



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnígh**  

---

**Limerick** City  
& County Council

# **Limerick City and County Council**

## **Public Art Policy 2024-2030**

**Revised by Arts Office & Vincent O'Shea 21st February 2024.**

## Table of Contents

- 1. Vision**
- 2. Public Art Management**
  - 2.1 Strategic Policy Committee**
  - 2.2 Public Art Working Group**
  - 2.4 Membership of the Public Art Working Group**
  - 2.4 Public Art Advisory Group**
  - 2.5 Role of the Public Art Advisory Group**
  - 2.6 The Advisory Group Membership**
- 3. Per Cent for Art Budgets and Funding Thresholds**
  - 3.1 Calculation and Allocation of Per Cent for Art Funds**
  - 3.2 Pooling of Per Cent for Art Scheme Funds**
- 4. Procedures for commissioning public art works for Limerick City & County Council**
  - 4.1 Procurement Guidelines for Commissioning Artworks under the Percent for Art Scheme.**
  - 4.2 Commissioning Process**
  - 4.3 Selection of Artists**
  - 4.4 Assessment Panels**
  - 4.5 Public Art Assessment Panel Membership**
  - 4.6 Appeals**
  - 4.7 Payments to Artists and Contracts**
- 5. Commemorations**
- 6. Donations of Public Artworks**
- 7. Public Art Register**
- 8. Care & Conservation of Public Artworks**
  - 8.1 Maintenance of Artworks**
  - 8.2 Funding the Costs of Repairs and Maintenance**
  - 8.3 Public Art Disposal Policy**

## Appendices

**Appendix 1 – Consultation Process**

**Appendix 2 - List of Consultative Group**

## **Public Art**

Public Art is a broad term which refers to artworks across all artforms and practices, in any media, created and sited either temporarily or permanently in public places.

### **The General National Guidelines – 2004**

“Public art broadly defined can take many forms and perform many functions. It may be an object of civic pride or a cause of stimulating debate. It may provide edification or entertainment. It may be a source of private pleasure and solace or popular self- recognition and inclusion.”

The scope of public art is very wide, encompassing all art forms including the performing arts. It creates a dialogue with people, time and place and may be permanent or temporary in nature. Limerick City and County Council’s Public Art Policy will support the commissioning of a broad range of public art projects.

## 1. Vision

### **Public Art – Vision**

The Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) Public Art Policy rests on the pillars of ambition, partnership, inclusion and ownership. Public Art projects will be ambitious, multidisciplinary, and commissioned specifically for Limerick.

### **Ambition**

- Every project will have artistic ambition at its heart to attract the most talented artists and creatives to participate in Limerick Public Art projects.
- The artist's brief will allow artists and creatives to bring and develop ideas.
- The programmes and projects will be open to artists and creatives from multiple disciplines to ensure a dynamic and artistically progressive programme of Public Art.

### **Partnership**

- Partnerships to deliver Public Art in Limerick are key. Investment in time and resources to build partnerships will be integral to the public art programme. Partnerships may involve local communities, artistic and cultural organisations, other stakeholders and cross Directorate working at LCCC.
- On occasion, existing events, festivals, historical groups, sporting, educational and other organisations will be given the opportunity to make applications and submissions to avail of public art funds for special, specific, once-off projects that are in line with the Council's Public Art policy and Public Art Advisory Group guidelines.
- A dynamic approach to consulting with communities will be implemented.

### **Ownership**

Ownership embraces history, culture and heritage.

- The public art programme will embrace, in innovative ways, the history, culture and heritage of Limerick and give due consideration to what gives Limerick City and County a distinct identity.
- Facilitating artists, makers, performers, creatives to engage with Limerick through residencies, extended community engagement and workshops as a part of commissions.

## **Documentation**

- All programme and projects will be documented and recorded and will be accessible on-line.
- The existing collection will be documented and accessible on-line.

