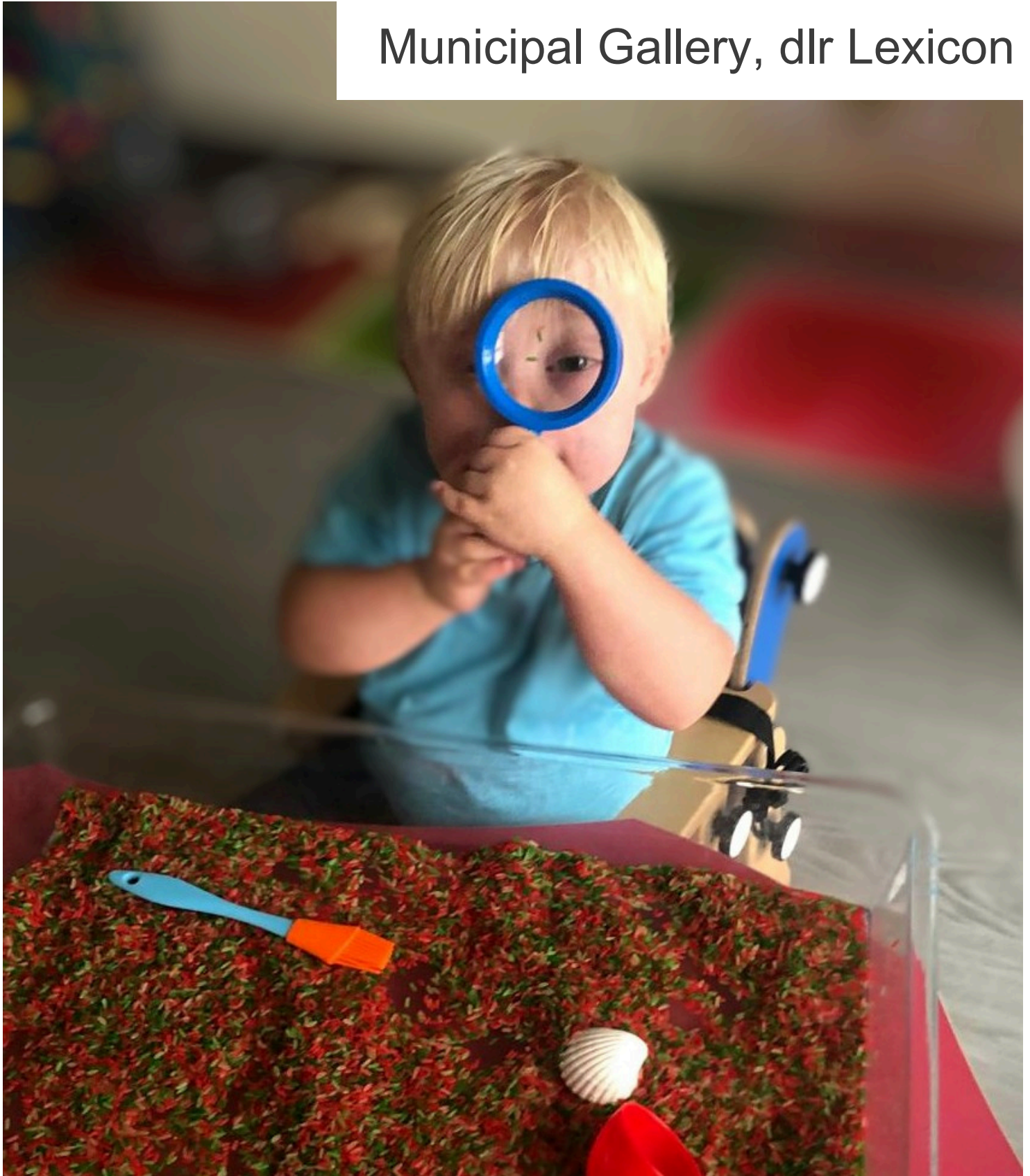


# Little Sparks

an inclusive arts project at dlr Baths

Municipal Gallery, dlr Lexicon



# Overview

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is excited to partner with **Kildarton Specialised Preschool** and **Carmona School** on this studio project for professional artists.

We will support an artist/s to develop their arts practice **with children with disabilities from two and a half to seven years of age**. The artist/s will receive a monthly fee to support their practice, a materials budget, and a training stipend. We will offer an artist/s access to a studio in dlr Baths from late September 2025 for 12 months. It will give the artist/s the space and time to create their work.

