

SCULPTURE DUBLIN

Update Report for **South Central 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. BALLYFERMOT PEOPLE'S PARK COMMISSION

The commission for Ballyfermot was a one-stage, open competition. Artists were invited to propose an approach to working in consultation 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, Biodiversity 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 commission was awarded to artist, Breda Marron, and ideas for the artwork have been evolved through a process of consultation and collaboration with the park's design team and the local community. On 10 February 2022, Breda presented her design for the sculpture at an update meeting with local residents and stakeholders, facilitated by Vincent Jackson, and the response was very positive.

Sculpture

'Together we Rise'

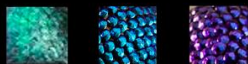
- Circle of Community Support & Interconnection
- Resilient, strong & protective
- You are the center of the sculpture – equal access
- Place of celebration, support
- Open structure allows performance to be seen
- Proud & grounded, connection to home –
- Birds – Wings to Fly, Roots to Return to
- Hope – uplifting – directing vision upwards
- Frame the positive – connect to your dreams
- Open skies – freedom to rise high

Ballyfermot People's Park Sculpture

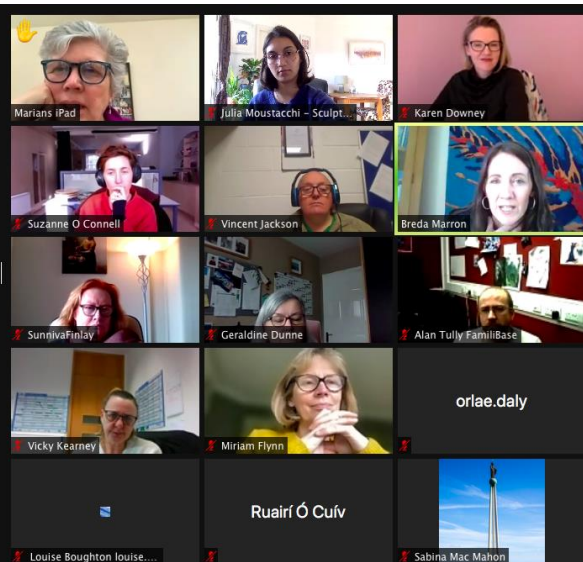


Birds

- A series of metal birds will be shaped & welded to form a circular undulating flock of birds.
- The choice of colours for the bird sculptures will reflect the colours seen in the neck of the pigeons



Ballyfermot People's Park Sculpture

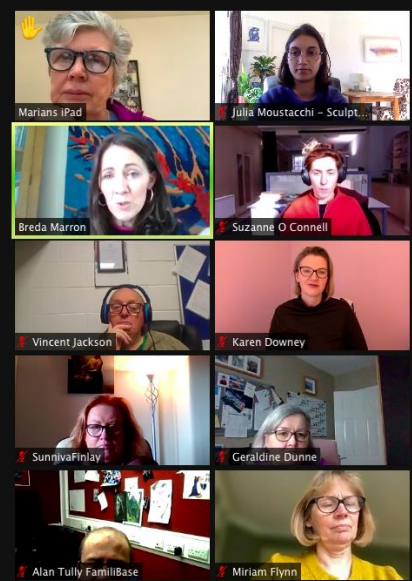


Birds

Birds are laser cut from 1.5mm stainless steel.
Sizes ranging from 700mm x 500mm, 800mm x 650mm



Ballyfermot People's Park Sculpture



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 relating to the **Ballyfermot People's Park commission** has involved:

- A series of workshops with Mary Queen of Angels School 2, facilitated by Breda Marron;
- Artist consultations with local young people, facilitated through FamiliBase;
- Artist consultations with local residents; an advocacy group for people living with disabilities; and members of SWAAT (Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment) in Réalt Nua;
- A creative collaboration between students at Ballyfermot College of Further Education and Breda Marron (which will result in an exhibition in the Community Civic Centre to coincide with the unveiling of the new sculpture);
- Visual Artists Ireland facilitated a café in Ballyfermot bringing together arts and community voices;
- Two public update meetings with local stakeholders, facilitated by Sculpture Dublin and chaired by Councillor Vincent Jackson;
- A series of sculpture workshops with a group of adults working in Ballyfermot Civic Centre, facilitated by artist, Pat Gillis;
- A series of 3D Virtual Reality workshops with a group of young people in FamiliBase, facilitated by artist, Barry Haughey;
- Willow sculpture workshops in the park with Breda and 6th class students from Mary Queen of Angels School 2;
- Willow sculpture workshops in the park with Breda and local residents;

For more information, visit: <https://www.sculpturedublin.ie/south-central-area-ballyfermot-peoples-park-2/>

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

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 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/>