

Commission for a Mural at Unitarian Church, Princes Street, Cork City

1. Commission Overview

Commissioner: Corporate Affairs and International Relations and Culture & Placemaking Directorates, Cork City Council

Location: Courtyard of Unitarian Church, Princes Street, Cork City Centre

Theme: Active outdoor recreation/sports, sustainable transport, libraries.

Indicative Budget: €10,000.

This commission is supported by the Creative Ireland Programme, an all-of-Government initiative, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. Further information from creativeireland.gov.ie.

2. Commission Description

This is a commission for a mural on the gable end of the right-hand side of the courtyard of the Unitarian Church on Princes Street that will reflect and promote the positive anti-racist legacy of Frederick Douglass's visit in 1845, and the welcome he received from community leaders including Mayor Richard Dowden.

The project is part of Cork City Council's ongoing collaboration with The Globe Lane Initiative (GLI) and its #DouglassWeek project, an annual, transatlantic, creative event series that started in Cork in 2021 and continues to celebrate and advance the legacy and the continuing impact of Frederick Douglass around the world each year.



The mural will be sited in front of the gated pathway into the courtyard (on the right-hand side as you look at the church which sits further back). The space will be refreshed as part of the project with new surfacing, planters and picnic benches. The Church will open the gates at lunchtime to facilitate people eating their lunch, or taking time out of their busy day to enjoy the space.

The surface for the mural is a dappled concrete, so your

proposal must be suitable for the irregular surface. The tree growing in the middle of the proposed mural is trimmed on an annual basis. The dimensions are 12 metres in width, with a height of 3.78m to the wiring, and 2.61m to the break.

Site visits can be facilitated by prior appointment by writing to Ciarán Kelleher Byrne, International Relations Officer at Cork City Council at ciaran_kelleherbyrne@corkcity.ie.

Please note that it may not be possible to facilitate access at short notice, particularly close to the deadline, so prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out as early as possible.

3. Commission Theme

- Remembering and living the abolitionist and anti-racist legacy of Frederick Douglass's visit to Cork, and other 19th century Cork community leaders and abolitionists;
- Cork as a "City of Welcomes" for all.

In October 1845, shortly after the first publication of the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Written by Himself*, 27-year-old Black American civil rights leader and formerly enslaved person Frederick Douglass spent three weeks in Cork City as part of a four-month book and lecture tour of Ireland, at the invitation of the Cork Anti-Slavery Society and the Cork Ladies' Anti-Slavery Society.

The visit of Douglass to Cork crossed class and sectarian divides. The great orator, writer and suffragist and future "father of the American civil rights movement" and most photographed American of the 19th century appeared at venues of all denominations, and those who crammed into those venues to see and hear him speak came from all classes and creeds.

The Mayor of Cork in 1845, Richard Dowden, gave Douglass a signet ring, on behalf of the city, to symbolize the relationship between Douglass and the people of Cork. The Mayor was a longtime member and trustee of the Unitarian Church, a fierce anti-slavery advocate and Douglass's near-constant companion as he made his way through the city, accompanying him to and chairing many of his talks. Both the warm welcome he received in the city and the influence of the political thought and longtime activism of Dowden and other friends in Cork had a profound impact on Douglass's philosophy and future work.

The mural should ideally interpret what Douglass's legacy of anti-discrimination means today and what Cork stands for as a city which welcomes people of all races; abilities; nationalities; genders; sexual orientations; ages; and religions.

The proposal should convey a strong commitment to inclusive community involvement and engagement and should meet the strategic priorities of [Cork City Creative Ireland Strategy 2023 – 2027](#), which respect and build on the culture, heritage and values of the city. Creativity, innovation and ambition should be embedded in the proposal in a way that will cause lasting, positive impact for the context engaged. A collaborative process is encouraged where the artist/s work with the community, particularly communities of colour, migrant and youth groups, to design and execute the mural which represent their values and aspirations. Engagement activities should empower community members to contribute their artistic ideas to the design and foster a sense of ownership and a lasting connection to the finished artwork. Cork City Council can facilitate introductions with relevant stakeholders.

