

CLÚAIN NA COILLTE, MONKSLAND & SHANNON VALLEY, BALLAGHADERREEN PUBLIC ART COMMISSION 2026

Artist Brief

Project Overview

Roscommon County Council Arts Office, in collaboration with the Housing Department, now invites **submissions** from artists/artist teams for two Public Art commissions under the **Per Cent for Art Scheme**.

Roscommon County Council Housing Department is delivering **new-build and regeneration housing developments** in Monksland and Ballaghaderreen.

The Council wishes to commission artists to:

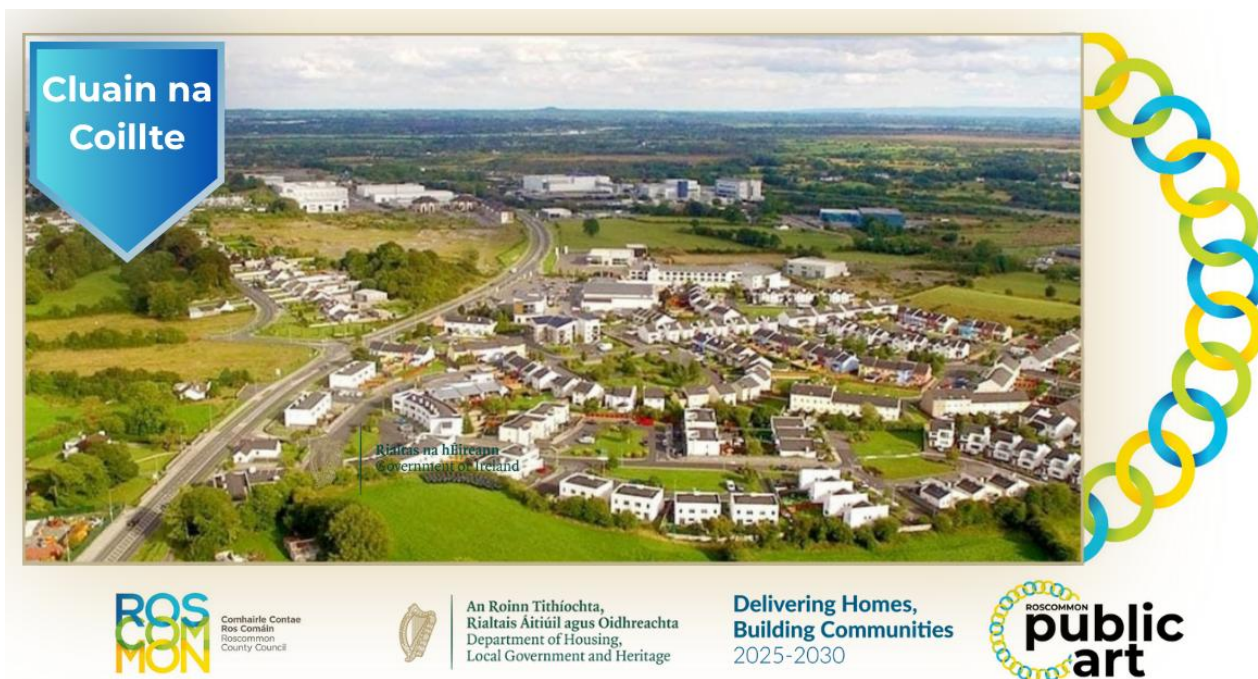
- Design, develop and install **permanent public artworks**
- Engage meaningfully with **local communities**
- Contribute to **place-making, identity and social cohesion**

Artists are invited to respond creatively to:

- The **physical environment**
- The **social context**
- The **stories, identity and future aspirations** of each place.

Two separate commissions are available under this call.





Clúain na Coillte, Monksland, Co. Roscommon

This is a one-stage, open themed process.

Overall commission budget is €112,500.00, including VAT.

Deadline for proposals is 4pm Monday 7th September 2026.