## **Values for Public Art**

- Will enrich Limerick, its people, communities, local environment and Place-Making.
- Artists and commissioners will engage and challenge each other.
- Projects will be considered, planned and delivered to ensure a high quality outcome. This will allow over a period of time for consultation and meaningful partnerships between artists, communities and groups within Limerick.

## **Key Indicators of Success**

- Will seek to secure public art funding on all of its capital development programmes.
- Will seek to deliver an ambitious programme of Public Art to high standards.
- Will commission a broad range of artworks across disciplines over the lifetime of the policy.
- Public art programmes will engage and work with a wide range of communities in the city and county.
- Limerick City and County Council will continue to work across Directorates and departments.

## **Public Art in Limerick**

Culture is part of the global agenda for sustainability and development and is included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030 commits to developing a coherent Public Art Policy to capitalise on the Percent for Art Scheme in all public projects being delivered. Additionally, Limerick Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 and Limerick City and County Council Civic Memorial Policy are relevant in the area of Public Art. The Public Art Programme will adhere to other Limerick City and County Council Policies as required.

## **2. Public Art Management**

Limerick Arts Office will manage the Public Art programme.

### **2.1 Strategic Policy Committee**

The Community, Leisure and Culture SPC is responsible for all areas of policy and strategy concerning community development and infrastructure, rural and community development library services, arts, museums and age-friendly initiatives.

### **2.2 Public Art Working Group**

This group will be drawn from the Council's Senior Management Team and will oversee the sourcing and coordination of Per Cent For Art funding from capital projects that the Council are developing.

#### **Role of the Public Art Working Group**

- Will oversee an all of local authority approach to public art policy to sourcing Percent for Art funding.
- Will bring coordination and coherence to sourcing public art funding from capital projects and programmes.
- Will ensure that percent for art funding is applied for on the majority of capital projects, undertaken by the Council.
- Will establish Percent for Art budgets and implementation requirements.
- Will meet bi-annually.

#### **2.3 Membership of the Public Art Working Group**

The membership will be drawn from:

Director of Services Housing and/or delegate.  
Director Services Infrastructure/Roads and/or delegate.  
Director Rural, Community and Culture and/or delegate.  
Finance Manager.  
Senior Planner.  
Architect.  
Arts Officer.

#### **2.4 Public Art Advisory Group**

The group will act as the specialist advisory group overseeing Limerick City and County Council's public art programme. It will reflect and ensure that ambitions and objectives set out in the **Limerick Cultural Strategy: A Framework 2016-2030** are delivered.

The group will be drawn from a range of experts in the creative field and community representatives.

#### **2.5 Role of the Public Art Advisory Group**

- Will advise on the implementation phase of available percent for art funding and where relevant other public art funding.
- Will advise on project themes and general direction.
- Will advise on programme themes and project briefs.
- Will advise on guidelines and assess proposals for donations, civic contributions.
- Will provide support and feedback for the Arts Office
- Will review public art programmes and provide feedback.

It will be open to The Advisory Group to advise on individual commissions, or to recommend a programmatic approach to commissioning a series of works.

## 2.6 The Advisory Group Membership

The group will consist of up to seven – ten members, which may be supplemented from time to time by members with particular expertise, or special interest. The group should have a broad cross section of representation from the artistic and community sectors including artists, curators. Equality, diversity and inclusion will be considered in the selection of the members.

- Expert members - artists, architects, curators, three members.
- Community representatives.
- Arts Office
- Council Architects and representatives from Council Departments – Housing, Roads, Public Realm, Active Travel, etc.
- Supplemented by specialists on occasions.

The three experts will have a background in different art forms in order to reflect public art practice. They will have an understanding of current art practices and have experience in public art. The art experts and the community representatives will be selected by the Public Art Working Group, who will be advised by the Arts Office.

