



# Exploring & Thinking

A Collaborative Framework for  
Early Childhood Arts Provision by  
Local Authorities in the Dublin Region

**Bursary Award 2019**



Dublin City Council  
Fingal County Council  
South Dublin County Council  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

# Exploring & Thinking

## Bursary Award 2019

### Introduction

*Exploring & Thinking* is a collaborative framework for early childhood arts in the Dublin region. It came about in 2016 when the four Dublin Local Authorities (Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council) partnered for the first time to collectively consider early childhood arts provision in the Dublin region.

### Objectives

- To support artistic ambition in cross-artform collaborations, professional development, and the research and creation of new work in early childhood arts
- To reach new early childhood arts audiences in under-served communities and neighbourhoods
- To stimulate dialogue between Dublin Local Authorities, artists, early childhood educators and organisations
- To build on current research investigating practice across artforms, professional disciplines and context
- To generate advocacy in early childhood arts

## Our Priorities based on our Values are:

- Access with an emphasis on under-served communities and neighbourhoods
- *Quality* of practice that is evidence and standards based
- *Positive impact* on artistic practice and the wider early childhood sector
- *Focus on artist* that is responsive to emerging and established practitioners
- *Sustainability* with actions that are achievable, realistic and measurable

## Background

Each Dublin Local Authority supports early childhood arts practice, provision, partnership and policy that is responsive to local motivations and need.

In 2016 the project partners made a successful application for Arts Council funding under the *Invitation to Collaboration Scheme*, which supports innovative and ambitious local authority collaborations. The joint proposal focused on commissioning and touring new artwork to the four local authority areas, with local engagement programmes in arts and non-traditional arts venues.

Through the implementation of Exploring & Thinking 2016/2017, the partnership commissioned the research and creation of new artworks.

In January 2019 the partnership hosted a public sharing event at the National Concert Hall to share the commissioned work and reflect on early childhood arts practice with artists, educators and policy makers.

A publication capturing a review of the commissioning process, outputs and impacts of the collaborative framework, alongside additional research conducted among the artists and key personnel was presented on the day.

Informed by the review and feedback from the public sharing event, the Exploring & Thinking Partnership Bursary Award aims to support emerging and established artists that wish to develop a practice in early childhood arts.

### **Purpose of the Bursary Award**

**Early childhood arts includes a wide range of different arts practices and creative experiences with / for children aged 0 –5 years in different contexts.**

**The Exploring and Thinking Bursary Award supports individual professional artists to develop their artistic practice working with and/or producing work for early childhood arts.**

## Eligibility

The Bursary Award is open to:

- Individual professional artists who wish to develop their practice in early childhood arts
- Artists practicing in all artforms
- Artists resident in Ireland

Artists do not have to be based in Dublin, but the bursary proposal should articulate how this support, in turn, will impact existing early childhood arts practice in the Dublin region.

## Proposals can include, but are not limited to:

- Professional development, including travel
- Seed new ideas and partnerships
- Access mentoring
- Research and development of new work
- Residencies
- Access to a recognised and relevant postgraduate course

All successful bursaries need to be completed by year end 2020.

## Timeline

- 1 Call Out**  
Week of 1 October 2019
- 2 Closing Date for Queries**  
5pm, 25 October 2019
- 3 Closing Date for receipt of applications**  
5pm, 4 November 2019
- 4 Assessment Period**  
Week of 11 November 2019
- 5 Successful applicants notified by**  
Week of 2 December 2019



**Bursary range**  
**€200 to €10,000**

We reserve the right not to allocate funding and/or to allocate partial funding. The fund is limited and all eligible applications will be evaluated on a competitive basis against the criteria set out in this document.

## Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by the selection panel using the following criteria:

- Quality of artistic proposal **20** marks

---

- Evidence of artistic practice & experience **20** marks

---

- Potential impact on early childhood arts in the Dublin region **20** marks

---

- Relevance of artistic proposal, appropriate to the artist's stage of development **20** marks

---

- Feasibility of proposal delivery within 2020 **20** marks

## Application Content

Please apply in writing clearly marking the application **Exploring & Thinking: Bursary Award 2019** and include 6 hard copies of the following:

- Curriculum Vitae/s of lead artist and collaborators (if relevant)
- A proposal in response to the bursary criteria (max word count 1,500)
- 3 examples of relevant artistic projects in support of proposal (One copy of supplementary information is sufficient per application. This can be provided in hard copy or CD/DVD/USB)
- Budget breakdown, outlining other income received or applied for elsewhere if relevant
- Timeline outlined
- Official letters of support, or acceptance are required with proposals for the following: Mentorship, Masterclasses, Post-Graduate Courses, Collaborations, Residencies

Late or incomplete applications, e-mail applications or applications with less than 6 hard copies **will not be accepted**. Please note that supplementary information will not be returned to applicant (applicants should ensure that they do not send any unique or irreplaceable material).

## The Selection Panel

The Selection Panel whose decision is final will be composed from the following: Arts Professionals from the four Dublin Local Authorities and Early Childhood Arts Experts.

## Freedom of Information

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997-2003 apply to all four Dublin Local Authorities. 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.

## Garda Vetting and Child Protection

It is a legal requirement that all persons working with children, young people and vulnerable people are subject to Garda Vetting.

In accordance with national child protection policy, Children First National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, awarded recipients working with children must have a child protection policy, proper procedures and a child safeguarding statement in place.

## Insurance

We reserve the right to seek confirmation of public liability cover.

## Tax Clearance Certificate

We reserve the right to seek a Tax Clearance certificate.

## Queries

Applicants are welcome to make general enquiries regarding the brief prior and up to 5pm 25 October.

Queries should be directed to Orla Scannell, Arts Officer, South Dublin County Council:

**Tel: 01-4597834**

**Email: [oscannell@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:oscannell@sdblincoco.ie)**

Applications should be  
marked and delivered to:

# Exploring & Thinking: Bursary Award 2019

**Arts Office**

**South Dublin County Council**

**Library Headquarters**

**Unit 1, The Square Industrial Estate**

**Tallaght, Dublin 24**