**CÚRAM Artist Commission in Westside, Galway**

**Introduction to CÚRAM**

CÚRAM is the Science Foundation Ireland Centre for Research in Medical Devices, located in the National University of Ireland, Galway. Established in 2015, our aim is to improve the quality of life for patients suffering from chronic illness. We intend to do this by developing and enhancing the next generation of medical devices that target chronic illnesses like heart disease, diabetes and neurogenerative diseases like Alzheimers and Parkinson’s Disease. Our public engagement programme, which incorporates artist in residence projects, supports the Science Foundation Ireland Agenda 2020 objective of having the most scientifically informed and engaged public. We aim to inspire and engage the next generation of scientists and engineers and provide access to information, on the cutting edge scientific research happening, here in Ireland.

In 2017, in partnership with the Galway City Arts Office, we invite proposals from artists across Ireland who are interested in working as part of CÚRAM’s public engagement programme.

Specifically, we invite artists to propose ideas for an ambitious and contemporary permanent artwork in the Westside community in Galway, for display in the Library, Boxing Club or similar location specified by the artist.

The artwork must both acknowledge the various communities of Westside and celebrate its connection to CÚRAM and the Medical Technology Industry. The artwork will help to create a sense of ownership of the communities’ collective future health and the role that the CÚRAM research will play in this.

The artist will work with one of the following three themes:

* Biomimicry
* How to Fix a Broken Heart
* Biomaterials and the Body

**Applicant must include a research phase within Westside Community and a production phase for the final artwork. Interested artists should contact Andrea Fitzpatrick to visit CÚRAM’s laboratories.**

**Introduction to Westside**

Westside is a mature residential area to the west of the River Corrib in Galway city and is comprised of all or part of the electoral Divisions of Newcastle, Shantalla, Dangan, Rahoon, and Taylors Hill. The term Westside appears to be of relatively recent origin and probably came into common usage as more and more housing was built in the area when Galway City expanded outwards. As a place name Westside is a kind of ‘catchall’ term and the area has therefore rather undefined and nebulous boundaries. Few people, for example, may include Westside in their postal address but many would certainly speak of someone ‘working up in Westside’ or refer to the ‘whole Westside area’.

The area is served commercially by the Westside shopping centre and other nearby outlets. There is also a substantial cluster of ‘community facilities’ providing services. These include – Westside Community Centre, Westside Library, Westside Resource Centre, Westside Community Garden, Westside Family Service and the local church. The area has a fair amount of green open space with playing pitches and playgrounds.  Although relatively close to the centre of the city, Westside has nonetheless suffered disadvantage over the years. For example, unemployment in the area remains relatively high and area contains a good deal of local authority housing and indeed a high proportion of private rented property.

**Application information:**

Please send a proposal of the project including timeline and budget, an up to date Curriculum Vitae, and examples of previous work.

**Deadline for the receipt of applications is 5pm, 19th June 2017.**

**Submissions to be sent to andrea.fitzpatrick@nuigalway.ie**

Submission for this commission must include:

1. Curriculum Vitae

2. An outline proposal and concept for the project

3. Detailed sketches which explain the proposal, minimum 2 x A4 drawings or alternative expression.

4. Detailed budget breakdown, inclusive of all costs, including tax and insurance details (public liability cover indemnifying the school), as well as material and fabrication costs, design costs, artist fee, transport and site costs.

The artist must be tax compliant and all submissions must comply with relevant Health and Safety regulations.

**CRITERIA**

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria

* Applications must be received before the deadline
* Accompanying material must be submitted to demonstrate the track record of the artist
* Evidence of continued artistic growth and development
* The proposed work should demonstrate how the community of interest will be linked to the science community at CÚRAM
* The proposed work must demonstrate the project’s ability to extend or enhance the community’s understanding of CÚRAM’s research
* The applicant should address how your project contributes to the dialogue on the importance of art and science within the community
* Ambition of the artistic proposal which indicates the applicant’s efforts to build the capacity of the art and science area
* Degree of innovation of the proposal
* Financial management and excellent budgeting
* Falls within Health and Safety Guidelines

Assessment of Applications Received

Applications must be received with all material by 5pm, June 19th. No submissions will be accepted after this date. Your application will be categorised and if it falls outside of guidelines, it will be disqualified.

All eligible applications will be considered by a selection panel, appointed by Galway City Council and CÚRAM.

**You will be assessed on the following:**

The clarity of the proposal objectives and description

A well planned timeline

The capacity of the applicant to complete the proposed artwork successfully

Budget management and evaluation

Track record as an artist

Quality of the proposal

Clear public engagement objectives

Experience working with a community of interest

Any relevant experience considering the nature of this commission

Innovation detailed in the proposal

Consideration of your reasons for applying for the commission

Assessment Criteria

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. About you
 | Completed Application Form |  |
|  | Track Record |  |
|  | Suitability |  |
|  |  |  |
| 1. Your Project
 | Artistic Merit |  |
|  | Ability to Engage the Westside Community |  |
|  | Ability to create interest in science and art |  |
|  | Ability to create interest in CÚRAM research |  |
|  | Financial |  |
|  | Commitment to excellence |  |
| 1. How?
 | Capacity to carry out proposal |  |
|  | Resources – has the applicant considered all that is needed for their proposal? |  |
| 1. Who will benefit from the project?
 | On which objectives of the Galway Cultural Strategy and the Galway City Arts Plan does this have the most, if any, impact? |  |

The artists will be expected to:

* Engage with Westside to create a piece of work which represents CÚRAM’s engagement in the community and how the community of Westside links to the Medical Technology sector
* Create a plan which engages the community fully

And on selection as the commissioned artist:

* Prepare a 15-20 minute talk to introduce their work to staff and researchers at CÚRAM
* Use the studio space to develop your work
* Make connections and engage with other researchers who are involved in the designated research area
* Link in with participants in the other residency programmes ; Teachers in Residence and Filmmakers in Residence
* Publish examples of ongoing research on Facebook and Twitter (to be approved by the project manager)