

Public Art Commission: Westport Town (last updated 19th May 2021)

FAQs / Clarifications

Any questions relating to this commission will be uploaded to this document until the 28th May 2021.

Should you engage with the residents of the Tubber Hill development or the surrounding area?

There is no 'should' in relation to engagement. It is up to each artist / artistic team how they propose to engage with the community. For example you could propose to work with a certain audience e.g. group, residents, young people, families etc. Or you could propose to do a call out and engage those who are interested in taking part in Tubber Hill and the surrounding area.

Can an artwork be located along the railway walk, would local residents be happy with that?

The brief is very open to artworks and where they take place or are located. Mayo Arts Service will work with the successful artist to negotiate with the community where / how the artwork takes place.

What was the last public art project in Westport town?

The last public art project in Mayo was the Sentinel by Ronan Halpin. This is a permanent sculpture located in Westport Town, it was commissioned by Westport Town Council:

<https://ronanhalpin.com/portfolio/sentinel-a-commission-for-westport/>

Can you have an approach in your proposal rather than a defined outcome?

A proposal can be based on an approach and way of working that is process / research led / informed by community collaboration. However, keep in mind in the 'Submissions must contain the following' section of the brief includes:

- *Possible outcomes and how these would be experienced or presented to the public.*

This is to illustrate to the panel possible outcomes and how the public will experience these. It also demonstrates how the project might progress and culminate. We understand these are not fixed and may change with the development of the public art project.

Are there any images along the crescent on the Tubber Hill development?

There are images in the Story Map developed to accompany the brief under 'Tubber Hill Housing Development: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ed5b421696f744329211fb32d17c1d38>. Additional images have been added to the Story Map of areas in and adjacent to the development that are not accessible via google maps.

Is the commission open to international artists?

Yes, this opportunity is open to international artists.

Can Mayo County Council assist with with studio space and accommodation, is there an extra budget for this?

There is no extra budget and artists will have to cover all costs in the budget of €35000. The Arts Office can assist in finding accommodation and a space to work in if needed.

Is there a community liaison for the project? Does the County Council coordinate community engagement?

Aoife O'Toole will be available as Acting Public Art Coordinator along with staff in the local area office to make connections / introductions with the local community. This will depend on the project proposal and who you wish to work with. For example, it could be via an open invitation for participation or approaching specific community groups / audiences etc. In the past we have found that once the initial introductions are made that the artist then becomes the main contact for communities. However local authority staff will be available to support connections / communications with the public and promote any interventions / events/ workshops etc. Arts Office staff would also work with the local area office staff to assist with anything that is needed for the public art project delivery if this has not already been secured e.g.

workshop space, accessing local knowledge, etc. Mayo County Council offer this support as the commissioner and you don't need to account for it in the budget.

Is the artist required to coordinate the project or is there someone in the County Council who manages it? If not, would it make sense to include a project manager in the application?

The artist / artist team selected are the main coordinators for their own project. As outlined above Mayo County Council will provide support to the successful applicant including advice and guidance as needed. If you feel you would need extra assistance with the coordination of the project then it would be a good idea to include one in your proposal.

Can I look for additional funding for the project for example private sponsorship?

Artists must work within the budget allocated and I would advise you to devise a proposal that fits to the budget. It is important that a proposal is not under budget or over budget or dependant on other funding or if artist not paying themselves fairly.

This is a publicly funded project with funding from the percent for art scheme. It is not a public / private partnership and it would be not be the norm to get additional funding from a private company.

Is this a one stage competition?

This is initially a one-stage competition, open to all artists. However, if a clear choice cannot be made from the stage one submissions and further, detailed information is required a limited number of artists may be invited to attend an interview and make a presentation to the panel. An honorarium will be paid to each shortlisted artist.

Will the outcome of the commission be a permanent artwork? Is there a site within the town the artwork would be installed?

Outcome: The focus of the commission is a collaborative public art project with the community, it is open to all artforms. The focus is on community collaboration therefore we have not specified an artform or specific site. From the artist brief:

This commission is a unique opportunity for a professional artist(s) to collaborate with the local community of Tubber Hill, Westport on a public art project. Proposals are welcome from both individuals and collaborative artistic teams. This commission is open to all art forms including visual arts, dance, film, literature, music, theatre, digital arts, performance, live art, multimedia, video art, sound art, socially engaged, participatory, research based etc. Proposed outcomes can be ephemeral, temporary, or semi-permanent in a nature. See the vision in the artists brief for further details.

Is there a resident's association in Tubber Hill Housing development? Are there any groups already established in the area?

There is no resident's association in Tubber Hill. The housing development was developed in two phases. After phase one a local community development officer working for Mayo County Council organised some outdoor/ games events, helped them set up a resident's association. This was all before 2014. The resident's association is not active anymore. There are two small community rooms in the estate and the local Men's Shed are using one of them.

There are a variety of community groups in Westport that I am sure residents are part of. But there is no active group with just the residents.

A public art project could do a call out for participants. Are could reach out to the residents via a Westport wide community group or local schools. There are a variety of approaches that could be taken. Engagement could be with Tubber Hill residents - it could also expand to nearby communities in the town or along the railway walk. An opportunity for communities to connect with each other.

The estate has a lot of young families living in it with adults mainly ranging from 30's – 50's. Here is an approx breakdown of the age of younger people in the estate.

Age Range	0-3	4-8	9-12	13-15	16-18
No. of Children	8	12	15	8	5