

The Dubline

Public Art Commission



A Fáilte Ireland and Dublin City Council Public Art Commission

A Two Stage Competition

Briefing Document for Artists

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. The Art	3
3. Objectives	3
4. Invitation	3
5. Context of the Commission	4
6. The <i>Dubline Walking Trail</i>	5
7. Finance	6
8. Briefing and Symposium	6
9. Selection Process	7
10. Selection Criteria	7
11. Selection Panel	7
12. Time Scale	7
13. Submissions	7
14. Queries	8
15. General Conditions	8
16. Terms and Conditions	8
17. Appendixes	9

1. Introduction

Dublin City Council and Fáilte Ireland have initiated this commission to attract visitors to explore the *Dubline* tourist trail from High Street to Kilmainham and to explore the rich history and heritage of the Liberties while reflecting on the vibrant communities of residents, businesses and industry along the route. This invitation is intended to give scope for creative and imaginative responses to the Brief.



2. The Art

The commissioned artwork or artworks will have to be in place or available on a permanent basis or for at least ten years. This leaves opportunity for visual art and sculptural response to the invitation but also gives scope to provide artworks through digital media platforms. If the latter option is to be considered the artist or artist's team will have to provide evidence of the viability of the artwork over a period of ten years including any technical maintenance, upgrades and servicing for the period. The Criteria place emphasis on the originality and creativity of responses to the brief as well as the need to provide sound and safe technical approaches to it. The proposal must also take into consideration the issue of Health and Safety and in particular avoid proposals which could be considered a 'slip or trip' hazard.

3. Objectives

As the intention of the commission is primarily to explore the *Dubline*, consideration should be given to the rich layers of archaeology, history, and heritage in the Liberties but also the active communities along the route which contribute to the vibrant culture of the area. Therefore there is scope to consider one or more of the following characteristics of the area:

- Connections to its past and history.
- Landmarks along this route.
- The area's distinctive community and culture.
- Aspects of the defined commercial tradition of the area.
- Features or characteristics of its contemporary life.

While the intention is to encourage exploration of the visitor trail and area the commissioners are open to creative and artistic interpretations or narratives which have been inspired by the Liberties. See appendixes for more information.

4. Invitation

This is a two stage open competition for artists or interdisciplinary groups interested in submitting proposals. Once all submissions have been received and reviewed, up to five artists or groups will be shortlisted and invited to make a detailed proposal. The short-listed artists or artist groups will be selected by a panel of art and technical experts, representatives of tourism and a local area representative.

5. Context of the Commission



A Rich Past

Thomas Street is one of Dublin's oldest thoroughfares, and was recorded as early as 1195 as 'the great new street' running west of the walled city of Dublin. The street formed along a much earlier approach to the early settlement of Dublin, known as An Slígh Mór. The name 'Thomas Street' comes from the Abbey of St. Thomas the Martyr, founded in 1177 and situated in an area approximately behind the St. Catherine's Church in Thomas Street. The Abbey and its surrounding lands, including the new Thomas Street, formed a 'liberty' – essentially a feudal estate lying outside the walls and jurisdiction of the city of Dublin, and administered by the Abbey. The medieval city included a number of liberties, but as they are known today, 'The Liberties' mainly refers to the Liberty of Thomas Court and Donore. Later, when the Abbey lands fell into the ownership of the Brabazon family in the 16th century, the area became known as the Earl of Meath's Liberty. The liberties, as distinctive administrative areas, were effectively abolished in the 1840s when they were subsumed back into the jurisdiction of Dublin Corporation.



Thomas Street is best known as the original industrial suburb of Dublin, with an extensive tradition in brewing, distilling, tanning, and trade in agricultural produce. The influx of Huguenots from France as well as Dutch and Flemish Protestants later in the seventeenth century, led to the area being established as a centre of the linen, poplin, wool and silk industries. These industrial activities and powered mills were supported over the centuries by the presence of streams and rivulets, a defining feature of the area. For many years there was even an open water course in Thomas Street, the Glib River, which in turn gave its name to a street market, and which

supplied much of the city's water until the establishment of the City Basin off James Street in the 18th century.

During 19th century, The Liberties was dominated by great brewing and distilling families, most notably the Guinness family, who from 1759 built and developed the world's largest brewery at St James's Gate, which eventually occupied most of both sides of James's Street. Renowned distillers Powers, Jameson, Millar and Roe were all located here, creating a Victorian cityscape of chimneystacks, mills and bustling streets. The area even had its own harbour linking it to the Grand Canal, and a mini-railway through the St James Gate brewery.