For submissions and queries email Áine at abutler@roscommoncoco.ie

Project Background

Clúain na Coillte is a new social housing development (51 homes) with expected completion date April 2027.

This commission presents an opportunity to create a significant, high-quality public artwork (or suite of works) that will establish a sense of place and identity, support welcome and belonging for new residents and function as a shared focal point within the development.

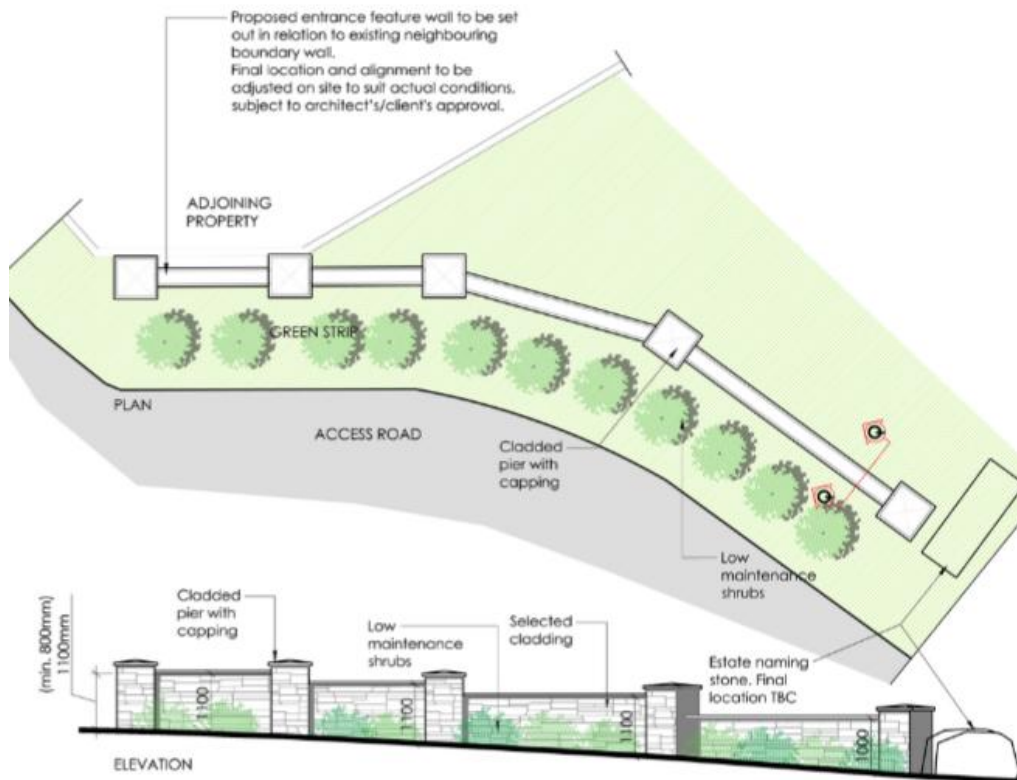
A core priority is community integration and engagement.

The opportunity provides a chance to build connections with neighbouring communities, including Slí na Coiste and potential collaboration with local groups such as Tidy Towns groups, Residents' Associations and community organisations

