

**To the Chairperson and Members
Of the Central Area Committee**

13th July 2021

SCULPTURE DUBLIN

**Report for Central Area Committee Meeting
July 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. 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. SMITHFIELD SQUARE LOWER COMMISSION

Smithfield Square Lower is a modestly-proportioned, pedestrian square located between the Red Line Luas tracks and Arran Quay. Through a two-stage commissioning process, artists were invited to propose a new permanent public artwork for Smithfield Square Lower. Artists could choose to reference Smithfield's long and varied history in their work or look to its contemporary contexts for inspiration. Full details of the commissioning process are included in the [Commission Brief](#).

Production of the proposed artwork is underway. The commissioned artist, Alan Butler is working with Bronze Art on the fabrication of the sculpture and the work is scheduled for completion in early October.

In relation to public engagement activity around the commission, an online café with the commissioned artist and local arts and community groups was hosted by Visual Artists Ireland earlier in the year. Visual artist, Aoife McLoughlin will facilitate a series of sculpture workshops with students in Georges Hill Primary School and visual artist, Frank Prendergast will facilitate a series of creative workshops with Stoneybatter Youth Service. DCC Community Development Officers, Brian Mongey and Elaine Mangan are supporting Sculpture Dublin in building awareness of the commission in the local area.

3. 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/>

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 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/>

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