



Creative Enquiry Artist Residency and Older People Engagement Project

Call for artist submissions

Background:

Cork Midsummer Festival are seeking an artist for an Artist in Residence to carry out a creative enquiry with older people in Cork city from May 2019 until January 2020.

Cork Midsummer Festival is an annual multi-disciplinary arts festival that uses the city as its backdrop and inspiration. We provide high-quality arts events, both national and international, for audiences of all ages. Our programme provides opportunities for significant public participation and engagement, supports the development of emerging artists across all artforms, and provides a unique platform for work by local and national artists. The festival takes place each June.

Over the past 10 years Cork Midsummer Festival has built up a track-record of innovative, high profile and quality participatory work. This is an area of practice we are committed to as one of five core programming strands. Past projects has included work with artists in specific areas of the city with local residents, such as Knocknaheeny (*I Can Colour Between The Lines*, 2018) and Shandon (*Be My Guest*, 2016). We have also worked with specific communities of interest, such as mothers and daughters (*Like Mother, Like Daughter*, 2017).

Your proposal:

We are inviting proposals from artists, of any discipline, to clearly outline their approach to exploring artistic and creative responses to how older people might relate and engage with the arts. We are especially interested in proposals that are innovative, creatively daring and experimental; proposals that go beyond more formal or conventional modes of arts engagement.

We are looking for proposals from artists with a strong demonstrable track record of participatory arts practice; experience of developing innovative projects using two-way engagement methods with people in community settings; and a vigorous, ethical approach to working with communities.

The focus of the residency for Cork Midsummer Festival will be to explore and activate creative consultations and arts practice with older people in the Cork city area, both the North and South sides of the city. We are seeking an artist to explore new ways of working with older people and to input into a meaningful enquiry to the needs of older people to access quality arts experiences. We are also seeking to build relationships with older people's groups and communities in the city. We have several projects planned in 2019 and 2020 whereby we will be seeking interested older people to work with us and would hope that this residency will provide a gateway to potential participants and relationship building. The Creative Enquiry partners share the following value statement;

There is a universal right to entitlement to participate in arts and culture. The arts have the potential to be transformative, to change and influence the attitudes and experiences of citizens. The arts can impact our wellbeing through the whole of our lives.

To sustain the arts we need to interrogate how arts are made accessible, innovative and engaging. We need to embed the accessibility to the arts in our values as organisations but also action those values in what we deliver. Sometimes this is about policy development, about advocacy, about inspiration, about co-creating and sometimes is about addressing practical barriers.

The Creative Enquiry consortium would like to integrate this statement and the following questions as part of its artist residency and older people engagement programme:

What are the barriers to participation in the arts for older people?

- How can we improve pathways for older people to engage in more arts projects?
- How can we assist older people to overcome barriers and increase their access and participation in arts projects addressing both creative and social needs?

How can we characterise quality arts engagement for older people?

- How can we facilitate meaningful opportunities of creative engagement and dialogue with older people?
- What do models of best practice look like in the context of your host residency organisation?
- How can we ensure the exploration and development of quality arts opportunities with older people?
- How can we create reciprocal relationships between artists, arts organisations and older people?

What do the arts offer us as we age?

- Do the arts offer something different from other types of social activities that contribute to the wellbeing of older people?
- Does the experience of actively participating in the arts offer something different to other ways of experiencing the arts?

We invite artists to respond creatively to the above statement and questions.

In addition to the statement and questions above, we are seeking an approach and methodology that will help us address the following questions specific to the festival:

- *How can the festival do more for older audiences?*
- *What creative activities do you enjoy?*
- *What barriers are there to attending the festival as an older person?*
- *What would make you attend the festival (as an older person)?*
- *What does the festival mean to you (if anything)?*
- *What topics and issues are particularly important to you as an older person?*
- *Are there any ways that the festival could be a forum for airing such topics?*

Artists living in the Cork city/county region are a priority although we will accept applications from artists resident in Ireland elsewhere.

We particularly welcome applications from older artists (55 years +).

We also especially keen to see applications from artists from the following disciplines: architecture, circus, dance, digital arts, music, public art and street arts.

Residency Duration: Nine months, commencing **May 2019 – January 2020**. This is a part-time residency and will require flexible working hours.

Fee: €18,000 (inclusive of all expenses)

How to apply - Please include the following information in your application:

- Your proposal (max. one A4 page - 11pt min) outlining your methodology and approach, with an indication of how the residency might benefit the participant and your professional practice;
- An artist statement (max. 500 words) with demonstrable relevant experience (2- 3 examples of delivering participatory projects). Why you specifically chose Cork Midsummer Festival.
- Please include the names of 2 referees (please note: referees will only be contacted prior to appointment).
- A current CV (max 3 x A4 pages)
- Samples of your work/supporting material such as film, photos, reviews, features (3 - 5 items maximum)

In advance of applying, if you wish to have an informal conversation about the residency please contact Kath Gorman, at kath@corkmidsummer.com.

Proposed timeline:

Event item	Date
Submission of proposals deadline	25 th March, 2019, 4pm
Shortlisting of artists	2 nd April, 2019
Invited artist presentations	15 th April 2019
Artist Residency commencement	1 May 2019
Creative Enquiry midway sharing	September 2019
Creative Enquiry concluding sharing	December, 2019
Outcome presentations and publication launch	January 2020

Selection Criteria:

Criteria for selection	Pass/fail
Quality of previous work and demonstrated capacity to deliver	
Quality, innovation and relevance of the proposal to the brief	
Potential benefit of the proposed engagement activity to the project participants	

Awarding Criteria:

Clear communication of applicant's process of facilitation and ability to delivery	70%
Written submission	30%

Submission:

Please submit proposal **no later than 4 p.m. on 25 March 2019** by email to:

Kath Gorman
Head of Participation and Engagement
Cork Midsummer Festival
Email: kath@corkmidsummer.com

Creative Enquiry - Arts and Older People is an investigative collaborative venture that creatively explores fresh approaches to arts engagement with older people and advances best practice models. The focus of the Creative Enquiry is three artist-residency and older-people-engagement projects, hosted by three distinct arts organisations: the city-based multi-disciplinary *Cork Midsummer Festival*; *Music Alive*, a county-wide arts and mental health organisation; and *Sirius Arts Centre*, an arts venue located in the heritage town of Cobh.

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