Sligo
County Council
Arts Service
Public Art

## Commission 1: Collooney / Castlebaldwin – Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs bring together clarifications provided during the query period.
Please read them alongside the Artist Brief.

- **When is the application deadline?**
  Stage 1 applications must be emailed to arts@sligococo.ie **by Thursday 19 November 2026 at 4pm**. The deadline for queries was Thursday 5 November at 5pm.

- **Is Stage 1 just an expression of interest showing previous work?**
  No. Your submission must outline a concept for this commission, including your proposed artwork, community engagement approach and outline budget, alongside relevant previous work and your CV. Please follow the requirements in the Artist Brief.

- **Does the ten-page limit include artists' CVs?**
  The lead artist's CV, of no more than three pages, must be included within the ten-page Stage 1 submission. Additional collaborators' CVs may be supplied in a separate document outside this page limit.

- **Is the commission restricted to sculpture or permanent artworks?**
  No. All artforms are welcome, including painting, performance, publications, temporary work and interdisciplinary approaches. Explain how your proposal meets the requirements for both Phase A and Phase B.
  Where requirements concerning materials, fixings or visualisations do not apply, explain this in your submission. For temporary or time-based work, describe how it would be documented and remain accessible to the communities.

- **Has a location been selected? Must the artwork be beside the N4?**
  No specific location has been selected, and the artwork does not have to be beside the road. At Stage 1, describe the type of setting you envisage. Shortlisted artists can explore suitable locations with the Arts Service and Project Manager at Stage 2.
  Any proposed private-land or roadside location would require consideration of access, public benefit, safety, permissions and the artwork's intended lifespan.

- **Must both communities have identical artworks?**
  No. A principal artwork in one community and a smaller, connected element in the other may be proposed as one unified artistic concept. Your proposal should explain the relationship between the elements and how both communities are involved.

- **Can internationally based artists apply?**
  Yes. The competition is open to Irish and international professional artists and artist collectives.

- **Do collaborators need to be confirmed at Stage 1?**
  No. You may identify proposed collaborators or describe the specialist roles you would appoint. Letters confirming involvement are not required at Stage 1. Further confirmation would be expected at Stage 2.
  A locally based facilitator may support community engagement, coordination and language assistance where needed.

- **Should we contact community groups or secure a site before applying?**
  No. Please follow the brief's restriction on contacting local community groups at this stage. Local connections and potential sites can be developed through the commissioning process. Proposed partners may be identified as subject to agreement.

- **Is there a minimum number of artist visits or engagement sessions?**
  No fixed minimum is specified. Propose an approach appropriate to your artwork and engagement programme. Online coordination and locally facilitated activity are acceptable, but meaningful community engagement remains an important part of the commission.

- **What must the €157,000 budget cover?**
  The total budget includes all fees, expenses and VAT where applicable. Allow for all costs relevant to your proposal, including fabrication, engagement, engineering, display structures, installation, insurance, travel, documentation, shipping and any applicable import costs or taxes.
  The appointed artist will manage the full budget and pay their contractors and suppliers. Payment milestones will be agreed during contracting.

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- **Can a production company apply on behalf of an artist?**
  The named artist should be the lead applicant, with the production company identified as a collaborator. A company may support separate applications led by different artists.

- **Can an artist or team apply for both Commissions 1 and 2?**
  Yes. Each application will be assessed separately against its own brief and criteria. There is no restriction in the published briefs preventing the same artist or team from being awarded both.

- **Is additional background material available?**
  The published brief and consultation summary contain the information currently available for Stage 1. Additional material will not be supplied privately to individual applicants. Further contextual information and a site visit will be available at Stage 2.

- **Can illuminated artworks or proposals involving live animals be submitted?**
  Illuminated artworks may be proposed, but no site or electrical supply has been confirmed.
  Proposals involving live animals may be outlined, but acceptance cannot be confirmed in advance. Applicants must address care, welfare, biosecurity, insurance, ongoing costs and responsibilities. Council animal care or ongoing funding must not be assumed.

- **Who will own and maintain the completed artwork?**
  The completed artwork will be owned by Sligo County Council. Applicants should explain its intended lifespan and maintenance needs, identifying any substantial or specialist ongoing care requirements and associated costs. Maintenance responsibilities and arrangements will be agreed as part of the commissioning contract.