

Public Art Commissions

Dolphin House

Briefing Document for Artists

A Dublin City Council Public Art Commission



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1. Introduction

Dublin City Council, through its Arts office, is seeking to commission two temporary Public Artworks for Dolphin House. These commissions are part of a wider Dolphin House public art programme which will culminate in a larger scale public artwork that will be commissioned for 2027. In May 2026, Mini Commission # 1 was awarded. We are now seeking proposals for two collaborative Mini Commissions;

- Mini Commission # 2 in collaboration with Rialto Youth Project
- Mini Commission # 3 in collaboration with Dolphin House Homework Club

Funding arises from the Per cent for Art programme

2. Invitation

This is an open call for two temporary public art commissions.

As commissioners of artworks, Dublin City Council follow best practice in Public Art commissioning as outlined in the Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme General National Guidelines 2004 (Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism 2004)

3. Context of the Commission and key community priorities

Since September 2025, DCC, through its Arts office, has been working with [Create](#), The National Development Agency for Collaborative Arts and artist Evelyn Broderick and the community of Dolphin House on a Public Art programme which places the community at the heart of the Public Art Commissioning Process.

The local community has participated in weekly workshops and discussions about the Public Art Commissioning Process, led by Evelyn Broderick. These workshops raised local awareness of the nature and benefits of contemporary public art and how the community can have ownership and leadership within the commissioning process. Crucially, this deep engagement allowed for the interests and ideas of local communities to be heard and to learn how the community identify themselves and their neighbourhood. This active research directly feeds into this artist brief, with the local community providing the following information which should guide the artist as they develop their proposal:

Who We Are

We are the community of Dolphin House. We want you to work with our young people and their supporting organisations, the **Homework Club** in Dolphin House (HWC) and the Youth Project in **Rialto Youth Project** (RYP).

In this call out we are seeking two individual artists to lead on two separate Mini Commissions within Dolphin House.

Rialto Youth Project *“In an age of inequality, where working class communities are oppressed, the Rialto Youth Project is working towards bringing about social change, providing an integrated youth service, based on the needs of young people and in particular those most at risk”*

Rialto Youth Project is a community youth project based in Rialto – a village in the south west inner city of Dublin. The Rialto Youth Project values young people, their voice and meaningful participation within the youth project, their community and society. We work with young people within the following six areas of face to face work:

- Education
- Building Relationships
- Arts Programmes
- Critical Social Education: Modular
- Critical Social Education: Arts-based
- Social & Recreational

The project is committed to offering educational, cultural, social and recreational programmes for young people in a safe and secure environment. In practice, this has involved a particular commitment to working within two major local authority flat complexes, Fatima Mansions and Dolphin House, while also maintaining an area-wide youth service.

RYP are committed to socially engaged arts practice and exploring what it means to collaborate. RYP has developed a strong capacity to address a broad spectrum of issues affecting young people through the arts. Such issue-based projects have sometimes worked with one art form, for example drama. More typically, they have combined elements from a range of forms including visual arts, writing, dance and music.

Dolphin House Homework Club is a community-based after-school club. The project is committed to equality, social justice and the value of education. Education does not only mean formal education. We are also heavily engaged in arts-based practice. We work in collaboration with many artists, so that young people can experience arts practice and possibly find their passion and interests. We believe in the arts as play, as education and as a vocation.

Both organisations value collaborative and socially engaged arts practice as a means of co-creating meaningful and honest artwork. They have extensive experience of both supporting and collaborating with artists across all artforms with a focus on long term engagement that encourages openness, community dialogue and advocacy for positive change.

The Commissions

Commission # 2 - Rialto Youth Project

Rialto Youth Project seeks an artist to work with a group of young people between the ages of 13-16 years old. This group wants to explore the unique and multifaceted relationship they have with regeneration both as a concept and a lived experience. Here they wish to explore and amplify their own histories alongside their communities and reflect both the positive community support they encounter on a daily basis alongside the complex social issues within the Dolphin House area.

*“I don’t like much about where I live, but I do like the people”
participant from RYP*

Commission 3: Dolphin House Home Work Club

Dolphin House Home Work Club seeks an artist to work with a group of children aged 8-12 years old. The group will be led by the children in collaboration with Dolphin House Homework Club. They are interested in exploring their lived experiences growing up in Dolphin, their friendships, their experiences of regeneration, change and play.

*“We love play, we love to build and want a really huge slide”
participant from HWC*

These Commissions aim to create space for real collaboration through listening, reflection, conversation, support and creative expression around experiences of regeneration, exploring what regeneration has meant, and continues to mean, for the children and young people who lived — and are living — through it.

The selected artists will work closely with participants and stakeholders to develop a creative process that is inclusive, respectful, and responsive to the group’s experiences. We are open to a wide range of artistic disciplines, and approaches, including music, songwriting, visual arts, photography, film, sound, writing, theatre and performance, architecture and socially engaged practice, or interdisciplinary work.