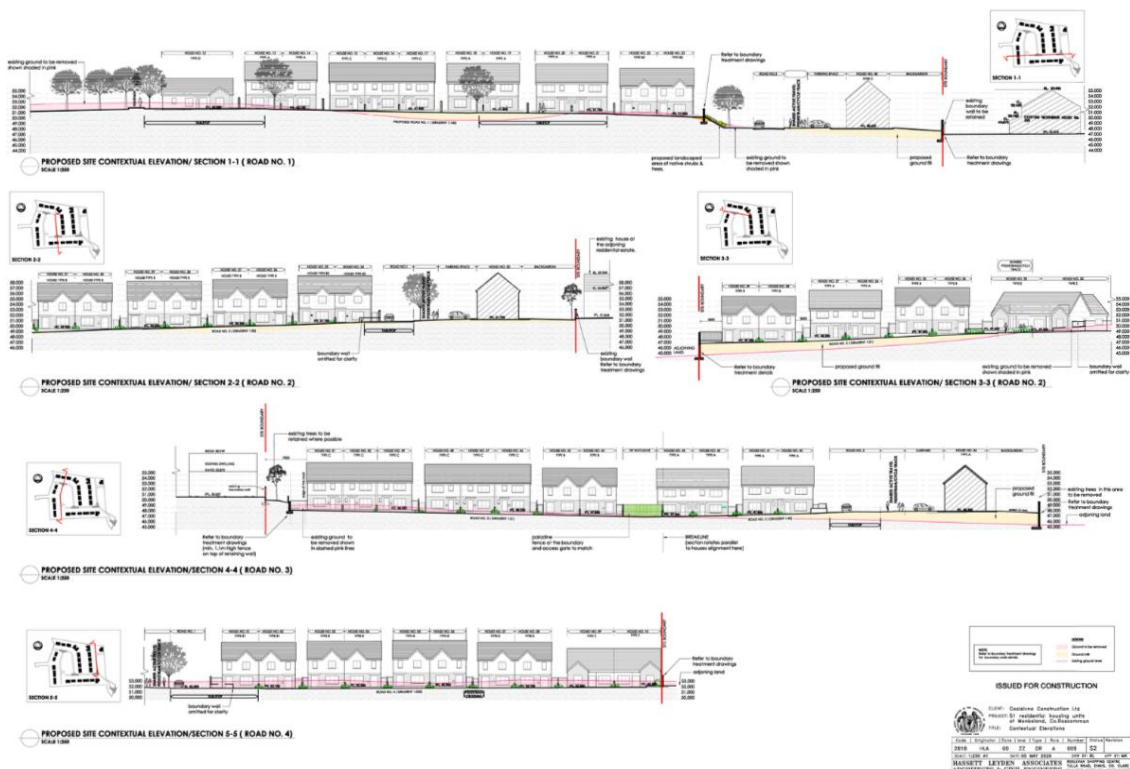
The artwork and process should:

- Encourage positive dialogue and participation





Proposed feature wall at site entrance



Site Elevations



About Clúain na Coillte

Cluain na Coillte (“Meadow of the Woodland”) is a new residential development located next to Slí an Choise in Monksland, immediately east of Athlone Town. The site sits within a rapidly growing suburban area characterised by a mix of established housing estates, newer developments, and supporting community infrastructure.

Monksland has evolved significantly over recent decades from a rural landscape into a vibrant commuter settlement, benefiting from its proximity to Athlone and its strategic location along the River Shannon corridor. Despite this growth, the area retains strong connections to its rural heritage, reflected in surrounding farmland, mature hedgerows, nearby forestry, and pockets of woodland that contribute to a distinctive sense of place. The presence of established trees and adjacent woodland areas, along with proximity to Larkfield House and its grounds, adds to the layered landscape character of the locality.

The development site itself is gently contoured and bordered by existing residential neighbourhoods, with views toward open green areas and distant tree lines. Historically agricultural in use, the land reflects the wider Roscommon landscape typology of pasture fields enclosed by natural boundaries and interspersed with native vegetation.

Connectivity is a defining feature of the area. Monksland enjoys close access to major transport routes, including the M6 motorway, linking Galway to Dublin, as well as pedestrian and cycle connections to Athlone and the wider region. Local amenities such as schools, shops, and community facilities are within easy reach, contributing to a strong sense of community and everyday convenience.

