

# Creative Enquiry Artist Residency and Older People Engagement Project

## Call for artist submissions

### **Introduction**

Creative Enquiry - Arts and Older People is an investigative collaborative venture that creatively explores fresh approaches to arts engagement with older people and advances best practice models. The focus of the Creative Enquiry is three artist-residency and older-people-engagement projects, hosted by three distinct arts organisations: the city-based multi-disciplinary *Cork Midsummer Festival*; *Music Alive*, a county-wide arts and mental health organisation; and *Sirius Arts Centre*, an arts venue located in the heritage town of Cobh.

The Creative Enquiry - Arts and Older People programme draws on the creative inputs and specialist know-how of the different partners that make up the consortium. Creative Enquiry is an initiative of two Cork based local authorities, Cork City Council and Cork County Council arts offices in strategic partnership with, Age and Opportunity, National organisation supporting people to reach their full potential as they age, and, the HSE Cork Kerry Community Healthcare-Cork South Community Work Department, facilitating community health and well-being initiatives, and, the three independent partner arts organisations.

The Creative Enquiry partners share the following value statement;

*There is a universal right to participate in arts and culture. The arts has the potential to be transformative, to change and influence the attitudes and experiences of citizens. The arts can impact our wellbeing through the whole of our lives.*

*To sustain the arts we need to interrogate how the arts is made accessible, innovative and engaging. We need to embed access to the arts in our values as organisations but also action those values in what we deliver. Sometimes this is about policy development, about advocacy, about inspiration, about co-creating and sometimes this is about addressing practical barriers.*

The Creative Enquiry consortium would like to investigate this statement and the following questions as part of its artist residency and older people engagement programme:

### **What are the barriers to participation in the arts for older people?**

- How can we improve pathways for older people to engage in more arts projects?
- How can we assist older people to overcome barriers and increase their access and participation in arts projects addressing both creative and social needs?

### **How can we characterise quality arts engagement for older people?**

- How can we define 'meaningful' and 'quality' opportunities in the context of the arts and older people?
- How then can we facilitate meaningful opportunities for creative engagement and dialogue with older people?

- What do models of best practice look like in the context of your host residency organisation?
- How can we ensure the exploration and development of quality arts opportunities with older people?
- How can we create reciprocal relationships between artists, arts organisations and older people?

#### **What do the arts offer us as we age?**

- Do the arts offer something different from other types of social activities that contribute to the wellbeing of older people?
- Does the experience of participating in the arts offer something different to other ways of experiencing the arts?

We invite artists to respond creatively to the above statement and questions.

#### **Criteria**

- The artist is invited to interrogate and challenge this statement and questions as part of a residency with one of the three host organisations, either: Cork Midsummer Festival; Music Alive; or, Sirius Arts Centre.
- We expect this response to be an experimental, creative and innovative process rather than a formal research response.
- We expect an outcome to be presented within each host organisation.
- The artist is required to document the residency ( e.g. through image, text and the spoken word) in conjunction with the project manager, to feed into a final collaborative publication.
- As part of the residency there will be collaborative sharing event between partners and a publication launch.

#### **Three host organisations - three perspectives**

- ❖ **Cork Midsummer Festival** is seeking to explore and activate creative consultations and arts practice with older people in the Cork city area, in both the north and south areas of the city. We want to build relationships with older people's groups and communities in the city. We invite artists to explore new ways of working with older people; to input into a meaningful enquiry into the needs of older people to access quality arts experiences. Artists living in the Cork city/county region are a priority although we will accept applications from artists resident in Ireland elsewhere. We particularly welcome applications from older artists (55 years +). We are especially keen to receive applications from artists from the following disciplines: architecture, circus, dance, digital arts, music, public art and street arts.
- ❖ **MusicAlive** is seeking proposals from artists who have experience and a passion for participatory based creative work that is accessible, engaging and innovative. Music Alive delivers high quality participatory music and arts in health care and community settings. Our work focusses on mental health and wellbeing with older people within a range of different contexts. The creative response is central to this. MusicAlive will work with two community based older people groups. One based in Cork city and the other in north Cork. MusicAlive would also welcome proposals incorporating artist collaboration.

- ❖ **Sirius Arts Centre** is particularly interested in proposals that seek to actively engage in and with the direct community and groups of Cobh and surrounds. The outcomes could take the form of a presentation on, or off site, a publication, the formation of new groups or performance-based activities, however the project should be process-based, with less emphasis on the final outcomes and more on the initiating and building of meaningful relationships for the future.

**Residency Duration:** Nine months, commencing **May 2019 – January 2020**. This is a part-time residency and will require flexible working hours.

**Fee:** €18,000 (inclusive of all expenses)

**How to apply:** Please note send submissions to only one of the three host organisations below. For further details on the application process in each host organisation, please contact:

- Cork Midsummer Festival –email [kath@corkmidsummer.com](mailto:kath@corkmidsummer.com)
- Music Alive - email [barbara@musicalive.ie](mailto:barbara@musicalive.ie)
- Sirius Arts Centre- email [info@siriusartscentre.ie](mailto:info@siriusartscentre.ie)

with the subject heading ‘**Artist Residency and Older People Engagement Project**’.

**Deadline for submissions: no later than 4 p.m. 25th March, 2019.**

**Creative Enquiry - Arts and Older People** is financially supported by: the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon *Invitation to Collaboration* scheme; Cork City Council; Cork County Council; and, the HSE Cork Kerry Community Healthcare-Cork South Community Work Department, with in kind support from Age and Opportunity, and each host arts organisation.

