

**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMISSION BRIEF**

**PERMANENT VISUAL ARTWORK /SCULPTURE
with Public Engagement**

New Cultural Quarter in Portlaoise

Budget €52,000

Briefing Document and Application

Deadline for Stage 1

12 noon, Friday 9th August, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Laois County Council is commissioning a **permanent public art / sculpture** under the Per Cent for Art scheme for the new Cultural Quarter in the centre of Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Note: Although there are a number of possible prominent sites for this artwork, the exact location will be informed by the commissioned artist.

Please see attached link to map for general location details.

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/the+fort+portlaoise/@53.0346654,-7.2984156,259m/data=!3m1!1e3>

COMMISSION CONTEXT

Portlaoise was unveiled as one of the successful Towns to be allocated funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), as part of Project Ireland 2040 in respect of the development of a new Cultural Quarter in Portlaoise, and also the development of initiatives which will see Portlaoise becoming the first Low Carbon town in Ireland.

As part of 'Portlaoise 2040 - A Vision for Portlaoise', a number of enhancements and renewal projects are underway within and around the town centre. **The Cultural Quarter** focuses on a number of land mark buildings relating to the establishment of the town in the 16th century. These land mark buildings include the Fort Protector, Old St. Peters Church and Presentation Convent, The River Triogue; and the Ridge Burial Ground.

The Cultural Quarter is centre of the historically significant area of the original Portlaoise settlement. The Fort protector is the central attraction in this re-imagined space where it is being restored with historically accurate methods and fitted with a new viewing tower that will be open to the public. Laois County Council also plans to re-purpose the old Scoil Mhuire site to become the new home for the Laois School of Music, Music Generation Laois and to provide provision of new public car parking to serve the new cultural hub of Portlaoise. 47 Social Housing Units are planned for development within the Presentation Sisters convent lands. Laois County Council is also in the process of planning and funding the delivery of a new Portlaoise public library replacing the old Shaws building at Lower Square. (possible site location).

Further information can be found in the link below '2040 and Beyond; A Vision for Portlaoise'.

<https://laois.ie/departments/planning/portlaoise-town-centre-public-realm-strategyvision-statement/>

Various approaches and levels of public engagement are both important and welcomed as part of this Per Cent for Art project. Collaborative partnerships are also welcome, should artists wish to partner with another artist for this project.

The brief asks the applying artist/s to consider the following in expressing their interest in this commission:

- Focus on the historical but also the current cultural context of Portlaoise.
<http://laoisarchaeology.ie/a-little-history-on-the-old-fort-portlaoise/>
- The Gaelic (O'Moores and Seven Septs), Medical (Bartholemew Mosse and Jacobs) and Aviation (James Fitzmaurice and The Aldritt's Family) Heritage of Portlaoise.
- Be willing to take part in Public Engagement in the process of project development.
- Focus on the creation of an engaging and 'living' artwork for all the citizens and visitors to Portlaoise.
- Consider the relevance of the artwork now and in the future.

- Consider the durability, health and safety and the requirement for a low maintenance artwork.

Selection of the Successful Artist

The contract for this Public Art commission will be awarded following a Two Stage Open Competition Selection process as per the Per Cent for Art Guidelines and which is explained below.

Selection will be based on the information supplied and as requested in Stage 1 and Stage 2 briefs, establishing the competence of the artist to carry out this commission.

No designs or detailed proposals are required in Stage 1.

Stage 1

Artists are invited to express their interest in being considered for this project at the first stage of this commission. Artists may do this by completing the application form and submission of a CV and images / details of recent relevant works / projects.

The closing date for receipt of Stage 1 completed application form together with supporting documentation and material is 12 noon, Friday 9th August, 2019.

Stage 2

From the completed Stage 1 applications; a shortlist of artists will be selected by the selection panel. This panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection. Stage 2 short listed artists will be paid a concept development fee of €250 for their work in preparation of a detailed proposal for final selection.

A Stage 2 brief to include subjects of interest will be available to shortlisted artists and a site visit is expected at this stage.

Laos County Council and the Portlaoise Public Art Committee reserves the right not to proceed with any submissions received.

The Selection Panel whilst careful when handling submissions cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to material submitted as part of the commissioning process. Please insure you have copies of all materials, images, samples for your own records.

Selection Panel:

The Selection Panel will consist of two / three members of the Portlaoise Public Art Committee, two Professional Artists and will be chaired by the Curator / Project Manager.

