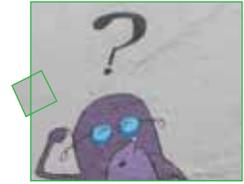


# CLARE PUBLIC ART STRATEGY 2010-2014



## CREATING SPACE

### OVERVIEW

Clare County Council has a strong commitment to developing the range and quality of public art projects which are commissioned across the county.

Clare County Council believes that commissioning artwork is a fluid and responsive process which is informed by the vision, context and nature of arts practice and endeavours to put in place supports and systems to maximise the potential of this process for the benefit of artists and the public.

Clare County Council's Arts Office has many years of experience of the professional project management of small, medium and large-scale public art commissions in a variety of locations and contexts. One of the main sources of funding for public art in County Clare is the Government approved Per Cent for Art Scheme. This scheme is a unique and important resource that provides opportunities for dynamic new artistic work to be commissioned in Ireland and presents opportunities for collaboration between artists and communities.

Clare County Council's approach to commissioning is influenced by national and international best practice and in particular the National Guidelines on Public Art. Section 3.4 of these Guidelines outline the scope of the scheme.

Public art and the Per Cent for Art Scheme gives the Irish public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art, borne out of capital constructions projects, in their everyday life. In turn it provides a challenge and an opportunity to a wide range of artists to create work for public engagement and response.

Public art can be of any form and can work within or across many art forms, such as visual art, dance, film, literature, music, opera, theatre and architecture; including all aspects of contemporary arts practice such as performance, live art, multimedia, video art, sound art, etc. Works under the scheme can be of any duration, temporary or permanent, and can be centred in an urban or rural context.<sup>3</sup>



## PUBLIC ART POLICY

Clare County Council's public art policy reflects the core principles of the Clare Arts Development Plan 2010-2014, namely that

- Public access to and involvement in quality artistic activity is of paramount importance to arts development in the county
- The arts have a valuable role in society
- The pursuit of excellence and diversity in the arts is actively encouraged
- The arts will be integrated into overall development policy for the county particularly in areas such as social inclusion, recreation and leisure policies and tourism policies.

<sup>3</sup> **Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme. General National Guidelines. Dept. of Arts, Sports & Tourism 2004. pg 16**

This policy reiterates Clare County Council's aims to

- Create quality opportunities for artists and the public to interact and inspire each other
- Assist professional artists to create new work through concentrated supports and promotion
- Protect and promote our traditional arts
- Encourage sustainable arts development through the allocation of realistic time-scales and resources to projects undertaken during the timeframe planned for.



Specifically the Public Art Policy sets out to

- Commission new artworks across all artforms that are challenging, dynamic, inspiring and inclusive
- Enable artists to realize their full artistic potential through the provision of any necessary supports including research and development time.
- Promote quality and meaningful engagement with the public through dialogue, interaction and interventions, as appropriate.
- Promote sustainable art works and art projects
- Promote Clare as a region of artistic excellence on a national and international platform.

## 2010 – 2014 STRATEGY

In tandem with the Clare Arts Development Plan 2010 – 2014, the Arts Office proposes to run a three stranded programme of public art commissions through the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

Funding for the following strands will be allocated from the pooling of Per Cent for art funds across the relevant departments of Clare County Council. Funding will be allocated to

- a) significant artistic projects that have a county-wide remit and are relevant to the county as whole
- b) at least one key project to be undertaken per electoral area over the duration of this plan.
- c) localised projects working with specific communities or artistic groups throughout the county.

These projects will be commissioned in three ways

1. In recognition of the experience, expertise and creative spirit that has emanated from the county, the Arts Office will directly invite a range of Clare artists across a variety of artforms to research and develop public art projects. These projects will offer the creative freedom to develop current themes in the artists' work in ways that are influenced by and accessible to the public at large.
2. The Arts Office will issue a generic call to artists to propose contemporary art projects that have significant public involvement across all artforms. In tandem with this, the Arts Office will issue a call to artists to propose contemporary art projects relevant to specific locations within the county.
3. Furthermore, the Arts Office will issue calls for a number of site - specific commissions throughout the duration of the plan

It is envisaged that this policy framework will ultimately be reflected in the quality of work produced throughout the commissioning process.

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