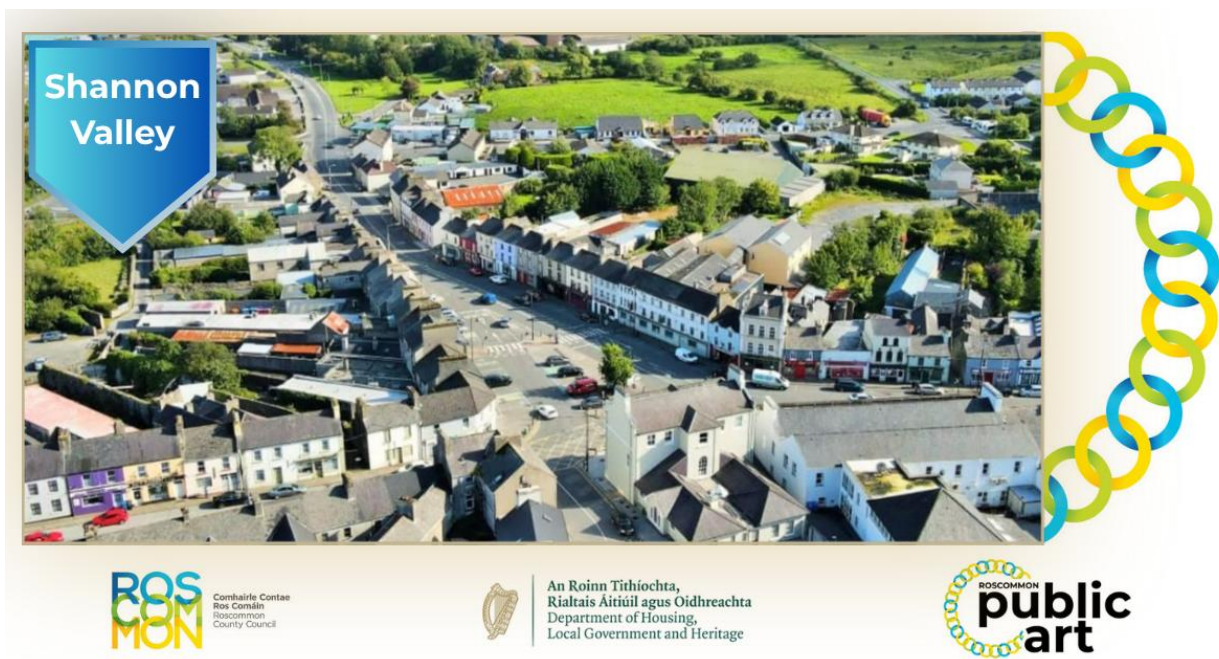
The name Cluain na Coillte evokes themes of nature, growth, and continuity. It reflects both the historic landscape character and the emerging identity of the area as a place where natural and built environments coexist. The development presents an opportunity to respond artistically to themes such as transition, community, landscape memory, and the relationship between past and present.

Artists engaging with this site may wish to draw inspiration from:

- The interplay of rural and suburban character
- The cultural and linguistic heritage represented in the Irish place name
- Local biodiversity, woodland edges, and green spaces
- Movement and connectivity within a growing community
- The evolving identity of Monksland as part of the greater Athlone region

Overall, Cluain na Coillte represents a contemporary addition to a dynamic and evolving landscape, offering rich opportunities to explore place-making, belonging, and environmental connection through creative practice.





Shannon Valley, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

This is a one-stage, open themed process.

Overall commission budget is €40,500.00, including VAT, to include an Artist in Residence programme.

Of the €40,500.00, €15,000.00 has been specifically allocated, in partnership with Creative Places Ballaghaderreen, to support the (Part 1) AIR component. Applicants should clearly outline how this element will be delivered within their proposal. The remaining €25,500.00 is allocated to the (Part 2) development, design, fabrication, and installation of the permanent public artwork. A detailed budget breakdown for both the AIR programme and the public artwork component should be included in the proposal.

Deadline for proposals is 4pm Monday 7th September 2026.

For submissions and queries email Áine at abutler@roscommoncoco.ie

Project Background

Shannon Valley is an existing estate undergoing refurbishment/regeneration.

