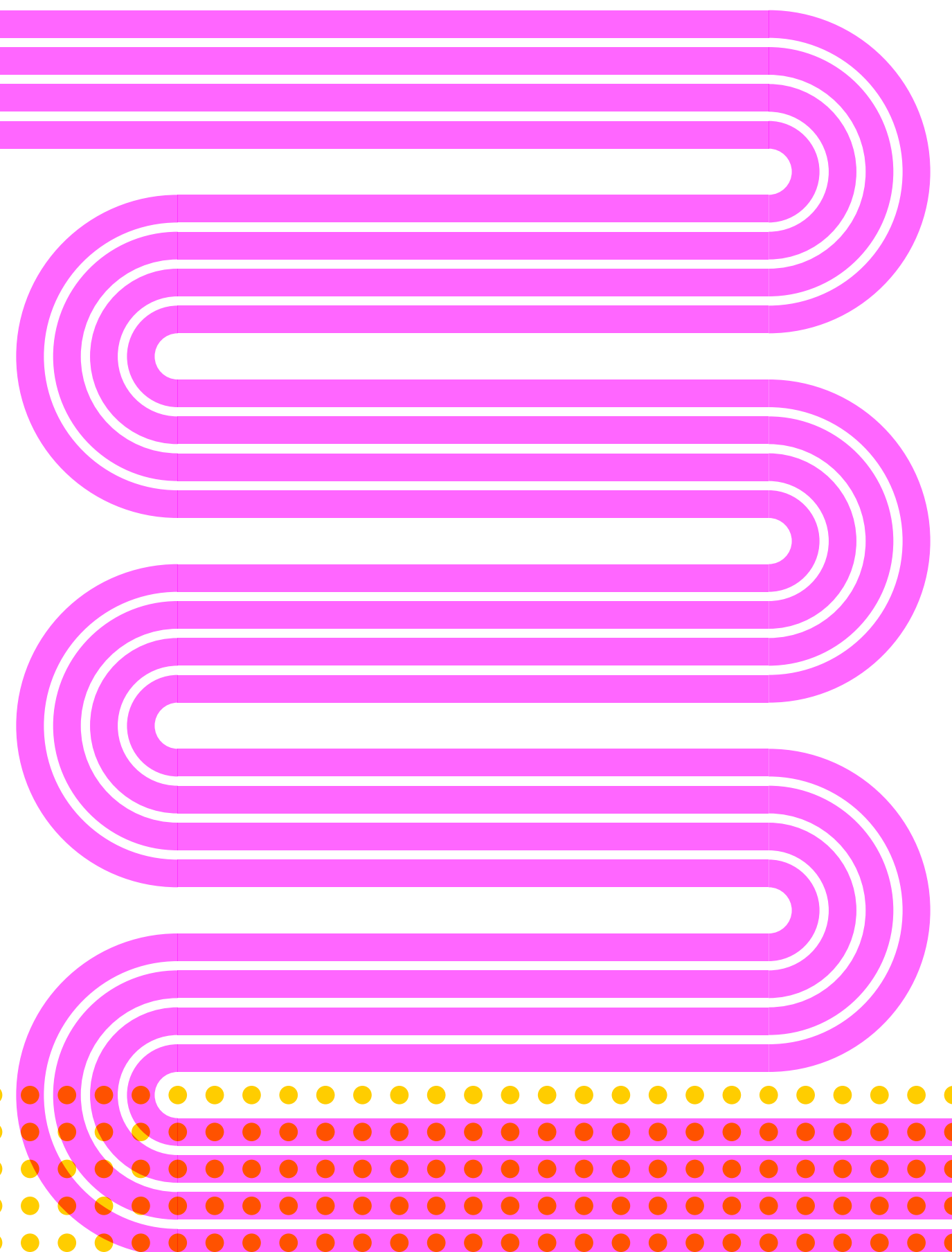




# exploring and thinking award 2023-24

**A Collaborative Framework for  
Early Childhood Arts Provision**

**Fingal County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Dublin City Council  
South Dublin County Council**



# Contents

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**Introduction**

**Objectives**

**Priorities**

**Background**

**Purpose**

**Eligibility**

**Proposals**

**Timeline**

**Submissions**

**Notes**

**Queries**

**Applications**

# Introduction

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**Exploring and thinking is a collaborative framework for early childhood arts in the Dublin region. It came about in 2016 when the four Dublin local authorities South Dublin County, Fingal County, Dublin City and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County partnered for the first time to collectively consider early childhood arts provision in the Dublin region.**

# Objectives

- 1 To support artistic ambition in cross-artform collaborations, professional development and the research and development of new work in early childhood arts**
- 2 To reach new early childhood arts audiences in under-served communities and neighbourhoods**
- 3 To stimulate dialogue between Dublin Local Authorities, artists, early childhood educators and organisations**
- 4 To build on current research investigating practice across artforms, professional disciplines and context**
- 5 To generate advocacy in early childhood arts**

# Priorities

- 1 Access with an emphasis on under-served communities and neighbourhoods**
- 2 Quality of practice that is evidence and standards based**
- 3 Positive impact on artistic practice and the wider early childhood sector**
- 4 Focus on Artist that is responsive to emerging and established practitioners**
- 5 Sustainability with actions that are achievable, realistic and measurable**

# Background

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Each Dublin Local Authority supports early childhood arts practice, provision, partnership and policy that is responsive to local motivations and need.

