

Boyle Library Public Art Commission 2026

Artist Brief



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Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council

Ár dTodhchaí
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Project Overview

Roscommon County Council Arts Office invites submissions from artists for an innovative public artwork for the new Boyle Community Library. Proposals for outdoor and/or indoor permanent artworks are invited which may incorporate other artforms such as literature, film, music etc. The proposal may be / or have elements that are tactile or interactive.

The Commission is funded by the *Rural Regeneration and Development Fund* under the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

This is a one-stage, open themed process.

Overall commission budget is €36,000.00, including VAT.

Deadline for proposals is 4pm Monday 30th March 2026.

For submissions and queries email Mary at msmyth@roscommoncoco.ie

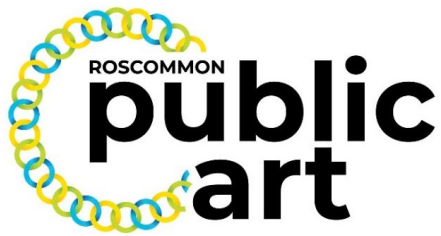


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Project Background

The new community library will be a key landmark in the town centre of Boyle, Co Roscommon. It will be a place for people to gather, to read, to learn, to relax, to enjoy and to create. Located in an Architectural Conservation Area, along the walkway at the Boyle River, and to the rear of the An Ríoga redevelopment, it comprises the construction of a new 2-story building with an approximate area of 500 square metres and a range of other modern facilities. The new multi-functional library will also include meeting and event spaces, technology and research spaces, sensory facilities for children and adults with additional needs, workshop and creative spaces. A purpose-built, adaptive and responsive space for various community needs. With My Open Library technology, the new library will be a fully accessible, inclusive, innovative, modern community and cultural space for the people of Boyle, available 14 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Potential locations:

As the library is currently in works, the final location will be further discussed and confirmed between the successful artist, Roscommon County Council and Rhatigan Architects.

The artwork/s could potentially be located inside or outside the building. The entrance to the library will be from the carpark by the Pleasure Grounds of King House, where there is scope for artworks to be included in the landscaping. On the opposite side there is also a courtyard area between the library and An Ríoga.



Perspective outdoor view:



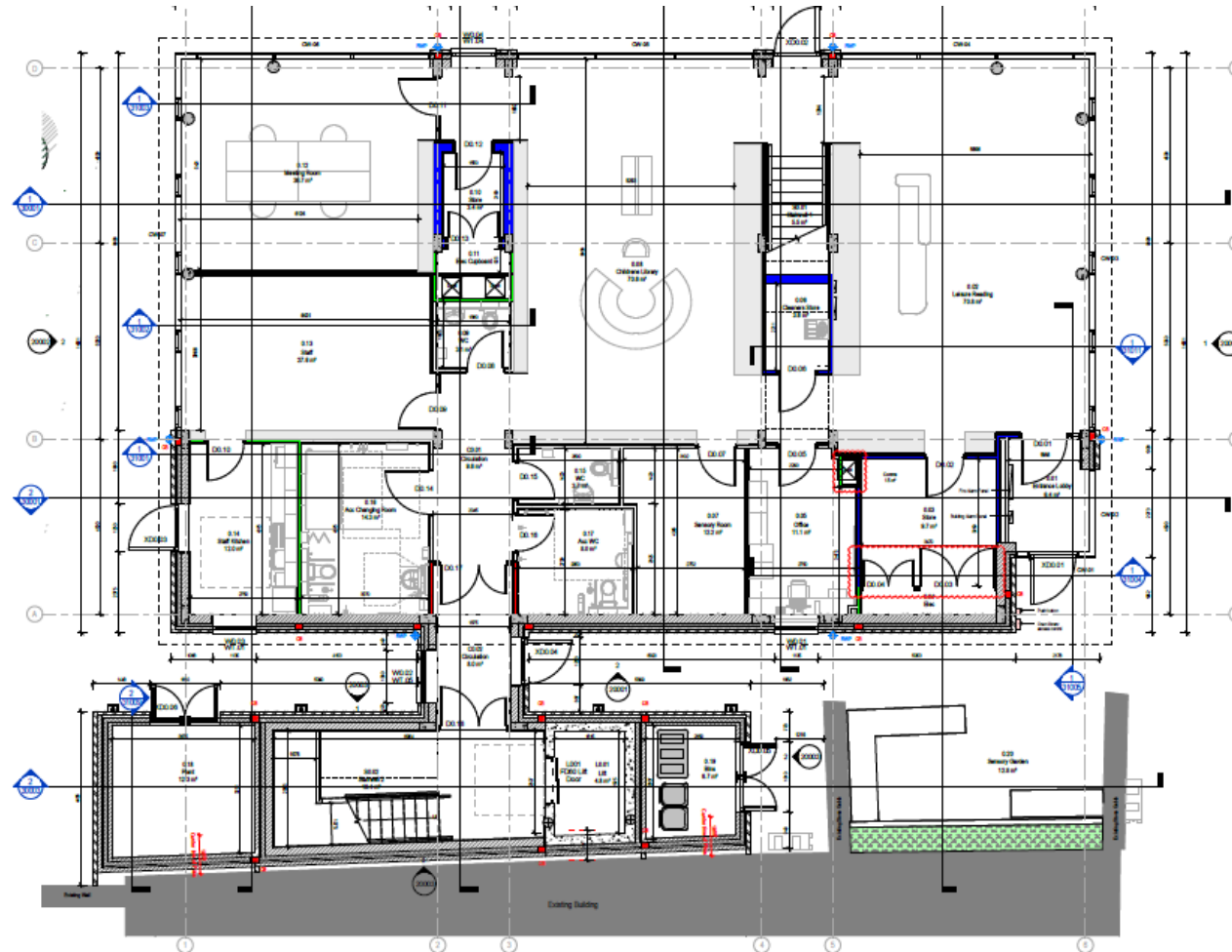
← Boyle Pleasure Grounds



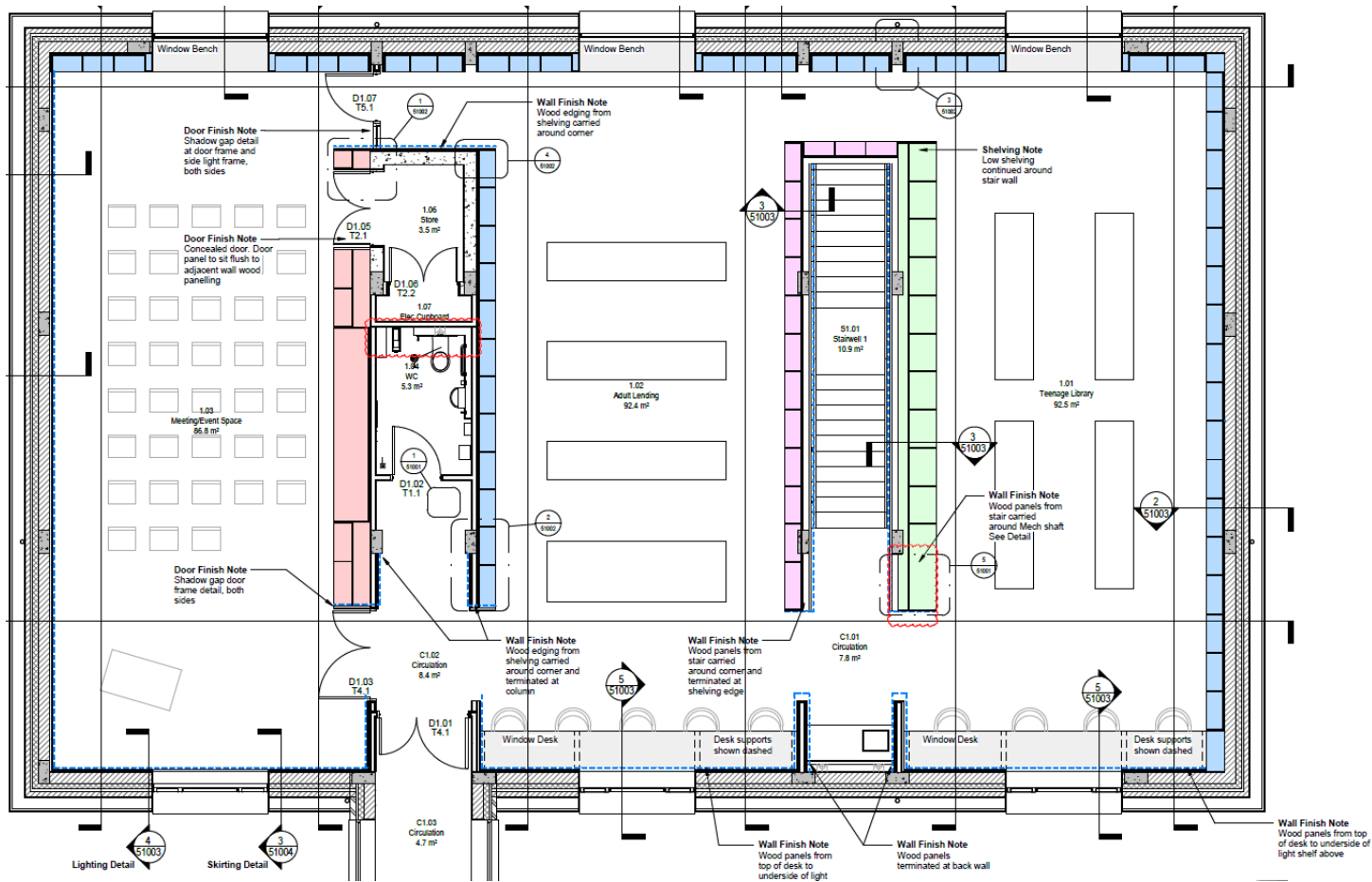
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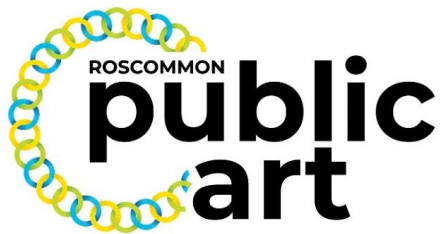
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Ground Floor plan with furniture layout:



First Floor Mark up:





About Boyle

Located at the foot of the Curlew Mountains in County Roscommon and flanked by Lough Key and Lough Gara, Boyle's origins link to the early medieval period with the establishment of Boyle Abbey in the 12th century. This Cistercian monastery is a significant historical landmark, showcasing the architectural prowess of its time and serving as a focal point for the town's development. Its well-preserved ruins offer an insight into monastic life in Ireland. Boyle has also played a role in other historical events, including the 1599 Battle of the Curlews, Irish Rebellion of 1641 and the subsequent Cromwellian conquest, all leaving a lasting impact on the town's cultural landscape. The town is home to several cultural institutions, including the King House Historic & Cultural Centre, a beautifully restored Georgian mansion with over 300 hundred years of history that now serves as a museum and cultural centre and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2025. It hosts exhibitions and events celebrating the town's artistic heritage and community spirit, provides a platform for local artists and serves as a venue for community gatherings. Previously, owned by the King family and in the 19th century it served as a military barracks for the Connaught Rangers. Boyle's cultural scene is also enriched by annual festivals such as Boyle Arts Festival, which celebrated 25 years in 2025, attracting artists and performers across Ireland and beyond. It highlights the town's commitment to fostering creativity and celebrating its diverse cultural expressions. Not far from the town is Lough Key Forest & Activity Park, a visitor attraction which offers a range of outdoor activities, such as walking trails, boat tours, and a treetop canopy walk.

Submission Format

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

- Professional, unique and contemporary.
- Works within the overall new community library development.
- Made in a manner and from materials suitable for permanent installation, with special consideration given to aspects which may be proposed for outdoors.
- Requires low maintenance.

Deadline for Proposals is 4pm Monday 30th March 2026.

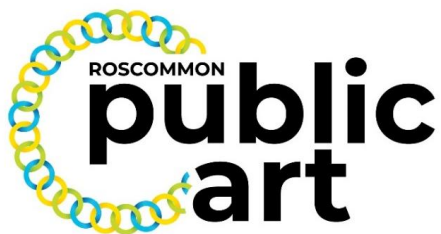
For submission, query, or if you are having any difficulties, please contact Mary on msmyth@roscommoncoco.ie or artsofficer@roscommoncoco.ie.

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 Boyle Library_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 Panel** will include:

- Boyle Town Representatives, including School x 3
- Boyle Library Representative
- Public Art Coordinator, Roscommon County Council
- Arts Officer, Roscommon County Council

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.
- **Your experience** of creating original, 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 deadline of Quarter 4 2026.

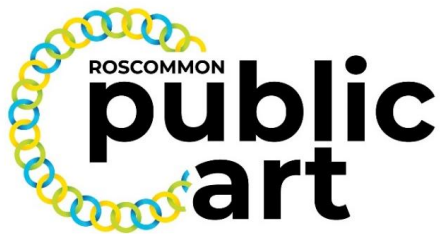
Responsibilities of the Artist

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.