### **3. Per Cent for Art Budgets and Funding Thresholds**

Public Art is funded in a number of ways, the largest contributor being the Per Cent for Art Scheme. The Per Cent for Art Scheme funding allocation is calculated on the basis of the net construction cost. The actual sum available for an art project of a particular capital project is finalised at the contract acceptance stage. This amount is then allocated to a designated Job Code managed by the Arts Office.

The Arts Office ensures that each Per Cent for Art project code identifier and maintains project-related information on a registered file. All art-related invoices are processed for payment by the Art Office, unless agreed otherwise.

#### **3.1 Calculation and Allocation of Per Cent for Art Funds**

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has approved the following bands and Limits

<b>Proposed Cost of Project</b>	<b>Proposed Maximum Limit</b>
Projects below €5m	1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €50,000 (1% of upper limit)
Projects between €5m and €20m	1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €125,000 (1% at median)
Projects between €20m and €50m	1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €350,000 (1% at median)
Projects in excess of €50m	€500,000 (1% of the lower level scale and declining as projects increase in scale)

The Per Cent for Art Scheme funds relate to project totals. However, some large-scale projects may be subdivided into units on a contract-by-contract basis. In such circumstances, the Per Cent for Art Scheme funding would apply to each contract.

Where possible Limerick City and County Council will seek to supplement the art project funding from other sources, for example, through additional client funding or pooling of resources with other public bodies. Some public bodies may wish to pool funds from different projects in one area to benefit a more substantial art project in another.

### 3.2 Pooling of Per Cent for Art Scheme Funds

The pooling of funds generated through the application of the Per Cent for Art Scheme is a long established principle under the National Guidelines. Pooling of funds across geographic areas and projects is specifically allowed for under the **General National Guidelines**. The Guidelines state that “in order to allow greater flexibility in the use of funds under the Percent for Art Scheme, the pooling of funds may be adopted. Funding may be pooled within an agency or an interagency basis. A local authority may wish to gather funding from different projects in the one area to achieve a more substantial art project”.

Limerick City and County Council will be informed by the advice of the Working and Advisory Groups to:

- Pool funding for smaller projects, in order to make the funding of an art project worthwhile;
- Seek to co-fund suitable art projects. LCCC may co-operate with other agencies by combining Per Cent for Art Scheme funds generated by different capital projects.
- Allocate pooled funding across all of the municipal districts so that there is a balance to funding allocations across the Municipal Districts.

## **4. Procedures for commissioning public art works for Limerick City & County Council**

**The Public Art Working Group** will confirm capital projects and oversee and secure funding confirmation from the relevant Government Department. The available funding will be centralised into a central capital spending code, which will be managed by the Arts Office. The confirmation of funding will be made to the Arts Office, who will inform **The Public Art Advisory Group**. The Arts Office will prepare options for the Public Art Advisory group. The Public Art Advisory Group may also propose options outlined below.

### **4.1 Procurement Guidelines for Commissioning Artworks under the Per Cent for Art Scheme.**

**The Public Art Per Cent for Art Scheme General National Guidelines 2004**, outlines Government approved artwork procurement and commissioning procedures. These outlines will be followed in relation to commissioning by Limerick City and County Council. The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) recognises the procurement procedures outlined in the **General National Guidelines** and does not provide supports for artwork procurement and instead refers bodies to the **National Guidelines**. Artworks are procured under National Guidelines using The Light Touch regime, supported by EU Directive 2014/24/EU. It is not a requirement to use E-Tenders in procuring artworks. The commissioning process for public artworks outlined below is used and approved by local authorities and OPW

### **4.2 Commissioning Process**

The procedures for the management of the public art programme will reflect the **National Guidelines** for the Per Cent for Art Scheme. This will include the development of briefs, selection of artists, contracts and management of commissions.

