

ARTISTS BRIEF

Fermanagh District Council

Art of Regeneration Programme

2007 - 2008

Opening up and sharing the Arts

The programme is a 3 year grass roots multi strand creative community arts participatory programme that will strengthen the community arts infrastructure in Fermanagh, & equally, will improve people's access to that infrastructure within and between communities of cultural difference, providing a dynamic, high quality and self-perpetuating programme of artistic endeavour for those marginalised from the arts due to the nature of their rural location and / or disability.

Specific aims under the Art of Regeneration Programme

- Develop a culturally diverse programme in a wide plethora of creative arts disciplines that will be delivered as an outreach initiative from the Share Arts Centre in Lisnaskea.
- Rejuvenate existing & forge new links and new strategic partnerships within the community arts infrastructure of County Fermanagh.
- Develop new innovative & self-perpetuating creative arts programmes that are both culturally diverse and dynamic as well as challenging for all beneficiaries & artists involved in the 3-year initiative.
- Support the introduction of a structured community arts outreach programme.
- Employ a full time Arts Co-ordinator to manage the 3-year initiative & 1 part time technician.
- Develop new opportunities for socially inclusive activity.
- Promote Good Relations.
- Promote sustainable development for the environment through the arts.
- Develop ethos for Health & Well Being throughout the art programmes activities.
- Create a sustainable model for community arts participation in Fermanagh.
- Establish Carnival arts in the North West.

Aims

The programme aims to increase the profile of the arts on a more local level and improve the social inclusiveness of the arts by heightening the importance of creativity and cultural diversity for society generally in both social & economic terms. The proposed programme will focus on the potential of the arts & arts related activities to help achieve other objectives in the areas of regeneration; community understanding; local image and social inclusion.

New Partnerships

This will happen through the administering of an innovative and challenging programme that will help break down barriers to participation in the arts and encourage as well as highlight the need for cross-fertilization of ideas in terms of more partnership and joined-up working in the field of community arts. The objective of this 3 year initiative will be to not only strengthen the current community arts infrastructure and growing dynamic of the arts, but also to encourage informal learning through the arts in areas such as emotional /

physical health and well being, social inclusion & the raising awareness of environmental issues and strategies.

Benefits

Fermanagh District Council understands the importance of culture and the arts in terms of being a vehicle through which community development can take place, peace building can be identified & as an aid to regeneration for society as a whole in relation to working towards pluralism & mutual understanding within and between communities of cultural difference. The programme will also be developmental in terms of using the art & social model through which to generate employment and encourage general health and well being – through youth capacity building, arts based skill developmental courses, improvement to accessibility to the arts for rural communities and people with disabilities.

* The Art of Regeneration Programme will create challenging changes in the arts through a model that is both distinctive and will impact people's lives in regard to the promotion, development and respect for the many cultures, beliefs and traditions within Northern Ireland.

* The Art of Regeneration Programme will also aim to develop opportunities through which to challenge stereotypes and division, in order to develop strong and solid pluralistic relationships for communities and society as a whole within and between communities of cultural difference.

* The art of regeneration programme will help establish and develop understanding and increase co-operation between different cultural, ethnic and local community identities.

The target groups for this project will be rurally based community, voluntary & statutory groups including farming groups throughout the County of Fermanagh.

There are three components to the creation of a climate in which arts & culture can flourish:

- Skilled individuals
- Professional organisations
- Effective policy frameworks

The potential of this initiative will be within the developmental process of sustainability for cultural organisations, which are able to contribute to the creation of a strong cultural sector within Co. Fermanagh.

Positive outcomes

- Community learning & the creation of new creative opportunities
- Health & Well Being – through the arts
- Improved life skills and communication – through participatory arts involvement
- More involvement at a community level – increased participation in the arts
- Enhanced rural opportunities through which communities can have better access to the arts at a grass roots level
- Healthier active people and communities – through arts activity.
- Enabling communities to tackle local environment problems & improve their green environment through creative – informal learning – and through the enhancement of public spaces and the holistic benefit to people's lives.

