

## **SCULPTURE DUBLIN**

Report for **South East Area Committee** Meeting

### **1. ABOUT SCULPTURE DUBLIN**

Sculpture Dublin aims to raise awareness of the Dublin's sculptural heritage and to create a series of ambitious new sculptures in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council (DCC) initiative developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery.

The idea originated with *Art in Parks* (2014), a guide to public sculpture sited in Dublin City Council parks. *Art in Parks* acknowledges a rich history of public sculpture in the city including a series of ten sculptures that were commissioned as part of the 1988 millennium celebrations. The value of art in public places is underestimated – Sculpture Dublin aims to celebrate existing sculpture 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 (VAI) in 2019 and the findings have informed key programme objectives:

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

### **3. OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES**

Sculpture Dublin will deliver a series of public sculpture commissions, a public engagement programme and a communications campaign between April 2020 and October 2021.

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*

#### **Commissions**

Sculpture will be commissioned in each of the five DCC administrative areas between April 2020 and September 2021.

#### **Public Programme**

The public engagement programme will include:

- A local programme developed with communities living near the new commission locations through libraries, schools, community/arts centres, colleges and the Local Area Offices.
- A city-wide programme developed through partnerships and associated programmes resulting in a series of public events, including an Annual Sculpture Day, a Festival of Making, city sculpture trails, and temporary exhibitions and public programmes in museums, galleries and studio spaces across the city.

## Communications

Sculpture Dublin will be effectively communicated, through campaigns, press and media to a broad public – reaching beyond traditional arts audiences to involve and inspire people from all backgrounds and parts of the city – creating a new public appreciation of, and relationship with sculpture in the city.

The desired impact is a city where sculpture is ‘part of everyday conversation’, contributing to overall public confidence, self-awareness 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, extending cross-sectoral networks through strategic creative programming. The programme will be realized through sound processes of consultation, selection and engagement and if developed over time, the city’s sculptural offering will become a powerful cultural asset with significant local, national and international resonance and reach.

## 4. SELECTION OF SITES FOR NEW COMMISSIONS

A set of criteria has been developed to assess the suitability of locations. The proposed site should:

1. Be in the public domain;
2. Be visible to a broad and diverse general public;
3. Be in the ownership of Dublin City Council;
4. Be suitable for the best display of the sculpture;
5. Give scope for artists to create a significant and noteworthy sculpture;
6. Represent a deficit in the provision of public sculpture in the city i.e. there are no existing sculptures in the immediate surrounding area.

## South East Area

Desk research and an initial survey of potential sites has been undertaken for the South East Area.

The list of park sites includes Bushy Park, Ringsend Park, Herbert Park, Harold’s Cross Park, Belgrave Square, Cabbage Green, Dartmouth Square, Dodder Park at Dropping Well, Eaton Square Park, Fitzwilliam Square, Herzog Park, Merrion Square Park, Palmerston Park, Peace Park, Pearse Square, Ranelagh Gardens, Sandymount Promenade, Sandymount Green, St Patrick’s Park and St Kevin’s Park.

Each of the sites identified have been measured and assessed against the above listed criteria with Bushy Park emerging as a preferred location. Any other sites put forward by the Area Committee will be measured against this same criteria before a final selection is made by the advisory group.

## 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 & ADMINISTRATION**

An advisory group made up of DCC executive members from Parks and Landscape Services, the Arts Office and the Hugh Lane Gallery 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 Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department's Parks Capital Programme 2020-2022 for the delivery of the programme.

Regular reports and updates will be provided to Strategic Policy Committee and Area Committees as the programme develops.

**Les Moore**  
**Chief Parks Superintendent**

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