

South Dublin County Council

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION - ARTIST BRIEF

MONASTERY ROAD SCHEME CLONDALKIN

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Invitation to Artists

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) and the National Transport Authority (NTA) invite proposals for a permanent outdoor sculptural artwork, funded through the Monastery Road Improvement Scheme.

SDCC and NTA will commission a compelling and highly visible artwork that connects thematically with the heritage of Clondalkin. The artwork will be located at a small park area with pedestrian access from Monastery Road at the new entrance to Woodford Lawn, adjacent to the Woodford Roundabout.

It is hoped that the artwork will be a contemporary visual link to the important heritage of the area and contribute to a strong and unique sense of place.

Clondalkin Heritage

Clondalkin Village is steeped in heritage and the area has been host to many significant historical figures and battles. It is believed Clondalkin was founded by Saint Cronan Mochua as a monastic settlement on the River Camac in the late 6th or early 7th centuries. In 832 AD Vikings attacked and settled in Clondalkin. One of the early Norse kings of Dublin, Olaf the White, built a fortress on the site in the middle of the 9th century. It remained a valued Viking stronghold until the famous Battle of Clontarf in 1014 between the Vikings and Brian Boru.

The heritage is visible in the historical landmarks that remain protected and part of the village, most significantly the Round Tower and Monastic Site, St Brigid's Well and Tully's Castle.

The heritage of the area strongly contributes to a sense of place and identity for the community of Clondalkin, as evidenced in the annual Clondalkin Heritage Week and the active community groups Clondalkin Historical Society, Rally Round the Round Tower Group, Clondalkin Tidy Towns, Friends of Camac and Munitir Cronáin.

We have provided a presentation and some links to information on the local heritage in Appendix 2 to assist artists in their research.

Budget

The budget for the commission is €72,000 fully inclusive of VAT, all materials and all groundworks if required and installation costs.

Site Visit

Artists will have the opportunity to attend a site visit on Tuesday 10th of May at 2pm. We will be joined by Monica McGill to answer queries about Clondalkin Heritage and a member of the Monastery Road Improvement Scheme Design Team.

Please register to attend the site visit by emailing shelly@visualartists.ie by Monday 9th of May. Attending the site visit is not a requirement; queries can also be submitted by email.

Application Process - Stage 1

This is an open submission two stage competitive process. Stage 1 is open to any artist. It is an initial expression of interest process that will result in the shortlisting of a maximum of 5 artists who will progress to Stage 2.

Artists interested in submitting expressions of interest should complete the online application form that will request the following information in text or video response:

- Summary of your proposal for the commission (max 50 words/short video recording)
- Outline of your concept and how you will approach to the commission (max 500 words/ video recording)
- Outline how you feel this proposal will connect to the Clondalkin area and heritage (max 150 words / short video recording)
- Examples of three previous projects or relevant works. Include dates and locations (max 150 words / short video recording)
- Supporting Material (upload files)
 - » An indication of budget breakdown
 - » A CV
 - » Early stage visualisations or technical drawings
 - » Images of previous work

Applications can be made via the online platform at <https://sdcc.submit.com/>

Closing date for submissions is 5pm on the 8th of June 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Selection Criteria Stage 1

The proposals for Stage 1 will be assessed by the selection panel using the following criteria:

- Link of proposed concept/research to the area and local heritage (35/100)
- Quality and originality of the artistic ideas (35/100)
- Quality of previous work and relevant experience (30/100)

Selection Process - Stage 2

Stage 2 will be a limited competition with a maximum of 4 shortlisted artists. A detailed proposal will be expected at Stage 2. Proposals will be required to provide a more detailed analysis of the concept, research, methodology, technical information, time frame and finances. Visual representation of the proposed work in the context of the location will be expected (using maquettes, drawings, computer generated images, videos or photographs).

Artists, will be asked to consider methods of public engagement to introduce the project to the community as part of the Stage 2 development process.

Artists will be paid a fee of €600 for completing the Stage 2 submission/application process.

Selection Criteria – Stage 2

The proposals for Stage 2 will be assessed by the selection panel using the following criteria:

- Artistic merit and distinctiveness of proposed artwork (25/100)
- Compatibility with the site and locality (25/100)
- Potential to contribute to sense of place and heritage (25/100)
- Feasibility of proposal and technical considerations (25/100)

Selection Panel

The Selection Panel for Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be composed from the following:

- Representative of SDCC Project/Design Team
- Representative of SDCC Parks Department
- Two Local Public Representatives
- A representative from a local community group
- Two external art experts (artist and/or curator)
- SDCC Arts Officer

Timeline

Open for Applications: 27 April 2022

Site Visit: 10 May 2022

Stage One: Deadline for applications: 8 June 2022 at 5pm

Stage Two: Deadline for Stage 2 submissions: to be confirmed following Stage 1.

Installation: Q2 2023, to be confirmed with the selected artist.

Queries

Applicants are welcome to make enquiries regarding the commission. Answers to questions of a factual nature will be shared on the application website.

