

Kilkenny County Council's Public Arts Programme 2024 - 2027



The Last Lot Public Arts, Promenade Theatre project 2007

Public art is an important aspect of both historic and contemporary Irish Art

Artists are supported to produce work, across all artforms

To engage with communities providing opportunities to participate in a process that re-animates, re-defines or re-engages with their physical, social and cultural space



The Last Lot Public Arts Promenade Theatre project 2007

Local governments are:

- **one of the most important commissioners of public art**
- **the most diverse commissioners, 59% permanent arts works, 41% temporary (music, socially engaged, literature, theatre etc.)**

There are often preferences for permanent visual artworks and the use of other art forms due to:

limited awareness or understanding of what is possible

And an understanding of how best to sincerely engage with our public through the arts

Kilkenny County Council's Vision for Public Art in Kilkenny

- To ensure that people who live in and visit Kilkenny can experience captivating, challenging, culturally diverse high-quality public art projects
- To commission professional artists enabling us to explore and question, to build and strengthen communities and to encourage inclusivity
- To build a Public Art Programme that is in line with Irish and international best practice
- To lead by example in the development of diverse and distinctive public art projects
- To engage specialist public art expertise in order to nurture public art that welcomes, animates and enlivens and offers moments to pauseStimulate creativity and innovation

Kilkenny County Council established the Public Arts Management Group (PAMG) to

- Provide oversight and guidance for Kilkenny County Council's Public Art Programme
- Commission and deliver new projects and programmes to build on our collection to date
- Define the range of artforms - that engage directly with the citizens of Kilkenny
- Art forms include:
 - Visual Arts / Film / Music / Literature / Performing Arts



Community, Public Art and Engagement programming for Art projects is critical in order to:

Stimulate creativity and innovation

Empower marginalised groups

Build a sense of ownership

Build and strengthen communities

Support social change

Promote social cohesion

Foster collaboration

Encourage inclusivity

Enhance skill development

ensure that the public, remain at the core

Communities - experience, in collaboration with the artists, the significance and meaning of the process of art making

this is where and when we hear their voices, their stories, imagine a future and engage in the past in a new way.

It prioritises their experiences, their knowledge, their practices and skills and enables us to expose and present this to the wider public.

Process and procedure for commissioning

- **Pooled budget for our new expansive programme**
- **Public Arts project manager was appointed**
- **Programme budget of €500,000 for projects was agreed**
- **Sub-committee was assembled to outline the new programme**
- **Brief was devised and a two-stage process was agreed**
 - **initial proposals would be assessed**
 - **a maximum of 15 projects would be invited to send in a more detailed proposal for further analysis and**
 - **from these a maximum of 5 projects would be selected**

The Public Arts Brief - Objectives

- **To provide artists across all disciplines with meaningful opportunities to develop new work that reflect their ambition and ideas.**
- **To facilitate meaningful encounters, dialogue and connections between artists and communities in Kilkenny.**
- **To place ambition and innovation in public art practice at the forefront of these commissions.**
- **To listen and provide legacy opportunities for the communities involved in the public art commissions.**
- **To investigate, probe and consider community experiences through public art opportunities.**

- **We received an enormous 84 applications from across the world, including the USA, Bulgaria, Poland, the UK and Poland to name but a few.**
- **A panel of experts was convened to assess the eligible applications – phase 1**
- **Ten proposals were invited to submit to phase two**
- **The panel re-convened to assess - phase two**
- **Five projects were selected**

The selection and award process was run in line with The Percent for Art National General National Guidelines 2004.

Artist/Group Awarded a Commission	Commission	Details
Brown Mountain Diamond	€45,000	Brown Mountain Diamond proposes to commission a residency programme and exhibition of five artists who are known for their work in community engagement and social investigation. The project will be based in north Kilkenny and offers great potential -delivered by artists with an excellent track record.
Pauline O’Connell – From Hide to Heel	€111,000	Is a socially engaged public art project that seeks to explore and celebrate the intertwined histories of Kilkenny’s industrial and agricultural sectors.
Fearghus Ó Conchúir – Extra Time	€113,000	The aim is to engage with hurling and Camogie communities across county Kilkenny to create a diverse team of performers for a new dance film.
Asylum Productions - The Alice Project	€75,000	Will be of a multi-part, inter-disciplinary theatrical work examining the place of art in our community, and how we access it. Offers an outstanding level of community engagement based around the story, myth and legend of Alice Kytler and Petronella with a focus on the importance of that story, today.
Michael Gallen	€113,000	A county wide multi-disciplinary work, combining choral music, documentary, poetry, design and animation to create an immersive and evocative film.
Pauline O’Connell – From Hide to Heel	€113,000	Is a socially engaged public art project that seeks to explore and celebrate the intertwined histories of Kilkenny’s industrial and agricultural sectors.