



Roscommon County Council Culture Night Commission *1922::2022 The role of local newspapers in a time of conflict and change*



The **Culture Night – Decade of Centenaries 1922::2022 Commission** marks the third in a series of artistic commissions inviting artists to reflect on Roscommon's role in the struggle for independence. The 2022 commission to the value of €15,000 is supported by the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme as part of Roscommon Arts Office/Arts Council of Ireland Culture Night Programme.

The interpretation of local historical events by our artists and creative practitioners provides a platform to encourage reflection and the consideration of issues, both past and present, which may be challenging, difficult and sometimes deeply personal.

The 2022 commission seeks proposals from artists across all art forms responding to the theme: ***The role of local newspapers in a time of conflict and change – how were local events reported?*** The commission seeks to bring to life and highlight the importance of the rich store of archival material held in places such as our county libraries, museums, newspaper archives and publications.

The artist(s) will work closely with Roscommon Library, with local newspapers and with local people who may have had an association with the news and events being reported – either through organisations or as family members or friends. We would like to see the artist(s) connecting in particular with older people and with residents of care homes, potentially organising readings of these articles and discussing their memories and associations to inform their work.

A final work – such as a publication, a film, an exhibition, a performance - should be produced as an event or events – indoor or outdoor - in County Roscommon on Culture Night, 23rd September 2022, with elements to be archived as an online event for the remainder of 2022.

This will be a high profile event for Culture Night and as part of the Roscommon Commemorations programme, engaging with local communities during the research and creation of the piece.

Applicants must have been born or currently live in County Roscommon.

Deadline for submissions: 4pm Monday 16th May 2022

APPLICATION PROCESS

Roscommon County Council Arts Office invites professional artists to submit applications for consideration for this commission. Applicants must have been born or currently live in County Roscommon.

One document must be submitted, labeled with the name of the artist or artist team, with the following details:

- Max three-page project proposal outlining the artist statement, ideas and concepts for the project, budget and timeline;
- Identify the proposed location(s) county-wide and the digital platform;
- A current CV max two-page (or one for each member of the team, if applicable);
- Artists must provide details of any sub-contractors whom they propose to engage to create the work;
- Low res images of three recent, relevant projects (up to a maximum of 2 images per project) including a written description of the materials, size, title.
- Video work must be abridged to max 3 minutes duration and links and passwords to be included in the document.

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria which should be used as headings in your submission:

- Previous experience of creating and delivering a similar commission (20/100);
- Quality of concept for a new and imaginative work which reflects the intention of the Roscommon commission and the Decade of Centenaries themes & objectives (see appendix 1) relevant to Roscommon (30/100);
- High artistic merit and work which is exceptional, progressive, imaginative, engaging and relevant to 2022 (20/100);
- Budget detail - value for money. Clearly achievable within the available budget and timeline (30/100);

BUDGET €15,000:

The total inclusive budget of €15,000 should include artist fees, any other professional service fees, research fees, materials, print and fabrication, insurance, transportation, travel, accommodation and VAT. If more than one artist is involved, the lead artist must be identified in the application, to whom payment will issue.

The final piece must be made available to Roscommon County Council and funding partners for sharing on websites/social media thereafter and for archival purposes.

Applications should be emailed by 4pm Monday 16th May 2022 to artsofficer@roscommoncoco.ie, with the subject **Culture Night – Decade of Centenaries Commission 2022**. (Queries to the same email)

Supported by Roscommon County Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 initiative.

APPENDIX I

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com>

1. Background

We have now reached the penultimate year in the Decade of Centenaries (2012-2023). This is a complex and sensitive period in our history, as we mark the centenaries of events arising from the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty; the outbreak of the Civil War; and the foundation of the State.

The Government's objective is to promote an inclusive, respectful, authentic, measured and consultative approach to commemorations, which encourages a deeper understanding of the context of the time, recognising the differing perspectives on our shared history and seeking to strengthen peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

The Government's approach is grounded in the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations in its Initial Statement (published in 2012), Second Statement (published in 2017), and its subsequent guidance (published in January 2019).

