

WEXFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL WEXFORD MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME PER CENT FOR ART COMMISSION 2006



ARTIST'S BRIEF

Introduction

Throughout history, the artist has shown an overwhelming desire to engage with the physical and geographical context of society. This has been successfully achieved when the artwork engages with a specific place or event. It can contribute to the distinctiveness of the local area and can offer a different reading or interpretation of history or the environment. In Ireland, we look to artists' work and their interpretation of place to gauge our own development as a community. This interpretation gains more significance when it is placed in a particular site or area.

*John O'Donoghue T.D., Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism,
Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme General National Guidelines - 2004.
Dublin. Department of Arts Sport and Tourism, 2004. Page 5*

Wexford Borough Council is seeking to stimulate artistic excellence and innovation through the creation of a unique site-specific piece of outdoor sculpture¹. This Public Art commission is financed from Per Cent for Art funding generated from the Wexford Main Drainage Scheme. Four possible locations have been chosen for this commission, which are outlined on the maps enclosed. The total budget available for this commission is **€125,000.00**



Your Plan - Your Future

¹ The completed commission will be permanent outdoor sculpture and should be made of durable material.

Background

The Department of the Environment established an artistic embellishment scheme in 1986, based on Per Cent for Art. The Office of Public Works had established a similar scheme in 1978. In 1997, the findings of a review of these schemes were published in a report entitled *Public Art Research Project – Steering Group Report to Government* (PART Report), the recommendations of which were approved. As a result, all Government Departments with construction budgets implemented the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

Commissioning Procedure

Selection of Artist

The commissioning procedure for the Wexford Main Drainage Per Cent for Art Commission will involve a 2-stage National Open Competition process.

All proposals will be assessed by an Independent Selection Panel, the members of which will have appropriate expertise in Public Art Commissioning.

Stage 1) Short listing of preliminary proposals, with decisions made by the Independent Selection Panel

Stage 2) Submission of detailed proposals from short listed Artists, with final decision made by the Independent Selection Panel

Stage 1

To apply, please forward the following materials:

- Up to date CV
- Documentation of your work in the form of slides, photographs, CD or DVD. Please submit a **maximum** of 10 slides or photographs
- Specific examples of your work that would be relevant to this commission
- A written proposal for the project (a maximum of 500 words), including how you intend to document and report on the project and how you will include community participation
- Copies of your Artist's Tax Exemption Certificate and Tax Clearance Certificate (*Public Liability insurance will be required before signing contracts. A contract will not be offered without these documents, advice can be given on how to obtain these documents*)

*Please note that all the advertised budgets include artist's fees, design development, materials, fabrication, supply and installation, promotional material, VAT, expenses and 5% contingency fees as outlined in the Dept of Art, Sport & Tourism Per Cent for Art general guidelines 2004. As submissions will be short listed on the basis of information received please ensure that information given is sufficiently comprehensive. Details of all relevant information relating to experience, qualifications, response to the brief etc. must be supplied. Failure to include this information may result in submissions not being short listed. Please supply **FIVE COPIES** of your completed submission. Incomplete and/or late submissions will not be accepted. Wexford Borough Council is not responsible for travel costs incurred if attendance at a Selection Panel is required.*

Completed submissions are to be returned to the address below

No later than 5 p.m. Thursday 13th April 2006

James Moran, Public Art Programme Coordinator, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Wexford

Stage 2

Stage 2 of the commissioning process will involve Artists preparing a detailed proposal for the specific artwork. This submission will require:

- A high quality maquette / drawings / sketches / other explanatory means of clearly representing the proposed piece within the context of the site, dimensions and placement of work etc.
- A statement about the proposed artwork
- Feasibility
- Projected duration of the project
- Timescale breakdown – research / production / delivery
- Support and resources required
- Form/s of engagement with the community
- Documentation and evaluation plan
- Preservation and maintenance schedule
- A detailed budget breakdown which may include Artist's fee, materials, site works (e.g. foundation excavation, pouring of foundations, landscaping etc.) insurance, plaque, documentation, electrical / lighting features etc. *(Please note, where lighting is proposed, submissions must include detailed prices for electrical connection from the ESB.)*
- The Artist must make it clear to the Selection Panel the context of the proposed artwork in relation to the site and brief. A variety of artistic media may be used by the Artist for the purpose of enhancing the overall clarity and nature of the submission. All Stage 2 Artists will be required to produce a **high quality maquette** which accurately portrays the envisaged final piece and to provide sufficient details pertaining to the installation, durability, maintenance and conservation of the piece.
- Wexford Borough Council is not responsible for travel costs incurred if attendance at a selection panel is required.

