

SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Report for South Central Area Committee Meeting March 2021

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. BALLYFERMOT PEOPLE'S PARK

In 2021 the fenced, grassy area beside Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre will be transformed into a 'people's park' – a free, open, democratic, inviting green space located within a crowded (sub)urban environment for the benefit of its community. In response to local consultation, the new park will be a place where people of all ages and abilities can experience and engage with nature, with planting, with movement, music and storytelling.

3. BALLYFERMOT PEOPLE'S PARK COMMISSION

This is a 'participative' commission, that will evolve through a process of consultation and collaboration between the selected artist, the park's design team and the local community. It will result in the installation of a permanent sculptural work that responds to the new People's Park and the broader context of present-day Ballyfermot.

The commission for Ballyfermot was a one-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 Ballyfermot People's Park included:

- Councillor Vincent Jackson (South Central Area public representative)
- Pam O'Reilly (Ballyfermot local community representative)
- Suzanne O'Connell (representative of DCC Parks and Landscape Services)
- Kelly Hickey (representative of the City Arts Office)
- Noel Kelly (representative of the Sculpture Dublin Steering Group)
- Jessica O'Donnell (representative of the Hugh Lane Gallery)
- Ciaran Smyth (external art expert)

DCC Public Art Officer, Ruairí Ó Cuív was the non-voting Chair.

The Selection Panel was convened on 30 September 2020 to assess Stage One submissions and it agreed to short-list proposals by the following artists: Rhona Byrne, Jane Fogarty, Breda Marron and Sophie Von Maltzan. Following an online meeting between the panel and each of the short-listed artists on 14 October, the panel unanimously agreed to award the commission to **Breda Marron**.

Breda Marron is an award-winning sculptor, based in Drogheda. Her most recent sculpture commission, 'Heart Space' was created for Dundalk town centre, as part of the EU funded,

Town Rejuvenation Project. Other public commissions include Slieve Gullion Forest Park, Co Down, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and a series of sculpture commissions for schools.

The artist's response: *'I am honoured to have been chosen to create a sculpture for the new People's Park in Ballyfermot and am looking forward to collaborating with the local community and Suzanne O'Connell in DCC Parks. Now, more than ever, our parks and public spaces play a vital role in maintaining our sense of wellbeing – they are places where we can connect with nature and each other, places where we can build solidarity and resilience in our communities. I will make a sculpture for Ballyfermot People's Park that is informed by the stories, histories and desires of the local people. Through a collaborative process of listening, making and learning through experimentation, I will create an artwork that aims to capture the spirit of the place in a powerful symbolic gesture.'*

For more information about the artist and the commission:
<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/ballyfermot-peoples-park/>

4. PUBLIC 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/>

Local Engagement Activity in Ballyfermot

Breda Marron has been engaging with a range of community groups in Ballyfermot to help shape her ideas for the sculpture commission.

She delivered a series of workshops with Mary Queen of Angels School 2 and has consulted with a number of youth groups connected to FamiliBase (Ballyfermot Centre for Children, Young People and Families). She has met with a local residents' group; an advocacy group for people living with disabilities, and members of SWAAT (Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment) in Réalt Nua.

Sculpture Dublin is working with DCC Community Development Officer, Miriam Flynn to build connections and support engagement in the local area.

Sculpture Dublin is also working in association with Ballyfermot College of Further Education on a creative community engagement project related to the new commission.
<https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/south-central-area-ballyfermot-peoples-park-2/>

At the end of last year, Visual Artists Ireland facilitated a café in Ballyfermot bringing together arts and community voices including Breda Marron, Suzanne O'Connell, Barbara Dawson, Alan Tully (FamiliBase) and Orla Daly (BCFE). The event was well attended; it introduced Breda to the members of the local community and marked the beginning of the process of engagement.

In December, Sculpture Dublin ran a local publicity campaign to raise awareness of the commission and encourage input and engagement from the wider community (advert in the Local New West edition, leaflet distribution to 3,000 houses in the vicinity of the park, poster on park railings).

Sculpture Dublin will facilitate a public meeting on 23 March, where Breda will present her ideas for the proposed work to the local community. The meeting will be chaired by Councillor Vincent Jackson.

City-wide Public 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/>