### **4.3 Selection of Artists**

The Arts Office will oversee the Assessment Panel terms of reference and guidelines. The method of assessment will depend on the scale and nature of the public art commission and will be made on the basis of the most appropriate procurement procedure which may include the following:

#### **4.3.1 Open Competition**

#### **4.3.2 Limited Competition**

#### **4.3.3 Direct Invitation or Purchase**

##### **4.3.1 Open Competition**

Artists will be invited to make submissions in a format that is appropriate to the artwork brief and reflects the artistic discipline and practice. This will be outlined the Advisory Group and The Arts Office. The submission deadlines will allow sufficient time for artists to prepare detailed proposals.

### **Competition based on previous work**

Artists will be asked to submit images, recordings, publications as appropriate and a CV for consideration by a selection panel. Three to five artists will be shortlisted to prepare a detailed submission and be paid an appropriate fee for their work. These submissions will be considered by the selection panel.

When either of the above methods are used the opportunity will be advertised and promoted on platforms such as The Arts Council's portal Public Art.ie or Visual Artists Ireland Opportunities page, Arts Officers databases etc.

#### **4.3.2 Limited Competition**

For commissions of an exacting nature or specialist artform, the Arts Officer informed by the advice of the Public Art Advisory Group, may use one or other of the methods outlined below.

##### **Artist Longlist**

The Arts Office, specialist curator, or assessment panel may consider a longlist of up to twenty artists and invite three to five to make a detailed submission.

##### **Artist Shortlist**

The Arts Office, specialist curator, or assessment panel may invite three to five artists to make a detailed submission.

In each of the above methods those artists invited to make a submission will be paid an appropriate fee.

#### **4.3.3 Direct Invitation or Purchase**

The Public Art Advisory Group working with the Arts Office may directly appoint an artist to a commission. This requires a period of research and discussion that an artist's practice, or work is appropriate to the aims and objectives of the commission.

The Public Art Advisory Group, working with the Arts Office, may assess proposals to directly purchase a work from an artist. When using this option, selection should be made on the basis of a comprehensive survey of what is available, cost and suitability.

#### **4.4 Assessment Panels**

Assessment panels will be appointed to undertake the short-listing and selection of artists for commissions. Assessment panels will consist of no less than three people and no more than nine. Panels will have a majority of art experts including independent practitioners and curators. If issues regarding critical interpretation, process, site choice, structural requirements or other matters arise, the panel may at its discretion, meet with the artists before making a final decision. Panels will typically be composed from the following (depending on the nature of the commission):

#### **4.5 Public Art Assessment Panel Membership**

- Arts Officer.
- Member of the Public Art Advisory Group
- Artists.
- Independent curators and other public art professionals.
- Technical expert, architect, engineer, planner, etc
- Representative of the community, neighbourhood or area.

#### **4.6 Appeals**

Applicants for public art projects to Limerick City and County Council may appeal against a decision on the basis of an alleged infringement, or unfair application of, or a deviation from the Council's published procedures.

This means that the applicant must show that they have reason/s to believe that their application was assessed, or dealt with in a way incompatible with the standard procedures for administration and assessment outlined when the applicant applied for funding.

If an applicant wishes to appeal an assessment panel decision, they may contact the Arts Office to discuss the subject matter of the potential appeal.

If, after having discussed the matter, the applicant still wishes to appeal an assessment panel decision, they must write to the Arts Officer of Limerick City and County Council within four working weeks from the date of the letter of notification. They will receive a written acknowledgement from the Arts Officer, or from a person delegated to represent the Arts Officer. The letter of appeal must state:

- the grounds on which the appellant believes their application was not properly dealt with or assessed;
- specific reasons, or evidence they may have to support the appeal.

Within twenty working days of receiving such a request, the appeal will be considered by the Arts Officer, the Director of Services with responsibility for Arts (or their nominee), and an independent expert. The Council's decision at this stage will be final and will be communicated to the appellant giving their reason for the decision.

#### **4.7 Payments to Artists and Contracts**

Limerick City and County Council follow The Arts Council's **Paying the Artist Policy**. Limerick City and County Council through its Arts Office, Advisory Group and assessment panels will ensure that the guidelines on remuneration are followed and that fair and reasonable contracts are offered to artists.