Link to the Expert Advisory Group's **Initial Statement**:

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/Initial/Initial/index.html>

Link to the **Second Statement of Principles** (aka Second Phase Mission Statement):

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/Mission2017-23/Mission2017-23/index.html>

Link to the Expert Advisory Group's **Guidance for the Second Phase** (2018-2023):

<https://www.decadeofcentenaries.com/wp-content/uploads/publications/Guidance2018/Guidance2018/index.html>

The final phase of the Decade of Centenaries began in 2021 and has a common set of broad themes and ideas that are nuanced each year to allow for specific centenaries to be remembered appropriately.

The Expert Advisory Group has identified these centenaries and associated themes as particularly significant over the final phase of the Decade (2021 – 2023):

- The Struggle for Independence, 1919 – 1921;
- The Civil War;
- The Foundation of the State;
- Partition and the Foundation of Northern Ireland;
- The experience of minorities and border communities in Ireland; and
- The admission of the Irish Free State into the League of Nations in September 1923.

2. Objectives of the Decade of Centenaries programme from 2021 – 2023

- To focus on themes of remembrance and reconciliation and on the commemoration of all of those who lost their lives during this period;

- To promote a deeper understanding of the significant historical events of this period, which recognises that the shared historical experiences of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories;
- To encourage reflection about the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience;
- To respond with sensitivity to the local historical context, acknowledging that there was no uniform experience within counties or across the island of Ireland; and
- To continue to promote a consultative and open approach to commemorations, which seeks to strengthen peace and reconciliation across the island of Ireland. A core element of reconciliation is acknowledgement of the legitimacy of all of the traditions on the island that draw their identity and collective memory from our shared history.

3. Suggested themes and initiatives for consideration by local authorities in 2022

Without being prescriptive, we have suggested some significant historical events and broad themes below to assist local authorities and local communities in developing community-led commemorative initiatives in 2022. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Local connections with the significant events that occurred in 1922; How were events such as the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, the Treaty debates, the 1922 general elections, the outbreak of Civil War in Ireland, the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, and the deaths of key political figures, received or experienced locally?
- Respectful, sensitive and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who died during this period within the local authority area or municipal districts.
- An examination of specific personalities, (including local civic leaders), events and themes from this period that have a particular significance within counties or parishes.
- The experiences of women from the local authority area in all aspects of this transformative period in our history and their changing role in society (see above reference to <https://www.mna100.ie/>).
- The partitioning of Ireland – its impact and legacy on communities living along the newly established border and farther afield.
- 'Ireland and the Wider World' – local connections with the international dimension, including the role of the Diaspora in the events of this period; an exploration of how these events were received and reported abroad.
- Emigration from and immigration to the local authority area during this period – an exploration of personal accounts and memories, grounded in the rich material held in archival collections.
- The social and economic consequences of the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War within the local authority area.
- The impact of the revolutionary period on families and children.
- The experiences of people during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
- The experiences of minority ethnic groups during this period;
- The aftermath of World War I and the experiences of those who were part of the war effort and returned home to their communities in a changing Ireland.
- Initiatives that explore this period from a humanitarian perspective, examining the contribution of movements such as The Irish White Cross Organisation.

- An exploration of the labour movement and associated issues of class and gender, to broaden our understanding of how people were mobilised in popular social, cultural and civic movements during this period – how local events resonated nationally.
- The use of propaganda in the revolutionary period at home and abroad – including print media, cinema, and radio – particularly linkages to local events that occurred.
- The significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures during the revolutionary period at national and local level.
- Elections during this period – the prominent personalities and local issues associated with the 1920 local elections and also the 1921, 1922 and 1923 general elections.
- The evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
- The handing over of barracks from the British Army to the new Free State Army; and the impact and legacy of this on the barracks towns, in terms of identity and practical ramifications (e.g. social and economic impacts).
- Initiatives to explore the 'Big House' perspective on the events that occurred during the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War.
- The Irish language during this period.
- Creative thinking and the arts, including poetry, literature, music and theatre (1912 – 1923).
- Significant developments in the world of innovation, industry and commerce, science, health, agriculture, and communications, (1912 – 1923).
- The importance of sport to communities during the revolutionary period.
- Other significant events not mentioned above that were unique to the local authority area and were recorded from this period, e.g. natural disasters.