

Public Arts Commission

Ballyogan Library



Opportunity for Artists

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Introduction

The Story We Tell Tomorrow is the new Public Arts Programme of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (dlr) under the Per Cent for Arts Scheme. We will have a series of public art projects between 2025 and 2027. Projects will explore the histories, uses and imagined futures of the County across a range of artforms.

We are inviting proposals for two sound-based art projects in Ballyogan, connected to the new Ballyogan Library at the Samuel Beckett Civic Campus.

The projects will create temporary sound artworks that explore the story of Ballyogan. As the fastest growing area in the County, with a young and culturally diverse population, this is an exciting opportunity to connect with the area and its communities.

Dlr's Public Arts Programme supports the objectives of the [County's Arts Development Plan 2024-2030](#) to impact, animate and connect with local communities and to provide accessible art experiences within a ten-minute neighbourhood. A ten-minute neighbourhood means everything you need for daily life - like schools, shops, parks and jobs - is within a ten-minute walk, cycle or a quick trip on public transport. The idea is to make life easier, reduce car use, and create more connected communities.



Overview

What are we looking for?

We are looking for proposals from individual artists or artist groups to develop a sound-based project exploring the story of Ballyogan, its people, places and environment.

There are two project opportunities available, which should focus on one of the following target audience groups and themes:

1. Exploring **memories and histories** of Ballyogan over the years with older/retired people living locally. This could include Ballyogan Active Retirement Group, Crafty Hands social crafting group and library users.
1. Exploring **future visions** of Ballyogan and the library of the future with young people (aged 12-18). This could include secondary school students, youth service users and library users.

Artists should be open to talking to people in these groups to help shape the sound artworks.



Dance Club 50+, EXIT 15. Photo by Rachel Burke.

Overview

Artworks could be **soundscapes, field recordings, podcast conversations, audio documentaries or other audio experiments** which can be broadcast, streamed or exhibited for public enjoyment. There are no specific requirements for how long or what format the artwork should be.

You don't need to be living in or be from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, but if you are selected, you will need to visit Ballyogan and the Library regularly during the project.

The timeline for these projects is between **January and March 2026**.

We encourage applicants to consider the environmental impact of their practice as part of their proposals, in support of the [Council's Climate Action](#) objectives. The [Creative Climate Tools from Julie's Bicycle](#) may be a useful resource.

Support from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

If you are selected, you will be supported by dlr Arts Office and dlr Libraries to connect with local people and groups.

The Library's facilities, including the music studio and creative/meeting room, will be available to the artist(s) at no cost. Bookable spaces (i.e. studio and meeting spaces) will need to be arranged in advance with the Library team and will be subject to availability.

The music studio has a small amount of recording equipment. Some podcasting/recording equipment can be borrowed from the Arts Office.

Overview

Project Location

Ballyogan Library is a new, state-of-the-art library providing a welcoming and accessible space for the entire community to enjoy. The Library opened in March 2025 and spans 1,300 metres across two floors. It is the first library in the County with a dedicated sensory space, dedicated teen area, music studio and creative room.

Ballyogan Library is based in the [fastest-growing area in the county](#) with a young and diverse population. The library is adjacent to the community centre, offering shared services, with convenient access to public transport including the Luas.

For further information about Ballyogan please go to the **Background Information** section in Appendix 1.

Site visit

We will host a site visit to Ballyogan Library on **Tuesday 16 September at 12:30pm** for anyone who is interested in applying for this project opportunity who would like to learn more about the Library, its facilities and the local area.

To attend, email arts@dlrcoco.ie with the subject line 'Ballyogan Library commission'.



Artist Proposals

Who can apply

- This opportunity is open to professional artists only.
- It is open to individual artists or two or more artists working together.
- Artists should have experience of engaging with the public in previous work.
- Artist(s) should be comfortable using digital tools to create recordings.
- We welcome applications from all backgrounds. Everyone is welcome to apply regardless of your gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, ethnicity or socio-economic background.

Budget

Each project has a budget of **€11,000** (inclusive of VAT, if you are VAT registered).

Your proposed budget should cover:

- **Artist fees:** This is the amount allocated to the artist(s) and any collaborators for your time across all stages of the project.
- **Public Engagement:** As public engagement is a key part of this project, think about what budget you need to allocate for hosting public-facing events and activities.
- **Production:** This is for any additional technical expertise and resources such as materials, webhosting and equipment.
- **Travel and transport:** These costs should not make up a significant portion of your budget. Please note that international travel cannot be funded through the commission budget.
- **Insurance:** please refer to the Terms and Conditions section (**Appendix 2**) for information on these requirements.
- **Contingency:** We recommend that you allocate 5% from the total budget for any unexpected costs that could arise during the project.

Application

How to apply

Please read the **Terms and Conditions (Appendix 2)** before submitting your application.

We will only accept online applications.

Go to dlrcoco.submit.com and register, if you haven't already.

Select the **Public Arts Commission for Ballyogan Library** from the list of opportunities and click **Apply Now** to begin your submission.

