

# Fran O'Toole Bridge Per Cent For Art Commission

Wicklow County Arts Office  
Office of Public Works

Briefing Document For Artists  
December 2017



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# Overview

This document outlines a unique opportunity for national and international artists to develop a proposal for a Wicklow County Council Per Cent for Art Scheme commission for the linear walkway beginning at the Fran O'Toole Bridge, Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland.

This commission presents a challenging and exciting opportunity to deliver a new site-specific artwork. We are seeking proposals for an imaginative, contemporary work to engage the public, sited within a new civic amenity that has been developed as part of the Flood Defence Scheme.

**The budget available to the successful artist or team for the project will be €65,000.**

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**Proposals are due on 9th February 2018.**

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**The selection process will take the form of a one stage competition.**

## **Site Visit**

There will be a site visit on 12th January 2018 from 11am until 12pm followed by a meeting in Bray Municipal Buildings from 12:15pm to 1:15pm. This meeting will give interested parties an opportunity to visit the site and ask questions to a selection of Wicklow County Council staff and curators, Jennie Guy and Eilís Lavelle, who are project managing the commission on behalf of the County Council.

# Project Brief

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The River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme is a vital infrastructural development by Wicklow County Council and the Office of Public Works (OPW). Wicklow County Council is inviting proposals from artists from a variety of disciplines, to add a permanent feature to the Fran O'Toole Bridge/ linear walkway at the Ravenswell Road and the Lower Dargle Road.

Applications are encouraged from all arts disciplines and approaches including collaborative proposals.

Aspects of the work might include temporary or non-physical artworks that have a corresponding permanent legacy or physical element developed for the site itself.

The following points are suggestions to consider when thinking about how to approach this commission:

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- **The proposed artwork responds to the context of Bray as a community and locality**

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  - **The primary audience for the artwork is the people of Bray and environs, however, the work is also for national and international visitors for now and into the future**

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  - **The artwork(s) will have a positive impact on the area and will create a sense of place for this new civic space in Bray**

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  - **The artwork might link to different stories and narratives that explore the site on different levels**

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  - **The artwork should be accessible to all, standing out as a prominent element that invites sustained engagement**

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  - **The artwork could be interactive, allowing visitors and viewers some form of participation**

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  - **The work will enhance the area and provide a new cultural context for the diverse groups of people who will be using the new river walk at the Dargle River**

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  - **The artwork should be able to last into the future, with an outlined plan for maintenance**

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  - **The artwork should be inclusive and accessible, bringing a lasting legacy to the area**

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A letter of support from an engineering works should be provided for large or tall sculptural installations or structures.

# Context Site

The new linear walkway (pictured below) provides linkage between the People's Park, the Fran O'Toole Bridge, and the harbour, providing an exciting urban environment for a public artwork and a new civic amenity for diverse users and audiences.

The completion of the scheme improves the public realm along the river bank and adjacent areas. It provides landscaping, refurbished open space, modern surface treatments, and points of pedestrian connection from the Lower Dargle Road down to where the Dargle River meets the harbour.

This improves the recreation and amenity infrastructure for the town and provides unique new walkways integrated throughout the scheme to maintain public connection with the river Dargle.

The proposed artwork discussed in this brief can be sited along the linear walkway between the bridge and the harbour or near the bridge. Please bear in mind that a proposed cycle/pedestrian bridge adjacent to the Fran O'Toole Bridge will cause a constraint on siting the work.



# Context Bray

Bray is a coastal town in north County Wicklow with a population of 32,600 making it the ninth largest urban centre in the Republic of Ireland. The recently completed flood defence scheme on the river Dargle was required to protect property, but more importantly, lives in Little Bray.

The Dargle River rises on the northern slopes of Djouce Mountain in the Wicklow Mountains, along the route it encounters many significant heritage and geographical points of significance including Powerscourt Waterfall. The area supports a rich and diverse industrial heritage and its the location of many innovative

engineering projects and now the geography and cultural life of Bray has been once again altered as in previous centuries. The Flood Defence Scheme involved widening and deepening the river channel, improving the environment and the construction of walls and embankments along a 3.3km stretch from Silverbridge at the N11 to the Harbour Bridge at Bray Harbour.

This open competition offers artists an opportunity to work closely with Wicklow County Council and the curators/ project managers at various stages throughout this commission.



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# Useful Links

A communications firm have put together an informative PowerPoint titled Our Town, Our River. We strongly recommend that anyone interested in applying consults this document. In addition to this, there has been substantial research and documentation of the history of the engineering works to date, a video of drone footage flying over the recently completed works and a sound file discussing the recent works on East Coast FM.

