

# SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Report for City Hall Protocols Committee  
June 2020

**Sculpture Dublin would like to formally request permission to commission a temporary public sculpture (1-year) for the O'Connell Plinth outside City Hall.**

Please find more information about the proposed commission in the COMMISSIONS section below. The report also include information on the Sculpture Dublin programme more generally.

## INTRODUCTION

Sculpture Dublin aims to raise awareness of Dublin's sculptural heritage and to commission new sculptures in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council initiative, developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the City Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery and Visual Artists Ireland.

The idea originated with *Art in Parks* (2014), a guide to public sculpture sited in 22 Dublin City Council parks. *Art in Parks* acknowledges a wealth of sculpture in Dublin's parks and includes information on almost 40 works dating from the early 1900s and spanning 100 years.

The programme ambition 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.

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stakeholder consultations were facilitated by DCC and Visual Artists Ireland in 2019 to forge a vision for the programme. The findings have informed key programme objectives:

- Programming – develop a programme of 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.

## DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

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

The programme is 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.

## COMMISSIONS

One permanent sculpture will be commissioned for each of the DCC administrative areas as follows:

- South Central: Ballyfermot People’s Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin
- Central: Smithfield Square Lower, Smithfield, Dublin
- South East: Bushy Park, Terenure, Dublin
- North West: Kildonan Park, Finglas, Dublin
- North Central: St Anne’s Park, Raheny, Dublin

A temporary sculpture commission is proposed for the O’Connell Plinth – an empty plinth outside City Hall. The Sculpture Dublin team has worked in liaison with Parks and Landscape Services, the City Arts Office and the City Architects Division (Oiseen Kelly) on the development of a commission brief for the plinth.

The commissioning process is a two-stage, open competition which proposes to restore the plinth to its original function: the public display of sculpture. It invites artists to propose a broadly resonant artistic response to the provocation of the empty plinth.

Up to five proposals will be short-listed from Stage One of the process. A detailed brief will be issued for Stage Two which requires artists to provide a comprehensive analysis of the concept, methodology, technical information, time frame and finances of their proposal.

A selection panel including two City Councillors, representatives from Parks, the Arts Office, the Hugh Lane and the City Architects along with two external members will make the final selection.

A copy of the *Stage One Draft Commission Brief* is enclosed with this report.

A budget of €50,000 has been allocated to the commission.

The timeline for the commission is as follows:

6 July 2020	Open call for submissions
7 August 2020	Site visit and briefing meeting at City Hall
21 August 2020	Closing date for Stage 1 submissions
16 October 2020	Closing date for Stage 2 submissions
6 November 2020	Artist selected and contracted
November 2020 – May 2021	R&D, Production, installation design and relevant permissions
June 2021	Installation and unveiling of commissioned work
6 July 2020 – June 2021	Public consultation and engagement around the commission

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Public Engagement Programme will consist of 2 strands:

- Local Engagement Programme (in the local areas, around the sites of commissioned works)
- General Public Engagement Programme (city-wide)

The Local Engagement Programme will include:

- Awareness-raising through stakeholder lists and programme publicity;

- Online consultation and facilitated public meetings;
- Artist's Cafes and Culture Clubs;
- Community Advocates programme;
- Schools programme;
- Talks programme for local libraries;
- Creative projects with community partners.

The General Public Engagement Programme will include:

- An inaugural Annual Sculpture Day in April 2021 designed to enable greater access to and engagement with public sculpture in the city and its cultural institutions;
- A city sculpture trail and guided tours;
- A public talks programme focused on historic and contemporary sculpture (various locations);
- Heritage and conservation schemes;
- Online information on the DCC public art collection and collections of public sculpture in Dublin;
- Online essays on sculpture and commissioning of public art;
- Information on temporary exhibitions of sculpture in museums, galleries, college and studios through 2021;
- Public events surrounding the unveiling of commissioned works;

#### **PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS**

Sculpture Dublin is overseen by a Steering Group made up of representatives from Parks and Landscape Services, the Arts Office, the Hugh Lane Gallery, Visual Artists Ireland and an external expert on sculpture. It is an advisory, non-statutory body. Sculpture Dublin is managed by the Programme Director who reports to Parks and Landscape Services and the Steering Group.

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.

#### **PUBLIC LAUNCH**

The programme will be publicly launched at City Hall on 6 July. Further details of commissions, public consultation and engagement will be published on the programme website.