



PUBLIC ART COMMISSION FOR STROKESTOWN, CO ROSCOMMON, IRELAND

OPEN COMPETITION

ARTIST BRIEF

Opens Monday 27th January 2025. [DEADLINE FOR STAGE 1 SUBMISSIONS: Monday 7th April 5PM.](#)



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1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Roscommon County Council received Rural Regeneration and Development Funding (RRDF) for *Rejuvenating Strokestown's Potential*. This project will deliver an enhanced public realm for the town centre, focusing on Bawn Street and Church Street - creating pedestrian space, improved connectivity, places for people to congregate and dwell as well as event space.

The Town Centre First Plan for Strokestown was completed in 2023. The vision for the town includes delivering a connected public realm improvement scheme and integrating Strokestown Park House and Gardens and Famine Museum with the town core.

Roscommon County Council Arts Office now invites proposals which respond creatively to the public space, the history, story and unique themes associated with Strokestown. The commission is also intended to provide **opportunities for dialogue or participation** with the local community. Representatives of various groups in the town will also be involved on the assessment panel.

We invite original submissions from artists for the design and execution of a:

Permanent Artwork for Strokestown

Commission budget: €55,000

Stage 2 Proposal development fee: €250

The **design** of the work will consider some or all of the following:

- The architectural significance of the design of the town and buildings.
- The historical context of the town while also bringing contemporary artistic innovation to the design.
- An impactful feature that evokes public curiosity.
- Collaboration with the community in the research for the piece or creation of the work.
- Tactile, inviting visitors to explore the detail within the design.

Proposed artworks should be:

- Professional and contemporary.
- Made in a manner and from materials suitable for permanent exhibition outdoors.
- Require low maintenance.
- Work within the overall public realm enhancement aims.

***Final location of the sculpture in town to be confirmed.**

2. BUDGET

The overall Budget for the commission is €55,000.00 including VAT.

Budget management is the responsibility of the successful Artist(s) and is 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 and VAT.

3. TIMETABLE & DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

This call out is Stage 1 of a 2 Stage Process. In Stage 2 up to 3 artists will be shortlisted to develop their proposals further.

The indicative timeline for the stages of the application and award process is anticipated as follows:

Activity	Schedule	Period	
STAGE 1			
Artist Call Published	Monday 27 th January 2025	January	10 weeks
Deadline for Queries	Monday 24 th March 2025	March	
Submission Deadline	5pm Monday 7 th April 2025	April	
STAGE 2			
Site Visit for Shortlisted Artists	April 2025	April	4 - 5 weeks
Final Submission, Assessment and Award to successful artist	May 2025	May	
RESEARCH, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & INSTALLATION	Commence commission June 2025	June	10 months
Information & Maintenance file Handover	March 2026	March	

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

4. SUBMISSIONS & QUERIES

For submission and queries contact Mary on: msmyth@roscommoncoco.ie or artsofficer@roscommoncoco.ie.

Deadline for queries is Monday 24th March 2025.

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 contact Mary.

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

Please reference the subject of your email as 'Stage 1 Submission_Strokestown_YOURNAME'. You will receive an email to confirm we have received your submission.

5. Assessment Process

Stage 1 - Artists should provide the following information:

- 1. CV:** please submit an up-to-date curriculum vitae, including current contact information (please limit to 3 pages)
- 2. Documentation of Work:** please submit 3-5 examples of relevant, previous work, including written descriptions, photographs, and links if relevant.
- 3. Artistic Design / Concept:** a plan suggesting the general direction you would take with commission. Please limit your response to 2000 words and 3 images. *Your plan should include reference to the following: Suggested Title, Artistic vision, Proposed scale or size of the piece(s), Propose materials to use.*

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

- **50 / 100 marks - Previous Experience of similar projects / commissions**
- **50 / 100 marks - Quality of Artistic Design / Concept**

Stage 2 - Shortlisted Artists will be invited to develop their original Artistic Design/Concept.

Artists will be required to submit the following information, which should be used as **headings** in your Stage 2 submission:

- 1. 40 / 100 marks - Quality of Developed Artistic Design / Concept** – detailed specifications and information clearly explaining your design and the rationale behind it for your chosen commission(s), including the provision of digital images or scaled drawings.
- 2. 20 / 100 marks - Method Statement** outlining how you propose to deliver the works anticipated in your chosen commission(s) including, but not limited to, reference to your team and any sub-contractors (if applicable), working in a public space, use of materials, fabrication, construction and installation.
- 3. 20 / 100 marks – Feasibility including Budget Detail** with itemised breakdown of costs to deliver your design proposal(s).
- 4. 20 / 100 marks - Programme for delivery and completion**, inclusive of any research period, detailed design, consultation, collaboration with the Contracting Authority and community, fabrication, installation and handover scheduled on time of deadline.

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.

6. SELECTION PANEL

The Selection Panel will consist of representatives from some or all of the following:

- Strokestown Town Team
- Strokestown Tidy Town Group
- Roscommon County Council including Arts Officer, Public Art Coordinator and Executive Engineer
- Roscommon-based Artist
- National Famine Museum
- Scoil Mhuire Strokestown

7. 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.

8. INSURANCE

Artists will be required to have Public Liability insurance cover for the work they have to undertake on site and Employers Liability insurance cover for any person that they undertake to bring on site as part of the design or implementation phase of the project. Insurance to be extended to indemnify the client Roscommon County Council. If successful, Artists will be required to submit evidence of insurance cover.

9. TAX CLEARANCE

Upon successful appointment, the successful artist must provide the Council with a tax clearance certificate.

10. About Strokestown

Strokestown is a small town in Co. Roscommon with a population of less than 1,000 people.

It is one of 27 designated Heritage Towns in Ireland: a planned town within 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' with formally aligned streets and prominent public buildings. The town centre lies within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) with many historic buildings adding character and identity to the town. Many of the buildings and streets located within Church Street and Bawn Street have designated conservation status.

Strokestown boasts the second widest street in Ireland and across Europe. Its distinctive axial plan of the town provides a clear link from Church Street and Bawn Street to Strokestown House. This unique feature is distinctive to the town's identity and heritage.

It is home to Strokestown Park House and the National Famine Museum, an 18th-century mansion and expansive gardens with a new museum containing records from the time of Ireland's Great Famine of 1845–1852. Since 2015, Strokestown Park House and the National Famine Museum are managed by the Irish Heritage Trust. Strokestown Park House is a major asset for the town and a key visitor and tourism attraction.

The County Roscommon Heritage and Genealogy Centre is also located here, which conducts genealogy research for people with Roscommon roots, attracting significant domestic and overseas tourism. Serving as another significant visitor focal point, it is housed in a unique architectural octagonal building built in c.1820.

The Strokestown International Poetry Festival, founded in 1999, takes place annually on the first weekend of May. The weekend provides a world-renowned forum for excellence in poetry. It provides an unforgettable experience and a thrilling immersion in contemporary poetry.

History

The town dates from the 17th century, formally established by the Mahon family, who continued to be associated with the town right up until the later 20th century. In the early 19th century the house was screened by a gothic gateway at the eastern end of the street, and the axial avenue replaced with a fish pond and a large tree stand which also formed a backdrop to the entrance gate when viewed from the town. The house, no longer directly visible, was approached via a curving drive to gradually reveal itself on rounding the corner. Whilst the position of the landlord was thus made to appear less important, they were still represented in the designed form of the street and the pretty castellated gateway that announced the entrance to the estate, which has since become a symbol of the town itself.

<https://towncentrefirst.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Strokestown.pdf>

<https://strokestownpark.ie/>