Shannon Valley is located within an area experiencing social disadvantage and significant change through regeneration. The expected completion date for the regeneration works is Q2 2027.



This commission requires a socially engaged arts-led process as a central element.

The selected artist(s), particularly the AIR component, will work directly with current residents of Shannon Valley through an engagement-led approach to develop a project that is sensitive to context, inclusive, participatory and responsive to lived experiences. The artist(s) should aim to evolve an idea for the permanent artwork and to meaningfully connect with the local community, young people and the wider area through a socially engaged process. Although applicants are not expected to provide fully resolved designs for the permanent artwork, the proposal should demonstrate a strong artistic approach, indicative concept and methodology for engagement and delivery.

The artist(s) would benefit from partnering with a local artist with experience of socially engaged practice and projects. The residency should seek opportunities to connect with relevant organisations, groups and creative initiatives in Ballaghaderreen, including the ongoing Creative Places programme.

The commission will result in:

- A permanent public artwork.
- A process that builds:
 - Confidence and voice.
 - Collective identity.
 - Long-term community value.
- Engagement consistent with socially engaged public art models.
- Strong connections between Shannon Valley residents, local organisations and the wider Creative Places Ballaghaderreen programme.
- Opportunities for longer-term creative engagement that may continue beyond the installation of the permanent artwork.

In addition, through a separate budget under the Creative Places Ballaghaderreen programme, an Artist Assistant role will be advertised. This role will be designed to collaborate with and complement the Artist in Residence and public art commission, supporting community engagement and creative participation aspects of the project.

The Artist in Residence component may extend beyond the installation of the permanent public artwork, where appropriate, in order to support longer-term engagement, build community relationships and maximise the legacy and impact of the project.

It is important to note that there is no studio space in this AIR. The residency should be completed on site.



About Shannon Valley

Shannon Valley was developed on the outskirts of Ballaghaderreen during Ireland's construction boom as a private residential estate of approximately 38 houses.

Following the 2008 financial crash, the development was severely affected: many homes remained unsold or unfinished, and the estate became one of Ireland's "ghost estates."

By the early 2020s, a substantial portion of the estate remained empty or in poor condition, symbolising the long-term impact of the housing crash on rural communities.

Roscommon County Council have now acquired 15 derelict houses in Shannon Valley, with plans to refurbish them as social housing—marking a new phase of regeneration and community renewal.

Ballaghaderreen is located in north-west Roscommon within the wider **River Shannon catchment**, with the nearby Lung River flowing into the Shannon system via Lough Gara. This situates the town within the broader landscape of Ireland's largest river basin, which has historically shaped settlement, agriculture, and identity across the region.

