

# International Early Childhood Arts Commission 2016

## Discussion of Brief at The Lab

### **Question and Answer session with attendees**

Local Authority panel responding: Maire Davey, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Arts Office, Julie Clarke, Fingal Arts Office, Liz Coman, Dublin City Arts Office, Orla Scannell, South Dublin Arts Office

**Q: It's a short turnaround time, are you looking for proposals starting from zero?**

A: It's a six week turn around and an opportunity for artists/companies to realize a new piece of work that has not yet been presented or produced. It is acceptable if this work is currently in a development phase.

**Q: Are you open to all art forms, not just performing arts?**

A: Yes we are open to all art forms.

**Q: Do you have a collective vision for what you want to see happen?**

A: We share a vision of supporting and aiding the development of new work for an early childhood audience that supports artistic practice and responds to early childhood education and needs.

**Q: What are your priorities?**

A: Our collective priority is to build a partnership that is based on open dialogue in order to provide the commissioned artist(s) with support to create ambitious works of art and to further public engagement with the commission.

The support document outlines current early childhood arts programming and priorities within each of the local authorities. These vary from one LA to another, if people would like more information than what is provided within this document we are more than happy to provide that.

**Q: Should an applicant suggest their preferred context for showcase / delivery?**

A: It would be good if applicants did indicate where they might see the work taking place as it would give us more to respond to. But there will be support further down the line to assist artists' select suitable contexts, in response to their proposal and the work.

**Q: Does the work need to be presented in multiple spaces within a local authority area?**

A: It might not be a touring show, so we cannot prescribe something at this point that would limit the scope of the applications. A proposal can simply state what's envisaged and the potential space(s) the work could go into. Work should be visible within each LA, but the use of multiple spaces within one LA is not a requirement.

**Q: Following from that, because it is open to people from outside of Dublin and abroad, people might not know much about your facilities and communities, is it enough that it is a flexible installation / production / artwork that can tour?**

A: Yes that would be great. Flexibility is important.

**Q: Is it up to the artist to programme where it goes or up to the LA's?**

A: We would collaborate with you on that and open this up for discussion at stage two.

**Q: When the commission is finished do you envisage that each of your strengths is stronger, or that there has been an exchange of expertise, and that you have discovered a new area of work in each of the LA's?**

A: We would like to strengthen our respective work in each LA while also supporting the development of new artwork and an exchange of expertise and resources would take place between the LA's, artists and early childhood sector.

**Q: What does the international aspect mean?**

A: The commission is open to artists from Ireland and abroad, and there's potential for the completed work to travel outside of Ireland.

**Q: Define the age group?**

A: 0-5years

**Q: Regarding inclusion in crèche settings - how can you involve everyone so they can avail of the project and experience?**

A: We won't have the resources unfortunately to reach out to every early childhood setting or child during the lifetime of this commission, but we can share the experience and learning via an evaluation piece, public exchange, the arts-in-education portal, and our respective websites and communities.

### **Other Queries Received**

**Q. Is there an information pack available?**

A. The information available includes

1. the commission brief
2. a support document outlining current early years programming within the four local authorities
3. film footage of the brief presentation and responses to queries on the day

**Q. Are you looking for artists with some knowledge of arts research in early childhood?**

A. The commission is open to artists who might not have previous experience of early childhood arts.

**Q. Is the proposed work expected to be participatory in nature or can it be an artwork that opens a door to involving children in a new art activity?**

A. The work doesn't have to be participatory and yes could be artwork that opens the door to involving children in a new art activity.

**Q. Is there only one award available for one group?**

A. The total fund available for this award is €50,000. The amount of the award that may be applied for is between €20,000 and €50,000. Each application will be assessed on the criteria for the award and based on the outcome of this process it is possible that more than one commission may be awarded.

**Q. Are there public spaces available for installations/sculpture/multimedia for this project?**

A. There are no prescribed public spaces for this project.

**Q: Do you seek stand-alone artwork, or would a series of workshops with certain community groups work as well?**

A. If the proposal can meet the criteria of the brief then we can accept it but it's up to the applicant to demonstrate this.

**Q. Would a research proposal qualify for submission?**

A. If the proposal can meet the criteria of the brief then we can accept it but it's up to the applicant to demonstrate this.

*Queries should be sent to Orla Scannell, [oscannell@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:oscannell@sdublincoco.ie)*