



Plots Park Public Art Commission Ballaghaderreen

OPEN COMPETITION with MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

ARTIST BRIEF

Opens Friday 23rd January 2026.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 4pm Wednesday, 4th March 2026.

Roscommon Public Art in collaboration with

Creative Places Ballaghaderreen

on [Instagram](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)



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Project Overview

The Plots and Spring Well form an intriguing part of Ballaghaderreen's Urban landscape. Located in the Market Square, Pound St, Barrack St back-lands, the Plots are gardens, allotments and trees, detached from but belonging to houses on those streets. A series of public paths through the Plots lead to a central Spring Well, a former water supply for residents.

The Plots Town Park Project has been developed by Roscommon County Council working in partnership with the Ballaghaderreen Town Team & proposes to develop a new town park in this area. This development significantly improves the public infrastructure providing a recreation area for all ages and abilities, encouraging greater use and footfall into the Town.

Roscommon County Council Arts Office & Creative Places Ballaghaderreen now invite artists to propose a permanent work which will compliment this project, welcoming visitors to the park. Submissions can potentially respond creatively to the new public space itself, or the history, story and unique themes associated with the Plots Park.

This commission is a unique opportunity for an **emerging Public Art Artist**, who is regionally based, and will incorporate a mentorship opportunity with an established Public Art Artist who will support the artist in developing their proposal for successful delivery.

Funded through the **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** as part of the **Enabling the Potential of the Ballaghaderreen Plots, and Creative Places Ballaghaderreen**. Creative Places is a flagship Arts Council/Local Authority initiative that brings sustained arts investment to towns, villages and rural places that have had fewer opportunities to take part in the arts. Ballaghaderreen progressed from a research and development phase in 2024 to a full three-year programme from 2025–2028.



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ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

Objective:

Design, produce and install a permanent work that welcomes visitors to the newly designed Plots Park.

Budget:

€6,000 including VAT. Fully inclusive of all costs including, but not limited to, artist fees, travel, design, research, materials, manufacture/fabrication, site preparation, installations, and all associated site works, insurance, documentation, maintenance file and VAT. *Mentorship & launch costs accounted separately.*

Deliverables:

- Permanent work completed and installed at the park by June 2026.
- The work should be complimentary to the park and link in with the context of the site, be imaginative and visually engaging.
- Require low maintenance.
- Engage with the community in a way that is suitable to the project and your artform. This is not prescriptive and can be pre-delivery (e.g. consultation/ workshops which inform the work) or after delivery (e.g. an artist talk).

Materials:

Work should be made in a manner and from materials suitable for permanent exhibition outdoors. It should be durable, consider weather and be securely fixed in place.



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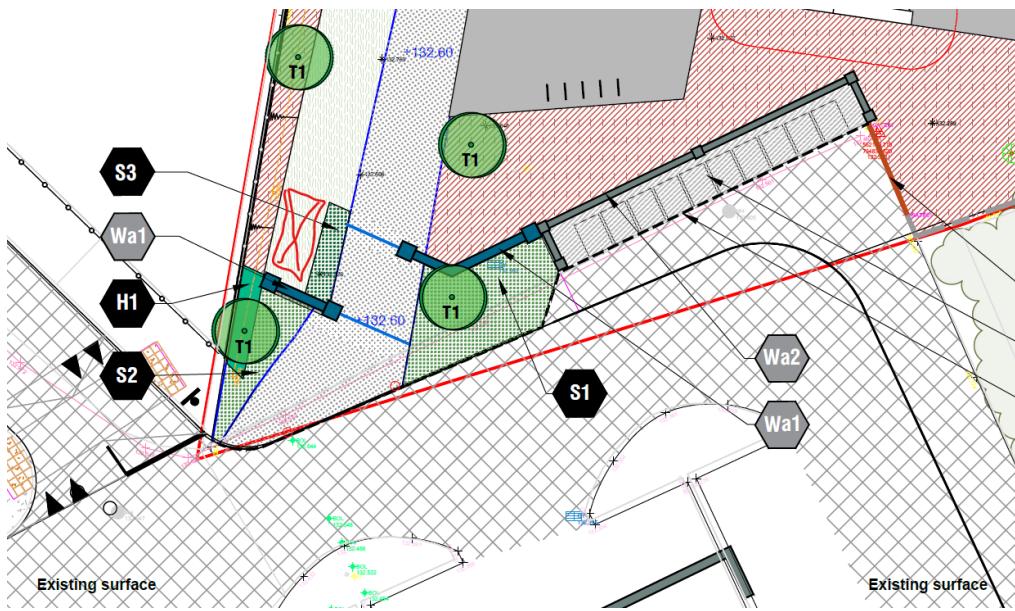
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Location:

The artwork is to be located at the new park entrance area in the grass (green):



Artwork location in grass area marked with boxed red X below:



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Note on scope: The new pull in bay for bins includes a back wall to the park. From the park this is a blank wall that has been flagged as suitable for a mural in future. The selected artist may incorporate this as an add-on (noting the additional cost) into their developed proposal.