Please follow the google drive link in order to:

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- **Obtain a deeper idea of the extent of the work that has been done to date over the former decades.**
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- **View a survey map of the Fran O'Toole Bridge**
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- **[drive.google.com/open?id=1YWmROJNly3z3kCbokqHBeGulrrXRajpO](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YWmROJNly3z3kCbokqHBeGulrrXRajpO)**
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## Other links

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- [www.bray.ie/town-river/](http://www.bray.ie/town-river/)
- [youtu.be/VDwzN\\_DKbEE](https://youtu.be/VDwzN_DKbEE)
- [soundloud.com/user-212233995/listen-back-marc-devereux-talking-on-eastcoastfm-about-the-completion-of-the-river-dargle-flood-defence-scheme](https://soundloud.com/user-212233995/listen-back-marc-devereux-talking-on-eastcoastfm-about-the-completion-of-the-river-dargle-flood-defence-scheme)

## Social media links

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- [www.facebook.com/braytown](https://www.facebook.com/braytown)
- [twitter.com/hashtag/ourtownourriver?lang=en](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ourtownourriver?lang=en)

## Link to the RTÉ News coverage of Hurricane Charley in 1986

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- [www.rte.ie/archives/2013/0826/470307-one-of-the-worst-hurricanes-in-living-memory/](http://www.rte.ie/archives/2013/0826/470307-one-of-the-worst-hurricanes-in-living-memory/)

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# Budget

The total budget for the project is €65,000 (inclusive of vat and all related costs). This includes the artist's fee, all costs associated with materials, personnel, design, fabrication, production, and installation of site specific work, any travel and accommodation required by the selected artist, as well as any specific insurances required for the artist to complete the project. The artist will budget for their own time and attendance with the nominated contractor to oversee all of the installation work. Health and safety provisions for the artist work zones will need to be itemised. Safety statement, safe systems of work, scaffolding, hoarding, protection of work, will also need to be included in the budget. The selected artist(s) will work with the curators/ project managers Jennie Guy and Eilís Lavelle to coordinate the project throughout the commissioning process in partnership with the Wicklow County Council.

# Timeline

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<b>12th January 2018</b>	<b>Site visit</b>
<b>9th February 2018</b>	<b>Proposal submissions due</b>
<b>16th February 2018</b>	<b>Selection panel decisions</b>
<b>March 2018</b>	<b>Signing of commission contract</b>
<b>April 2018</b>	<b>Development design sign off</b>
<b>July 2018</b>	<b>Finalisation of artwork</b>
<b>July 2018</b>	<b>Launch of the artwork July</b>

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# Panel

**Tim Austens**

Landscape Architect

**Liam Bourke**

Senior Executive Engineer, Wicklow County Council

**Des O'Brien**

District Manager for Bray/ DOS for Planning, Wicklow Co. Council

**Ruairi Ó Cuív**

Public art consultant

**Jennie Guy**

Curator / Project Manager

**Eilís Lavelle**

Curator / Project Manager

**Jacquie Moore**

Office of Public Works

**Aisling Prior**

Public art consultant (representing Wicklow County Arts Office)

**An Independent Artist**

# Selection Criteria

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30%	<b>Artistic Merit &amp; Concept</b>
30%	<b>Adherence to the brief</b>
30%	<b>Feasibility/ Demonstrated ability potential of the artist</b>
10%	<b>Value for money/ Budget</b>

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# Submission Details

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Artist(s) are required to send the following documents within their proposal:

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- **Concept**

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- **Visual representation(s) of the proposed artwork**

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- **Context or proposed location for the work along the linear walkway or bridge**

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- **Detailed budget for project design, fabrication, and installation**

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- **Project plan**

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- **Examples of previous work**

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- **Technical installation details and procedures**

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- **Notes on project maintenance**

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- **Artist's biography & CV**

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The concept section should be a maximum of two A4 pages outlining the proposal ideas and concepts. Technical installation details and maintenance notes could be as short as a single A4 page each respectively, at the artist's discretion. Visuals and or models must be clearly captioned and titled. Artists should be aware that some submissions will require a confirmation report from a structural engineer to ensure the project's feasibility if the proposed structure requires foundations or structural support(s).

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# Submission Deadline

Proposals are due by 12 midday on 9th February 2018, to be submitted in soft-copy to the curators via email and in hard copy delivered to Eilís Lavelle/ Jennie Guy, c/o Wicklow County Arts Office, Bray Municipal Buildings, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

# Contacts

**Jennie Guy**  
Curator & Project Manager  
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**Eilís Lavelle**  
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