Criteria for Artist Selection

- Artistic excellence and high standard of work
- Diversity of art forms and practices
- Innovation and uniqueness
- Appropriateness
- Meaningful community engagement
- Value for money

Wexford Borough Council will issue the successful Artist a Contract for Services

Proposal Requirements

Artists will be required to submit a **detailed proposal**, addressing all of the following areas:

- Feasibility
- Budget
- Projected duration of the project
- Timescale breakdown – research / production / delivery
- Support and resources required
- Form of engagement with the community
- Documentation and evaluation plan
- Preservation & maintenance schedule (where appropriate and in the case of object art)

All Artists' proposals are subject to the approval of the Independent Selection Panel. Proposals will be subject to Health & Safety checks, which will be carried out by specialised staff of Wexford Borough Council.

Role of Wexford Borough Council

Wexford Borough Council in conjunction with the Public Art Programme Coordinator of Wexford County Council will act as Artist Liaison prior to and during the commissioning process. This liaison will include a variety of supports, which may include:

- Coordination of information and resources to the artist – i.e. site maps / local historical information / corporate policy documents / community contacts etc.
- Administration of contracts and payments
- Community Liaison / Creation of public awareness regarding the commission
- Coordination of documentation and evaluation in addition to dissemination of the same

Artists will be required to engage fully in the documentation / public information / assessment and evaluation of the commission.

Commissioning Brief

See attached maps

The Site

About Wexford Town

In a country steeped in myth and legend, Wexford's history is no exception. The original name of Wexford was Menapia so called after a prehistoric Belgic tribe who occupied the area. The origin of Loch Garman, the Irish name, is lost in time. A story tells of its origin in the mists of time, when Garman Garbh was drowned on the mudflats by waters released by an Enchantress. The vast expanse of harbour thus created was named The Lake of Garman or Loch Garman, the Gaelic name for Wexford, while the current name derives from the Viking Waesfjord - the harbour of the mud flats. Wexford's cultural past is quite distinct with a combination of three different cultures - Gaelic, Anglo-Irish and Norman. Indeed Wexford was the first soil touched upon by the Norman's when they first invaded Ireland in 1169. Wexford town has retained many features of its original character, with lots of meandering narrow streets and a recently redeveloped quay front.

Wexford town currently has two pieces of Public Sculpture - *De-creation (VI)* by Michael Warren, Ferrybank Wexford and the *John Barry Memorial Sculpture* at The Crescent.

The Art Work

While there is no specific theme set for this commission and the brief is open, Artists² are asked to consider Wexford's strong maritime tradition reflected in the town's coat of arms, when preparing the submission. Artists are also asked to consider proposals which are sensitive to the cultural, geographic, historical and environmental character of the town. It is intended that the completed artwork will enhance the environment and enrich the culture of Wexford town as well as acting as an artistic focal point for the public and would be a significant landmark welcoming travellers to the town. The commissioner's ambition is to have a memorable work that gives visitors and local residents an immediate and positive impression of the area

² An Artist refers to a single Artist or a group of Artists working collaboratively together.



WEXFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL PER CENT FOR ART COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEXFORD MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME



Location 2

North side of Wexford Bridge
between O'Hanrahan station &
Site of proposed RNLI building



Location 1
junction of 1798 Street
and Westgate.



Location 3
Wexford Bridge



Location 4
Wexford Marina Pier





WEXFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL PER CENT FOR ART COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEXFORD MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME

Location 1 is at the junction of Westgate, Spawell Road and 1798 Street immediately opposite the archway of Wexford County Hall. Wexford County Hall is a landmark building in the town, originally built outside the town walls and once serving as the town jail.

