

## SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Update Report for **South East Area Committee Meeting**  
March 2022

### 1. ABOUT SCULPTURE DUBLIN

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

Three commissions were unveiled last year; a permanent sculpture by Alan Butler in Smithfield Square Lower; a permanent sculpture in Kildonan Park by Sara Cunningham-Bell and a temporary installation by Alan Phelan for the O'Connell Plinth outside City Hall. Commissions for the new Ballyfermot People's Park, Bushy Park and St. Anne's Park will be completed this year.

For more information on the commissions, visit: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/commissions/>

### 2. BUSHY PARK COMMISSION

Through a two-stage commissioning process, artists were asked to explore Bushy Park, its assorted terrains and contemporary uses, and identify a space within the park that resonates and provokes a sensitive and considered aesthetic response. Full details of the commissioning process are included in the [Commission Brief](#).

The Selection Panel for Bushy Park included:

- Councillor Anne Feeney (South East Area public representative)
- Anne Talbot (Terenure/Tempelogue/Rathfarnham local community representative)
- Michael Noonan (representative of DCC Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services)
- Liz Coman (representative of the City Arts Office)
- Noel Kelly (representative of Sculpture Dublin Steering Group)
- Paula Murphy (representative of the Sculpture Dublin Steering Group in place of Hugh Lane Gallery representative)
- Eilís O'Connell (external art expert)

The non-voting Chair was Ruairí Ó Cuív (DCC Public Art Officer)

The commission was awarded to artist, Corban Walker who has proposed an elegant, large-scale work based on many configurations of a cellular grid. The interplay between projecting and recessed sections of the sculpture will create a lively, joyful vision of simplicity that belies the complexity of its making. Standing at just over 7 metres high, the minimalist work will enhance the reflective and meditative environment of the duck pond, and assert itself as a distinctive new feature of the park.

Fabrication of the sculpture is underway. The work is due to be installed in mid-April and unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Dublin later that month.

### 3. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

All of the new commissions have benefitted 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 has taken 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 around the Bushy Park commission, includes wood carving workshops with artist, Conleth Gent and a group of local people who got involved through an open call supported by Robert Chester and the Local Area Office; workshops with artist, Sophie von Maltzan and students from Loreto Primary School; and a Visual Artists Ireland café relating to the new commission, including voices from local community and arts representatives. For more information, visit: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/south-east-area-bushy-park-2/>

Sculpture Dublin is also 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 is encouraging 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/>