- Improved socially inclusive policies within the arts – disability / ethnic minorities / non-disabled individuals – Inclusion.
- Broad cross cutting themes that will directly impact rural focused activity in the arts.
- Creative programme tailor-made that will explore local peoples natural and grass roots focused homegrown culture.
- Opportunities in the arts for Fermanagh arising from peace to establish new links and partnerships at a local level for the Fermanagh community.
- A rich & culturally dynamic new and innovative creative arts programme.

The programme will encompass the creative disciplines of contemporary dance, crafts, sculpture, carnival arts, animation & filmmaking, theatre, new media, literature & music.

The objective of each strand of this programme will be to create a new quality of cultural activity & lifestyle for the wider community, working in partnership with key people focused on the development of the arts within Northern Ireland – partners – strengthening solidarity networks and creating Best Value principles for the citizens of Northern Ireland and in particular Fermanagh, through the contribution of a partnership support network that will have a huge impact both culturally, socially and economically within a County that has an evidently weak cultural and community arts infrastructure in the five areas identified through this Art of Regeneration Programme.

ARTIST'S BRIEF

We wish to appoint 2 EXPERIENCED **LAND ART** ARTISTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCULPTURE RESIDENCIES. Their role will be to:

1. Develop an action plan and programme of work pre project, for their residency based on the project objectives, dialogue and research with staff and communities in the area and then deliver those activities with direct support and mentoring from the Arts Co-ordinator, Technician & Art Officer.
2. Artists will be required to carry out monitoring, evaluation and documentation throughout the residency.
3. Complete at least one piece of major ephemeral artwork with each of the identified groups associated with each strand of the project – whilst working sensitively with the environment.
4. Work together with the Arts Officer to determine sites of interest in Fermanagh.
5. Record personal practice and participatory activities in a form which can be utilised by the Arts Co-ordinator & Arts Officer for promotional purposes associated with the programme with technical assistance from the Programmes Art Technician.

Additional information

- This is a unique opportunity for 2 Visual Artists to take part in the establishment of a fresh cultural identity and ethos with 4 groups (2 groups per artist) to develop new

high quality artwork. It also opens new possibilities in terms of engaging with an enthusiastic diverse community.

- Shortlisted artists will be asked to attend an interview and make a short presentation about their work.
- We will endeavour to assist Artists to find accommodation locally should they relocate to undertake one of the residencies.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

We are looking to appoint an environmental sculptors/ organisations that have:

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- A 3rd level Degree qualification or equivalent in Fine Art.
- Evidence of experience of making art in the public domain and an understanding of Environmental Sculpture – in particular Land Art.
- Be able to demonstrate a good understanding of current environmental issues.
- Evidence of at least 3 years experience in delivering arts workshops.
- Hold a current Public Liability Insurance cover which permits work with ADULTS.

Artists Fees

Resident Artists will be engaged for 1 year (with an option for an extension) and paid an annual fee of **£5,000 each** to undertake their programme of work with 2 community groups (adults) / (they will be expected to complete **200** hrs in residence during each year of which 60 hours will be contact time with groups and the remainder of hours will be for research and development). A budget is available for materials and promotion.

Project Management

An Arts Co-ordinator is in place to manage artists in residence for the Art of Regeneration Programme in Fermanagh. Each artist will report directly to the Art of Regeneration Programme Co-ordinator who will be directly advised & mentored by the Arts Officer of Fermanagh District Council.

To Apply

Please send:

- a concise letter of application detailing why you are interested in this post
- a copy of your CV (artistic / work details)
- A selection of 12 images (of previous public art work and other related projects / own practice)

To: The Head of Personnel, Fermanagh District Council, Town hall, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 7BA.

CLOSING DATE: 5.00 pm Friday 25 January 2008