We need more inclusive art experiences for children with disabilities in our County. We wish to support artists and children in the County to work together to create, to learn from each other and to explore what is possible.

The partners will support the selected artist/s over the year.

## What does this opportunity offer?

- **Access** to a studio in dlr Baths from late September 2025 for 12 months.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will cover the cost of the studio's rent and utility bills.
- Opportunity **to create and learn with children** from two and a half to seven years of age from Kildarton and Carmona School.
- **Support** from the partners, including staff support for sessions with children.
- A **monthly fee** of €2,000 to help support the artist/s practice. This is the maximum amount available, it will be divided if more than one artist applies to work together.
- A **materials budget** of €5,000 in total.
- €1,500 towards the cost of **training or mentorship**. This is to assist the artist/s to develop their collaborative arts practice and think about how it may impact their work.

## Who can apply?

- This opportunity is open to **professional artists** with a multidisciplinary/visual arts practice.
- We welcome applications from **artist/s with experience** in creating art with children and especially with children with disabilities.
- We encourage applications from artists who would like to **work together**.
- We welcome artists who represent the **diversity of Irish society**. We encourage applications from all areas of our community regardless of your gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community, or socio-economic background.

## What do we expect?

- We expect the artist/s to be ready to take up this opportunity in **late September 2025**.
- We expect artist/s to make **good use of the studio** for the year.
- To create a **positive, inclusive and welcoming experience** over the year for the children, staff and wider public that are involved.
- To work with the children in Kildarton and Carmona School in their centres and in dlr Baths during the school year (both will shut for July and August and during school breaks). We want to support the artist/s to **learn and explore with the children and staff**, we do not expect that there will an outcome like an exhibition.
- To offer **opportunities for the wider community** to engage with the artist/s at key points. We would like the artists/s to chat and let parents and caregivers of the children get involved at least twice over the year. We would like to see inclusive creative experiences for children with disabilities under the age of seven and their families to get involved with Cruinniú na nÓg 2026, Coastival 2026, Family Days and so on.



## About the studio

The studio is on the lower ground floor of the dlr Baths building.

It has good natural light with large French doors overlooking Dublin Bay and includes the following items:

- four windows with blinds,
- overhead skylights, with no blinds,
- two large sinks, these are at different heights for easy access,
- a bench for material preparation,
- storage lockers,
- tables and chairs,
- Wi-Fi.
- 24-hour access.

The floor is polished concrete with underfloor heating. It is 42 square metres.

The maximum amount of people that the room can hold is 66 people standing or 21 people seated.



Artists are not permitted to live or sleep onsite overnight or invite others into the building outside normal operating times. These times can change with the season, but a guide to these times are:

- 7am–5pm, Sunday–Wednesday
- 7am–10pm, Thursday–Saturday



Artists must follow the Health and Safety Policy of Dún Laoghaire Baths and work with Council staff, Facility Management, and Coffee Shop operator to ensure the safety of artists, building staff and visitors. Council Staff and Facilities Management contractors will have access to your studio to clean and maintain essential equipment.

## How do I apply?

Apply online [here](#).

If you need help with your application or have any access needs, please contact

Máire Davey by:

Email [mdavey@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:mdavey@dlrcoco.ie) or telephone (01) 236 2756

The deadline for **questions** is **1pm, Friday 8 August**.

The deadline for **applications** is **5pm, Tuesday 2 September**.

Your application can include written documents, video, or audio files.

We plan to host a session for you to ask questions and see the studio. We expect this to be the first week in August, if you are interested, please email [mdavey@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:mdavey@dlrcoco.ie) or phone (01) 236 2756 to book a place.



## What do I need to apply?

You will need to include the information listed below.

- **C.V.** Please outline your arts experience, please include examples of creating art with **children**. If you have experience working with children with disabilities, please make sure that this is on your C.V.  
If you intend to work with other artists, we will need their C.V/s.
- **A statement** to give us a sense of your ideas and starting point for your time in the studio. Tell us about how you plan to use the year, and what this opportunity will mean for your career. We would like to get a sense of what children, staff and the wider public may expect to experience by working with you. Please mention what medium/artform(s) you plan to work in and any other artists/professionals that will be working with you.
- **A budget.** Please list the costs of any resources that you may need (for example materials or equipment hire). We understand that you will not yet know exactly what you need before you begin, however, we need to see that you have thought about how you plan to use this opportunity.
- **Examples of previous work.** We would like to understand more about your work. You can help us by adding photographs, audio files, written texts or other examples that help us get a sense of your work. Please include examples of work where you have collaborated with children to create art.
- The name and contact details of two referees. Please make sure that one of these people has worked with you on a similar project.

