



CONNECT

# Artists' Brief

# New Public Art

# Commissions

**IN CONTEXT 5 – CONNECT**

**Strand 2. Every Individual is Part of Our Story**

South Dublin County Council's Public Art Programme 2023 – 2026  
under the Per Cent for Art Scheme

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# Introduction

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South Dublin County Council would like to invite proposals from Artists, in any discipline, for four new Public Art commissions that will focus on climate action, environment, tackling the urgency of climate change, and champion sustainability and / or biodiversity in the context of South Dublin County. These commissions are part of **IN CONTEXT** (1998-2025), South Dublin County Council's Public Art Programme under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. It is now in its fifth phase of commissioning public art.

Imagined as a series of dynamic and ambitious public art commissions, IN CONTEXT 5 aims to gather temporary communities around inspirational ideas. Collaboration between artists and local, national and/or international partners will help to extend the depth of public engagement.



Feel the Land, Sophie Von Maltzan, IN CONTEXT 5 - Connect Photo © Ben Ryan

# IN CONTEXT 5 – Connect

**IN CONTEXT 5 – Connect** aims to build upon the strengths of earlier phases of the programme, which are widely considered models of best practice in Public Art commissioning. It follows **IN CONTEXT 4 – In Our Time** which created a framework for artists to reflect on the situation of the County, responding to themes and issues that are prominent in our time and gathered temporary communities around an inspirational idea.

In 2024, Strand 1 of **IN CONTEXT 5 - Connect** took place, with six public art works commissioned that had a particular focus on engaging early years, children, young people and their communities, in Firhouse, West Tallaght and Clondalkin. For more information on Strand 1, please visit the IN CONTEXT website [www.incontext.ie](http://www.incontext.ie).



OutWall Selma Daniel Photo © Darren Kenna

We are now seeking applications for Strand 2 of **IN CONTEXT 5 – Connect**. The commissions will work with the locales of Tallaght, Clondalkin, Templeogue and Rathfarnham and will have a focus on climate action, environment, tackling the urgency of climate change, and /or championing sustainability and / or biodiversity. The theme is informed by research and consultation that was centred around the following questions:

- What do we do now to ensure that future generations can have pride in the heritage that we leave behind?
- What is our hope for their and our futures?

Our changing climate continues to be at the forefront of the challenges that we face as a society. With this open call, we are seeking ambitious, radical and innovative proposals that can engage local communities and creatively respond to the theme and to the Council’s Climate Action and Biodiversity plans. Proposals are welcome from all contemporary art forms including: architecture, dance, film, literature, music, performing arts, theatre and visual arts/ visual culture.

There is no expectation for the artist to confirm community groups / community groups of interest in their proposal. The Assistant Arts Officer: Public Art and Project Coordinator will support the shortlisted artists to identify community groups.

**IN CONTEXT 5 - Connect** Strand 2 is aligned with South Dublin County Council’s Arts Development Strategy 2022-2026, the Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029, The Biodiversity Plan 2020 – 2026 and South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (see appendix 1).

# Artist Proposals

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## **Art forms**

The Commissions can include work in any of the recognised art forms; architecture, dance, film, literature, music, opera, theatre, craft and visual arts and can be achieved through once-off interventions, residencies, collaborative projects, interdisciplinary responses and time-based work.

- This brief is open to individual artists and/or a team of artists working together.
- The proposed process must involve artists making new work as the central aspect of the commission.
- We are looking for ambitious and innovative proposals that engage with local communities.

## **Interaction with South Dublin County**

Proposals should show a clear willingness to engage with the County and its inhabitants. Once commissioned, Artists will be invited to carry out research in local areas, establish relationships and partnerships, and in consultation with residents/stakeholder's commission artworks that are innovative and ambitious, that reflects the needs, cultures and potential of the inhabitants of a given area.

## Outline of the Assessment and Selection Process

- The commission for **IN CONTEXT 5 – Connect** will be procured through an open submission process. Artists will submit a proposal in response to the brief, and to the criteria.
- Artist proposals are invited for temporary public art projects and no permanent works of art are envisaged.
- Artists are not required to be living in or from the County and may work with artists/collaborators from elsewhere in the County, Ireland or internationally. Artists may apply from outside of Ireland, and while artists are not expected to live in the county, they will need to be in regular contact, making regular visits so as to engage with the locality.
- There is no expectation for the artist to confirm community groups / community groups of interest in their proposal. The Assistant Arts Officer: Public Art and Project Coordinator will support the selected artists to identify community groups.



