

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 16th March 2021

Item No: 14

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 initiative developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the Arts Office, and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery and Visual Artists Ireland. Permanent sculptures are being commissioned in Ballyfermot, Finglas, Raheny, Terenure and Smithfield Square Lower and a temporary artwork is being commissioned for the O'Connell Plinth at City Hall.

2. KILDONAN PARK

Kildonan Park is a 20-acre public park in Finglas West. It is simply laid out, with playing fields, a path encircling its perimeter and a football club house and changing rooms located at either end. Plans to upgrade and enhance its facilities and transform it into a space that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy are currently being developed.

3. KILDONAN PARK COMMISSION

The commission for Kildonan Park is a two-stage, open competition. Artists were invited to propose an approach to working in collaboration with the park design team and members of the local community to develop a sculpture for the park. Full details of the commissioning process are included in the [Commission Brief](#).

The Selection Panel for the Kildonan Park commission met on Tuesday 6 October. The panel included:

- Cllr Keith Connolly (North West Area public representative);
- Mary McDermott (Finglas local community representative);
- John Fox (Finglas local community representative);
- Eddie O'Gara (representative of DCC Parks & Landscape Services);
- Kelly Hickey (representative of the City Arts Office);
- Ray Yeates (representative of Sculpture Dublin Steering Group);
- Linda Devlin (representative of Dublin City Council Culture Company);
- Ceara Conway (external art expert).

The panel meeting was chaired by Ruairí Ó Cuív, DCC Public Art Officer, in a non-voting capacity.

The panel reviewed 11 submissions and short-listed 3 artists' proposals based on the following criteria:

- Experience of creating original, high quality artwork;
- Quality of proposal – a clear articulation of approach / methodology to consultation and/or collaboration with key stakeholders – namely (1.) local community, (2.) DCC

Landscape Architect responsible for Kildonan Park development (3.) commissioning partners, Sculpture Dublin and Dublin City Council Culture Company – which will inform the Stage Two submission to create a permanent sculpture in Kildonan Park.

The 3 short-listed artists are Sara Cunningham-Bell, Martina Coyle (in collaboration with Motoko Fujita) and Emma Louise Moore.

Following local consultation and engagement projects, the short-listed artists will submit their Stage Two proposals on 19 March and the Selection Panel will be reconvened on 31 March to award the commission.

For more information about the commission and the artists:

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/kildonan-park/>

4. LOCAL CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY IN FINGLAS

Awareness-raising

Since November 2020, Sculpture Dublin has run number of local publicity campaigns to raise awareness of the commission and encourage interest and engagement from the wider community.

Local people have been invited to complete an **online survey** and/or email Sculpture Dublin Public Engagement Curator, julia@sculpturedublin.ie with ideas, expressions of interest and/or questions about the commission.

The campaign included:

- Press releases to local press and media describing the commissioning process and local engagement activity in the area to date, and encouraging people to complete our online survey;
- Advert in the Local News North edition;
- Leaflet distribution to 3,000 houses in the vicinity of the park;
- Poster on park railings;
- Social media campaign.

Creative exploration and consultation process

Between November 2020 and February 2021, the short-listed artists have undertaken a creative exploration and consultation process facilitated by **Dublin City Council Culture Company**. Each artist has worked over this period with members of the local community to develop ideas which will inform their Stage 2 submission.

Collaborators Martina Coyle and Motoko Fujita have been meeting with students from Coláiste Eoin in Finglas both in person, when that was permissible under public health guidelines, and online. They have been looking at existing public sculptures and parks, exploring the variations in shapes and forms and the concepts accompanying the works. They have been looking at the local environment of Kildonan Park with the students and have started experimenting with sculpture through its making.

Emma Louise Moore has worked closely with students at Coláiste Íde College of Further Education in Finglas. Together, the artist and the students have been exploring modern day Finglas and creating exciting sculptures. Emma has also spent time in the school's fine arts and fashion classes.

As part of her public engagement project, Sara Cunningham-Bell has been meeting online with Avila Park Residents and members of the Travellers Association Pavee Point. With the group, Sara has been discussing what the identity of present-day Finglas is and how it could be represented in a sculptural form. The participants have also been thinking about the process of making sculpture: the materials, the volume and the space, the colours chosen, etc. In this picture, the group is experimenting with form through a paper construction.

On 27 April, **Visual Artists Ireland** will host an online café bringing together local arts and community voices around the Kildonan Park commission.

For more information on the artists' creative engagement work in Finglas and the upcoming VAI café:

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/north-west-area-kildonan-park-2/>

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Local Engagement

All of the new commissions will benefit from local engagement programmes designed to raise awareness, provoke conversations about sculpture and involve people in discussing how public art can enhance their neighbourhood. Local engagement will take the form of online surveys, public meetings, artists' cafes and culture clubs, as well as opportunities to participate in the creation of some of the new commissions and get involved in local art projects through schools and community organisations.

<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/sculpture-in-your-area/>

City-wide Engagement

Sculpture Dublin is working with the city's cultural institutions to draw attention to sculpture in their collections and temporary exhibition programmes. Through a city-wide programme of talks and workshops, online presentations and publications, and a number of exciting new initiatives, including International Sculpture Day (24 April) and the Experiment! Sculpture Award (developed in partnership with The LAB Gallery and Fire Station Artists' Studios), Sculpture Dublin will encourage people to rediscover their city through sculpture – imagining new possibilities for art in the public realm and engaging in shared processes of learning and making. <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/sculpture-in-the-city/>

For information on upcoming events: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/news-events/>

Ruairi O'Cuiv
Public Art Manager