



Report on the Women of the Revolutionary Decade

Commemorations and Naming Committee

At the meeting of the Commemorations and Naming Committee held on the 26th of January, 2023, the Committee unanimously supported the proposal set out below for the commissioning of a monument dedicated to the Women of the Revolutionary Decade (1913-1923). The Strategic Policy Committee for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation is now asked to consider this report.

Commission Background

In 2018, a motion submitted by Cllr Vincent Jackson to commission a statue of Countess Markievicz for O'Connell Street was unanimously passed by Dublin City Council.

A Working Group, chaired by Cllr Jackson, was established by the Commemorations & Naming Committee, with terms of reference to oversee the commissioning of the monument. In considering the nature of the monument and O'Connell Street, and reflecting on the fact that women are so underrepresented compared with men in the city's statuary and monuments, and that there are already three representations of Countess Markievicz in Dublin, it was agreed by the Commemorations and Naming Committee to expand the subject matter of the commission to not alone commemorate Countess Markievicz, but to also commemorate the role which other women played in the revolutionary decade from 1913-1923. The brief for the monument was therefore expanded to be defined as a Monument to the Women of the Revolutionary Decade (1913-1923). This expansion of the brief was agreed by the Working Group. Cllr Vincent Jackson subsequently sought agreement from the full City Council in January 2022 for this change of brief and this was supported.

Development of the Brief

The Working Group has, since its establishment, worked on developing key aspects of the brief for artists. Key to this work were the issues of location and budget for the monument.

- **Budget:** The Working Group undertook comparative examinations of other monuments both national and international and this led to the proposal that in order to commission a monument appropriate to the status, subject matter and location of the monument, a baseline budget of €1 million was required for the commission.
- **Location:** The Working Group undertook a site visit to O'Connell Street on 10th June 2022 to examine possible locations for the monument. It was agreed that there is no space north of the Spire which already includes the relocated statue of Fr Matthew and because of the Luas line which travels along the central median from this point. It was also agreed that the area on O'Connell Street between the O'Connell monument and the statue of William Smith O'Brien is not suitable for the location of the Monument as it does not offer the appropriate space for the proposed monument. The Working Group agreed that the monument would be offered space to be viewed and given a status worthy of the intentions of the commission if it was located on the central median in the area opposite the GPO. It was noted that consideration of maintenance issues relating to the Spire would have to be taken into account.

- **Planning:** Advice from the Planning Department is that, given the proposed nature of the monument, a Part 8 planning process will be required.
- **Symposium:** It is planned that, as part of the announcement of this major commission, a symposium will be held so that interested artists both national and international can better understand the revolutionary decade and the role which women played in this important era of Irish history. The symposium will include presentations by historians and will also contextualise the context for the monument in the urban landscape of Dublin.

Ruairí Ó Cuiv
Public Art Manager
27th February 2023