



Leitrim County Council
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PERCENT FOR ART POLICY

This document sets out the policy and procedures for the programming and management of percent for art projects commissioned by Leitrim County Council. It is intended to provide a clear framework which will formalise systems and structures so that projects arising from the scheme can have a positive impact on the county and its residents and give scope for established and emerging artists to have exciting and challenging opportunities to make new work in partnership with communities.

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Leitrim as a county is regarded and recognised as a place of unspoilt beauty, rich in character, culturally vibrant and remarkable for its levels of activity and capacity across a wide range of artforms. While much of this vibrancy goes back many generations other factors are more recent and today the numbers of artists, level of arts activity, and the opportunities to engage with the arts have established a cultural wellspring that benefits all residents.

The arts impact positively on practitioners, participants and audiences. They are a vibrant part of our society and serve to encourage creative thinking and stimulate new ideas and approaches to how we live and work. For everybody, the arts can act as a tool by which we engage with the world, view ourselves, examine our value systems, provoke thought and express ourselves as individuals, groups and as a society.

In line with a 1997 Government decision, public bodies delivering capital projects should include a percentage for public art under the Per Cent for Art Scheme. It is the intention of Leitrim County Council to fulfil this and contribute to the creative and cultural well being of Leitrim through the utilisation of Percent for Art as a means of funding innovative one-off arts projects.

Public art has long been associated with the visual and tangible, mostly because Per Cent for Art in Ireland evolved from the commissioning of 'artistic features' and permanent public sculpture to adorn buildings and infrastructural schemes. Since 1997 under direction from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and in particular since the publication of the National Guidelines for the Per Cent for Art Scheme in 2004, the definition, understanding and scope of public art has broadened to include all artforms and arts disciplines and the scheme now encompasses work that takes many different approaches.

2. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

This Policy provides a strategic approach to public art programming arising from Leitrim County Council's Per Cent for Art programme. Donations, memorials and other commemorative initiatives do not come under this policy; however, any structure, signage and other objects placed in the public domain are subject to normal planning and must seek the appropriate approvals and adhere to all decisions of the planning authority.

The purposes of projects arising from this policy include the following -

- To make available ambitious and innovative art projects to the people of Leitrim.
- To engage communities in creative partnerships with artists.
- To enhance and enrich the county's cultural and physical environment and public spaces.
- To integrate the work and thinking of artists into the planning, design and construction of county facilities, buildings and public spaces.

3. WHAT CAPITAL PROJECTS DOES THE SCHEME ENCOMPASS?

A Percent for Art budget can be drawn for any capital project funded through a department of the government. This includes any capital works funded through the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and any other government department such as Health and Education and including the Office of Public Works. Irish Water does not currently operate a Percent for Art programme.

NB It should be noted that Percent for Art does not take from the budget to be spent on the capital project works, but is an additional amount to be drawn down from the relevant government department.

Leitrim County Council will include a percent for art budget in all capital projects with a net cost greater than €250,000.

4. HOW IS THE PERCENT FOR ART BUDGET CALCULATED AND INCLUDED?

The amount of the Percent for Art budget is 1% of the Net Construction Cost before VAT or other costs such as professional fees, contingencies etc. are added. The scheme is subject to the following band limits:

Band A	Projects costing up to €5m may include a maximum art budget of €50,000.
Band B	Projects between €5m and €20m may include a maximum budget of €125,000.
Band C	Projects between €20m and €50m may include a maximum budget of €350,000.
Band D	Projects costing in excess of €50m allows for a maximum art budget of €500,000.

5. UTILISATION OF PROJECT FUNDS

Funding allocations for arts projects under the scheme range from very small amounts to €500,000. The conventional type of percent for art project is where one capital development gives rise to one arts project in the place where the capital project is carried out. However, undertaking commissions for every small capital development is not practical and would diminish the quality and coherence of the percent for art programme. In such cases, pooling smaller funds is encouraged so more considered projects can be undertaken. As the capital projects being pooled may be from different parts of the county, the traditional geographic connection between capital project and art project is less relevant creating the opportunity for projects to occur in parts of Leitrim where, for one reason or another, no capital developments were carried out.

