

Ballinamore Community School

Per Cent for Art Scheme

Ballinamore Community School, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim.
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Under the Per Cent for Art Scheme Ballinamore Community School wishes to commission new visual artwork to celebrate and coincide with the construction and opening of Ballinamore Community School.

INTRODUCTION

Ballinamore Community School will be opened for use in February of 2014. It has evolved as a result of the amalgamation of the three second level schools in the town of Ballinamore - Ballinamore Vocational School, Meanscoil Fatima & St. Felims College. These three schools have worked together in a unique form of collaboration called common enrolment since 1968. Over the last 45 years this collaboration has given rise to a remarkable bond and spirit which has allowed a seamless transition to this new single site school.

LOCATION & SCHOOL HISTORY

Ballinamore is a town of some nine hundred people located approximately equal distances from the more notable towns of Longford, Cavan, Sligo, Enniskillen and Carrick on Shannon. The history of the town goes back to the middle ages where it grew from a ford or crossing point on the local Yellow River. An iron works was associated with the town, giving rise to local forges, an engineering works and for nearly a century the headquarters of the local Narrow Gauge Railway. These railway buildings subsequently became the local boys secondary school - St. Felim's College, which opened in 1962. Ballinamore Vocational School was opened in 1941 by Leitrim VEC providing the first modern second level education facility in the town for which a new building was built in 1952. Meanscoil Fatima - for girls - ran by the Sisters of Mercy evolved from a Secondary Top with its new purpose built school opened in 1954. In the 1960s the three principals of the time, their staffs and trustees agreed to pool their resources and adopt common rules and timetables. This has progressed and evolved into Ballinamore Community School. The school itself is situated just outside the Northern end of the town on the road to Enniskillen. Built to accommodate 400 students and teachers its current enrolment is just under 300.

SCHOOL LOGO

The school logo consists of four anvils in the shape of St. Brigid's cross. The anvils represent the practical 'hands on' ethos of vocational education and our association with the ancient iron works of the locality; the iron rails of the local narrow gauge railway whose

headquarters became St. Felim's College. The cross shape depicts the Christian ethos of the school and the local parish association with St. Brigid.

MISSION

We aim to provide the best educational environment where effective teaching and learning take place. We recognize the individuality of our students. We provide a broad curriculum, designed to meet their individual needs and to help them maximize their potential. We help students to have a healthy, wholesome and confident self-image and to develop positive relationships through our curriculum and extra-curricular programme. We endeavour to co-operate with parents and religious leaders of all denominations to encourage the development of religious, moral and spiritual values in each student.

CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT

- Ballinamore Community School is a partnership of Trustees, Board of Management, Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and local community. Relationships within these partnerships are fostered, encouraged and enabled.
- Our school strives to provide the best educational environment, where high quality teaching and learning can take place, in an atmosphere of openness and inclusiveness for all.
- Our school is a caring and welcoming one, which accepts that we are a community of diverse individuals.
- Ballinamore Community School promotes Christian values and celebrates Christian feasts, while respecting and valuing other faith traditions and people with no formal religious background.
- Our school fosters the promotions of good relationships, focusing on the growth and development of each individual in a unique way, in an atmosphere of firmness and fairness.
- Our school is actively inclusive of newcomers, those with special needs, those from minority groups and those who are socially or financially disadvantaged. We aim to achieve this in a spirit of equality, harmony and friendship.
- Our school fosters adult and continuing education, in accordance with the needs of the local community.

THE PROJECT

The aim of the commission is to provide an opportunity for artists to develop new work influenced by the history, context, and aspirations of the students, teachers, parents and community of Ballinamore and the surrounding region.

Projects financed under this scheme should maintain the highest level of artistic excellence, be innovative in nature and display a high level of understanding of the context of the commission.

The project is divided into two separate commissions.

COMMISSION 1

The first commission is for a collaborative art programme to be explored, developed and completed in conjunction with the students and staff of the school which will result in finished work to be installed internally in the new building (most likely wall mounted). Applicants for Commission 1 should have undertaken a HSE approved Keeping Safe programme or equivalent. The successful applicant will undertake a garda vetting procedure before commencing the commission.

COMMISSION 2

The second commission is for a piece of fixed permanent public sculpture of resilient and weather resistant material with minimal maintenance requirements. The work is to be situated in a preselected location to the front of the school which is clearly visible from the adjacent public road as well as to all school users.

NB An artist may apply to undertake both commissions if they wish. In this instance, while both proposals may be related to each other, the artist should submit two separate applications.