In 2016 the project partners made a successful application for Arts Council funding under the Invitation to Collaboration Scheme, which supports innovative and ambitious local authority collaborations. The joint proposal focused on commissioning and touring new artwork to the four Local Authority areas with local engagement programmes, in arts and non-traditional arts venues. Through the implementation of Exploring & Thinking 2016/2017, the partnership commissioned the research and creation of new artworks.

In January 2019 the partnership hosted a public sharing event at the National Concert Hall to share the commissioned work and reflect on early childhood arts practice with artists, educators and policy makers. A publication capturing a review of the commissioning process, outputs and impacts of the collaborative framework, alongside additional research conducted among the artists and key personnel was presented on the day. Informed by the review and feedback from the public sharing event, the Exploring & Thinking Bursary Awards aim to support emerging and established artists that wish to develop a practice in early childhood arts.

The first Exploring & Thinking Bursary Awards were allocated in 2019, funding a range of supports for artists such as postgraduate studies, development of an educational resource, travel to a renowned early years programme, practice-based research and workshops. In 2020 the Awards were adapted to consider the Covid 19 pandemic. Now we invite artists to seek support to further develop their practice in 2023-24.

# Purpose

Early childhood arts includes a wide range of different arts practices and creative experiences with/for children aged 0-5 years in different contexts. The Exploring & Thinking Bursary Award supports individual professional artists to develop their artistic practice working with and/or producing work for early childhood arts.

# Eligibility

The Bursary award is open to:

- 1 individual professional artists who wish to develop their practice in early childhood arts**
- 2 artists practicing in all artforms**
- 3 artists resident in Ireland.**

Artists do not have to be based in the Dublin region, but the bursary proposal should articulate how this support in turn, will impact existing early childhood arts practice in the Dublin region.

All successful bursaries need to be completed by year end 2024. We reserve the right not to allocate funding and to allocate partial funding. The fund is limited and all eligible applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis against the criteria set out in this document.

# Proposals

Proposals can include but are not limited to:

- 1 Professional development, including travel**
- 2 Seed new ideas and partnerships**
- 3 Access mentoring**
- 4 Research and development of new work**
- 5 Residencies**
- 6 Access to a recognised and relevant postgraduate course**

## Timeline

### **Call out**

Week of 16th October 2023

### **Closing date for queries**

2pm – 16th November 2023

### **Closing date for receipt of applications**

2pm – 23rd November 2023

### **Assessment period**

Week of 23rd November 2023

### **Successful applicants notified**

Week of 4th of December 2023

### **Bursary range**

€500 – €5,000

# Submissions

Electronic submissions via [www.sdcc.submit.com](http://www.sdcc.submit.com) only and clearly marked in the subject line Exploring & Thinking Bursary Award 2023-24. Include the following:

- 1 Curriculum Vitae/s of lead artist and collaborators (if relevant)**
- 2 A proposal in response to the bursary criteria (max word count 1,500)**
- 3 3 examples of relevant artistic projects in support of proposal. One copy of supplementary information is sufficient per application. Accessible file types: .doc, .docx, .pdf, .gif, .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .svg, .tif, .tiff, .aac, .aiff, .flac, .m4a, .mp3, .ogg, .wav, .wma, .3gp, .avi, .flv, .m4v, .mkv, .mov, .mp4, .mpg, .webm, .wmv, .ppt, .xls, .xlsx, .zip**
- 4 All documents of selected work must be clearly titled. Links to moving image/film/sound recordings (the combined length of your film/ audio must not exceed 10 mins in length)**
- 5 Budget Breakdown, outlining other income received if relevant**
- 6 Timeline outlined**
- 7 Official letters of support or acceptance are required with proposals for the following: Mentorship, Masterclasses, Post-graduate Courses, Collaborations, Residencies.**

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.



# Notes

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## **The Selection Panel**

The Selection Panel whose decision is final will be composed from the following: Arts Professionals from the four Local Authorities and Early Childhood Arts Experts.

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## **Freedom of Information**

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 apply to all four Dublin Local Authorities. Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed in response to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive. Submission from applicants will be kept for twelve months for the purpose of documenting the selection process and ensuring transparency of the selection process.

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## **Garda Vetting and Child Protection**

It is a legal requirement that all persons working with children, young people and vulnerable people, are subject to Garda Vetting. In accordance with national child protection policy, Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, award recipients working with early years children must have child protection policy, proper procedures and a child safeguarding statement in place.

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## **Insurance**

We reserve the right to seek confirmation of public liability.

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## **Tax Clearance certificate**

We reserve the right to seek a Tax Clearance certificate.

# Queries

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## **Julie Clarke**

Youth & Education Officer  
Fingal County Arts Office  
E: Julie.clarke@fingal.ie  
T: 01 8905000

## **Liz Coman**

Assistant Arts Officer  
Dublin City Arts Office  
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T: 01 2225455

## **Máire Davey**

Assistant Arts Officer  
Participation and Learning  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown  
County Arts Office  
E: mdavey@dlrcoco.ie  
T: 01 2362756

## **Meabh Butler**

Assistant Arts Officer - Early Years,  
Children and Young People  
South Dublin County Arts Office  
E: mbutler@sdublincoco.ie  
T: 01 4149000

# Applications

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**Applications should be  
marked: Exploring & Thinking  
Bursary 2023–2024 and  
submitted via:  
[www.sdcc.submit.com](http://www.sdcc.submit.com)**



**exploring  
and thinking  
award**