

PROPOSAL FOR THE MEDIATION COMMISSION BY DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE

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Stated Objectives:

- To consider themes and ideas emerging through the work of the commissioned artists
- To create opportunities for critical reflection on the 'Place & Identity' programme
- To create value for 'Place & Identity' programme to an artist's practice
- To contribute to a broader understanding and thinking around public art practice
- To bring key stakeholders together to consider the efficacy, quality and potential legacy of the programme

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Stage 1: End Feb to June 2009

Building relationship with Artists, understanding their work:

1. Engage in conversations and discussions with artists
2. Observe their work processes; identify themes and ideas and work on how to connect them to larger issues, culture and socio-geography of place
3. Explore and document the relationships of the commissioned artists and art works to members of the public (authorship, collaborative, participative, communicative structures and engagements)
4. Provide mentoring (if requested)
5. Give evaluative feedback

Building relationship with public and stakeholders

1. Organise a series of conversations to facilitate interaction between the artists and members of the public; residents
2. Devise strategies to involve and interest project funders, businesses, newspapers, community leaders to engage with the projects by the commissioned artists
3. Promote the programme through news-sheets, and website
4. Provide knowledge to members of the public on how to access the different art works by the commissioned artists, as well as contemporary public (engaged) art on the whole; promote the understanding of the process of the construction of meanings in artworks; readings of visual material; articulating and framing of positions, etc.

Selected issues from the above are placed in the web pages of the project with offer of consultation time or workshops on readings of works to members of the public.

Production of first news sheet targeted out in June 2009.

Proposed contents:

1. Expose the artists' intentions, ideas and concepts to the public
2. Feature the artists' processes of visualising their works and interactions/ collaborations with county participants

Stage 2: July to Dec 2009

Focus: Exploring Local Forms of Engagement

1. Organise collective discussions on what constitutes "the local" (memories, narratives, minority and dominant cultural practices)
2. Explorative field trips to collect material – visual (local visual culture and practices) and oral (history and personal stories)
3. Invite artists and public to name and frame issues they find interesting
4. Investigate and devise methodologies that will work well with local mindsets, values and interests
5. Explore various concepts of the artist in public engaged art, such as the artist as "the incidental person" (as espoused by British artist John Latham) and art's potential for social transformation and sustainability
6. Explore the difference between 'personal' and 'individual' positions that an artist work from, the qualitative properties of these 2 positions

Platforms:

1. Field work – documentation, conversations and progressive ongoing evaluation.
2. International Seminar & Workshop targeted for Sept 2009, artists and county participants, duration 1 - 2 days, Irish and foreign specialists in the field of participative, public, situation and dialogical art practices will be invited to participate in investigating methodologies and approaches of public (engaged) art
3. Website discussions
4. News sheet

Contents of 2nd news sheet targeted out in Dec 2009

1. Features of commissioned artworks
2. Documentations of recent activities, of 1st seminar and workshops
2. Feedbacks and readings from various invited Irish and foreign commentators

Stage 3: Jan 2010 to May 2010

Focus: Investigating and Connecting to Other Practices

Contents of 3rd news sheet targeted out in May 2010

1. Features of commissioned artworks
2. Documentation of International Symposium
3. Commissioned articles by invited writers specialising in field of public engaged art, to locate the Percentage of Art programme within the international practices of participative and public art.