You'll be asked to provide information about yourself under the following headings:

Artistic concept (max. 600 words)

Please tell us:

- Why this brief interests you
- How it relates to your artistic practice and that of any collaborators
- Your vision for exploring the project themes and context
- The target audience you would like to focus on

Process (max. 800 words)

How will you deliver on your vision for the project? Please tell us:

- Your plan for the project and the different stages involved
- Who will be involved. Tell us about anyone else you are going to work with (such as another person with technical expertise) and what they will do
- How you plan to connect with individuals and groups

Application

Timeline

Please provide an outline of the key stages of the proposed project within the timeframe of January to March 2026.

You can upload this as a .pdf or .doc file.

Budget

Please include your proposed budget, outlining how you intend to allocate the project funds. This should clearly specify the fee for you as the artist(s), as well as any payments to collaborators you plan to engage in delivering the project.

You can upload this as a .pdf or .doc file.

Supporting Documents

We also require you to submit the following documents to support your proposal:

- An up-to-date CV and CVs for any additional contributors
- Three examples of past projects that are relevant to this commission opportunity. These can be shared as weblinks, documents, image or video files

If possible, please upload the above in one file such as .pdf or .doc.

The deadline for applications is **Monday, 13 October at 2pm.**

Selection

How will we select the artists?

This is a single-stage application process. All applications will be reviewed by a selection panel made up of members of our team and professional artists. The panel's decision is final and will be based on the scoring system that is outlined below.

- The **minimum qualifying score is 80**. Applications scoring below 80 will not be considered for selection
- **There is funding for two projects**. This means that not all applications which are awarded 80 or above will be successful.
- If none of the submissions reach the minimum qualifying score, we will not choose a project from this open call and may use an alternative selection process.
- We will form a panel from applications which score over 80 marks. If additional funding becomes available within one year, we may commission further projects from this panel.

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

Timeline and key dates

Launch of Competition	19 August 2025
Site visit to Ballyogan Library	16 September 2025
Closing date for receipt of applications	13 October 2025
Successful applicants notified	early November 2025
Project start	January 2026
Project end	March/April 2026

Scoring

This is the scoring system we will use to assess each application:

1. Artistic quality and creativity of your application (35/100)

- Your creative response to the brief and the artistic and technical skills you will use
- The outcome you are planning. This may be provisional and could change based on your engagement with your target group
- Your relevant experience as shown through examples of your work
- Your track record in your professional arts practice

2. How your application connects to the theme and context (30/100)

- Your understanding of and genuine interest in the context of this project
- How suitable your proposal to the audience and environment
- Why you are interested in connecting with your chosen target audience group and what experience you have of engaging with the public

3. Your process and how feasible your idea is (35/100)

- Your project plan and timeline: how you are phasing the project and how resources (i.e. funding, materials, artist time) will be used within the timeframe
- Your vision for how you will connect with individuals and groups to develop the project and output(s)
- We encourage you to share how you would manage the environmental impact of the project and any sustainable practices or materials you would use.

Appendix 1

Background Information

Ballyogan

Ballyogan / Baile Uí Ógáin lies in the west of the County, bounded by Carrickmines, Stepside, Sandyford and Leopardstown. It sits close to the M50 motorway which is the busiest motorway in Ireland. Its rich history as a frontier is marked by the remains of a defensive ditch along the west of Ballyogan Road. This was the former border of The Pale which distinguished the area of Ireland directly under the control of England in the Middle Ages.

The Library

Ballyogan Library is a new state-of-the-art Library providing a welcoming and accessible space for the entire community to enjoy. The Library opened in March 2025 and spans 1,300 metres across two floors. It is the first library in the County with a dedicated sensory space, dedicated teen area, music studio and creative room. The Library is key to the County's [Library Development Plan 2022-2026](#) to create reading, learning, creative and cultural opportunities for all and connect with communities.

Exit 15

From 2016 to 2020, a local arts partnership programme led by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Creative Lives (formally Voluntary Arts Ireland) worked with people and organisations based in the Ballyogan area. [Exit 15](#) responded to the artistic aspirations of local people and organisations living and working in Ballyogan, focusing on developing projects, resources or services that were ambitious and tested new ground. Learning from the programme continues to inform the way local arts and cultural offerings are supported locally and across the county.

Submission and Selection Process

- You are responsible for the cost of developing proposals for this one-stage commission opportunity.
- We will only accept applications through the online application platform dlrcoco.submit.com
- If necessary, the selection panel may contact you to ask for more information about specific details in your application.

Finance

- If you are selected for this project, we will issue a contract for you with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.
- You will be required to supply a current Tax Clearance Certificate or Tax Clearance Access Number before signing the contract. It will need to be valid for the period that the project is taking place.
- Please note that all projects awarded are VAT inclusive.

Health and Safety

You must comply with Health and Safety standards and activities and artworks will be subject to Health and Safety checks.

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 generally 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 managing the process for these projects, including the selection process (this may include several external panel members who will read 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

Insurance

We must make sure that any external person or company working with us on a project has insurance cover in place. If you are selected for a commission, 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 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.

Garda Vetting

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, those working with children must have a child protection policy, proper procedures and a child safeguarding statement in place.

Contact us with further questions

www.dlrcoco.ie/arts
arts@dlrcoco.ie
(01) 2362759



Big Screen Party, EXIT 15. Photo by Rob O'Connor