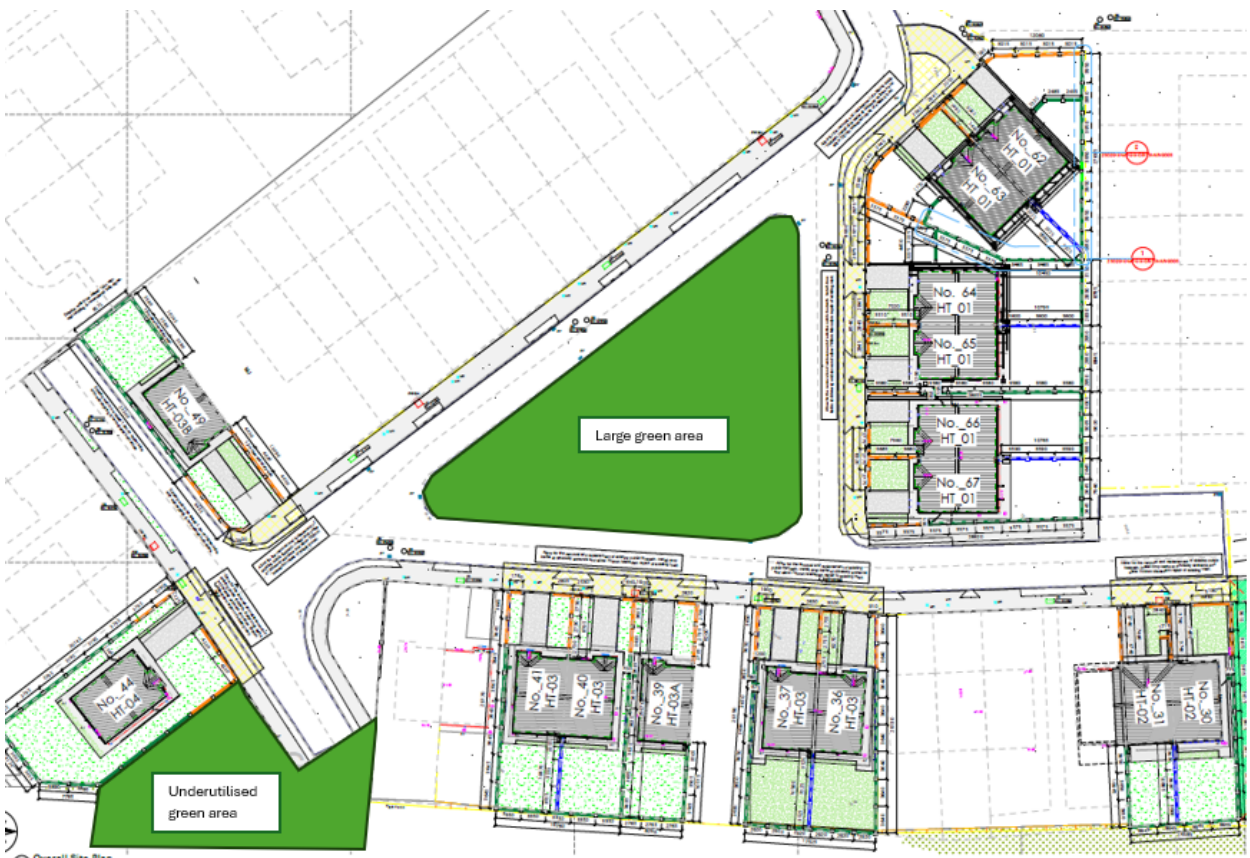
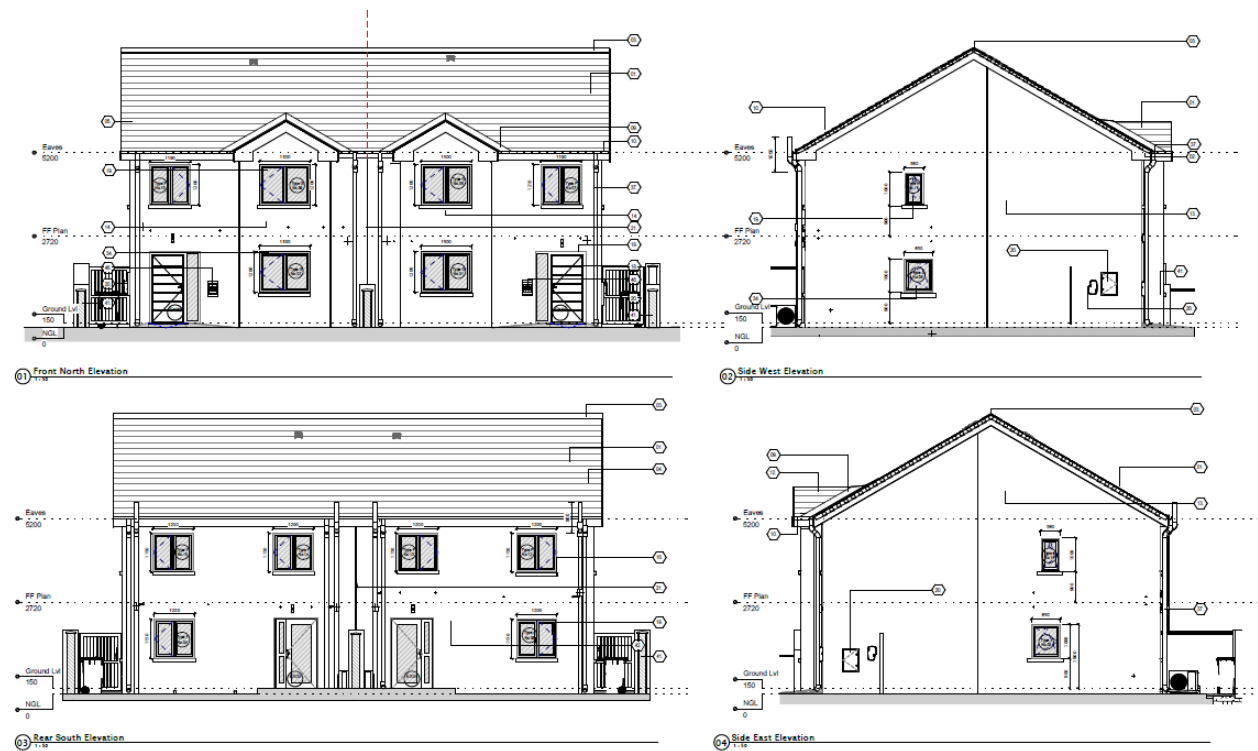
The name "*Shannon Valley*" is not an official historical placename, but likely reflects a **modern, descriptive naming convention** common in Irish housing developments. Such names typically draw on nearby natural features or wider regional identity rather than precise geography. In this case:

