



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017 - 2022



Laois and Offaly County Councils Multidisciplinary Art Commission 2017 Project Brief

1. Introduction

Laois and Offaly County Councils, with the support of Creative Ireland, wish to commission up to two artists to explore and present aspects of the pollinators of Ireland through art.

This is a multi-disciplinary commission and applications are invited from professional visual artists, film makers, musicians, writers, theatre practitioners choreographers, dance makers, new media and more. Applicants can submit a proposal to work in one or both counties. Each county project has a commission value of €10,000.

2. Context

Pollinators are insects that visit plants to obtain nectar and pollen, and in the process, carry pollen from one plant to another – pollination – which is essential for plants to reproduce.

In Ireland, some plants are self pollinated, and some have a design that allows pollination by the wind, but many depend on insects to reproduce and survive. It is estimated that almost three quarters of our wild plants rely on insect pollinators, of which bees are most important. They are also important for commercial crops and it is estimated that bees are worth €53m a year to the economy. In Ireland crops such as apples, strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes, blackcurrants, peppers, courgettes and pumpkins rely on bees for pollination.

In addition to the well-known honey bee, there are 97 other species of bees in Ireland: 20 bumblebee species and 76 solitary bees. Information on Ireland's bees and their value is at <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/bees/>.

Pollinator plan

Over one third of Irish bees species are under threat of extinction, having suffered reductions in habitat, including safe places to nest and food sources. In response to this, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan was published in 2015, with actions under five key objectives to deliver conservation for pollinators. The objectives are:

1. Making Ireland pollinator friendly (farmland, public land & private land)
2. Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them
3. Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers
4. Expanding our knowledge on pollinators and pollination service
5. Collecting evidence to track change and measure success

The Pollinator Plan has succeeded bringing together a wide range of groups related to government, farming, communities and business, to work for pollinators. This public art project aims to further raise awareness of the importance of pollinators by engaging with communities in a creative way to explore and deepen understanding of the importance of pollinators in our lives.

More information on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is at <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/>

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland is the Government's Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016 – a five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. The Programme has collaboration at its heart – between central and local government, between heritage, culture and industry, between artists, communities and policy makers– to facilitate a culture of creativity. This public art project, drawing together wildlife, communities and artists, ideally fits in with Pillar Two of Creative Ireland, Enabling Creativity in Every Community. See <http://creative.ireland.ie/> for more on Creative Ireland.

Vision

We are predominantly interested in the artist's vision for how the story and value of Ireland's pollinators can be innovatively realised, interpreted, communicated and made public. We are open to these commissions being plays, publications, film, temporary installations, music or performance. Each artist should build a series of up to four public workshops into their project, as communicating the value both of pollinators and the process of making the art will be a key part of the project. The content and outlook of these workshops should form part of the artist's proposal.

3. Commission Outlook

- The commissioned artists will be required to create a unique new work of art, of outstanding quality that would be suitable to convey in multiple settings or opportunities.
- The commissioned artist(s) will work with the community through workshops which may take the form of consultation / discussion groups or a more hands-on creative element.
- It may be of benefit for the artist assigned to each county to consult or work together. If required we will facilitate this.
- Each project should incorporate an online or digital element , such as a video clip or other web presence, so that the projects can be linked together and have a life span beyond the project time frame.
- As commissioners, Laois and Offaly County Councils plan to highlight this project nationally. We will encourage the artists to promote the projects through their own connections to broaden the audience for these new works as much as possible.
- Each artwork project should contribute to the promotion of pollinators during Heritage Week (19th – 26th August 2017) and/or Culture Night (22nd September 2017). Details of how this will be achieved should be included in the artist's submission.

4. Finance

- The value of this commission is €10,000 per project, inclusive of all costs including any fees, transport, expenses, materials, insurance, services required and any VAT that falls due on costs.

- Each artist will enter into a contract with Laois or Offaly County Council based on their proposal, which will have a clear schedule of payments to be made and project milestones to be met.
- Commissioned artists will be required to have a valid tax clearance certificate for the duration of the project.
- A detailed breakdown of costs associated with all elements of the project should be submitted.
- This contract will be awarded on the basis of a fixed price contract, and as such, all costs must be quoted (and clearly indicated) as a fixed price in Euro. No other amount over and above the negotiated contract amount will be paid to the appointed artist.

5. Timetable

- This is a one stage open competition.
- The closing date for receipt of submissions is 5pm on Friday 12th May 2017.
- Successful artists will be notified by mid May. The project must be completed by 30th November 2017.
- Laois and Offaly County Councils reserve the right to shortlist artists for one or more of these projects, should it be deemed appropriate.

