



## SCULPTURE DUBLIN

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

SCULPTURE DUBLIN aims to raise awareness of the city's sculptural heritage and to create a series of new sculptures in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council initiative, being developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the City Arts Office.

The idea originated with *Art in Parks* (2014), a guide to public sculpture sited in 22 Dublin City Council parks. *Art in Parks* highlighted that many of the sculptures in parks derived from a symposium held to coincide with the 1988 millennium celebrations from which new sculptures were commissioned. The value of art in public places is underestimated and the ambition is to celebrate existing sculpture ('Rediscover the 90') and add to this legacy.

The programme objective is two-fold: to increase the visibility of public sculpture in Dublin, building public awareness and understanding of sculpture, and to commission exciting new works which enhance and draw attention to different locations and aspects of the city.

### 2. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stakeholder consultations were facilitated by DCC and Visual Artists Ireland in 2019 and the findings have informed key programme objectives:

- Programming – develop a programme, including new commissions;
- Public Engagement – achieve a new public awareness of and interest in sculpture;
- Legacy – make sculpture central to the identity and experience of the city / make Dublin a destination city for sculpture.

### 3. DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

Over 2 years, the programme will deliver a series of public sculpture commissions, an extensive public engagement programme and media campaign.

The programme will be informed by DCC's *Policies and Strategies for Managing Public Art* and will support and adhere to the following DCC strategies and policies:

- *Dublin City Parks Strategy*
- *Dublin City Cultural Strategy and Arts Plan*
- *Dublin City Development Plan*
- *Your City Your Space Dublin City Public Realm Strategy and Masterplan*

The desired impact is a city where sculpture is part of everyday conversation, contributing to overall public confidence and pride of place. A range of stakeholders (arts, community, academia, city officials, business etc.) will have worked together to enhance the cultural life of the city. The programme will be realised through meaningful processes of consultation, selection and co-creation, ensuring that the city's sculptural offering will become a powerful cultural asset with significant local, national and international resonance and reach.

#### 4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Permanent and temporary public sculptural work will be commissioned in each of the five DCC administrative areas. The proposed sites for new commissions will:

- Be in the public domain;
- Be visible to a broad and diverse general public;
- Be in public ownership or management;
- Be suitable for the best display of the sculpture;
- Give scope for artists to create a significant and noteworthy sculpture;
- Be part of a consultation and community engagement process that informs all aspects of the commissions.

#### 5. TIMELINE

Date/s	Activity
April 2020	Public announcement: launch programme identity, website and announce commissioning invitations.
May 2020 – April 2021	1-year public engagement programme and communications campaign designed to increase awareness and understanding of Dublin's sculptural heritage and generate interest and involvement in the new commissions.
April/May 2021	Programme launch: publish programme of events
May – September 2021	Programme roll out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staggered unveiling/launch of new commissions.</li><li>• Public engagement programme to include an annual sculpture day, a festival of making, sculpture trails, temporary exhibitions and public programmes happening city-wide.</li><li>• Local, national, international media campaigns.</li></ul>

#### 6. PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

An advisory group made up of DCC executive members from Parks and Landscape Services and the Arts Office, and a number of external advisers (including from the VAI) has been established. Its role is to develop a vision, purpose and values for SCULPTURE DUBLIN in consultation with key stakeholders, and to provide advice and guidance for the development and delivery of the programme.

A Programme Director, appointed by DCC will lead the development and delivery of SCULPTURE DUBLIN, with overall responsibility for a series of new public sculpture commissions and an accompanying public engagement programme. The Programme Director will report to the Steering Group and DCC Executive and will be supported by a Production Assistant, a Public Engagement Curator and a Communications Assistant.

A budget allocation of €1m (to include six new sculptural commissions, extensive public engagement and administration) has been agreed within the CRES Parks Capital Programme 2020-2022 for the delivery of the programme.

Regular reports and updates will be provided to SPC and Area Committees as the programme develops.

**Leslie Moore**  
**Parks Superintendent**  
**17<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Ray Yates**  
**City Arts Officer**