This creates an environment in which artists can make work of ambition and quality and be remunerated appropriately.

## **5. Commemorations**

### **Limerick City and County Council Civic Memorial Policy**

Limerick City and County Council has a Civic Memorial Policy in place. The policy recognises that public commemoration and memorials offer opportunities to honour, celebrate, or remember a person, group of persons or events of significance. They provide an opportunity to highlight important social, cultural and economic contributions to society, to celebrate the uniqueness of the city and county of Limerick and to create a 'sense of place' which is identified as being of great importance to citizens and visitors.

The Policy sets out the process by which Limerick City and County Council will consider the commemoration of events or individuals who have shaped the city or county, either by the naming of infrastructure or by the installation of monuments, memorials and plaques in the public domain.

It is expressly recognised that the Public Art Policy and the Civic Memorial Policy are two distinct policies.

## **6. Donations of Public Artworks**

LCCC are open to considering the acceptance of donations, or commissions of a permanent artwork to be located on or in a property owned, or cared for by LCCC. In order for the donation or commission to be considered, the donor will be required to present a formal submission for consideration by the Public Art Advisory Group, or an assessment panel agreed by the Advisory Group. Applicants will be informed of the criteria, conditions and procedures governing commissions and donations. Loans, or donations of public artworks will be considered. Completed and installed artworks will be registered on LCCC's Public Art Register.

### **6.1 Planning Permissions**

Potential donors will be advised that most permanent/ long-term works are subject to granting of Part 8 permission for Limerick City and County Council commissions, and planning permission for external proposals.

## **7. Public Art Register**

LCCC will establish and keep updated a Public Art Register. This will include permanent work in the ownership or care of LCCC and will also include temporary art projects undertaken under the Public Art Programme. If, on occasion, it has been agreed that another Department at LCCC are coordinating a particular Public Artwork, this will be notified to Limerick Arts Office and included on the register. The Public Art Register will include if applicable:

- Title of work
- Name of artist/s
- Artist's statement / short description / intention of work /
- Technical issues: date, medium, dimensions,
- Location
- Budget
- Image/s
- Maintenance notes (not published)

The Public Art Register will be made available for public viewing on the Council's website. The Arts Office will arrange for completed public art to be uploaded to the Arts Council's public art website [www.publicart.ie](http://www.publicart.ie)

## 8. Care & Conservation of Public Artworks

### 8.1 Maintenance of Artworks

The Arts Office will oversee the care, conservation and maintenance of artworks on Limerick City and County Council's Public Art Register. A care, conservation and maintenance plan, will be developed and implemented in association with LCCC departments, including but not limited to – Public Realm, Parks, Roads, Housing, Facilities, Active Travel. The Arts Office will identify the requirements for each artwork and make them known to the relevant departments and monitor the care, conservation and maintenance requirements.

### 8.2 Funding the Cost of Repairs & Maintenance

In line with the **General National Guidelines** a small portion of available Per Cent for Art funding may be allocated for exceptional repairs and maintenance of existing artworks owned by LCCC. A small deduction will be made from budgets from all new commissions to partially fund repairs and maintenance of public artworks. The Public Art Advisory Group will be asked to provide advice on the budget allocation for these purposes.

### 8.3 Public Art Disposal Policy

This section outlines standards and procedures relating to the disposal of artworks from the Limerick City and County Council's Public Art Register managed by the Arts Office. Deaccessioning, decommissioning and disposal will be considered only in limited circumstances.

**Deaccessioning** is the formal decision by the Council to remove permanently objects from its collection, or to document the reasons for an involuntary removal (one required by law, or due to circumstances not controlled by the Council).

**Decommissioning** specifically refers to the removal from its original site of a public art commission or its destruction.

**Disposal** is the method of removal or transfer. In the context of this policy, disposal is also used more broadly to refer to the permanent removal of an object from the Register.