The administration of the application process will be managed by Visual Artists Ireland.

Queries should be sent via email to: shelly@visualartists.ie

The closing date for queries is 1 June 2022 at 5:00pm.

Appendix 1:

Aerial Photo: Location marked in red



Video of Site: [Click here for video](#)



Appendix 1: Photos



View from Monastery Road Foot / Cycle Path. Approaching from Woodford Roundabout



View of commission location from Monastery Road Foot / Cycle Path



View from Monastery Road Foot / Cycle Path towards Woodford Lawn



View towards Woodford Lawn housing estate



Viewf from pathway leading to Woodford Lawn housing estate



Approaching from Woodford Lawn



Park area, looking towards Woodford Roundabout



Park area, looking towards Woodford Roundabout



View of location from park path, looking towards Woodford Roundabout



View of location from Monastery Road Foot / Cycle Path. Heading towards Woodford Roundabout



Landscaped edge of park area



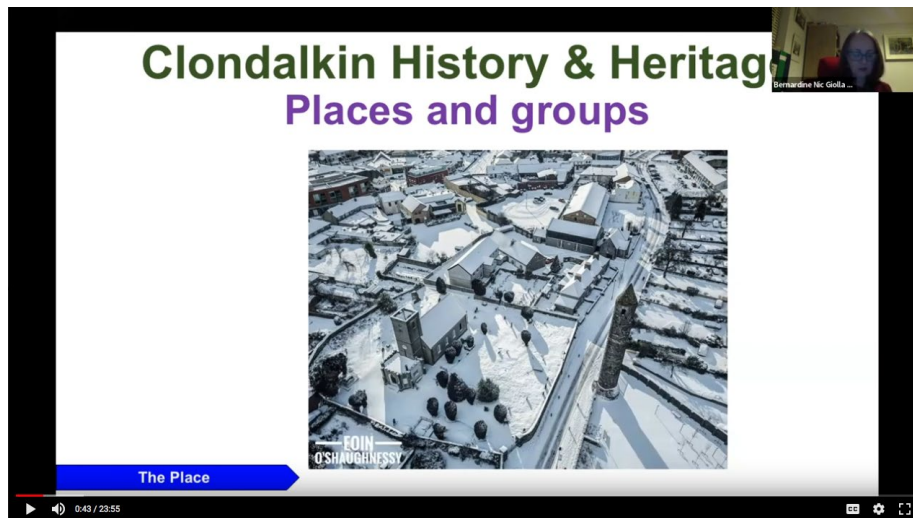
View of park area from Monastery Road Foot / Cycle Path

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Appendix 2:

Bernardine Nic Giolla Phadraig about Clondalkin heritage and Rally Round the Round Tower Group



[Click here for Video](#)

Useful links:

South Dublin History, includes history, village maps and a walking guide to the village:

www.southdublinhistory.ie/...Clondalkin

Early Scandinavian Dublin:

www.wikiwand.com/...Early_Scandinavian_Dublin

Clondalkin Heritage Trail Map

[Click here to view](#)

Clondalkin Heritage Trail Audio Guide

[Click here to download](#)

The Round Tower Clondalkin App

[Click here to download](#)

Monastic Site and Clondalkin Round Tower

Christianity came to East Leinster in the 5th century. Its foundation at Clondalkin is ascribed to St. Cronán also known as Mochua. The monastery was situated where St. John's Church now stands and as was the practice it was surrounded by a protective fosse, the outline of which can be followed in today's village streetscape.

Saint Cronán Mochua died in 630 AD. His feast day is celebrated on the 6th of August. The Annals of Ulster record that the relics of St. Kevin and St. Mochua were taken on tour in 790 AD. It is thought that the Clondalkin Round Tower was built around this period. Certainly it is of a very early type with rough calp limestone used in its construction. There are no signs of any of the stones being shaped by a mason.

The Clondalkin Round Tower is 27.5M high and is complete with its original cap. With a circumference of 12.7M above the buttress, it is the most slender of all Round Towers. The buttress at the base is not original and there is no record to indicate when it was added.

Most historians agree that Clondalkin's Round Tower is the oldest surviving Round Tower in Ireland. Round Towers are a uniquely indigenous form of Irish architecture.

The Round Tower Visitor Centre opened its door on Monday 3rd July, 2017 and features an interpretative centre, exhibition space, café, gardens, and terrace dining and is nestled in the heart of Clondalkin Village, within minutes of the Grand Canal Greenway, Corkagh Regional Park and nearby Irish Cultural Centre, Áras Chrónáin.

Arrival of the Vikings

In 833 a raiding party sailed up the Liffey and plundered the monastic settlement at Clondalkin. Olaf the White (also called Amlaíb / Óláfir / Amhlaeigh) was one of the early Norse kings of Dublin and is known to have built a fortress at Clondalkin - Dun Amhlaeigh. Some traditional sources portray Olaf as a descendant of Ragnar Lodbrok. He was named King of Dublin around 853. According to Irish sources, Olaf ruled jointly with his kinsman Ímar. Olaf married Aud the Deep-minded (Auðr), daughter of Ketil Flatnose, the ruler of the Hebrides, according to Icelandic traditions (Landnámabók, Laxdæla saga).