Side by side with this industrial prowess, lay serious poverty and destitution and woeful living conditions. The late 19th century was marked by a number of progressive schemes to improve workers housing in the area. As the distilleries and brewery closed or reduced in size, new uses took their place including the National College of Art & Design and more recently, enterprise centres and creative industries. In fact, the area's varied architecture stands as testimony to the many chapters of its history; the streets host medieval churches, industrial factories, Georgian houses, modernist social housing and contemporary additions of creative and digital industries.

The Present

The street now forms one of the main tourist routes through Dublin city, used by many city visitors heading to the Guinness Storehouse or further west to IMMA and Kilmainham Gaol. The area has its own unique charm and boasts a strong, distinct sense of community, with a curious detachment from the life of the wider city. In short, this is an area alive with energy, new contemporary uses, and a tangible heritage and historic character. The modern Liberties is also one of the city's most ethnically diverse communities, engendering new discussions on the meaning of rights and modern civil liberties. Aspects of the area include

- National College of Art (NCAD incorporation the National Irish Visual Archives)
- Digital Hub
- Businesses, shops, pubs and cafés
- Communities and community groups including NGOs
- Religious and places of worship
- Parks and Recreational Space
- Guinness Store House,
- IMMA
- Kilmainham Gaol

6. The Dublin Walking Trail

The cosmopolitan city of Dublin is a modern hive of buzz and activity, packed full of trendy restaurants, bars and cafés. But scratch the surface of its vibrant streets, lanes and alleyways and you'll find a rich and compelling history just waiting to be explored – the Dubliner allows for this exploration.

The Dublin trail runs through the heart of the city, connecting the people, places and stories of Dublin. In fact, it follows part of the ancient road (the Slige Mhór) that once crossed the entire width of the country. From Vikings and Normans to rebellion and of course a brewery or two, visitors can learn about the many factors that have contributed to today's thriving capital. Along the trail, walkers encounter many Dublin interpretive panels dotted throughout the city – these illustrated storyboards are full of information about nearby landmarks, hidden gems and local anecdotes.

The trail begins on the north side of the city, at Parnell Square. There are fine examples of Georgian architecture in the area's colourful buildings, as well as the adjacent Rotunda Hospital. In the tranquil Garden of Remembrance, there's a commemorative sculpture dedicated to all those who gave their lives in the name of Irish freedom.

Walkers will then move down onto one of Dublin's main thoroughfares; O'Connell Street. Home to the historic General Post Office, majestic Daniel O'Connell statue and the striking Spire, this bustling street has many tales to tell.

Next is the River Liffey, or 'Anna Livia' as it's also known, thanks to the iconic Dublin scribe James Joyce. Discover how the city flourished around this body of water, before visiting Trinity College – home to the Book of Kells – and the original Irish parliament on College Green. Further up Dame Street there are two more important locations, City Hall and Dublin Castle – both are positively steeped in history.

If explorers are in luck, the Designer Mart on Cow's Lane will be in full swing. After they've had a browse through the pretty jewellery, art and craft items on sale, they'll learn about the history of the cultural quarter Temple Bar. Then it's on to Christ Church Cathedral, one of the city's most impressive buildings that dates back to Viking times.

A stroll through the Liberties offers an authentic slice of 'old Dublin', and a visit to the iconic Guinness Storehouse, National College of Art & Design, and James' Street Church (the starting point for the Camino de Santiago). Finally, the Dublin trail comes to an end at Kilmainham Gaol and Courthouse, an atmospheric former prison which once detained many important figures in Irish history.

7. Finance

The value of the commission is €55,000 including VAT. This amount is fully inclusive of all costs including fees to the artist, any necessary research, production/realisation, insurance, documentation and VAT. Short-listed artists will be paid an honorarium of €1,000 for completing the stage 2 submission / application process.