Project Delivery Timeline:

It is anticipated that the project would commence during **2019 and be completed by summer, 2020.** The artist should demonstrate their ability to fulfil this timeframe. The final timeline will be agreed with the commissioned artist at contract stage.

Budget:

The total budget for the project is **€52,000.** This includes the costs of any materials, artist's fees, design development, artists' insurance, supply and installation, plinths or other siting requirements, signage, travel, and any other costs incurred in the production of the project / artwork. The artist will be responsible for meeting all of these costs out of the total budget allocated.

Laos County Council agrees to cover the cost of minor site works and will assist with safety measures during installation.

Site Location:

Portlaoise Cultural Quarter / Main Street.

Site Visits:

Site visits will be arranged for shortlisted artists at Stage 2 of the commissioning process. Site Drawings / Maps will also be made available to shortlisted artists.

Queries:

Applicants can make enquiries regarding the commission to **Rina Whyte**, email rinawhyte@yahoo.com or by telephone + 353 87 238 9591.

Guidelines:

It is recommended that you read these guidelines and supply supporting documentation and material by HARD COPY (CD / USB is also fine) as requested.

1. ***Include a current CV***
2. ***Include the best quality examples and reproductions of your work/working practice that best demonstrate your experience for this commission. Please do not send original artworks.***
3. ***Please include the budgets for any previous commission examples that you submit.***
4. ***Please complete the application form clearly in ink or type.***
5. ***Include an appropriately sized and stamped addressed envelope, should you wish for return of your application.***
6. ***Keep a copy of your application and any materials you submit for your own reference purposes.***

Percent for Art Commission

Laois County Council

Stage 1 – Application Form

Name of Artist: _____

Contact Address: (please note all correspondence will be sent to this address)

Telephone/Mobile: _____ email: _____

- 1) Please give short description of your art practice, experience and in it's relevance to this project:

2) Artists are asked to submit the following:

- a. Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- b. List of previous relevant projects or commissions, cost, time scale to deliver, list of specialist or other contractors engaged by the artist in connection with the completion of these installations
- c. Visuals of previous relevant projects that are relevant to this commission brief
- d. Names of two referees and their contact details
- e. Confirmation that if successful the artist is ready to submit current Tax Clearance Certificate / Number, Artist exemption (if applicable) and to provide insurances. This confirmation is mandatory.

3) Supporting Documentation:

To assist in the assessment of your application, supporting documentation should be included and should be submitted and it must be clearly labelled:

Supporting documentation	Number of Items Enclosed	Enclosed (please tick)
CV		
Stamped addressed envelope (SAE)		
USB or Hard Copy images		
Other, please specify		

Freedom of information:

Applicants completing this form should note that information provided to **Laois County Council** may be disclosed in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (1997 and 2003). Every effort will be made to protect client confidentiality.

Garda Vetting:

The successful artist will be subject to Garda vetting procedures.

General Information:

Where did you hear about the competition, this helps us to direct these commissions effectively (please tick to indicate):

Local Authority Arts Office Website Local Media

VAI Other

If other, please specify _____

Declaration

I have read the award conditions, agree to be bound by them, and certify that the information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____

Date _____

This application form and supporting information should be returned **HARD COPY** to the address below:

**Laois County Council, Cultural Quarter Public Art Commission
Rina Whyte
C/O Laois County Council Arts Office
Áras an Chontae
JFL Avenue
Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Ireland**

Closing date for the receipt of completed applications is **12 noon, Friday 9th August, 2019.**
Please note that applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.
Emailed applications cannot be accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any unforeseen issues which may arise in the course of selection.
- Artists or teams will be asked to supply the names and contact details of referees as part of the selection process.
- Laois County Council reserves the right to not award the commission.
- The successful artist(s) will be issued with a contract.
- The Public Artwork / sculpture must comply with Health and Safety standards. The successful submissions will be subject to Health and Safety checks.
- The appointed artist will be required to have the appropriate insurances in place for the duration and scope of the work and its installation.
- The appointed artist must be tax compliant and produce Tax Clearance / Artist Exemption documentation.
- The Commissioners do not insure equipment belonging to the artist or their associates.
- Applicants should note that their total pricing is VAT inclusive, if appropriate to the commission.
- Laois County Council does not bear responsibility for any loss or damage to submissions made to this competition.
- Email applications will not be accepted
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- Applications / Submissions will be destroyed as a data protection measure should a SAE not be enclosed in your submission for return of your submission.