Rock to the Top Ciaran Taylor IN CONTEXT 4 – In Our Time Photo © Felipe Jóia

## Information Required

All proposals to be made through <https://sdcc.submit.com> where you will be asked to answer the questions listed below:

### Artistic concept and intentions

- Why this brief of interest to you and your practice and how you and your practice will respond to the themes of this brief: climate action, environment, tackling the urgency of climate change, championing sustainability and / or biodiversity (max 800 words)

### Intended process / nature of intervention

- Your methodology for how you will realise your project. While we do not expect you to identify a group in your proposal it should outline how you propose to work with and engage the community (max 800 words)
- If you are working in a collaborative team, provide information on each member and how you will work together. You will be asked to include their CV's and examples of past work that are relevant to your proposal (min 3 images, max 5).

### Proposed timescale (uploaded as attachment)

- While the successful artists will work with the Assistant Arts Officer and Project Coordinator to determine the timeline for their project, please provide an indicative timeline for your proposal.

### Proposed budget (uploaded as attachment)

- Artist's / team member fees
- Development costs
- Documentation
- Production / technical costs
- Interaction with communities / localities
- Insurance and other related costs
- Contingency
- Total value of proposed commission must be inclusive of VAT



### **Timescale**

- 11th April: Call for artists proposals
- 30th May: Closing date for submissions
- 30th June: Notification of commission awards and contracts
- December 2026: all commissions complete

### **Who can apply?**

- Irish, EU, UK and non-EU artists

### **Budget allocations**

- One commission of up to €79,000
- One commission of up to €50,000
- One commission of up to €44,000
- One commission of up to €25,000

### **Support For Artists and Public Engagement**

The selected Artists will work closely with the South Dublin County Council Arts Office towards realising these significant commissions in the county.

In particular, they will be supported by South Dublin County Council's Assistant Arts Officer: Public Art and a Programme Coordinator, who will work across the programme managing Community Liaison, contractual agreements, communications, marketing, timelines, and budgets.

## Selection Panel

The Selection Panel will be composed from the following:

- SDCC Arts Officer
- SDCC Assistant Arts Officer: Public Art
- Representatives of SDCC Public Art Working Group
- External art experts (artist and/or curator) in Public Art

## Selection Criteria

- Artistic quality and originality of ideas / proposals
- Potential to engage with the context in innovative, radical and risk-taking ways
- Artistic ambition / potential of artist
- Proposed process and public engagement
- Feasibility and how the proposed funding costs relate to the production of the commission
- Track record / potential of the artist (s) to develop, manage and deliver the project in proposed time and budget.



Bang Bang Pop, David Beattie IN CONTEXT 5- Connect Photo © Louis Haugh

# Appendix 1

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## **About South Dublin County Council**

South Dublin County is one of four local authority areas in the Dublin region. South Dublin County Council provides a broad range of services including housing, roads, cultural and recreational facilities, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports. It also serves as a platform for local democracy with 40 Councillors spread across six electoral areas.

Bounded by the River Liffey to the north and the Dublin Mountains to the south, South Dublin County administrative area lies 16 kilometres southwest of Dublin city centre and has an administrative footprint of 223sq. kilometres. The County has 9 main villages Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Templeogue, Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle and is bounded by adjoining counties of Wicklow, Kildare, Dublin City, Fingal and Dun Laoghaire.

The county is in the process of rolling out ambitious and forward-thinking strategies in the areas of housing, economic development and environment, looking to create communities where common ground is cultivated and social interaction, community, and individual wellbeing, are fostered in culturally rich environments. It is our ambition that the integration of culture and creativity supports these initiatives to establish sustainable communities and create areas of national significance.

The county is home to 278,7467 people. Tallaght, the administrative centre of the county, is regarded as a thriving centre of business, culture, recreation and education. South Dublin is one of the most diverse areas in Ireland, with over 93 nationalities living here and over 17.5% of the overall population born outside of Ireland. There are 58 named languages spoken in the area, apart from English and Irish.

South Dublin County also has one of the youngest populations in Ireland, with over 35% of the population children and young people, higher than both the state average and the Dublin average. These factors make South Dublin a very vibrant place right now.

## South Dublin County Council Climate Action Plan

In February 2024 South Dublin County Council adopted the new Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

The new plan responds to the continuing challenges presented by climate change and lays out South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) course of action over the five-year lifetime of the plan.

The SDCC Climate Action Plan sets out a range of actions across six action areas:

- energy and buildings
- transport
- flood resilience
- nature based solutions
- circular economy and resource management
- citizen engagement

The Plan is centred around actions that collectively address four key targets, which are framed by the Climate (Amendment) Act 2021 and the National Climate Action Plan:

- 50% improvement in the Council's energy efficiency by 2030
- 51% reduction in the Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030
- To make Dublin a climate resilient region, by reducing the impacts of future climate change-related events
- To actively engage and inform our communities on climate action

## Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) calls upon every Local Authority in the country to establish a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) in their administrative area.

A decarbonising zone is a specific area where a range of solutions are identified in order to reduce carbon emissions in the area. The DZ will act as a test-bed for innovative climate solutions that will look to reduce emissions associated with travel, local businesses, housing and other elements of the local community.