- **"Shannon"** references the River Shannon, Ireland's principal river and a strong cultural and symbolic marker.
- **"Valley"** evokes the surrounding low-lying landscape and river valleys typical of the area, including the Lung Valley nearby.

Potential locations:

The artwork/s could potentially be located on a large central green space, a secondary smaller green area however as the development is currently in works, the final location will be further discussed and confirmed between the successful artist, Roscommon County Council, Shannon Valley residents, the design team (TA Group) and the appointed contractor.





Commission Summary

Project	Clúain na Coillte, Monksland	Shannon Valley, Ballaghaderreen
Budget	€112,500 (incl. VAT)	€40,500 (incl. VAT)
Type	Permanent public artwork	Artist in Residence + Permanent public artwork
Community Engagement	Consultation focused	Socially engaged practice central to project
Housing Development	New build (51 homes)	Regeneration/refurbishment project

Submission Format

Artists may apply for **one or both commissions**.

Artists with experience of delivering public art are invited to submit a proposal for artwork which should:

- Be site-responsive and context-aware
- Be professional, unique and contemporary.
- Demonstrate high artistic quality
- Be made in a manner and from materials suitable for permanent installation, with special consideration given to aspects which may be proposed for outdoors.
- Require minimal maintenance
- Be durable and safe in a public environment

Artists should also demonstrate:

- A clear **conceptual approach**
- Understanding of **public space and audience**
- Ability to integrate **community engagement meaningfully**

These criteria reflect standard expectations that work should be **bespoke, context-driven, and appropriate to site**.



Community Engagement

Engagement is **central to both commissions**, with differing emphasis:

Clúain na Coillte

- Engagement as **early-stage consultation and bridge-building with the established residences in the area**
- Focus on **integration and shared place-making**.

Shannon Valley

- Engagement as a **deep, socially engaged practice**
- Process-led approach is **as important as the final artwork**.

Artists must outline:

- Their **methodology for engagement**
- How participation will be **inclusive and meaningful**
- Any **relevant experience**.

Please note: The Shannon Valley commission differs significantly from the Clúain na Coillte commission. While both projects require community engagement, Shannon Valley includes a dedicated Artist in Residence programme and places equal importance on the socially engaged process and the resulting permanent artwork. Artists applying for Shannon Valley should demonstrate a strong understanding of collaborative and participatory practice.

