

Pulse by Alva Gallagher

Dublin City Council secured funding under the Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme to commission a new artwork for the Liffey at City Quay, Dublin 2.

The commissioning process was titled the Dublin Docklands Light Commission and was organised as a two stage open competition under the National Guidelines for the Per Cent for Art Scheme. Three artists were short-listed and invited to further develop their proposals for presentation to the final selection panel. The final selection panel consisted of Cllr Mannix Flynn and Cllr Claire Byrne, representatives of Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council including Dublin Docklands, City Arts Office, Environment and Transport Department as well as a community representative and external art expert.

The proposal titled Pulse by Alva Gallagher was selected by consensus. Pulse unifies historic elements with contemporary modern concepts, creating a legacy piece within the historic Docklands. While portraying the old Dockers great nets cast in suspended motion the artwork links the past with the contemporary city. Her proposal is to construct a stainless steel structure which is 3.5 metres tall, 10 metres long and 3.15 metres wide. This structure will be covered in a stainless steel mesh to create the effect of netting. This will include a lighting system of 10,000 commercial grade RGB LEDs which will be colour changeable and sensory, programmed for an immersive public sculpture experience. For example, one of the proposed lighting combinations is to recreate the night sky over the Liffey from 1665 when the first Liffey Ferry was licenced.

The location for the installation is on City Quay, Dublin 2 on the campshires beside the River Liffey. The location is between the Talbot Memorial Bridge and Sean O'Casey Bridge in what is more of a commercial than residential part of City Quay.

Dublin City Council has been liaising with the artist and her technical team (including engineer, lighting designer and fabricator) to undertake site investigations and finalise the design of the structure. Issues which have been taken into account in this process are the impact on the area where it is to be located as well as care and maintenance of the installation. It is intended to sign contracts in February 2023 and that the artwork will be fabricated and installed within six months.

The South East Area Manager will engage with local residents to brief them on the details of the project.

Ruairí Ó Cuív
Public Art Officer