THE BUDGET

The maximum budget for both commissions is €45,000 inclusive of all artists' fees, costs, expenses, VAT, insurance and any other charges. It is expected that Commission 1 will have an estimated budget of between €3,000 - €10,000 while Commission 2 will have an estimated budget of between €35,000 - €42,000.

THE COMPETITION

Both competitions will be in two stages and will follow the same procedure.

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

To register your interest in either or both projects, email office@ballinamorecs.ie or write to Padraig Leyden, Art Commission Coordinator, Community School, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim expressing your interest in the project before 4.00 pm on Friday Feb 7th, 2014 and providing your name, address, telephone number and email address. When registering, please indicate if you intend to attend the project site visit.

Unless otherwise indicated by applicants, email will be the form of communication used.

SITE VISIT

A site visit will be held on Tue Feb 18th at 11am and will last approximately one hour.

It is highly recommended that prospective artists attend the site visit. Only those artists who have registered with the Commission Coordinator and confirmed that they will attend the site visit, prior to the date specified, may attend on the day.

The site visit will consist of a tour of the school and its environs led by a representative of BAM Contractors and the Commission Coordinator. The meeting point will be the Reception Office at Ballinamore Community School.

While it is not essential for an artist to attend the site visit in order to submit an application, it is highly desirable. It will not be possible to visit the school or the site outside of the planned site visit.

STAGE 1

A Stage 1 submission for Commission 1 should consist of

- C.V
- images/recordings of previous work covering the applicants full range of practice and including previous collaborative work in particular.
- Copy of HSE Keeping Safe Certificate (or equivalent)
- Proposal

The proposal should consist of a written description outlining the background to the idea, a description of the process involved, the anticipated outcomes and benefits along with a draft budget and timeline. Supporting visual material specific to the proposal is desirable but not essential.

A Stage 1 submission for Commission 2 should consist of

- C.V
- images/recordings of previous work covering the applicants full range of practice
- Proposal

The proposal should consist of a written description outlining the background to the idea, visual representation of what you envisage the finished work to entail along with a draft budget and timeline.

SHORTLISTING

A maximum of 6 artists will be invited to submit a Stage 2 proposal. Each shortlisted artist will receive a fee of €500 to develop their proposal further.

STAGE 2

A Stage 2 submission for Commission 1 should consist of

- A sufficiently detailed written submission to clearly explain the full breadth of the planned project and be a firm intention of what the artist hopes to achieve.
- Details of how the artist intends to engage the pupils and staff.
- Detailed time scale
- Detailed budget
- Where a project involves other specialisms or suppliers, the applicant should include full details and descriptions, contacts, competencies, and CVs for each.

A Stage 2 submission for Commission 2 should consist of

- Detailed written description outlining the background to the concept, the physical impression of the work, and the anticipated impact on its audience.
- Sufficient drawings, designs (and written description if necessary) to describe its physical nature and method of construction.
- Detailed time scale
- Detailed budget
- Detailed maintenance requirements
- Details of all subcontractors involved –engineers, casting, transport etc.
- Proven competency and adherence to all necessary Health & Safety legislation and procedures.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Proposals for both commissions at both stages will be selected by a committee consisting of representatives of the teaching staff, student body, Board of Management, Leitrim County Council Arts Office and external specialists. Shortlisted artists may be asked to attend an interview with the committee and be requested to elaborate on their proposals.

Selection will be made on the following criteria -

- The quality, innovation and artistic merit of the proposal.
- Previous work and track record (or potential) of the applicant.
- Impact and benefit for the community.
- Understanding of the physical, social and cultural context of the work.
- Feasibility.
- Value for money

PAYMENTS

Stage 2 payments will be made in three instalments on receipt of invoices in the name of the artist. The first instalment will be paid at the commencement of the project, the second half way through the project at a specific stage decided as part of the final contract, and the third when the project is completed to the satisfaction of the commissioners.

Please also note that the artists will be required to submit a tax clearance certificate in advance of any commission payments being made.

RESERVATION

The commissioners reserve the right not to proceed with any of the submissions received.

SCHEDULE

Publication of Brief	Dec 20,2013
Deadline for Expression of interest	Feb 7, 2014
Site Visit	Feb 18
Stage 1 submission deadline	March 21
Shortlisted artists notified	March 28
Stage 2 submission deadline	May 2
Successful artists contracted	May 19
Projects commencement	As per contracts
Projects completed	As per contracts (before end 2014)