

NEW SPACES: Open Call for Curators

What is New Spaces?

4 venues | 4 curators | 16 exhibitions

New Spaces is year long programme of 16 contemporary art exhibitions in four unconventional spaces across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. Curators will be selected from an open call and will each produce four exhibitions over an eight month period. Each exhibition will run for up to 4 weeks.

Project Aims

- Create opportunities for artists and curators
- Increase the number of skilled arts professionals/producers
- Retain talent in the region
- Develop long-term private sector partners
- Enhance the reputation of Derry City and Strabane as a centre of artistic excellence

The Spaces

We are currently in the process of finalising the venue partners. Venues will be high footfall, unconventional spaces in the Derry City and Strabane District Council. Confirmed at this stage are the Walled City Brewery, Gwyn's Café and Pavilion, Brooke Park and The Cottage, Craft Village. The final venue is to be confirmed.

Exhibition Brief

We invite proposals for exhibitions that respond appropriately to each site and are sensitive to the nature of the project. Artists may be of any nationality and at any stage of their career. Curators may not include their own work in the exhibitions.

Mentoring

The programme will include a programme of support and mentoring for selected curators that will be delivered by Visual Artists Ireland in partnership with local arts partners, Void gallery, CCA Derry~Londonderry, and Nerve Visual. The mentoring programme will see participants work with experienced curators to develop their proposals, gain project management skills and enhance their professional networks.

A two-day workshop - Project Management for the Visual Arts has been scheduled for the 17th & 18th May in Belfast.

Selection process

Curators will be selected by an independent team of industry professionals based on:



- Quality of proposed exhibitions
- Suitability of proposed exhibition to venue
- Experience of curator and ability to deliver project

Project logistics

Curators will each produce four exhibitions, one in each of the four venues. It is anticipated that the first exhibitions of the programme will open on 23rd June 2018. The details of all exhibitions in the programme should be finalised prior to the programme going to print at the beginning of June.

Each exhibition has a budget for one artist, or artist collective. There is also a limited budget for transportation of artworks and installation costs. Budgets must be agreed in advance with the project officer. Special consideration should be given to project logistics within proposals.

- Curators will receive a fee of £250 per exhibition
- There is a fee of £200 per artist or artist collective (one fee per exhibition)
- There is a limited budget available for travel and transportation
- There is a limited budget available for installation costs

Responsibilities

- Responsible for providing a detailed proposal for each exhibition, including details of all works to be shown and any equipment, materials or other requirements necessary for the exhibition and its installation.
- Responsible for providing text and accompanying images for use in publicity including the printed programme. These should be delivered in a timely manner, within any agreed deadlines and should be suitable for the intended audiences.
- Responsible for delivering the exhibitions, on time and on budget as agreed with the Project Officer prior to installation.
- Identify, recruit and select potential artists to present. Be their point of contact for the duration of the project.
- Responsible for attending mentoring and support meetings.
- In the event of additional project support from Arts & Business where a venue employee engagement programme may be included, you may be asked to develop and deliver a public-facing event (such as a Curator's Talk). There will be an additional fee available for this.
- Ensure that all relevant monitoring reports and evaluations are completed and sent to Project Officer on time
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation e.g. health and safety, risk assessments, access requirements

Person Specification

Essential criteria

- Be able to demonstrate a connection to the Derry City and Strabane region
- Proven track record of delivering curated exhibitions or programmes working with artists
- Excellent communication and writing skills

Desirable criteria

- Experience of visual arts programming
- Experience of arts facilitation
- Experience of gallery management
- Experience of budgeting and budget management
- Experience of writing monitoring reports to funders
- Experience of writing copy or interpretation documents for a range of readerships

How to Apply

Curators are invited to submit proposals for two exhibitions according to the brief above.

- Detailed proposal for Walled City Brewery and Gwyn's Café and Pavilion, Brooke Park
- Covering letter that outlines your suitability according to the criteria above (no more than one side of A4)
- CV

Send your applications to: rob@visualartists-ni.org

If you have any questions about the position please contact Rob Hilken on the above email address or by telephone on 028 9587 0361

Closing date: Friday 4th May
Project dates: May 2018 to January 2019