A decision to dispose of an artwork will be the responsibility of the Public Art Advisory Group acting on the recommendation of the Arts Office and professional curatorial staff. Such a decision will take into consideration other stakeholders' views such as those of the artist(s), or donor(s) concerned, or of researchers and local communities.

The Arts Office will ensure that the disposal process is carried out in an open and transparent manner. In particular, the decommissioning of public art will be governed by respect for the artist(s) in question and the communities in which the artwork is located.

Public Art Advisory Group accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons for disposal must be established, before consideration is given to the disposal of any artworks in the Council's Collection.

**Disposal may only be undertaken if:**

- the legal title of the item has been thoroughly researched and there is no doubt whatever with regard to the ownership of the item. If there is any doubt, legal advice should be sought;
- it is on the advice of a range of staff (not one individual) and is agreed by the Public Art Group.
- it is done with the intention that wherever possible artworks remain within the public domain;
- it is unlikely to damage trust in Limerick City and County Council's public art collection, or Limerick City and County Council.
- it is likely to increase the public benefit from the artwork;
- it is communicated openly to the artist(s) concerned or any other relevant stakeholders.

#### **8.4 Motivation for Disposal**

It may be appropriate to deaccession and dispose of artworks from the Public Art Collection in exceptional circumstances where:

- LCCC is unable to carry out the necessary level of remedial work, owing to lack of facilities or resources. In this instance, efforts will be made for the artwork to be transferred to another State institution after deaccession, or to be returned to the artist;
- The artwork has deteriorated, or has been damaged beyond repair;
- The artwork poses a threat to health and safety;
- It is more historically, or practically appropriate to deaccession and transfer the artwork or object for display at another Council site, or for safe storage while awaiting a more appropriate location within the County;
- All commissioning contracts issued to artists by Limerick Arts Office after autumn 2023 include a decommissioning clause under which public art may be decommissioned.
- If the cost of maintenance is unreasonable.
- If there is a significant change in the relationship of the artwork to the site.

## **8.5 Limitations to Disposal**

It is recognised in this policy that works arising out of Council's Percent for Art programme are in effect part of a national collection of public art and due consideration will be given to this in any proposal to dispose of a work.

It is not the policy of the Council to dispose of artworks from the Public Art Register but where it is done the following guidelines will be considered.

Disposals will not be considered on an ad hoc basis without reference to the Public Art Policy;

- Disposal will not be considered without consulting experts with specialist knowledge of the artwork;
- Disposals will not be allowed without consulting the artist(s) concerned and the communities in which the artwork is located;
- Disposals will not be considered without taking into consideration the potential for affecting the reputation of the Council;
- Disposals will not be considered for purely financial reasons.
- Procedures in relation to the disposal or de-accessioning of an artwork must be discussed and approved at the Public Art Advisory group and approved by the Director of Services with responsibility for the arts service.

## **8.6 Method of Disposal**

Where possible, artworks should be transferred and kept within the Council. In exceptional circumstances, the Council may decide to transfer an artwork to another location, community group, collection within the county, or accredited museum. If appropriate legal title must also be transferred and all documentation must be updated by the Arts Office. For public art commissions, the method of disposal may also include the return of the work to the artist.

When works of art are destroyed either actively under the advice of the Public Art Advisory Committee, with approval from the Director of Services, because they are in poor condition or due to action by a third party (e.g. an accident, malicious damage, terrorist or warlike action) or to adverse environmental conditions, the Arts Office will, where possible, seek proof of destruction through photographic evidence or through a statement by Arts Office staff or other local authority officials present at the event or the aftermath of the event.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1.**

#### **Limerick Public Art Consultation Process**

A key element of devising the Limerick Public Art Policy was a wide ranging consultation process, held over five months from July to November 2023.

