

About the Municipal Gallery at dlr Lexlcon

A municipal gallery is a visual art gallery run by your local county council. It showcases various artworks. You can visit to see different exhibitions that change throughout the year. You can also take part in activities to learn about how artists work, and ways to make your own art.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office runs the Municipal Gallery at dlr Lexlcon. We want to provide everyone with opportunities to enjoy the visual arts. In our gallery you can create art, simply look at it, or take part in art activities.

Our gallery attracts a variety of visitors. These include library users, people who live and work in the local area, artists, tourists, and day-trippers. We carefully choose exhibitions suitable for everyone, including children and young people. We do this because our gallery is in a public library. There are no staff to supervise the area or mediate the artwork.

As the county council is apolitical, the exhibitions in the gallery are too. Apolitical means being neutral. It means not supporting any political party or taking sides in elections or referendums.

These rules mean some artworks are not suitable for the gallery and our approach may not suit every artist, and that is okay. Other supports are available to artists, including grants, professional development opportunities and studios.

It is important to know that the gallery is not a business. We do not hire out the space for exhibitions or events. We do not accept unsolicited exhibition proposals.

How we create our exhibitions

The Arts Office team often works with outside experts. These experts include curators, artists, cultural organisations, community groups, and art education specialists. We choose the best people to work with based on what each exhibition needs.

Our Learning Programme and Project Room

Our Gallery Learning Programme offers workshops, talks, and tours for all ages and abilities. These activities help you experience and enjoy art. Activities for children and young people are always free. For adult workshops, we sometimes charge a small fee to cover the cost of materials.

You will find the Project Room beside the Gallery. This is where we hold our learning programme activities. When we do not have an event on, visitors can use the Project Room. We leave out art materials so you can draw and make your own art.

Making art accessible to everyone

We design our exhibitions for all visitors but sometimes keep specific groups in mind at the planning stage. All artworks have clear labels. In the gallery, you will find a big information panel for each exhibition. It is written in [plain English](#).

We keep the Gallery lights at a level where everyone can see the work on display, and we always provide seats so you can sit and enjoy the artworks in comfort. This helps everyone have a better experience when they visit our exhibitions.

What you will see in the gallery in one year

We plan our exhibitions up to two years in advance. In a year we host a mix of exhibitions to support artists at various stages in their careers and reflect the interests of our visitors. The exhibitions will include:

Visual Art Commission Exhibition

This happens every year. The Arts Council provides funding for an artist to create new work over 12 to 15 months. We promote this opportunity through Council and arts channels. A panel of Arts Office staff, artists, and art experts selects the artist.

Open Call Exhibition

Every two to three years, we invite artists to propose exhibitions for the Gallery. This is open to both individual artists and groups of artists. We widely advertise this, and a panel of Arts Office staff, artists, and/or art specialists selects the exhibitions.

Engaged Shows

Every year we develop an exhibition with a certain age group, community, or service. We do this to appeal to people that may not be familiar with the Gallery Programme. We work with these community groups or services to make sure we meet their needs and access requirements. We call these exhibitions our Engaged Shows. In the past we have worked with people living with dementia, early childhood services, and the Southside Travellers Action Group. We plan these exhibitions well in advance. Involving the group from the start is as important as the final show.

Open Submission Exhibition

This exhibition happens every two years. It is a large group exhibition of artists from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County. Artists submit their work. An invited selector picks a theme and chooses the artworks.

Exhibitions from the Arts Office

These shows feature art from the DLR County Collection. Visitors can enjoy the variety of artworks in our collection and view recently added pieces. Others display work from projects run by the Arts Office and give visitors the chance to see recently commissioned work.

Our Role in the Local Arts Community

The Gallery is a key resource for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown arts community. It allows the Council to create chances for artists to showcase their work. They can connect with others, network, secure funding, and advance their careers. Our programme is easy to access and popular, aiming to attract both people who live locally and visitors to the area.

Always Evolving

Our approach to planning exhibitions for the Gallery is always evolving. We will keep changing and adapting to meet the needs of our residents, the arts community, and our visitors.

Do you have any questions about specific types of exhibitions or art projects we offer? [Contact](#) the Arts Office team for more information.