## **How will we select the artist/s?**

We will assess the applications with a panel which will include representatives from dlr Arts Office, Kildarton and Carmona School. The decision of this selection panel will be final. The applications will be marked based on the scoring system outlined below.

- The minimum qualifying mark is 80. This means that any application which scores under 80 will not be eligible for selection.
- If none of the applications we receive reach the minimum 80 marks, we will not choose from this open call. We will then use a different selection process instead.
- We will select one application. We may form a panel from the applications if any also score over 80 marks. We may use this panel for further projects if more funding becomes available within a one-year timeline.

### **This is the scoring system we will use to assess your application:**

- **The previous experience of the artist/s 40/100**

The selection panel will mark by assessing your C.V and examples of previous work.

- **Quality 40/100**

The selection panel will mark by assessing your statement and budget.

- **Evidence of creating art with children with disabilities 20/100**

The selection panel will mark by assessing your C.V and examples of previous work.

We will let you know by email if your application is successful or not.

We will not accept applications that are late.

We will not accept applications that do not have everything we have asked for.

## About Kildarton Specialised Preschool

Kildarton Specialised Preschool is a community-based preschool for children with an intellectual disability. Children attending Kildarton are aged from two and a half to five years of age. Kildarton is registered with Tusla and provides an individual programme for each child. The staff are highly qualified and experienced with a range of backgrounds including Montessori teachers, Early Years professionals and Nurses.

More about **Kildarton Specialised Preschool**

## About Carmona School

Carmona School caters for pupils aged between four and eighteen years of age with a severe to profound general learning disability. Carmona School's mission is to create a space in which each pupil is happy and can flourish. Carmona works each day to provide a safe, fun, pupil-centred learning environment.

Located within the grounds of St. John of God Carmona Services in Glenageary, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Carmona School opened April 2002. It is Funded and managed in accordance with the Department of Education and Skills rules for Primary Schools.

More about **Carmona School**

## dlr Arts Office

dlr Arts Office works with our local communities in many and diverse ways. We work with lots of different community groups, services and organisations to make sure that people of all ages and abilities get involved in the arts. We have a long record of community-based arts work.

Projects can take place with young children in early childhood settings, children in schools, young people attending youth services, older people in care settings or in community groups like Mens Sheds. We are aware that we need to make sure that everyone has equal access to the arts.

We partner with services in health, community and education to make sure that we are doing this. This helps us make the arts more accessible. We learn from our partners about new ways to support our communities and the artists that work in them.

More about **dlr Arts Office**



## **Safeguarding**

Full Garda Clearance will be required for this opportunity. It is a legal requirement that everybody working with children, young people and vulnerable people are Garda Vetted.

## **Payments**

The artist/s will be paid using the County Council's payroll system. The artist/s will not be employees of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and will be treated as employees only for the purpose of taxation.

Standard payroll deductions will apply.

## **Freedom of Information**

The Freedom of Information Act 2014 applies to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. This Act gives people the right to request information held by public authorities and the right to have personal information held about them corrected or updated where the information is incomplete, incorrect, or misleading.

If you feel that any of the information you submit as part of your application is confidential or sensitive, you should let dlr Arts Office know. You must clearly state why you think the information is confidential or commercially sensitive, and why it should not be released as part of a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

## **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

Data protection laws mean that your personal data should only be stored where there is a lawful basis, such as your consent, or where there is a legal obligation. Any information you provide for this application will be held for one year from the date you submit it and will only remain in the ownership of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office. We will only use the information you give in your application to administer and manage this opportunity, and selection process (this will include several external panel members who will read/view your application).

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)

## **Insurance**

We must make sure that any person or company working with us on a project such as this has insurance cover in place. If you are selected for this residency, you will need to have Public Liability Insurance in place up to a limit of €6.5 million. Public Liability Insurance covers your legal liability to pay damages to members of the public for injury, loss, or damages, which occur because of your activities. The insurance policy must indemnify (cover) Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

If you employ another person to work with you, you will also need Employers Liability Insurance to a limit of €13 million (this will only be needed if the person working with you does not have an insurance policy of their own). These are standard insurance policies and several companies in Ireland provide them for artistic activities.