

Mayo County Council

**Public Art Commission Artist Brief**

**Project:** **Castlebar Pool commission**

Mayo County Council invites submissions for a public art project at the new Castlebar Pool site, County Mayo. The funding for this project has been provided by the Percent for Art Scheme through the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport and Mayo County Council.

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist to create new work at an impressive, innovative development in the county town, close to Lough Lannagh. Two adjoining buildings will be home to the pool, a 25m swimming pool plus a children’s pool, and a National Outdoor Pursuits Academy. As the development is still under construction, due to complete at the end of 2017, there is scope to include any permanent work/s as the building is being completed and avail of the potential to get help and support from the construction workers and architect who will be on site during installation.

Mayo County Council has an excellent reputation for commissioning high quality, contemporary artworks, working with artists in all art forms. Recent programmes include, Changing Tracks [www.changingtracks.eu](http://www.changingtracks.eu) ; FIND [www.findartproject.com](http://www.findartproject.com) and Landmark [www.landmarkpublicart.com](http://www.landmarkpublicart.com) featuring a range of permanent, temporary, performance, event based and socially engaged practice. See [www.publicart.ie](http://www.publicart.ie) Mayo archive for further information on a selection of artworks in County Mayo and also [www.mayococo.ie](http://www.mayococo.ie) under the public art section in the arts service area of the website for details of ongoing commissions and a projects archive.

**Objectives:**

Mayo County Council invites artists to develop proposals for this commission for the Castlebar Pool site, it’s local residents and visitors.

We aim to commission a high quality, contemporary artwork/s which will be appropriate for the site and add to the ongoing programme of public artwork in the county.

All artforms will be considered, it is imagined that the outcome will include permanent or semi permanent artwork/s though there is a flexible approach to this commission and groups of artists are also welcome to apply.

Artists should give due consideration to any ongoing maintenance aspects of their proposed artwork/s.

**Location:**

The Development includes a large modern leisure centre, with a smaller building adjacent that will be home to GMITs Outdoor Education course and facilities, including climbing wall, water sports equipment etc.

It is accessed from Lannagh Road and via a pedestrian route direct from the Lough Lannagh loop walk. See attached map.

Whilst the entire site can be considered for the artwork/s suggested locations include but are not limited to:

* Walkway from the Lough Lannagh loop walk leading up to the buildings (location A on attached map)
* Covered walkway between the two buildings, suspended from roof, attached to plaster and stone walls, or within window area (location B on map)
* Entrance area and plaza/paved area to the front of the building (location C on map)

Attached are maps, plans, and architects drawings.

Attendance at the site visit is recommended.

**Budget:**

Maximum budget is **€45,000** for design, supply, installation, artist’s fee and any community involvement initiatives, inclusive of all costs, VAT, insurance and other charges.

Please note that there may be potential to access electricity at any of the suggested sites. There may be further support available in regard to installation, foundations etc whilst the construction team are on site. Please indicate any additional support required that is not included in the draft budget with the application.

**Competition Process:**

**This is initially a one-stage competition, open to all artists. If a clear choice cannot be made from the stage one proposals and further, detailed information is required a limited number of artists may be invited to develop proposals further and an honorarium will be paid to each shortlisted artist.**

**Submissions must contain:**

* Textual description outlining the concept of the project (max. 2 A4 sheet)
* Supply if appropriate drawings or alternative expressions to communicate the content of the project. (these can be in format of maquette/Audio/CD/ /DVD)
* Outline budget breakdown
* Outline of any potential community/resident involvement (not essential)
* Draft timescale
* CV and examples of previous work

**Selection criteria**

Artistic Merit and Innovation of the concept

Relevance to social, physical and cultural context of the location

Sensitivity to the immediate landscape and environment

Previous experience / demonstrate ability to carry out the project

Value for money

Clarity and practicality of the proposal

**Selection Panel:** Relevant Arts expertise, Castlebar Pool architect, Mayo County Council and local community representation.

**Selection:** Mayo County Council retains the right not to commission if a selection is not recommended by the selection panel.

**Schedule:**

**Site Visit:** A site visit will take place on **Tuesday 4th April at 11am,** meeting at the playground car park in front of the development.