The indicative budget for the commission is €10,000. This will include all costs involved in producing the mural, including:

- Project Management Fees

- Fees and costs related to Health and Safety
- Artist fees for development and production of finished mural including:
 - Briefing Meeting
 - First Proof and Consultation Meeting(s)
 - Final Proof and Approval Meeting
 - Operational Meeting(s) related to project logistics
 - Promotional tasks, e.g.
 - Press Interview
 - Press Photoshoot
- Materials, tools, and all equipment including hire of cherry picker, scissor lift, scaffolding, etc.
- Insurance costs as applicable (See Section 9.4)
- Licence Fees as applicable:
 - Use of Public Space Licence (submission due 6 weeks in advance online)
 - MCH Licence
- Maintenance costs for 3 years
- Stipends for Volunteer Support/Artist Stewarding
- Contingency Fee
- Project report:

On completion of the mural, the successful candidate will be required to submit a short report on the project, including the following:

- Title of Project
- Project personnel
- Target audience (general public, artists/creatives, etc.)
- Participant and audience figures (number of people who engaged, demographic profile)
- Participant/Audience/Stakeholder testimony
- Marketing (brochures, posters, social media campaigns)
- Value of the event/project in promoting the sports, sustainability, literacy and culture
- Three high-quality images from the project for archival and future promotional purposes
- Final budget breakdown

It is envisaged that the mural will be unveiled as part of [#DouglassWeek](#) 2024 between the 14th-20th of April 2024.

4. Proposal Requirements (to be supplied as a single PDF)

1. Proposal

- Title page with artist's name and contact details.
- Contents page.
- Proposal (one page max.). This must outline: a) themes; b) medium; c) timeline for delivery; and d) production process, including an outline of equipment and materials to be used and details on how the project will be managed.
- Additional marks will be given for any environmentally friendly initiative(s) included in your proposal.

- Detailed timeline for delivery of the project.

2. Artist statement

Current Artist's Curriculum Vitae (3 pages max.)

Portfolio content to be included in the same single PDF:

- Max. 5 pages with images and explanatory text from previous work.
- Max. 3 pages with scans/images of any other material, such as catalogues, reviews, publications, etc., that you may wish to include.

5. Commissioning Process

The commissioning process will be managed by the Corporate Affairs and International Relations Directorate and the GLI/#DouglassWeek organisation with support from stakeholders, including the Arts Office and the Unitarian Church. It will be a two-stage competition, as follows:

1. Artists are invited to submit a proposal for the mural. Proposal requirements and submission criteria are detailed in Section 5.
2. Applicants will be shortlisted and will be called to interview.

Please see indicative timeline for the project in Section 10.

6. Scoring

Qualifying Criteria	Weighting	Description
Appropriateness of proposed theme	25 marks	How the proposal fits with the themes described in Section 3.
Aptitude of candidate	25 marks	Evidence provided of similar projects, commissions, and/or accomplishments in portfolio.
Experience of candidate	20 marks	Evidence provided of previous experience in delivering a similar project on time and within budget demonstrated through CV.
Submission	30 marks	Quality of response as per items outlined in Section 5.

7. Shortlist and Interview Process

A shortlist of three proposals will be selected by the commissioning panel, which may include staff from Cork City Council's Corporate Affairs and International Relations Directorate, the GLI/#DouglassWeek organisation, the Cork Unitarian Church community, Cork City Council's Arts Office, and an independent artist.

The shortlisted artists will be invited to interview in person on the content of their proposal. Each artist will be remunerated €400, inclusive of VAT, for taking part in the

interview. At interview stage, shortlisted candidates will be invited to make a presentation that will include the following:

- Detailed concept outline
- Details of medium and guidance on maintenance
- Any technical specifications
- Outline of project delivery, with key dates
- Budget breakdown
- Any other relevant information or descriptions
- Visual sample, in any format you may wish to present, such as photomontage, sketches, digital drawings, etc.

