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# ART IN THE LANDSCAPE

## *Festival Of Change: Artist Brief*



**JANUARY 2024**

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**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE**



**Offaly Arts Office**

Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí  
Offaly County Council

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# The Call

## Calling Professional Artists

Offaly County Council Arts Office invites regional professional artists from any artform, (individuals or a company) to submit a proposal for a workshop or performance to be delivered as part of the forthcoming Festival Of Change. Artist(s) can submit proposals for consideration, with delivery of activity to take place either in Lough Boora Sculpture Park or Esker Arts in April 2024.

A maximum budget of **€500 is available for artists who wish to deliver a talk/workshop/activity/performance to be incorporated into the programme of *Festival Of Change***. The budget is a total cost and must include all travel, materials, VAT. Applicants will only be eligible to make **one** project application.

The Arts Office envisages that the proposals will enable local professional artist(s) to showcase their artform, providing opportunity to respond to the thematic scope and to collaborate as part of this wider project.

*” Culture is a powerful conduit for public engagement, with artists, cultural and creative practitioners historically playing a crucial role in social and political transitions. Many forms of cultural expression seek to address complexity and confront challenges in ways that are provocative and engaging...”*

*(Terre Duffy, Art In The Landscape Report, 2020)*

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# The Background

Offaly County Council in partnership with Mayo County Council and Visual Artists Ireland have been engaged in a project, funded under the Arts **Council's Invitation to Collaboration Scheme** since 2020. Initially, funding was allocated to an Art in the Landscape research project that focused on Lough Boora Sculpture Park, Co. Offaly and the Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail, Co. Mayo, the focus being to develop recommendations for the future management/development of each site as well as key learnings for other local authorities and organisations.

Terre Duffy of Duffy Consultancy was appointed as researcher for the Art in the Landscape project and a report was produced with the findings. Following the completion of this research the partner organisations were awarded continuation funding from the Arts Council to organise a seminar to further explore questions that arose from the research and to open up the debate on art in the landscape. In particular, the focus was to open a discussion on how arts, culture, tourism and climate change priorities can align/work together and how this collaboration can inform future policy. Offaly County Council have been awarded Arts Council funding under An Invitation to Collaboration scheme to continue this collaboration with partner organisations; Bord Na Móna, Lough Boora Sculpture Park, Mayo County Council and Visual Artists Ireland. This phase of the project will return to the local context, focusing on aspects of Art in the Landscape that are specific to each locality, through artist-led projects and in person events. Partners will take an experimental approach to locally activated projects that intersects arts, culture, heritage, tourism, nature, sustainability and environment. It will take a people and place centred approach; rooted in high quality arts production in the rural context.

The Festival of Change is part of *Art in the Landscape*, a project led by Offaly County Council in collaboration with partner organisations Bord Na Móna, County Council and Visual Artist Ireland. The project takes its inspirations from and Lough Boora Sculpture Park in County Offaly; the two largest sculpture trail/ park in Ireland. This phase of the project will return to the local context, focusing on aspects of Art in the Landscape that are specific to each locality, through artist-led projects and in person events. It will

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include an artist commission in North Mayo and at Lough Boora Sculpture Park, County Offaly, the Festival of Change (with links to the Visual Artists Ireland Get Together October 2023). This project is funded by the Arts Council's An Invitation to Collaboration Scheme. The overall project will include capacity building, network opportunities for communities, artists, professionals and organisations in both counties. The Art in the Landscape: Festival of Change is an exciting programme of events that will explore and challenge our understanding and expectations of the concept of art in the landscape. It will provide a space for learning, exchange and discussion across sectors.

## Art in the Landscape: Festival of Change

A 2-day event planned to take place April 2024, in venues and on location in both Mayo and Offaly is for local communities and people working or interested in the arts, heritage, environment, culture, tourism, local business and community development.

The festival comprises:

- A one-day event at an art centre in Offaly and Mayo - As part of the *Festival of Change* programme there will be an event called *Tionól – a gathering of ideas* – a creative space to share ideas and an opportunity for participants to share their 'big' or 'small' idea around Art in the Landscape.
- A one-day event - Arts events / talks / walks with artists will also planned to take place as part of the festival – these events (over one day at each site) will be held on location at Tír Sáile Sculpture Trail in North Mayo and Lough Boora Sculpture Park, Offaly.

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# Criteria

Successful applicant/s will:

- Be a Professional Artist or group of Professional Artists
- Be self-employed or a registered Arts Organisation
- Be able to provide tax clearance number and access number
- Have recommended Child Safeguarding Training\*
- Hold professional indemnity insurance
- Be able to submit Health and Safety/ Risk assessments
- Be subject to Garda Vetting by Offaly County Council
- Be able to get to the location by their own means

**Artists please note: Offaly County Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 1997. If you provide information in the Proposal which you consider to be of a commercially sensitive nature, please clearly indicate this in your Proposal.**

## Closing Date

The Arts Office will accept applications up to 12 Noon on Monday February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



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# How to apply

Please email your proposal to [arts@offalycoco.ie](mailto:arts@offalycoco.ie) with **Festival Of Change Artist Proposal** in the subject line. Your proposal should include the following;

- Cover Letter, CV with References, links to works and any more details you may feel relevant.
- Project Proposal – a clear outline of your proposed project which can be any of the following; talk/workshop/activity/performance. Please include all relevant details such as proposed participant/audience, art form, duration of event/workshop/proposed outcomes etc. Please also include preference of location (choice of Lough Boora Sculpture Park or Esker Arts)
- Statement on meeting criteria (see Pg. 5 for full list)

## Assessment Criteria

The Proposals will be evaluated under the following criteria

- 30% Proven track record of delivery of similar successful projects. Experience / track record of artist/s delivering the project
- 30% Innovative approach to the project and potential for audience engagement
- 20% Budget viability. Achievability of perceived results and objectives of the project.
- 20% The application within the competitive context.

## Queries

Should you have any further queries in relation to submitting an application, please email [arts@offalycoco.ie](mailto:arts@offalycoco.ie)