



LIVING LANDSCAPES

TÍRDHEACHA BEO

Public Art Commissions Pan 22 - 28

Sligo County Council



Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo

Sligo County Council Arts Service is commencing a new phase of PublicArt commissioning supported by the *Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media*; the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; and the Department of Transport under the Per Cent for Art Scheme; for capital schemes delivered by the Housing, Planning and Roads Sections of Sligo County Council. *Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo 2022–2028* is a local, regional, national, and international Public Art programme open to artists from all contemporary art practices.

Strands

Landscapes / Tírdhreacha is offered in 4 Strands:

- 1.Public Art Commissions
- 2.Co-Productions & Partnerships
- 3.Commissions by Invitation
- 4.Public Spaces, Places & Buildings Fund

Selection Process

Commissions will be awarded through a series of open and limited call competitions; all shortlisted artists will be remunerated a proposal fee. The Artist selection process will include a panel comprised of independent artists, curators; public representatives from the Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN); Sligo County Council members and staff.

The type of commission will determine the selectors on the assessment panel based on: experience, professional practice, creative discipline and artistic expertise.

Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo supports artists in 4 principal ways:

- 1 Instigate and oversee a series of ambitious Public Art commissions to take place across County Sligo.
- 2 Co-ordinate co-produced Projects & Partnerships which actively encourage engagement between artists, communities, local hosts, and established organisations based in County Sligo within the public realm.
- 3 Public Art commissions by limited invitation for small & medium sized projects, opening opportunities to local, regional, national, and international artists, where applicable.
- 4 Commissioning impactful and environmentally sensitive new Public Art for public spaces & places in both the natural & built environment through the: 'Public Spaces, Places & Buildings Fund'.



Artistic & Commissioning Principles

- To cultivate greater connections with communities in County Sligo through collaboration.
- To develop and enhance the cultural identity of County Sligo locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, through a new round of commissioning, funded by the Per Cent for Art Scheme.
- To embrace inclusion and diversity within the public art programme
- To enable fully considered, extensively researched and meaningful art projects, where sufficient time, curatorial support and expertise will be provided.
- To nurture exploration, in all contemporary art forms, across County Sligo.
- To trust the art process, artist methodologies and position artists at the heart of the commissioning programme.

Artist Eligibility

Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo is an international, national, regional, and local opportunity. It is open to artists working across all contemporary art practices. Selected artists must be tax compliant and will be required to provide a Tax Clearance Certificate, where applicable. In addition, selected artists will be required to display relevant insurances specific to their commission. Where an artist is working with children, young people and/or vulnerable groups, Garda Vetting will be required in advance.

Selection Criteria

- Quality of an artist's previous work and/or the demonstration of an applicant's artistic potential.
- Artistic and cultural value for County Sligo.
- Concept innovation and new ways of thinking and engagement.
- Feasibility and sustainability of the project.
- Potential of the project to connect meaningfully with both new and established audiences.

*Criteria may vary for each commission, depending upon artwork medium, public engagement etc.

Artist Selection Process

Commissioning procedures are fully in line with the 'Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme. General National Guidelines', 2004. Please note, the guidelines are currently in the process of being revised and updated by the new Per Cent for Art Inter-departmental Committee; we will ensure to re-align this commissioning process as updates are issued from the Department.

Commissions will be made available in 3 phases during the period 2022-2028. They will come in the form of one, two & three stage competitions, relevant to the scope of each project and funds available.

Selected artists will be resourced and paid for their proposal development.

The application process is designed to be as 'artist friendly' and flexible as possible. In addition, we invite and encourage any feedback from applicants who would like to share with us their experience of the commissioning process, which will be used to inform and improve on future Public Art commissioning by Sligo Arts Service.



Application Process – Phased & rolling basis

Artists may submit for multiple strands.

To apply for any of the opportunities offered through *Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo*, Sligo County Council's Public Art Commissioning Programme 2022–2028, please visit the programme website where you can view any live commission opportunities; download an Application Form and Guidelines of submission requirements here: <http://www.sligoarts.ie/PublicArt/Landscapes/Tírdhreacha/> (link tbc)

Deadline for completed Phase 1 submissions: XXXXXXXX 2026, by 5pm. No late submissions will be accepted.

Main Objectives for Art in the Public Realm in County Sligo:

1. Commission artists on a variety of projects, across all creative contemporary arts disciplines, and provide opportunities for artists to create art in new and inspiring public contexts and settings.
2. Facilitate new opportunities of engagement between artists, community organisations & the public.
3. Re-establish the Public Art Steering Group to:
 - Develop a Public Art Commissions Plan (this document)
 - Oversee the delivery of the Commissions Plan (on-going)
 - Identify opportunities for public engagement with communities.

Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme. General National Guidelines, 2004 – Accessible via this [link](#)
About the Per Cent for Art Scheme – Accessible via this [link](#)

Commissions & Indicative Timeframes:

Close-Out Phase – Completed Commissions Under Finalisation

Commission A – ‘Suppose an Outcrop’ – Roads Capital Project

- Artist: Eilis O’Connell
- Site: N4/N15 Junction, Sligo
- Commission Type: Legacy Roads Project (Pooled: Harbour View Housing + N4/N15 Roads)
- Per Cent for Art Budget: €74,808
- Status: Installed – Final close-out pending
- Actions Remaining:
 - Final signage approval and installation
 - School engagement workshop (National School)
 - Professional photography
 - Comms wrap-up
- Notes: €5,000 shortfall identified in Job Code 0642002C