Interviews are likely to take place on Microsoft Teams on the week beginning 29th January 2024 and will be no more than 90 minutes long.

The commission will be awarded to the candidate who scores the highest marks overall, using the following criteria:

Qualifying Criteria	Weighting	Rule
Quality of the proposal	40 marks	As per criteria outline in Section 5.
Relevance of the proposal	40 marks	As per themes outlined in Section 3.
Value for money	20 marks	As per budget outlined in Section 4.
Total Marks	100 marks	

8. Contract Conditions for Successful Candidate

The successful candidate will be notified within 10 days of the decision by the commissioning panel. Commissioning will be dependent on provision of the following items and acceptance of the following terms:

1. The successful candidate will be required to enter into a formal contract with Cork City Council before any work commences. This will detail the role, responsibilities, deliverables and conditions.
2. The successful candidate will work closely with Ciarán Kelleher Byrne, Corporate Affairs and International Relations Directorate, Cork City Council.
3. The successful candidate will provide a Health and Safety Statement, including COVID-related procedures, a Project Management Plan and Risk Assessment, as per national guidelines.
4. The successful candidate must provide proof of insurance cover as applicable:
 1. Public Liability Insurance at €6.5 million with written indemnification of Cork City Council;
 2. Employer Liability at €13 million.

5. Evidence of up-to-date tax compliance will be required before commencement.
6. Cork City Council will not be liable for any other expenses incurred by the successful candidate other than those pre-agreed as per this brief and the project contract.
7. The successful candidate, while retaining copyright to any original content generated, does not retain any property rights to the creative outcomes once payment is made. The artist will be acknowledged as the creator of the work in all communications, both within Cork City Council and externally.
8. Cork City Council will undertake to use their best endeavours to protect confidential and commercially sensitive information provided by you in this tender, subject to the Council's obligations under Law and including the Freedom of Information Act, 2014. Should you wish that any of the information supplied by you should not be disclosed because of its sensitivity, you should, when providing the information, identify same and specify reasons for its sensitivity. If your tender is successful, the price will, as a matter of course, be available to the public outside of the scope of FOI legislation. Cork City Council will consult with you about the release of confidential and commercially sensitive information before making decisions on any FOI request received. If, having considered your views, Cork City Council is of the opinion that the information should be released in the public interest, you will have the option of appealing the decision to the Information Commissioner. Please note that if 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.

9. Commission Timeframe

FIXED DATES:	
12 th January 2024	Deadline for queries on the commission is 12pm.
19 th January 2024	Deadline for completed applications is 12pm

WEEK BEGINNING:	
29 th January 2024	Interviews for shortlisted candidates.
5 th February 2024	Commission decision announced
March 2024*	Completion of mural
April 2024	Formal unveiling of mural

* In the event of inclement weather, the project may be postponed to a date agreed with the commissioners.

10. Clarity of Information

All requests for clarification or further information in respect to the application stage of this commission should be submitted by email to ciaran_kelleherbyrne@corkcity.ie before 10th January 2024.

If it is considered that any question or request for clarification is of material significance, both the question and the responses will be communicated by email to all applicants who have been invited to submit a proposal.

11. How to Apply

Your application must be contained in one PDF.

The deadline for applications is **12pm on Friday 19th January 2024**.

Candidates may submit their proposal either in hardcopy or via email. For paper submissions, you can post your proposal to:

Ciarán Kelleher Byrne, Corporate Affairs and International Relations, Cork City Council, City Hall, Anglesea Street, Cork, T12 T997.

You may submit your proposal by email to ciaran_kelleherbyrne@corkcity.ie. If your file is large, you will need a **FileSender voucher**. Please contact ciaran_kelleherbyrne@corkcity.ie to get a voucher that will allow you to upload your file. Please note that we cannot accept submissions via any other large-file service provider.