#### **Summary of Consultation Process**

- Limerick City and County Council staff, across departments, and at management level made contributions and attended meetings with the Arts Office and consultant preparing the policy document.
- Meetings were held with arts organisations based in the city and county. Participants at the meetings were invited to make written submissions.
- Information meetings with Public Art Managers in Dublin City Council and the Office of Public Works were held to provide insights and for comparative purposes.
- Information sessions with The Arts Council.
- Public consultations were organised through an online survey and open meetings held in City Hall and the Municipal District Offices in Newcastle West. An online Zoom meeting was also organised to facilitate the general public, arts practitioners and communities.
- A presentation was made to the Community Leisure & Culture SPC.

#### **Online Survey Summary**

The survey was published on the Council's website on 1st November 2023 and remained open until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The Arts Office circulated its contacts database with a link to the survey and circulated information through local media and social media.

#### **Questions 1-2**

Consisted of general background information on which Municipal Districts respondents lived in and their age cohorts.

- **Total number of responses 99**
- **Of which 75% live in the Limerick Metropolitan Area.**
- **Of which 60% were in the 25-44 age cohorts, just under 40% were in the 45-65 cohorts while 5% were 18-24.**

### **Question 3 – Opinions Invited**

When asked if art in public spaces is important for creating a sense of place 90% **Strongly Agreed** and **Agreed**.

75% **Strongly Agreed** or **Agreed** that they would like to see public artworks having more community engagement.

75% either **Strongly Agreed** or **Agreed** that they would like to see more ambition and scope in the range and type of public art commissioned in Limerick.

### **Q 4. Please tell us about public art projects that you admire in Limerick**

This question attracted a wide range of comments with individual works attracting positive and negative comments, in almost equal measure. Art, in general, can and does attract multiple responses and opinions. It should come as no surprise that artworks in the public domain would attract particular attention.

#### **Comments**

It is recommended that the Public Art Advisory group read and familiarise themselves with the responses as part of their initial research.

The responses did highlight that there is an interest in having a broad range of public art projects across the City and County with an emphasis on community engagement.

### **Q 5. Please tells us about public art projects that you admire elsewhere in Ireland or abroad.**

People highlighted artworks located in cities across the world. The responses showed a keen awareness by respondents of public art. Some artworks highlighted were interactive works, which could be looked at in a Limerick context.

#### **Comments**

The Public Art Advisory Group when established should look at the artworks that caught the eyes of Limerick people.

### **Q 6. What key thing would you identify as a priority for public art in Limerick?**

Community engagement and consultation was highlighted as an important priority that should be addressed. It was also suggested that creative ambition be encouraged and for boundaries to be pushed when commissioning public art.

It was suggested that public art be used to liven up drab areas with murals and artworks. While this is a very worthy comment, public art funding alone would not be sufficient for this purpose and would need to be seen in a context such as public realm, community engagement and placemaking. By working with communities and LCCC departments from the planning stage, public art projects could have an important role in revitalising and

enlivening communities and spaces. The weight attached to community engagement in the policy emphasises this point.

An appeal was made to give Limerick artists some hope and prospects of work.

Comments

The policy allows for a creative approach to addressing these specific issues through working across departments in the Council.

#### **Q 8 Would you like to make any other observations?**

Other priorities suggested were commemorative works for named individuals and works that honour women.

Comments

The Civic Memorial Committee could look at these suggestions and the names of individuals within the parameters of the recommendations on commemorative works.

#### **Q7 What would success look like after 5 years? How would Limerick be different?**

Among the comments posted were – “Innovative use of public space. Encourage diversity and young and established artists. More tree planting and well planned public spaces.”

Comments

It would be advisable for the Public Art Advisory Group to read the detailed comments and to take them into account when formulating their plans and public art projects.

.

#### **Q 8 Would you like to make any other observations?**

One respondent suggested ‘**MORE ART.**’ By adopting a public art policy Limerick City and County Council can guarantee that there will be more public art in Limerick. The challenge will be to commission artworks that engage with and enliven local people and communities.

