

WHAT (Waterford Healing Art Trust)

Call for applications for

Artist in Residence programme 2022



Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT) invites artists of all disciplines with a commitment to participatory and collaborative practice in healthcare contexts to submit proposals for its 2022 Artist in Residence programme at University Hospital Waterford (UHW).

The 2022 residency programme aims to support artists to develop their arts practice by creatively collaborating with **staff** working at UHW. The successful artist will devise ways to engage healthcare staff in participatory and / or collaborative arts experiences with a view to creating new work while also promoting staff morale and wellbeing. It is expected that the artist will engage in a focused way with a particular cohort of staff. The artist's approach must adhere to all UHW Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines and as such, access to specific areas of the hospital may be limited.

The artist(s) will have access to support and mentoring as needed from the WHAT Director and, will also have use of the following at the WHAT Centre for Arts and Health at UHW:

- Artist Studio
- Multi-Use Studio, including access to dance floor
- WHAT arts and health library
- Administrative support from WHAT staff
- Desk, internet access, kitchen facilities

The fee for the residency will depend on the duration and ambition of project. Projects of varying duration will be considered. Max fee awarded is €5000. The Artist in Residence programme is funded by the Arts Council.

WHAT

Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT) is Ireland's leading arts and health organisation. Based in the WHAT Centre for Arts and Health at University Hospital Waterford, WHAT promotes the role of art in wellbeing through a multi disciplinary programme of arts activity which comprises an extensive art collection, art exhibitions, live music performances, storytelling, creative writing, artist in residence programmes and art viewing and making sessions for patients. WHAT has been running an Artist in Residence programme since 1994 and is keen to expand the availability of participatory / collaborative arts opportunities for staff through the 2022 artist residency.

See www.waterfordhealingarts.com for further information on WHAT.



The hospital context

The acute hospital community is not one homogeneous body but a number of sub-communities (outpatients, inpatients, groups of chronically ill patients such as those on dialysis etc, and the associated healthcare staff for each of these sub-communities) each with a different relationship with the institution in terms of the patient's condition, duration and frequency of stay etc. The hospital can be a rewarding but challenging place for an artist to work. Often progress can be slow. There are a number of technical restrictions imposed on the delivery of participatory / collaborative programmes and the presentation of artwork, performances and arts experiences in terms of space, health and safety and infection control. The turnover of patients and movement of staff makes communication particularly challenging.

The challenge of engaging people at University Hospital Waterford in creative programmes has been embraced by various artists over the years in many different ways. For details, please see:

<http://www.waterfordhealingarts.com/what-we-do/for-health-service-users/artist-in-residence/>

and

<https://www.artsandhealth.ie/case-studies/waterford-healing-arts-trust-artist-in-residence-programme/>

See also [An Introduction to Arts and Health // 10 Things to Consider](#) a resource document written by Mary Grehan and published by Waterford Healing Arts Trust. This resource has been designed for healthcare professionals, artists and others who want to learn more about arts and health practice and may be at the early stages of planning an arts and health project.

Application Process

The artist(s) will be selected through a process of open competition. Criteria for selection will be:

- Quality of the artist's participatory / collaborative practice
- The 'fit' between the artist's practice and the hospital environment
- Level of relevant experience
- Commitment to the role of the arts in a healthcare context
- The responsiveness of the artist's practice to the context
- The innovation of the artist's approach
- Availability of the artist

Short-listed applicants may be invited to attend for interview.

How to apply

Those who wish to apply for the residency programme should submit:

- A current CV (maximum 2 pages)
- A one-page outline of a programme of work you would like to undertake during the residency, including a description of how you might engage with staff at UHW. Please include your aims, proposed duration, the time commitment you can make to the residency, preferred dates/time of year, and a budget breakdown. Please also indicate your willingness to undergo Garda Vetting.
- Documentation of practice: maximum 10 fully captioned images /video links / sound recordings / publications including, where available, documentation of collaborative practice.
- Contact details for two current referees.

All of the above should be compiled into one PDF document to be clearly marked with your name and contact details. The PDF document should not exceed 3MB.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to ClaireA.Meaney@hse.ie, no later than **Thursday, 26 May 2022 at 2pm**. E-mail applications should not exceed 3MB in size.

Interested applicants are invited to attend an online briefing session on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 at 2pm. Please e-mail WHAT@hse.ie no later than Friday 13 May to book your place.

If you would like to find out further information before making an application please email Claire Meaney to arrange an informal chat at ClaireA.Meaney@hse.ie if you have specific queries.