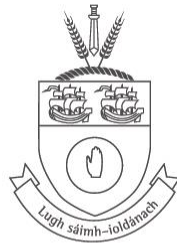




# Public Art Commission



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

An Artwork for the

Rejuvenation of Clanbrassil Street, Church Street, and Bridge Street, Dundalk

Budget €62,000

To be commissioned by Louth County Council, with partnership funding from the European Regional Development Fund, under the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme 2014 – 2020.



Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council



## **Introduction:**

**Louth County Council is seeking expressions of interest from artists to create an artwork or artworks to be sited on the Clanbrassil Street, Church Street, Bridge Street axis.** This commission is in conjunction with the planned rejuvenation of this linear street, which aims to establish a new identity for this key gateway into Dundalk Town Centre. This will, in turn, assist in rebalancing the centre of gravity of the town, and build upon the benefits reaped through the successful Market Square redevelopment of 2012.

### **The key themes of this linear-street based urban rejuvenation project are –**

- Formulation of a new identity for this quarter of the town and to ensure inclusivity for all members of the community – the very young, the old, those with impaired mobility, socially disadvantaged, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improving connectivity and legibility for all members of the community and for visitors/tourists to the town.
- Creation of quality gateways, public spaces and public realm.
- Capitalising on, and respecting the rich heritage of the town.
- Operating and employing sustainable development principles through minimising energy consumption and maximising the use of renewable energy technology.

### **The key actions within the rejuvenation include –**

- Street improvement and upgrade.
- Enhancement of the gateway to the north of the town.
- Creation of improved public spaces to the front of both St. Nicholas' Churches (CofI & RC).
- Promotion of café culture and enhancing commercial vibrancy.
- Develop and implement a signage strategy.
- Incorporation of public art.
- Facade-improvement Grant Scheme for buildings along the historic spine.

The call for submissions for this commission is a response to the key action above in relation to public art. The accompanying drawings (90) LP 203 and (90) LP 204 indicate two sites marked "AP" which are deemed to be appropriate locations for the proposed artwork. Artists may propose alternative sites within the area of the works, but these alternative sites may be deemed inappropriate by the Design Team.

## **The Commission:**

The artwork will be sited within the footprint of the proposed rejuvenation scheme (See Drawing (90)LP204) and will be designed and fabricated to withstand an outdoor urban environment.

The artwork will be inspired by this most historic part of Dundalk and will refer to the history or heritage of the town. The streetscape which is the focus of this rejuvenation scheme has remained unchanged in its general shape from the time of its establishment by the Normans in the thirteenth century. Former Town Archaeologist, Paul Gosling describes it thus –

"The town was dominated by one long, gently-winding street which ran along the ridge top. Though now divided into Bridge Street, Church Street and Clanbrassil Street, their axes still preserve its character. The pre-eminence of this street in the over-all street pattern of the town suggests that it was the primary feature around which the town developed."

Enclosed by walls, gates and towers, Dundalk withstood assaults, sieges and demands for tribute from the Irish, until the walls were largely dismantled in the mid 1700s. Then began a commercial and industrial expansion , facilitated at a later date by a frequent paddle-steamer service to Liverpool. Dundalk became a major transport hub and the decision by the great Northern Railway Company to concentrate engineering services in Dundalk in the 1890s ensured that the town continued to be an important industrial centre into the twentieth century, becoming the sixth-largest urban centre of population in the Republic. Tobacco, brewing and whiskey distilling were also important to the town's economic position.

Famous figures such as St. Oliver Plunkett are linked to the streets, as are less well known figures such as Feardorcha O'Neill and Agnes Burns. It was from Clanbrassil Street that a detachment of Irish Volunteers marched out on Easter Sunday, 1916.

Clanbrassil Street in particular is home to some of the finest examples of the "Dundalk Style". This flamboyant Italianate style is found in the larger stores and depicted by architectural features such as elaborate window and door surrounds, heavy bracketed cornices, consoles, volutes and decorative keystones. The "Dundalk Style" developed in the mid- to late nineteenth century, reflecting the commercial wealth and confidence of the town and many of the facades of the earlier buildings on the street were remodelled to incorporate elements of this style.

Around 800 years after this linear streetscape was first laid out it remains the heart of traditional Dundalk, incorporating shops, churches, restaurants, businesses, homes and bars. The artwork to be commissioned will provide a link between the history and the newly rejuvenated streetscape, providing a focus for the eight centuries of upheaval, commerce and home-life which characterise this quarter of Dundalk.

By way of background the Client has attached relevant documents in the Information Pack to inform interested Artists of the Scheme outline.

