## **CALL OUT:**

# **Community Consultation Creative Installation or Activity**



**Creative Places Ballaghaderreen Commission - Briefing document** 

**Deadline for Proposal:** 3pm Friday 11th October.

**Event date for installation / activity:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Award:** An award of €2,500 is available for one artist <u>or</u> divided among a group of artists, depending on proposals.

### **Ballaghaderreen Context**

Cultural investment and opportunities to take part in the arts are not on a scale consistent with the size and strategic significance of the town of Ballaghaderreen, hence an application from Roscommon Arts Office and local Steering Group for Creative Places R&D. In 2020 Ballaghaderreen Town Team was established, who worked with RCC to draw up the Community & Economic Development Plan (CEDP) 2020-2025 'Building a Better Ballaghaderreen'.

Ballaghaderreen (Bealach an Doirín 'The Way of the Little Oak') has operated as a fairs and market town since the 1700s and continues in the role of a large market town and service centre for the surrounding areas. There are 2,387 people living here (Census 2022). There is a diverse population with nearly one-third of the residents having been born outside Ireland. In the 1960s, a meat company attracted workers from different countries, with many generations now settled in the town. There is also a very fluid population, since 2017 it is the base for the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centre (EROC) mostly for Syrian Refugees. This continued with the accommodation of Ukrainian migrants since 2021. With rural and refugee migration the population profile is shifting. Two other significant population factors are almost 1 in every 5 people has a disability and its older population (17% compared to 13% nationally), with more local people retired/unemployed than are at work. However, at the other end of the age profile, it is the educational base for over 1,000 students across primary, post primary and PLC level, as it supports a wider rural hinterland.

#### **Background on Creative Places**

Creative Places (<a href="www.artscouncil.ie/creative-places">www.artscouncil.ie/creative-places</a>) is an Arts Council-led programme underpinned by a commitment in its Making Great Art Work 2016–2025 strategy to increase engagement in the arts, by investing directly in a place and its people, working with key local partners to uncover each location's key assets, resources and ambitions. There is currently a network of 19 funded Creative Places around Ireland.

It is an opportunity for places to build local arts programmes to benefit all people who live in these areas and communities. It builds on existing cultural strengths by enabling local artists to lead an







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inclusive, diverse programme that is rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles.

### **About Creative Places Ballaghaderreen**

**Vision:** Building a Better Ballaghaderreen where the arts and creativity are central to a vibrant, diverse and proud community.

Creative Places Ballaghaderreen is a one-year Research and Development project focused on local engagement, through conversations and developing relationships with different groups, artists and individuals in the area. It involves community-focused arts research with three artist-researchers with different disciplines Dr. Anna King, Nollaig Molloy and Julie Sharkey and coordinator Mary Smyth designing a mix of targeted workshops, open events and artist meet ups. These explore local interests, inform a developing local arts and creative programme and open dialogues on what a Creative Ballaghaderreen could be. A Steering Group involving a diverse group of local committed partners meet quarterly to consider the ongoing programme.

As we come to the end of our Creative Places Ballaghaderreen Research & Development Phase, there will be a final open community consultation held to reflect on the conversations and activities over the past year and consider what is next for Ballaghaderreen as a Creative Place. This event will be led by the Creative Places Artist Researchers and Coordinator. As part of this event, we wish to commission an **interactive artwork, installation or activity**.

#### **Creative Places Ballaghaderreen Mission:**

- Explore the current arts infrastructure/provision in Ballaghaderreen.
- Examine identity, the traditions and heritage of the area and community interests.
- Engage with projects already established on the ground.
- Initiate conversations on new opportunities and creative needs.
- Through regular engagement with the community, build relationships that can facilitate a community-led process.
- Increase opportunities for participation in & access to the arts for all.
- Highlight actions for sustainable arts development.
- Ensure agile & adaptive responses to facilitate greater social inclusion for established & new minority communities in line with the Roscommon Migrant Integration Strategy 2023 2028.

**<u>Submissions:</u>** Submissions should be 2 pages **max**. Visuals where relevant are welcomed.

The successful proposal/s will be considered by members of the project Steering Group together with Roscommon County Council Arts Office based on the following criteria:

- Reflect on its relevance to the Creative Places R&D phase (40/100);
- Engagement with the community (40/100);
- Artist/Creative experience (20/100).







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### **Commission scope and audience:**

The event will be open (and free) to the public to attend. The commission should facilitate the **community of all ages**, whom have been involved in the programme in some way, to reflect on their experience. It could also facilitate conversations and data collection which considers arts programming, needs and provision in Ballaghaderreen for future. To imagine and reveal a vision of a Creative Ballaghaderreen.

For example, this could involve an interactive temporary public art piece with which the community would engage or an arts-based research activity based on some of the programme's emerging topics/themes from the year – a meeting with the artist researchers and coordinator will be arranged upon selection to discuss.