In 867 a force led by the king of Loígis Cennétig mac Gaíthéne burned the fortress at Clondalkin and killed 100 of Amlaíb's followers.

Dun Amhlaeigh was an important seat of Norse power for more than a century. Significantly, the fortress was built on the remains of the monastic site, which has led some historians to wonder whether a similar thing might not have happened at the ecclesiastical enclosure of Duiblinn.

The monastery was later restored and, with help from other surrounding monasteries, influenced the Viking settlers in their conversion to Christianity. The district remained under Norse control until the Viking defeat by Brian Boru at the famous Battle of Clontarf in 1014.

Clondalkin witnessed another historic event during the Norman invasion in 1171 when there was a battle there between Richard de Clare (Strongbow) and the last High King of Ireland Ruaidhrí Ua Conchabhair.

Viking activity in the Dublin region is also indicated by the discovery of numerous silver-hoards in the east and midlands of Ireland.

Irish language

Clondalkin is regarded as a centre for the Irish language and culture. Muintir Cronáin was founded in 1972 to further the use of the Irish language through educational, social and cultural activities. For many years Muintir Cronáin operated from members' houses and various halls around the village. In May 1989 they purchased Orchard House in the centre of the village and renamed it. Áras Cronáin opened it as a cultural and heritage centre.

In 1975 and again in 1988, Muintir Cronáin was awarded the Glór na nGael National Trophy in recognition of its efforts to promote the Irish language. In 1991 they were chosen to host An tOireachtas - the yearly National Cultural Festival.

www.araschronain.ie

About South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County is one of four local authority areas in the Dublin region. South Dublin County Council provides a broad range of services including housing, roads, cultural and recreational facilities, enterprise units, fire services, community infrastructure and financial supports. It also serves as a platform for local democracy with 40 Councillors spread across six electoral areas.

Bounded by the River Liffey to the north and the Dublin Mountains to the south, the County lies 16 km south west of Dublin city centre and has an administrative footprint of 223sq. kilometres. The County has 9 main villages Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Templeogue, Saggart, Rathcoole and Newcastle and is bounded by adjoining counties of Wicklow, Kildare, Dublin City, Fingal and Dun Laoghaire.

The county is home to 278,749 people. Tallaght, the administrative centre of the county, is regarded as a thriving centre of business, culture, recreation and education.

The growth of population in the Clondalkin area has resulted in the growth of new communities within Clondalkin. Evidence of this can be seen in the development and growth of schools, churches, community facilities, etc.

www.sdcc.ie

About the Monastery Road Improvement Scheme

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) with funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) recently completed Monastery Road Improvement Scheme Phase 4. Phase 4 forms the final Phase of the Monastery Road Improvement Scheme. The works extend from immediately east of the Monastery Heath junction along the Monastery Road to the Ibis Roundabout proceeding south across the N7 on the bow bridge (L1019) and terminating just south of the bridge at the Red Cow Luas Stop car park.

Phase 4 works included the provision of safe pedestrian crossing facilities at the SIAC roundabout on the Woodford Hill arm and reconfiguration of the roundabout. It is at this location that South Dublin County

Council now intends to commission and install a sculptural artwork.

The Woodford roundabout on Monastery Road in Clondalkin is part of a busy slip road from the N7 and route to Park West Business Park and as an exit to the M50.

Monastery Road Improvement Scheme (all phases) involved the upgrading of pedestrian facilities on Monastery Road in order to improve general walking and cycling conditions along Monastery Road from Clondalkin Village to the Redcow Luas Station. These works included the provision of zebra crossings, raised table top ramps with raised pedestrian crossing on side roads at junctions, bus ramps, widening and renewal of footpaths between Clondalkin Village and Redcow Luas Station, traffic calming on Monastery Road, installation of signalized pedestrian crossings at SIAC and Ibis Roundabouts, installation of a staircase at the Redcow Luas Station end and landscaping all along the scheme.

Monastery Road Improvement Scheme (all phases) is now complete bar the commissioning and installation of the art piece. Construction of the scheme begun with Phase 1 in 2013 and was officially completed in November 2021 with the finalization of Phase 4. The scheme was funded by the NTA.

Appendix 3: Terms & Conditions

Application Conditions

Applications will only be accepted via the South Dublin County Council online application platform submit. link/ . Emailed, faxed or posted applications will not be accepted.

Late applications will not be accepted.

South Dublin County Council and its agents reserve the right to document artists' applications.

The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue that may arise during the course of the selection.

South Dublin County Council reserve the right not to award the commission if none of the proposals received are deemed to be suitable and in this instance reserve the right to pursue another procurement process.

Freedom of Information

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 apply to South Dublin County Council.

Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed in response to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive.

Submissions will be kept for twelve months for the purpose of documenting the selection process and ensuring transparency of the selection process.