6. Clarity of Information

- All requests for clarification or further information in respect of this commission should be submitted by email to ccasey@laoiscoco.ie and heritage@offalycoco.ie
- If it is considered that any question or request for clarification is of material significance, both the question and the responses will be communicated by email to all artists/teams who have expressed an interest in the project. To facilitate inclusion on this circulation list, please register your interest in the project with ccasey@laoiscoco.ie and heritage@offalycoco.ie before 5pm on Wednesday 26th April.

7. Selection Process

- The selection panel will include representatives of the Arts and Heritage Services of Laois and Offaly County Councils, an artist and representatives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- We reserve the right to ask for clarity of information or to reconsider elements such as delivery procedures, budget, time schedule or any such factors deemed necessary for a successful outcome.
- We reserve the right not to proceed with any proposal under this invitation and consider other appropriate courses of action.
- The decision of the Selection panel is final.

8. Assessment Criteria

- This is a competitive process and your proposal will be assessed using the following criteria;
 - Artistic excellence, creativity and originality of proposal presented, on a standalone basis, with reference to other competing applicants and in relation to the brief (25 marks)

- Appropriateness to the cultural and scientific context of the commission, with particular reference to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (25 marks).
- Feasibility of the commission, such as time/budget/community engagement (25 marks)
- Ability for the project outcome to raise the profile of each County at a national level (25 marks).

9. Contract Conditions

- Artists will be required to enter into a formal contract with Laois and/or Offaly County Council before any work commences.
- Evidence of appropriate insurance will be required before work commences.
- Evidence of up-to-date tax compliance will be required before commencement.
- All work activities must be carried out in accordance with Health and Safety Guidelines and Acts.
- The Artists will be required to provide regular updates to Laois and Offaly County Councils.
- Laois and Offaly County Councils will not be liable for any other expenses incurred by the Artists.
- The Artists while retaining copyright do not retain any property rights to the artwork once payment is made.
- Laois and Offaly County Councils undertake to use their best endeavours to protect confidential and commercially sensitive information provided by you in this tender subject to each Council's obligations under Law and including the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. Should you wish that any of the information supplied by you should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, you should, when providing the information, identify same and specify reasons for its sensitivity. If your tender is successful the price will, as a matter of course, be available to the public outside of the scope of F.O.I. legislation. Laois and Offaly County Councils will consult with you about the release of confidential and commercially sensitive information before making decisions on any F.O.I. request received. If, having considered your views, Laois or Offaly County Council is of the opinion that the information should be released in the public interest; you will have the option of appealing the decision to the Information Commissioner. Please note that in the event that no information is identified by you as sensitive, with supporting reasons, then it is likely to be released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Acts.

10. How to Apply

- Please submit by email or hard copy. If hard copy is submitted, please include a digital copy of all documents submitted, on CD or USB. Please note if submitting by email the total maximum size for emails is 5MB. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that emails are received.
- The closing date is Friday 12th May at 5pm.
- Please submit:
 1. A completed application form (attached here).
 2. A current CV (including description of previous works/commissions).
 3. Samples of previous work, such as publications CDs, DVDs, images etc.

4. A cover letter outlining your interest in the Pollinator Plan and why you are drawn to it.
5. A proposal to include:
 - a. An outline of your concept for exploring the pollinator plan including forms of engagement with the local community in your chosen county (max 1000 words);
 - b. Any visual/audio or other aid (if appropriate) which will clearly assist in illustrating your proposal/concept;
 - c. Contact details of two referees with whom you have worked with on a participatory community/public art project.
 - d. Indication of how you propose to use the budget (for the purposes of establishing feasibility) including *inter alia* headings such as Artist's fee and any other fees, other resources needed, transport/travel/ accommodation costs, production costs
 - e. Timescale breakdown – research / community contact / production / delivery

Please address your application to
Laois County Council Heritage Office
Pollinators Art Commission
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Or email ccasey@laoiscoco.ie (max size per email 5MB)

For further enquires please contact 057 866 4129 or email ccasey@laoiscoco.ie

11. Submissions

Deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm on **Friday 12th May 2017**.

***This is a project of Laois County Council and Offaly County Council,
with funding from the Creative Ireland Programme***



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Laois and Offaly County Councils Art Commission Application Form

This application form should be submitted with the full submission requirements as detailed in the project brief.

Artist's Name	
Artistic Discipline	
Postal Address	
Phone number(s)	
Website	
County you are applying for	
Title of proposal	
Concept of the Proposal (summary)	
I declare that the information and imagery in my submission is that of my own work and concept, and that I have not carried out a project so similar that may cause a conflict of interest or loss of integrity.	
Signature	
Date	