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Ennistymon Streetscape Public Art Project
Brief for artists – Published September 28th, 2020



Pic: The Falls, Ennistymon

General Information

Ennistymon is the main town in North Clare famous for its old Victorian shop fronts, the Cascades and the beautiful river walk along the Falls. Many visitors drive to Ennistymon on their way to the renowned coastal location of Lahinch beach or on their way to the internationally recognised Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark. It is also fast becoming a popular place to live and visit with its growing network of cafes, restaurants and art galleries.

Ennistymon is hidden in a recess among the hills. It lies on the southern edge of the Burren, two miles inland from the Atlantic. The narrow street near the bridge over the Cullenagh River is the oldest part of the town. A little below the bridge, the river rushes over an extensive ridge of rocks and forms a beautiful cascade about 1½ miles away from where it joins the river Derry. The united streams continue towards the sea as the Inagh River

It derives its name from INIS DIAMAIN which is generally translated as Diamain's river meadow. Ennistymon's name could be linked to its physical features. It is thought that at one time the area on which The Falls Hotel is now built was an island.

There is something really unique about Ennistymon especially with the old meets new i.e. the Heritage meets Modern Artisan Culture. There is a strong collective of artists and excellent food and unique experiences. This brings a very warm feeling for the visitor from the local welcome and friendly reception.

Ennistymon is a beautiful example of an old market town, with 95% owner run businesses, some of them generational. The fabric and essence of the market town is the people as much as the authentic experiences that the visitor can enjoy.

In recent years Ennistymon has developed a following for being a "foodie heaven" with articles in various newspapers and magazine publications. This is a town where the main street shopfronts have been preserved. Ennistymon is the home of spontaneous music sessions. With lovely eateries, art galleries and shops to browse through, Ennistymon is a quaint place to dwell and enjoy. With its Historic Town status, beautiful cascades, there is much to discover and explore among such friendly people ready to tell it's stories.

The development of the Digital Innovation Hub has seen a significant increase in remote and digital conference work in the area providing employment and attracting people to an area.

Background to the Project

Ennistymon is located in close proximity to the Wild Atlantic Way but is not directly located on the route. Many visitors drive to Ennistymon on their way to the renowned coastal location of Lahinch beach or on their way to the internationally recognised Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.

In 2020 Ennistymon was successful in receiving capital funding to develop as one of Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Destination Towns. It is envisaged that this will develop Ennistymon's untapped potential from being a transit zone, that people pass through, to a destination where visitors want to stay longer and experience the local culture.

The Cultural Story of Ennistymon include

- Creative Hubs such as Salmon Poetry, the Ennistymon Art Trail and the Courthouse Gallery.
- The quality and immersive experiences of the Burren Food Trail.
- The Traditional Music Sessions of Ennistymon.
- The Cascades and Architecture of this heritage market town.
- The Ennistymon Horse Fair and it's history.
- An Gorta Mór Memorial – the haunting memorial to the Famine.

The Ennistymon landscape offers

- Elevated historic areas that are good vantage points for viewing the town and surrounding countryside.
- The picturesque shopfronts of this heritage town along with the bow-way that leads to the Ennistymon Riverwalk.



Vision for the Artwork

Ennistymon is a place where Heritage meets Modern encapsulated by the wondrous spectacles of nature.

It is envisaged that the large piece of pavement at the start of Main Street Ennistymon will be transformed into a gateway node with the provision of an artwork, reflecting the theme of 'Where Heritage meets Modern' and where the public can stop to engage with the work and immerse themselves on what is to offer them in Ennistymon.

It is envisaged that the artwork will be a central piece in the development and depiction of the town, an artwork that will offer opportunities for photographs to be taken, seating arrangements and possibly outdoor dining arrangements to develop around it. There is potential to light the piece at night and to create a piece of art that would draw people to this key location in the town.

Site of Art Work

The artwork will be located across from 'Blake's Corner', the bridge that currently brings traffic out to Lahinch and the Cliffs of Moher (the left hand turn in the picture below)



Many will be familiar with this location as a traffic bottleneck but it is very important to note that Clare County Council is progressing the by-pass of this part of Ennistymon.

When the bypass is completed, the streetscape and vista from this point of the town, will be a completely different setting. It will no longer incorporate the view of traffic congestion. The new focal point will be that of a main street, lined with trees, where one can relax on the street furniture provided and while away the hours, knowing that if you want, you can take the short walk or cycle to the nearby beach or equally get in the car and take a short drive to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.