Attendance is advised, but not essential. If you are attending the site visit you must inform Gaynor Seville, Public Art Co-ordinator gseville@mayococo.ie

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 4.00pm Monday 8th May 2017**

Please note this is not a ‘posted by’ deadline

**Contracts – issued by May 2017**

**Work installed – by end 2017**

**Submissions:** Submissions to be delivered to:

Gaynor Seville

Public Art Co-ordinator

Mayo County Council

Áras An Chontae

Castlebar

Co Mayo

**ALL queries, to register for the site visit, or any further information contact Gaynor Seville:**

**E:** **gseville@mayococo.ie** **T: 094 904 7561**

**Email submissions: Ensure all files combined in the submission are less than 10MB in a zipped file. Dropbox must be used for larger submissions.**

If a maquette or other large materials are provided it is the artist’s responsibility to collect it after the panel have made their decision.

**Background information to Castlebar:**

Castlebar is the main county town of Co Mayo, centrally located with good links to all surrounding towns. The town gets its name from a castle built there in the 13th century, it was burnt down in 1798 and a military barracks was then erected on the site. Castlebar is the administrative centre of the county, with the county council headquarters based on The Mall, an attractive green space with a number of important public buildings around it.

The town was traditionally a busy market town, with local produce from surrounding areas sold on Saturdays until the 1960’s. Smaller scale markets continue but there are now many large shops, department stores and supermarkets. The town gaol, originally located on the corner of Ellison Street and Castle lane was moved twice, in 1786 to the Mall and in 1835 to Westport Road. It was demolished in 1932 and the General Hospital was built on the site. The premium linen market in the West of Ireland was based in the town and the Linen Hall on Linenhall Street is now home to a thriving arts centre.

There are a lot of examples of public art within the town, including artworks installed as part of the 2012 Landmark programme at Lough Lannagh [www.landmarkpublicart.com](http://www.landmarkpublicart.com) ; Daphne Wright’s ‘Witness Tree’ inside the courthouse, Colm Brennan ’98 Remembered’ on the market Square and Lucy Hill’s ‘Paperworks' inside Castlebar Library computer room. Older examples can be seen on roundabouts, and some new housing estates have artwork incorporated.

Castlebar was the original home of the song contest that developed into what is now internationally known as the Eurovision Song Contest. Margaret Burke Sheridan, the famous Opera singer, who had a stamp printed on the centenary of her birth in her honour in1989, was born in Castlebar.

The area around Lough Lannagh has seen major improvements in recent years, including improved walkways and bridges. It is a very beautiful part of the town, with scenic river walks and views of Croagh Patrick. Although very close to the town centre, busy roads and shopping areas, it remains a peaceful part of the town.

The nearby Mayo Memorial Peace Park, Garden of Remembrance was officially opened in Castlebar by the then President of Ireland Mary Mc Aleese in October 2008. This very special & unique memorial commemorates all the men and women from County Mayo who lost their lives in world wars and conflicts over the past century and is adjacent to Lough Lannagh.

The exhibitions at the nearby Museum of Country Life portray the lives of ordinary people who lived in rural Ireland in the period 1850 to 1950. Emphasis is placed on the continuity of lifestyles, which were established for several hundred years and which lasted well into the 20th century. The museum is situated in the grounds of Turlough Park House a short distance from the town of Castlebar. Turlough Park House was built by Charles Lionel Fitzgerald in 1865. The house has been fully restored and serves as the main office as well as the education/reception area and is used to show visitors how families like its original owners lived.

Annual festivals include Féile na Tuithe (May), Guinness Castlebar Blues Festival (June), The Castlebar International Four Days Walks (July) and Roola Boola Children’s Arts Festival (October).

Further information about Castlebar can be found via: [**www.castlebar.ie**](http://www.castlebar.ie) and [**www.mayo.ie**](http://www.mayo.ie) [**http://www.castlebar.ie/virtual.htm**](http://www.castlebar.ie/virtual.htm)is a useful link.

**Points of interest at Lough Lannagh:**

The area around Lough Lannagh is rich in Archaeological features which incorporated settlement on the lake and provided access from the shore to its waters.

There have also been several finds of **logboats** in this lake as a result of the lowering of the lake level in the 1800s. This all suggests that this lake had a central role in the activities of the lake shore inhabitants in the past

A **castle ruin** is located on the north side of the lake. Abbots’ castle is now heavily overgrown; it is recorded in the National monuments files as a two-storey stone built T-shaped structure.

A **Crannóg site** survives as an overgrown peninsula which protrudes SE into Lough Lannagh, no further traces of this possible crannog are evident. It probably became joined to the shore when the lake level was lowered by mill race construction during the 1800’s. The local area is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna. The area has a wide variety of woodland species, plant species, grasses, flowers, bird species and invertebrate species.