What We Are Looking For

We would like to work with artists who:

- Have a track record and experience working collaboratively with children and young people or in socially engaged practice / community arts.
- Values and respects the young peoples voice
- Creates the space for listening, dialogue, and participant-led processes
- Is interested in themes of play, place, regeneration, memory, and lived experience
- Can facilitate a welcoming and inclusive creative environment
- Is sensitive to the realities and complexities of community change

We are particularly interested in approaches that centre the voice and experience of young people and create meaningful opportunities for connection and reflection.

We welcome applications from artists at different stages of their careers and encourage proposals that are collaborative, imaginative, and community-focused.

4. Artform

It has been decided that **two temporary** artworks will be commissioned. This brief relates to both **Commission # 2 and # 3**.

We are seeking proposals for two temporary commissions which will take place over **3-6 months**. All art disciplines and practices are welcome including; visual arts, dance, film, literature, music, theatre, digital arts, performance, live art, multimedia, video art, sound art, participatory, socially engaged practice, and / or research-based.

Proposals should show a clear willingness to engage with the groups outlined in the Introduction, involving them in risk taking and experimentation in the artistic process.

5. Site visits

The community invites interested Artists to undertake a site visit, where they will hear more about the community and the Commission. The site visits will take place on the following dates:

- Friday, 19th June, 2pm: Site visit with the Rialto Youth Project
- Monday 22nd June, 3pm: Site visit with Homework Club Leader.

Please note there will be no further site visits other than those listed above.

To sign up to one of the site visits, please email publicart@dublincity.ie stating **the date** that you wish to attend. You will be emailed with directions to the meeting point closer to the site visit date.

6. Service Requirements

The successful applicant will be required to carry out all works associated with the provision of a temporary artwork to meet the objectives of this brief, including development of a programme of work with the local community, resulting in an artwork. It is expected that the commission is completed within 6 months of the artist being awarded.

7. Finance

The value of each of the commissions is €10,000 including VAT. This amount is fully inclusive of all costs including fees to the artist/arts group, any necessary research, production/realisation, insurance, documentation, taxes and VAT.

8. Selection Process

This is an open call process with artists invited to make proposals.

Artists are invited to make submissions presented in the format of 2 PDFs.

PDF 1: Artists should provide the following information, on a maximum of 4 pages:

- State which commission you are applying for:
 - Commission # 2 - with Rialto Youth Project
 - Commission # 3 - with the Homework Club
- Concept proposal stating artistic intentions and how it relates to Dolphin House.
- Outline budget detailing the financial breakdown of the commission.
- Project Timeline

PDF 2: Up to three examples of relevant previous work including images and a CV of no more than three pages.

9. Selection Criteria

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

- Quality and originality of the idea
- Regard for site specificity and response to the themes/area
- Technical feasibility and artist's experience
- Outline budget.

Dublin City Council reserves the right not to award commissions and, in this instance, reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

10. The Selection Panel

The selection panel could include but might not be limited to:

- Representative(s) from the local community
- Public Art Officer, Dublin City Council
- One external Art Experts (curator and/ or artist)

11. Time Scale for completion of commission

It is expected that the commission will be completed within 6 months of being awarded the commission

12. Submissions

- Closing date for submissions for **Friday July 24th, 2026 @ 12 noon**
- Submissions will only be accepted via the publicart@dublincity.ie email and no late submissions will be accepted.

Please note: The selection panel will sit in September. Artists will be notified on the week beginning 21st September 2026.

13. Queries

Artists are welcome to submit queries to the Public Art Officer for Dublin City Council, Meabh Butler. Queries should be submitted by **noon on Wednesday July 8th, 2026**, at the following email: publicart@dublincity.ie

14. General Conditions

- Late submissions will not be accepted
- Submissions will only be accepted via the publicart@dublincity.ie email.
- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.
- Artists or teams 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.

15. Terms and Conditions

- The successful artist/team will be issued with a letter of agreement.
- The appointed artist/team 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 Commissioners will not insure equipment belonging to the artist or their associates.
- 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/team 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.
- Dublin City Council reserves the right to withhold payment where the successful Tenderer fails to meet his/her contractual obligations in relation to the delivery of services to an acceptable level of quality.
- Dublin City Council reserves the right not to award commissions and, in this instance, reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

16. GDPR Compliance

The purpose for processing the data you provide is for the selection of new public art commissions for the Dublin City Public Art Programme. The information you provide will be accessed by staff of Dublin City Arts Office and invited external specialists and may be shared with relevant Dublin City Council staff. Your information will be retained for 6 years if successful and 1 year if unsuccessful with your application. This process is being undertaken in accordance with the Arts Act 2003.

If you do not furnish the personal data requested, Dublin City Council will not be able to process your application. You have the following rights, in certain circumstances and subject to applicable exemptions, in relation to your personal data:

- The right to access the personal data that we hold about you, together with other information about our processing of that personal data.
- The right to require us to rectify any inaccuracies in your personal data.
- The right to require us to erase your personal data.

- The right to request that we no longer process your personal data for particular purposes.
- The right to object to our use of your personal data or the way in which we process it.

Please note that to help protect your privacy; we take steps to verify your identity before granting access to personal data. If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please submit a request to our Data Protection Officer outlining the specific details of the request: Email: dataprotection@dublincity.ie Tel: 01 2223775. All valid requests will be processed without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request. This period may be extended by up to two further months where necessary.