#### **Overview and Summary of The Consultation Process**

Participants in the survey presented strong and compelling views on public art in Limerick based on their experience of it in their homeplace and outside of Limerick. Many of the issues raised are reflected in the policy document. Some suggestions were very specific and as such are not included directly in the policy document. However, as recommended above The Public Art Advisory Group, when appointed, and The Civic Memorial Committee would find very useful information and suggestions in the public responses.

## Contributors to the Public Art Policy Consultations

### Limerick Arts Sector

Arts organisations made contributions to the draft policy through meetings and in writing. Below is a short summary and commentary on the issues raised.

Arts organisations were very welcoming of a significant increase in public art projects in Limerick across a range of multi-disciplinary art forms.

Issues Raised	Commentary
There needs to be more meaningful public consultation and engagement when planning projects.	This is recognised in the policy.
Make more opportunities available for local artists	If the policy is implemented there will be a significant number of public art projects commissioned leading to potential opportunities for Limerick based artists.
Develop engagement with national and international artists.	The policy encourages this.
Artists should be adequately renumerated for their work.	Limerick City and County Council follow The Arts Council's <b>Paying the Artist Policy</b> , which ensures that artists are paid and contracted on a fair and equitable basis.
Definition required for 'dynamic and artistically progressive programme of public art'	The policy document sets broad ambitions for public art. The Public Art Advisory Group will advise and set out aims for public art programmes and commissions.
In the past so much money was lost to public art projects, because it wasn't applied for.	Under the proposed policy, The Public Art Working Group drawn from Senior Management will oversee the sourcing and coordination of funding.
Advisory groups - who decides and who has the power?	The policy outlines the membership of The Public Art Advisory Group. The local authority will be responsible for appointing members in line with the stated selection procedures.
<b>Competition</b>	
Will artists' experience of social engagement be considered?	As community engagement is at the core of the policy, artists' experience in this area will be considered.
Ensure that artists are informed of opportunities.	In line with local authority practices opportunities will be made known to artists through a number of

	communication channels, which are set out in the policy.
There were some concerns about the proliferation of statues in Limerick.	While not specifically addressed in the policy, commemorative statues are the responsibility of The Civic Memorial committee. Public art is not the main funding mechanism for this purpose.

### Limerick City & County Council Staff

Council staff were very welcoming of the potential and opportunities that public art projects will present over the coming years.

Issues Raised	Commentary
There was a broad appreciation of public art projects and staff are keen to engage across a wide range of art forms and projects.	This is reflected in the policy.
They would like to see more meaningful public consultation and engagement when developing and implementing projects.	Artists will be primarily involved in the public engagement process as part of their projects. LCCC will also play a role in this engagement.
Under current Government funding mechanisms not all housing projects such as direct purchase and other schemes are eligible for public art funding.	As part of the current review of <b>The General National Guidelines 2004</b> , The Arts Council's has recognised that this is an issue and are seeking to ensure that this anomaly is addressed under new Guidelines that are expected to be published in 2024.
Sourcing of public art funding and the management of funding.	The Working Group will identify funding for public art projects. The Arts Office will assume responsibility for managing public art projects under a single spending code. Capital project teams will be encouraged to be part of the implementation and planning of projects.
Pooling of funding	This will potentially allow for projects to be developed across communities and Municipal Districts.
Procurement/commissioning procedures	The flexibility allowed under the <b>General National Guidelines</b> was seen as a positive.

## **Appendix 2 List of Organisations Consulted**

### **Limerick City and County Council**

Active Travel  
Arts Office  
Civic Memorial Committee  
Housing  
Libraries  
Limerick 2030  
Placemaking  
Property  
Tourism  
Transport

### **Arts Sector**

Askeaton Contemporary  
City Gallery  
Creative Communities Midwest  
Dance Limerick  
Éigse Michael Hartnett  
EVA  
Friar's Gate Theatre  
GAFF  
Honest Productions  
HSE  
Limetree  
LCETB  
Ormston House  
The Hunt Museum