8. Briefing and Symposium

As the subject of this commission is complex and multi-layered while having at the same time a clear objective, it is proposed to combine the Briefing with a Symposium. The Symposium will offer interested artists and individuals an opportunity to hear and respond to a series of brief presentations from a wide variety of individuals regarding aspects of the Liberties past and present. The Symposium will also include a presentation on approaches to art commissioning in similar or relevant contexts with a view to stimulate ideas and responses to the Brief. The Briefing will focus on the scope, procedural and technical aspect of the commission and will include a Question and Answer Session. This will take place on the **16th October in the Wood Quay Venue from 2.30 -4.30 pm**. To book a place see Evenbrite ***Dublin Public Art Commission***

9. Selection Process

This is an open submission two stage competitive process.

a. Stage 1

This stage is open to any artists. Submissions should include the following information:

Initial Proposal (Maximum 2 A4 pages)

- Summary of the concept and theme for the commission and how it will be presented to the public.
- Approach to the commission, including artistic and technical outline as well as feasibility.

Support Material (Maximum 4 A4 Pages)

- A CV
- Examples of previous work - at least three relevant projects to be submitted.

b. Stage 2

Stage 2 will comprise of a limited competition with up to five shortlisted artists invited to make submissions. These artists will be selected by a panel of arts experts, and Dublin City Council staff. A detailed brief will be issued for this stage. Shortlisted artists will be requested to provide more detailed analysis of the concept, ideas, methodology, technical information, time frame, and finances of their proposal in Stage 2. This will include a list of the total number of proposed artworks, including descriptions and location, and detailed visualisations of no less than five works.

A selection panel, which will include a majority representation of expertise in contemporary art practice, will preside over the final selection of proposals. Artists may be invited to attend for interview before final selection is made.

10. Selection Criteria

The proposals will be assessed by the selection panel using the following criteria:

- Concept and relevance to the commissioning context.
- Quality and originality of artistic ideas.
- Track Record of the artist.

11. The Selection Panel

The final selection will be undertaken by a panel including:

- Representatives of South Central Area
- Representatives of Fáilte Ireland
- Public Art Manager
- Two external art experts (curator and/or artist)

12. Time Scale

The intended timescale for the commission to be completed and launched in 2019.

13. Submissions

The closing date for **Stage 1** is **Thursday November 29th at 12.00 pm**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions should be marked 'Liberties Art Commission' and delivered to:

A: Public Art Manager, Dublin City Council, The Arts Office, The LAB
Foley Street, Dublin 1.

Please note:

- Emailed submissions will not be accepted.
- A loose leaf copy (of the main elements of the proposal) should be supplied to facilitate photo-copying.

14. Queries

Artists are welcome to submit queries to the Public Art Manager (who is managing the commissioning process on behalf of Dublin City Council). Contact publicart@dublincity.ie. The closing date for queries is **November 22nd at 12pm**.

15. General Conditions

- Submissions can be collected (by arrangement) from the LAB, Foley Street.
- Applicants are responsible for the cost of delivering applications.
- Faxed or Emailed submissions will not be accepted.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- All materials submitted should be clearly labelled with the applicant's name and contact details.
- All reasonable care will be taken with each submission. Dublin City Council and its promoters or managers do not accept responsibility for any loss or damage which may occur.
- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.
- Artists may be asked to supply the names and contact details of referees as part of the selection process.
- Dublin City Council reserves the right not to award commissions and in this instance reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