Deadline for proposals is 4pm Monday 7th September 2026.

For submission, query, or if you are having any difficulties, please contact Áine on abutler@roscommoncoco.ie or artsofficer@roscommoncoco.ie.

Submissions must be submitted electronically in a format which can be viewed by standard software – e.g. Microsoft Word or Powerpoint, JPEG, PDF and/or PNG. It is preferable that the text and images are included in one document.

Incomplete submissions, late submissions or submissions in any other format will not be accepted.

Reference the subject of your email as **‘Submission for Clúain na Coillte_YOURNAME’** or **‘Submission for Shannon Valley_YOURNAME’**. You will receive an email to confirm we have received your submission.



Applications

Artists should provide the following information as part of their submission:

1. **CV:** an up-to-date curriculum vitae, including contact information. Max 2pages.
2. **Documentation of work:** please submit 3 relevant examples of your previous work, including their context - written descriptions, timeframe, overall budget, photographs, and links if relevant.
3. **Artistic Design / Concept Proposal:** please submit a proposal response which outlines your creative vision and demonstrates to the panel the direction you would intend to take in this commission, which location/s are preferable for your concept, proposed scale of the piece and materials, and preliminary images to visualise the proposal for the panel.
4. **Indicative budget and timeline for delivery:** suggest how the budget will be allocated, e.g. Artist fees, materials, etc and the stages required to deliver the work you propose.

Assessment

The **Selection Panels** will include:

- Local Community Representatives,
- Housing Department Representative, Roscommon County Council
- Public Art Coordinator, Roscommon County Council
- Arts Officer, Roscommon County Council
- Elected representative

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

- **Quality of concept** - artistic merit, relevance to the location and context, material considerations and approach.
- **Visuals of potential work** – drawings or digital images, scaled if possible. In the case of Shannon Valley (which incorporates an Artist in Residence to work collaboratively with the residents on the artwork), please provide outline/visuals of previous similar works from concept and engagement through to final artwork.
- **Your experience** of creating original, community-engaged, high quality public artwork and managing such projects. Incorporating detail of maintenance requirements for such work.
- **Feasibility** – the panel will consider the feasibility of the project through the breakdown of costs and projected timeline outlined by the artist. This is inclusive of the research period, design, consultation, collaboration with the Contracting Authority and community, fabrication, installation and handover, scheduled by the project deadlines.

Responsibilities of the Artist

Comply with the necessary Health & Safety Legislation in the design, manufacture, supply, delivery and installation of the work, paying particular attention to the challenges created by a permanent artwork in a public setting.

It is the responsibility of the artist to deliver the work on time and on budget.



Budget management is the responsibility of the artist, fully inclusive of all costs. Including, but not limited to, artist fees, travel, detailed design fees, any necessary research, materials, manufacture / fabrication, site preparation, installations, lighting and all associated site works, insurance, documentation, maintenance file.

One artist will be commissioned as the 'Lead Artist' who may sub-contract other creatives.

INSURANCE

Artists will be required to have Public Liability insurance to cover the process of the project they have to undertake including on site, any community engagement activities or installation of the artwork/performance etc. Employers Liability insurance cover is required for any person that the artist undertakes to bring on site as part of the design or implementation phase of the project. Insurance must be extended to indemnify the client Roscommon County Council.

Insurance Requirements for Contracted Artists:

Artists	Levels of Cover required
Public Liability Insurance	€6.5m
Employers Liability	€13m

If successful, the Artists will be required to submit evidence of insurance cover.

TAX CLEARANCE

The successful artist(s) must provide the Council with a tax clearance certificate.

Opt-Out Clause

Roscommon County Council reserves the right to commission or not from entries received and to re-advertise, directly invite or select more than one submission and divide budget accordingly.