One-off Specific Projects	These are capital project/art project specific where the entire Percent for Art budget raised is spent on one art project. The project will often relate closely to its capital source in terms of geography or the community it relates to.
Capital Project Pooling	Where capital projects will raise a Percent for Art budget of less than €10,000 it is recommended to pool a number of smaller projects together to make a substantial project viable. Art projects developed in this manner need not have any bearing to where one or other budget was raised and therefore allows for greater flexibility in its location and format.
Public Art Projects Cluster	Here a cluster of arts projects are outlined in advance to have a wide and well-balanced diversity of approaches, artforms and locations, and allowing for longer lead-in time to involve communities in different ways. A number of capital budgets are then earmarked as they arise to provide the budgets necessary to fund the cluster as a whole, without the necessity of 'pairing-up' art project with capital project. This format is essentially pooling by choice rather than necessity.

All percent for art projects must be managed in line with published national guidelines. This includes the development of briefs, selection of artists, contracts and management of commissions.

6. HOW DOES IT HAPPEN

An internal Director of Services led public art committee comprising the Arts Officer and representatives of each capital spend section meet at least twice annually to identify forthcoming projects which meet the threshold where a Percent for Art budget will apply. Once submitted and approved, projects are administrated directly by the arts office or under contract by a public art manager or management company. Different methods of commissioning may be used depending on the budget available or the nature of the proposed project. The minimum procurement requirements for these are as follows:

<p>Large Projects (€50,000+)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International or national advertising • Two or three stage competition • Assessment panel comprising - two community representatives with a knowledge of the arts and the project objectives, two external representatives with arts expertise, and two representatives from Leitrim County Council (one representative or nominee of the arts office and one from the capital area i.e., roads, housing etc.)
<p>Medium Projects (€25,000 - €50,000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National advertising • Two stage competition • Assessment panel comprising - 2 community representatives with a knowledge of the arts and the project objectives, 2 external representatives with arts expertise, and one representative from Leitrim County Council.
<p>Small Projects (up to €25,000)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum three artists invited to tender • One or two stage competition • Assessment by internal panel or appointed community and external expert(s).

7. TYPICAL PROJECTS

Percent for Art projects should display the highest levels of artistic excellence, be innovative in their nature and display a high level of understanding of their context.

The following are types of arts projects that may be funded through Percent for Art.

- Commissioning new work (temporary or permanent) and in any artform including for example visual art, film, music, theatre, dance or literature.
- Interdisciplinary projects.
- Purchasing existing artworks.
- Collaborative and socially engaged art projects.
- Artist-in-Residence programmes.

It is not possible to fund the following through Percent for Art.

- Revenue expenses for groups or organisations
- Projects which have already occurred
- Annual Events
- Logos or graphics
- Individual workshops/masterclasses/lectures/seminars not part of a wider arts project
- Landscaping or hardscape elements already associated with a capital project

8. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement is a key element of any public art programme. This includes advocacy within the Council as well as engagement with the wider public. It will include promoting awareness of the programme as well as individual commissions, artworks and artists. Elements of public engagement will include:

- Public relations through the press, radio, television and internet
- Mediation - engaging with artists and the public
- Presentations and seminars
- Public consultation
- Distribution of documentation

9. SELECTION OF ARTISTS

The Arts Officer or Public Arts Manager will oversee Selection Panel Terms of Reference and Guidelines. The method of selection will depend on the scale and nature of the public art commission and will be made on the basis of the most appropriate procurement procedure.

10. SELECTION PANELS

Selection panels will be appointed to undertake the short-listing and selection of artists for commissions. Selection panels will consist of no less than three people and no more than seven. Panels will have a majority of art experts including independent practitioners and curators. Where issues regarding critical interpretation, site choice, structural requirements or other matters arise, the panel may at its discretion, seek additional advice and/or meet with the artists before making a final decision.

11. CARE AND MAINTANENCE

Leitrim County Council already has an extensive collection of permanent artworks in public spaces. The Council has an obligation to itself, artists and the public to maintain works in its care. Therefore, it will be important to establish the extent and nature of the collection and make adequate provision for its maintenance .

A programme of maintenance will be established based on the information gathered at the time of commissioning. A policy of maintenance will be applicable to all new permanent works commissioned or received by the Council. Procedures for re-siting and if necessary, the decommissioning of permanent artworks will be developed.

In order to support the maintenance and decommissioning of artworks, and in line with policies elsewhere including that of the OPW, an allocation of 5% will be made from all future budgets for these purposes.