It is envisaged that the commissioned piece (location is the red circle) will be visible from the new bridge as you look North.



Artist Commission Process

Artists will be selected through an open competition process. It is envisaged that this will be a **one stage commissioning process**. However, if the selection panel deems it necessary to do so, the option to go to a two stage competition will be exercised and artists will be paid a sum of €500 to supply further information / develop their brief.

The commission budget for the artwork is €30,000 incl VAT and all taxes and charges.

Site Visit

A site visit will take place on October 8th, 2020 at 11am. Artists intending to attend should register with Clare Arts Office at 065 6899091 or email: arts@clarecoco.ie

Artists should meet at the site at 11am.

For health and safety reasons children cannot be accommodated on the site visit.

For those unable to attend the site visit notes on the visit will be posted at

http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/cominfo/arts/public_art_commissions.htm

Timeframe

The deadline for artist(s) submissions is no later than **Friday November 27th, 2020.**

No late applications will be accepted. The overall timeframe for the commissioning process is as follows:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Closing date for registration for Site Visit | Monday, October 5th, 2020 |
| Site Visit to Ennistymon will take place | Thursday, October 8th, 2020 |
| Closing date for Artists Submission | November 27th 2020. |
| Selected artist (s) informed by | December 31st, 2020 |
| Commission target completion date | Dependent on proposals received |

Selection Procedure & Selection Panel

This is a one stage competition. The selection panel will comprise of

- a) community representative
- b) Member of the Project Team
- c) an artistic advisor / independent artist

It will be chaired by a representative of Clare County Council Arts Office.

Criteria for selection:

- Track record or potential of the artist
- Quality of the idea presented including originality, impact, scale and connections made to its context
- Suitability and feasibility of the proposal to the context
- Durability and implications for future maintenance, where appropriate
- Price

Artists' Submissions

Please submit 4 no. of copies of the following: (one copy per person on the panel)

- a) A brief and simple description of the proposed public art project (not more than 1A4 page)
- b) A typed CV [maximum 3 pages]
- c) Examples of previous work in the form of photographs and / or digital images [jpegs on USB sticks]. Note: No more than 10 images in total should be submitted.
- d) Detailed explanation of the proposed project including dimensions [preferably in metric], materials, etc.
- e) One set of visual representation of the proposed public art project in situ, using – for example, drawings, computer generated images, photographs. **Models / macquettes are not required at this stage**
- f) Details of the technical specifications, construction, installation process, etc. for the public art project, where appropriate.
- g) Timescale for realisation.
- h) Required ongoing maintenance for the public art project – if appropriate
- i) Budget Outline – an outline budget is provided in Appendix 1 if you wish to use this template.

Please ensure that all submitted materials are **clearly marked** with the artist's name and contact details.

if artists wish proposals / supporting material to be returned to them, a stamped addressed envelope **must** be included to guarantee safe return of proposals, Clare County Council takes no responsibility for proposals submitted without an S.A.E.

Requirements from Successful Candidate

The successful artist(s) will be required to provide Clare County Council with supplementary materials such as

- tax clearance certificates
- evidence of public liability insurance
- health and safety certificates
- evidence of payment of customs / tariffs
- any other information that the commissioners deem necessary prior to signing of contracts.

These are not required at submission stage but in making a submission the candidate agrees to produce all necessary documentation required by Clare County Council.

Additional Information

All reasonable care will be taken with each submission. However, Clare County Council will not take responsibility for any loss or damage, which may occur in transit, storage or packing.

Completed submissions must be **delivered or emailed** no later than 12 noon on November 27th, 2020.

Emails and all attachments should be no more **than 4MB in total**

Completed proposals must be returned to:

Ennistymon - Public Art Commission

arts@clarecoco.ie

or

c/o The Arts Office, County Library, Mill Road, Ennis

Co.Clare V95 FX32

Queries should be addressed to Siobhán Mulcahy at the address above:

Tel: 065 6899091

smulcahy@clarecoco.ie

Appendix 1 – Outline Budget

This is an outline budget only. Please add or remove items as you see fit.

| Detail | Detail | Amount |
|--|--------|--------|
| Artists Budget including; Materials, fabrication, supply and installation – if appropriate Travel and transport Insurance Engineering design – if appropriate Health & Safety statements Research and development Customs and Tariffs VAT Any other associated costs 5% contingency [as per the National Guidelines on Public Art] | | |