### **Budget**

The total budget for the artwork is €62,000. This amount is inclusive of VAT. The successful artist will be responsible for the design, creation, site delivery and installation of the artwork within budget. The artist will be required to project-manage all associated work for the artwork and will submit an itemised project budget and will cover health and safety requirements, insurance, any consultants' fees, expenses, materials, production and manufacturing, transport and any other fees necessary to successfully install the artwork

### **Site visit**

To organise a time for a site visit artists can contact the project engineer on 1890 202 303 or email [infrastructure@louthcoco.ie](mailto:infrastructure@louthcoco.ie) . Site visits will take place between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

### **Installation**

All transport and installation costs must come out of the specified budget. Contractors on site may be able to assist in relation to installation but submissions should not assume such assistance will be forthcoming without prior agreement. Please note "Budget" above.

## **Insurance**

Artists will be required to have Public Liability Insurance (€6.5 m) cover for work that they may have to undertake on-site and Employer's Liability Insurance (€13m), both indemnifying Louth County Council, cover for any person that they undertake to bring on-site as part of the design or installation of the artwork.

## **Selection Process and Criteria**

This is a two-stage selection process. The Selection Panel will consist of representation from the Clanbrassil Street/ Church Street/ Bridge Street Rejuvenation Executive Team, the community on the streets in question, an independent professional artist and a member from the Design Team.

### **Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest**

Expressions of Interest are sought from artists to create an artwork in response to this document. Applicants are asked to provide information, as required in Appendix A. This must be filled out and accompany the submission. Short listing will be based on the information provided using the Evaluation Criteria set out in Appendix B.

The deadline for receipt of Expressions of Interest is 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Expressions of Interest must include –

- Completed Appendix A
- Up to 10 images, minimum 3, of work in the public realm. These must be relevant and in situ. Hardcopy, CD, or USB Key accepted.
- Sketches or visualisations of the proposed artwork, a project description, budget outline, timeline and an estimated completion date. Include details of how you aim to report to the Client throughout the process.

All Expressions of Interest should be posted or delivered in hard copy to –

**Eugene Mc Manus,  
Administrative Officer,  
Infrastructure,  
Louth County Council,  
Town Hall,  
Crowe Street,  
Dundalk,  
County Louth  
(A91 W20C)**

And should be marked "**Clanbrassil Street Rejuvenation Artwork**".

### **Stage 2**

€500 will be paid to the artists selected, who will be invited to present their proposals to the Selection Panel. The proposal must include; sketch designs, visualisations and a maquette as well as an explanation of the concept for the artwork and how the artist would approach its design,

fabrication and installation. Details of maintenance requirements and lifespan expectations should also form part of the presentation. The artist must demonstrate how the work can be implemented within the allocated budget and details of the anticipated duration of the project with timescale broken down into research, production and delivery. Louth County Council will be at the heart of this project and the selected artist must demonstrate how they will work with the community and the Client to develop a sense of ownership, pride in the piece, and most importantly, help enhance the shared space for all. The selected artists must present their presentations to a Selection Panel on a date to be confirmed in 2018. **The Selection Panel intends to select one artist to undertake the commission. The selection of the successful candidate will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel.**

**Time scale**

The intended timescale of the commission is as follows –

Advertisement date	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
Dead line for Stage 1 expressions of interest	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July
Short listing of artists based on Expressions of Interest	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2018
Invitation letters to short listed artists for Stage 2	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018
Presentation for Stage 2 detailed design and Presentation of sketches, visualisations and maquette to selection panel	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Notification to Artist	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Anticipated delivery date	2019, to be agreed.

**THIS BRIEF AND ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL WEBSITE:**

[www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Transportation and Infrastructure/Clanbrassil-Street-the-St-Nicholas-Quarter-Rejuvenation-Scheme/Public-Art-Commission/](http://www.louthcoco.ie/en/Services/Transportation%20and%20Infrastructure/Clanbrassil-Street-the-St-Nicholas-Quarter-Rejuvenation-Scheme/Public-Art-Commission/)



## Appendix A – Artists Details

ARTIST DETAILS	
1.	Name of Applicant:
2.	Address:
3.	E-mail address:
4.	Telephone number:
5.	Fax number:
6.	Website address:
7.	Company Registration number: (if applicable)
8.	Are you VAT Registered? Yes / No
9.	Please confirm you can provide a Tax Clearance Certificate. Yes / No
10.	Registered address if different from above:
11.	Please confirm you can provide Public Liability Insurance and any other insurance that are required for the delivery of the project. Yes / No
12.	Please confirm you can provide all health and safety requirements required for the delivery of this project Yes / No

Appendix B – Evaluation Criteria

EVALUATION CRITERIA	
1.	<b>Previous Experience:</b> Quality of previous work and experience of working in this context. (25/100)
2.	<b>Artistic Quality:</b> Artistic merit of proposed artwork and engagement with the brief. (25/100)
3.	<b>Project Plan:</b> Suitability of the proposal and clarity of project outline. (25/100)
4.	<b>Deliverability:</b> Perceived ability to realise the commission & confidence that the proposal will be realised within the budget and timeframe allocated. (25/100)