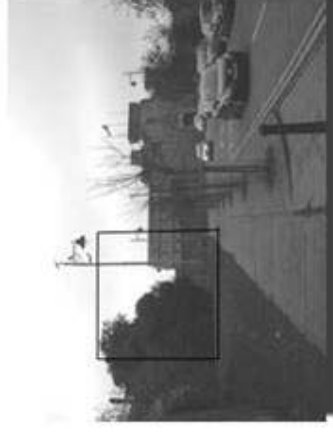


The site is elevated above Wexford town and at one of the main road entrances, N11, where thousands of vehicles pass by daily.

Nearby is the medieval Selskar Abbey, built circa 1190 replacing a prechristian temple dedicated to Odin, and the Westgate, one of five medieval entrances to the town.



Location 1 junction of 1798 Street and Westgate.





WEXFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL PER CENT FOR ART COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEXFORD MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME

Location 2 is situated on the north side of Wexford Bridge on a site where the new RNLI building has been proposed.

The site is between O'Hanrahan Railway Station, Wellington Place, the river Slaney, Wexford Bridge and Wexford Quays. Adjacent to the site is the main Rosslare to Dublin rail line which runs parallel to the river Slaney.



Every day the 400m Wexford Bridge is crossed by thousands of commuters and vehicles travelling from the north of the county.



Location 2

North side of Wexford Bridge
between O'Hanrahan station &
Wellington Place next to
Site of proposed RNLI building





WEXFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL PER CENT FOR ART COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEXFORD MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME

Location 3 is on or around Wexford Bridge.
Wexford Bridge is one of the longest bridges in Ireland
being 400m in length and unique in that it only took
10 weeks to build.

The first Wexford Bridge was a wooden structure built
in 1794, the present bridge was built in 1977 and replaced a
concrete bridge constructed in 1959.

Wexford Bridge is constructed from a continuous steel girder
deck with a composite concrete slab. The girders are supported
on bearings of the reconstructed original piers and abutments.
The steel fabrication took place in Northern Italy and was
shipped to the site via Waterford.

The bridge was reopened on Saturday the 22nd November
1997 at 2.30p.m. by the Minister for the Environment and
Local Government Noel Dempsey T.D.

Location 3 Wexford Bridge





WEXFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL PER CENT FOR ART COMMISSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH WEXFORD MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME

Location 4 Wexford Marina Pier



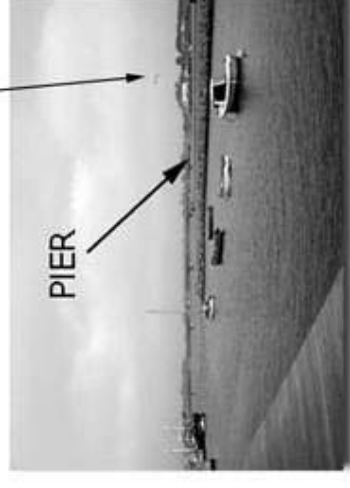
Location 4 is the Pier that encloses Wexford Town Marina. It is situated at the southern end of Wexford Quays.

The present Quays were recently refurbished and officially opened by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, T.D. on 30th June 2001.

The quayfront was originally constructed around 1870 and known locally as the "woodenworks" stretched a length of almost 1.5 Km.

The Marina is located opposite The Crescent which is home to a statue of Commodore John Barry 'Father of The American Navy'. It is also opposite the Ballast Bank, built in 1831 to permit boats leaving port without cargo to take on ballasts of rocks or sand for stability.

The Pier is a local focal point and many people promenade there during the evenings and weekends. A new tourist information centre is currently being built on the quay near to the pier.



Freedom of Information

Wexford Borough Council is a Freedom of Information (FOI) body. When submitting information, Artists should indicate what parts of their submission are commercially sensitive and what parts they consider should be kept confidential should the Council receive an FOI request relating to the submission.

Wexford Borough Council undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any information provided by you in this submission subject to the Council's obligations under law including the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. Should you wish that any of the information supplied by you in this submission should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, you should, when providing the information, identify same and specify reasons for its sensitivity. Wexford Borough Council will consult with you about this sensitive information before making any decision on any Freedom of Information request received. In the event that Wexford Borough Council decided to release particular information provided by you, you will have the option of appealing the Council's decision to the Information Commissioner. Please note that in the event that no information is identified by you as sensitive, with supporting reasons, then it is likely to be released in response to a request under the Freedom of Information acts.