Commission B – Cuan Íosa, Ballymote - Housing Capital Project – €11,833

- Artist: Ellis O’Connell
- Site: N4/N15 Junction, Sligo
- Commission Type: Legacy Roads Project (Pooled: Harbour View Housing + N4/N15 Roads)
- Per Cent for Art Budget: €74,808
- Status: Installed – Final close-out pending
- Note: €5,000 shortfall identified in Job Code 0642002C

Phase 1 / 2025-2026 Artist Calls to commence:

Commission 1

- Collooney - Owenmore Drive / Housing – (€ 27,978)
 - Collooney – Owenmore Crescent / Housing – (€91,189)
 - N4 Collooney - Castlebaldwin Realignment (N4CCRP) / Roads – (€ 63,486.90)
- Total fund = € 182,653.90

Commission 2

- Dromore West - St Farnan’s Drive, Phase 2 / Housing – (€ 18,577)
 - Dromore West Phase 3 / Housing – (€ 52,300)
 - Easkey / Housing – (€ 21,382)
 - Crowagh - Single Rural House / Housing – (€ 1,860)
- Total fund = € 93,819

Phase 2 / 2026-28+ :

Commission 3

- Fr. O’ Flannagan Terrace, Sligo / Housing – (€ 28,838)
 - Knappagh Beg Court, Knappagh Road, Sligo / Housing – (€38,000)
 - Glenview Halting / Housing Pilot (No pooling) – Strand 2 (€ 6,689)
 - Glenview 3 units / Housing – (€ 12,775)
 - Southen Place, Knappagh Road – (€ 10,971)
- Total fund = € 97,273

Commission 4

- Connolly Park, Tubbercurry, Phase 1 / Housing – (€ 18,899)
 - Connolly Park, Tubbercurry, Phase 2 & Coolaney / Housing – (€ 38,450)
 - Bunninadden, Gormely Villas, Sligo / Housing – (€ 9,975)
 - Summerhill – Sophia AHB / Housing – (€ 27,565)
- Total fund = € 94,889

Commission 5

- Robbers Lane, Maugheraboy – (€ 125,000)
- Total fund = € 125,000



Phase 3 / 2028+ :

Commission 6

- Centre Block, Geldof Drive, Cranmore / Housing – (€ 67,742)
 - Building & Env. Improvements Works, Phases 1-3 / Cranmore Regeneration – (€ 181,812)
 - Enterprise & Community Centre & Urban Park / Cranmore Regeneration – (€ 71,377)
 - Building & Env. Improvements Works to 126 units, Phase 2 / Regeneration – (€ 43,172)
 - Pillar 3 – Sligo East City Community Resource & Recreation Centre – (€ 71,377)
- Total fund = € 435,480

Commissions 7+

- Pending release of further Capital Project funds ... Housing & Infrastructure have flagged there are more in the pipeline.

Types of Commissions:

The types of commissions will be informed through a series of explorative 'Field Trips' designed to examine different urban, rural, and social contexts across Sligo. The first Field Trip took place on Tuesday 1 March 2022. Further field trips will be scheduled as part of the next phase of the programme, in collaboration with the Public Art Steering Group and the incoming Public Art Project Manager.

Artist Selectors to inform Artist Brief writing:

The Public Art Steering Group were invited to propose potential Artist Selectors to engage with for the artist selection process in advance of commissioning commencing, from which a long-list was compiled. A Public Art Sub-committee was formed and a short-list of Artist Selectors subsequently shared with the Public Art Steering Group for final approval.

By engaging with Artist Selectors in advance of Artist Briefs being written, this approach aims to involve Artist Selectors as early as possible enabling their full understanding of the process and Artist Brief(s).

There may be a requirement to engage with additional Artist Selectors working in a specific art form as commissions are rolled out. In this instance the Public Art Steering Committee will be notified, and the Sub-Committee may be reconvened if deemed necessary - before individual invitations are issued.

Artist Selectors may declare an intention to apply for a Public Art commission, and in doing so withdraw from their role of 'Selector'. This must be done well in advance of an Artist Brief being written.



Engaging a Community Lead:

The Public Art Project Manager proposed for the Public Art Steering Group to approve the engagement of facilitators to deliver projects with communities. Imperative for this plan to be imbedded in and working with community organisations and groups within County Sligo. This has been out on hold by the Public Art Steering Group to be revisited on a later date.

Implementation Update (as of December 2025)

Since the adoption of the *Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo* Public Art Commissions Plan (2022–2028), Sligo County Council has continued to develop the structures required to deliver public art commissions across the county.

To support the next phase of implementation, the Public Art Steering Group has agreed the following updates:

- **Steering Group Meeting Cycle**

From 2025 onwards, the Public Art Steering Group will meet twice per year, providing oversight, policy direction and approvals at key stages of the commissioning process.

- **Establishment of a Public Art Working Group**

A smaller Working Group will convene more regularly to support the operational rollout of commissions, and to liaise directly with the incoming Public Art Project Manager.

- **Public Art Project Manager**

Sligo County Council is currently procuring a dedicated Public Art Project Manager (contract for services) to support the delivery of three commissions identified for 2026–2028. This role will work closely with the Working Group and relevant Council departments.

- **Field Trips**

Field Trips may be organised during the next phase of delivery where they are deemed beneficial, for example to support site-specific or community-focused commissions. These will be arranged collaboratively between the Public Art Working Group and the Public Art Project Manager, and only where relevant to the nature and requirements of the commission.

- **Community Engagement**

The Steering Group will revisit the question of engaging dedicated facilitators for community-led projects once the Public Art Project Manager is in post, ensuring the appropriate structure and support for community partnerships.



Contact details:

For further information & general queries about *Living Landscapes / Tírdhreacha Beo* please contact:

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