Mentorship

Upon selection, an immediate session will be arranged between the selected artist and the Public Art mentor. The mentor will be an experienced artist working currently in the field of public art and they will have 2 x 2-hour consultations with the artist to develop their proposal and delivery programme.

One session is envisioned to be held online and one in-person, dependent on artist's availability. The artist will also have the support of the Creative Places Coordinator and Public Arts Coordinator if required.

The selected artist is expected to develop their proposal in consultation with the mentor and an updated concept will be reviewed by Creative Places and Roscommon Arts Office before work commences.



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Submission

Please submit the following:

1. **CV:** up-to-date curriculum vitae, including contact information (1 page max)
2. **Documentation of Work:** please submit 3 examples of relevant, previous work, including their context - written descriptions, timeframe, overall budget, photographs, and links if relevant.
3. **Artistic Design / Concept:** A Short indicative proposal response - to give the assessment panel an idea of the general direction you would take with commission.

Please limit your response to 2 pages and 3 images max. This should include reference to the following: Artistic vision, Proposed scale or size of the piece(s), Propose materials to use.

4. **Budget breakdown estimate.**

Note: We do not request an itemised budget at this time but an indication of how the budget will be allocated, e.g. Artist fees, materials.

Email your application to creativeplacesballagh@gmail.com with Subject Title:
'Plots Park Submission_YourName'

You will receive an email to confirm we have received your submission.

Submissions must be submitted electronically and should be 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. If you are having any difficulties, please make contact.

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



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Assessment

The Selection Panel will include:

- Ballaghaderreen Town Team Representative
- Creative Places Ballaghaderreen Coordinator
- Public Art Coordinator, Roscommon County Council
- Arts Officer, Roscommon County Council
- Public Art Artist Mentor

Submissions will be marked by the following **Assessment Criteria**:

- Links to examples of your previous work, similar to this scale and budget (which have been completed on budget & on time) (30%)
- Artistic quality of the proposal (30%)
- Track record of applicant(s) - CV (20%)
- Feasibility & Budget (20%)

Deadline & Timeline

- Deadline for submission is **4pm Wednesday, 4th March 2026**
- Successful artists will be notified by Friday 6th March 2026.
- On selection, a meeting will be arranged for the artist with the Creative Places Coordinator, Roscommon County Council Public Art Coordinator & Arts Officer with panel feedback, and the mentorship sessions arranged.
- Work commences: March 2026.
- Work to be completed and installed by June 2026.

Note: The Contracting Authority reserves the right to amend this timetable.



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Opt-Out Clause

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

Artist Responsibilities for Each Commission

All artists must comply with the necessary Health and Safety Legislation in the design, manufacture, supply, delivery and installation of the work paying particular attention to the challenges created by a public outdoor setting. It is the responsibility of the artist to deliver the work on time and on budget. 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.



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TAX Clearance

The successful artist may be requested to provide the Council with a tax clearance certificate upon successful appointment.

About the Plots

The Plots in Ballaghaderreen is a historic area (also known as the Garden Quarter), which was a commonage formerly featuring individual, rear-allotment garden plots linked by paths. The lands (north-east side of Market Square and south side of Pound Street) were divided up into triangles with access pathways between, to allow each house its own plot. Locals once grew their vegetables in these plots.

The plots are linked by a precise radial pattern of footpaths which all leads to a circular meeting-point with an old well. Mrs. Anne Deane (cousin of John Dillon) donated the well for the benefit of the townsfolk. There is a wildflower meadow behind the wall. This important habitat houses a diverse population of plants such as Horsetail, Yellow Flag Iris, Clover, Silverweed, Cow-parsley and Meadowsweet amongst others.

As part of **The Plots Town Park Project** this area will undergo major redevelopment into a new recreation town park, walking and amenity area. The project will support the community, who continually seek to promote their village as an attractive and safe place to visit & dwell; and combined with the soon to be constructed Public Realm Enhancement Scheme will make Ballaghaderreen a better place to work, visit & live. This project will see the provision of a new access path, grassed areas and wildflower meadow, Children's Active Recreation area, Outdoor Exercise Equipment, Plaza Style Skate Park Element and Age Friendly Seating and soft landscaping to include, trees, shrubs, hedging, flowers & grass.



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Part 8 Plots Park plan:



Part 8 planning for the park pdf available to view:

https://www.roscommoncoco.ie/coco/en/about_us/part-8-local-authority-own-developments/community-enterprise/part-8-the-plots-town-park-ballaghaderreen/



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The Well today

Located on the Part 8 plan at the top right.



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