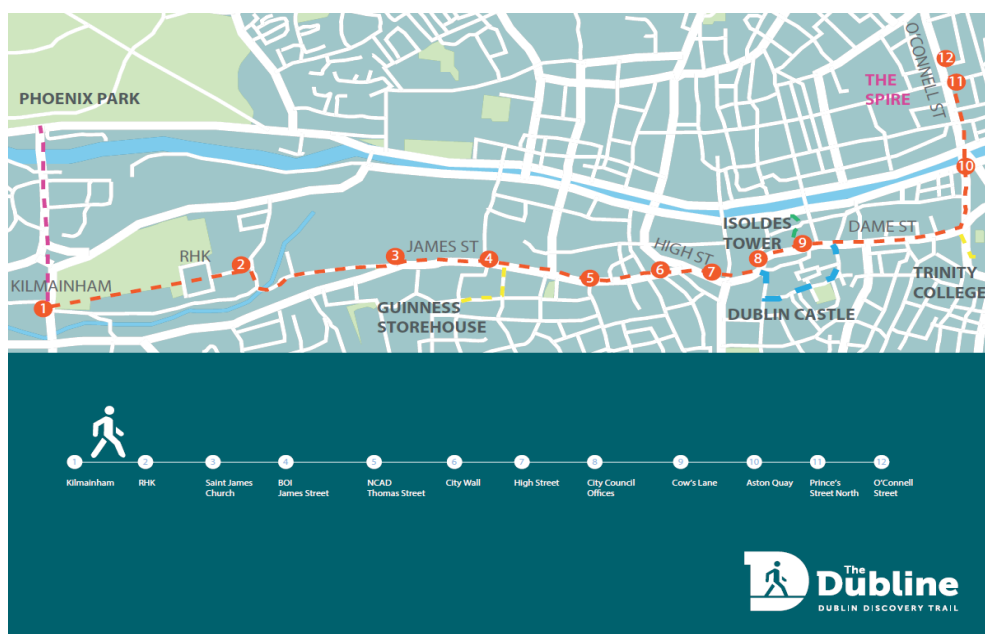
16. Terms and Conditions

- The successful artist will be issued with a contract.
- The appointed artist will be required to have the following insurances:
 - a. Public Liability Insurance cover of €6.5 million with an indemnity to principal extension.
 - b. Employers Liability Cover of €13 million with an indemnity to principal extension (where employees are engaged to work on the Commission).
- The artwork must comply with Health and Safety standards. The successful submission will be subject to Health and Safety checks.
- Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection: Selected artists will be required to follow national policy with regard to commissions involving interaction with children, young people and, vulnerable adults and where applicable undergo training in this area, as per national requirements.
- The appointed artist will have to supply an up to date tax clearance certificate prior to signing of contract and for the duration of the commission.
- Applicants should note that all commissions awarded are VAT inclusive, (whether VAT liability lies with the artist or the Commissioner). Non-resident artists from EU and non-EU countries must be aware of any tax or VAT implications arising from the commission and ensure that any costs arising from this are included in their budget.
- Dublin City Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 1997, 2003. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for the sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to the FOI request, be examined in the light of the exemptions provided for in the Acts.

Appendixes

Appendix 1: The Dubline Discovery Trail

The Dubline is a heritage trail which runs across the city from East to West along a route from College Green to Kilmainham. Fáilte Ireland has been working with Dublin City Council and the Office of Public Works since 2011 to develop this interactive innovative story trail of Dublin's past and present. Since 2013, it includes a free mobile app that allows people to explore the city watching or listening to stories, told by Dubliners, about the places and history along the length of the trail. It includes places in, and stories about, The Liberties and will also incorporate interpretative panels on street level. [See below]



- Panel 1 – Outside Kilmainham Gaol & Courthouse
- Panel 2 – Opposite the entrance to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham at the junction of Military Street/Irwin Road
- Panel 3 – Outside Saint James Church on James' Street
- Panel 4 – Outside Bank of Ireland on James' Street
- Panel 5 – Outside NCAD on Thomas Street
- Panel 6 – At the junction of Lamb Alley/Thomas Street
- Panel 7 – Outside Focus Ireland on High Street
- Panel 8 – Fishamble Street at the top of the steps by the Civic Offices
- Panel 9 – At the junction of Cow's Lane/Lord Edward Street
- Panel 10 – Outside Londis at junction of Westmoreland Street/Aston Quay
- Panel 11 – Outside Pennys at the junction of Prince's Street North/O'Connell Street
- Panel 12 – Outside Citizens Information on O'Connell Street

Proposed Phase 2 Dubline Interpretive Panels

1. Parnell Square
2. Mountjoy Square
3. Barnardo Square
4. Werburgh Street
5. St. Patrick's Cathedral
6. Newmarket
7. St. Catherine's Church

Appendix 2: Bibliography

- The Abbey of St Thomas the Martyr, Dublin by Dr Áine Foley, Dublin City Council (2017)
- Thomas Street: Improving the Public Face of an Historic City Centre Street, Study by Dublin Civic Trust (2012), Dublin
- Thomas Street: A Study of the Past, A Vision for the Future, Dublin Civic Trust (2001)
- Meath Street & Francis Street: A Study of the Past, A Vision for the Future, Dublin Civic Trust (2009)
- The Liberties, Maurice Curtis (2013), Dublin
- The Liberties of Dublin, Elgy Gillespie (1974), Dublin
- A Glass Apart (A History of Irish Whiskey), Fionnan O'Connor (2015), Dublin
- A School of Art in Dublin Since the 18th Century, John Turpin (2015), Dublin
- The Heart of Dublin: Resurgence of an Historic City, Peter Pearson (2000), Dublin

There are also extensive bibliographies and references in both Dublin City Trust studies.