Moving Dublin, Cleary and Connolly  
IN CONTEXT 3

Clondalkin has been chosen by South Dublin County Council as our Decarbonising Zone and we aim to cut emissions in the area by 51% by 2030 with the long-term aim of making Clondalkin net-zero by 2050.

South Dublin County Council is currently working with consultants to develop the DZ. A community team, composed of local stakeholders is being set up to help with the development of a DZ plan. The success of the initiative requires the whole community, and everyone will need to play a part in this exciting project.

Over the summer we will be working with stakeholders (both internal & external), councillors, the general public to identify opportunities to reduce emissions in the DZ.

To find out more about the Climate Action Plan and the Decarbonising Zone (Chapter 6 of the CAP) please visit [www.southdublinclimate.ie](http://www.southdublinclimate.ie).

## **South Dublin County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2026**

South Dublin County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2026 presents a background to the diversity of nature in the County and to the challenges that face biodiversity and the County in a time of change. The plan outlines a series of objectives and actions that aim to achieve the protection and enhancement of the County's biodiversity, while aiming to ensure that the County's residents, businesses and visitors continue to enjoy and benefit from the many services that nature provides. The action plan has been a response to national obligations under the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

4 actions are outlined in the Biodiversity Action Plan:

1. Getting to know what we have
2. Telling the Story
3. Leading the Way
4. Protecting, Restoring and Creating

### **Links to Council documents**

#### **Climate Action Plan**

[Climate Action - SDCC](#)

#### **Biodiversity Plan – South Dublin County Council**

[Connecting with Nature - A Biodiversity Plan for South Dublin County](#)

#### **South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2022 - 2028**

[Adopted Plan - SDCC](#)

#### **South Dublin Active Travel**

[Active Travel - SDCC](#)

#### **South Dublin Arts Development Strategy**

[sdcc-arts-development-strategy.pdf](#)

# Appendix 2

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## Research that informs the Artists Brief

The brief is informed by research and consultation and is centred around the following key questions:

- What do we do now to have the same pride in the heritage that we leave behind for future generations?
- What are our hopes for their and our futures?

The responses to these questions have helped to characterise our understanding of the population and inform this artists brief and programme.

South Dublin County is characterised by a population that:

- Supports a human-centric approach in the development and support of our communities;
- Encourages an environment of learning and development;
- Looks forward and encourages experimentation;
- Safeguards public interest and trust;
- Embraces local and personal histories;
- Does not fear the digital future;
- Promotes equitable opportunity for all;
- Expands our understanding of diversity and inclusion;
- Fosters local strengths;
- Embeds climate action and sustainability;
- Nurtures culture and the arts;
- Respects the individual needs of each member of our communities.

The natural environment and ecology, history and heritage, architecture and the built environment, intercultural, multicultural, citizenship, play and well-being, these are all areas of interest for us.

# Appendix 3

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## Terms and Conditions

- Applications will only be accepted via the South Dublin County Council online application platform [sdcc.submit.com](https://sdcc.submit.com). Emailed, faxed or posted applications will not be accepted.
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- South Dublin County Council and its agents reserve the right to document artists' applications.
- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise during the course of the selection.
- South Dublin County Council reserve the right not to award the commission if none of the proposals received are deemed to be suitable and in this instance reserve the right to pursue another procurement process.
- The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 apply to South Dublin County Council. Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed in response to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive. Submissions will be kept for twelve months for the purpose of documenting the selection process and ensuring transparency of the selection process.
- The successful artist/s will be issued with a contract.
- 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/s will be required to have the following insurances:

- Public Liability Insurance cover of €6.5 million with an indemnity to principal extension.
- Employers Liability cover of €13 million with an indemnity to principal extension (where employees are engaged by the Artist in connection with the Commission).
- Professional Indemnity insurance €1 million.
- South Dublin County Council will not insure equipment belonging to the Artist or her/his associates.
- The contracted artist/s will be required to furnish a valid Tax Clearance Certificate for all stages of the commission.
- Applicants should note that all commissions awarded are VAT inclusive, (whether VAT liability lies with the artist or the Commissioner).
- Payments to the Artist will be made in accordance with the Prompt Payments of Accounts Act 1997 and shall be processed on receipt of a valid invoice from the artist upon the sum becoming due.

Applicant is fully compliant with the following legislation:

- Employment Equality Acts 1998-2011
- Equal Status Acts 2000-2011
- National Minimum Wage Act 2000 as amended
- Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 as amended
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007
- Disability Act 2005
- Have procedures in place to ensure that subcontractors, if any are used for this contract, apply the same standards.
- Artists must be garda vetted before commencing.
- Artists will work closely with and receive support from the Arts Office towards realising these significant commissions in the county.

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