

**IRELAND  
at the  
17<sup>th</sup> International Architecture  
Exhibition, Venice  
La Biennale di Venezia  
2020**



**OPEN CALL FOR  
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

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## **INVITATION**

Interested in representing Ireland at the 17th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice in 2020?

Interested in using the platform of Venice to further a conversation on architecture in and from Ireland?

Interested in touring this exhibition in Ireland in 2021?

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are seeking compelling, ambitious and exciting proposals to represent Ireland at the world's leading architecture exhibition.

You are invited to submit a proposal. This must be received by **noon, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

## **BACKGROUND**

The International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia, is the world's leading architecture event. Along with the International Curated Exhibition, and collateral events, it features more than 60 national exhibitions from around the world. In 2018, the total number of visitors to the exhibition exceeded 275,000.

Ireland at Venice is Ireland's national exhibition. It is led by Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are committed to Ireland's participation in the International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, with the aim of increasing opportunities for, and the profile of, Irish architects and architecture internationally.

As well as serving as a global platform for Irish architecture, the International Architecture Exhibition at Venice offers architects the opportunity to engage with a diverse international audience, create debate, and influence future trends in architecture.

### 2020 Theme

At the time of publishing this invitation, the overall curatorial theme for International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia 2020 has not been announced by the appointed Curator, Hashim Sarkis.

It is the preference that the national representation of Ireland responds to the overall curatorial theme, if available. Should details of the theme be made public by the closing date it will be found on La Biennale di Venezia website.

<https://www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/2020>

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are committed to building on Ireland's high profile at the 2018 Architecture Biennale, curated by Shelley McNamara and Yvonne Farrell of Grafton Architects whose aim was to:

“celebrate the shared culture of architecture, demonstrating how inventive, comforting, exhilarating, modest, heroic architecture can be”.

### **Ireland's Pavilion**

Ireland has a provisional reservation on space in the Arsenale for 2020 (in the same location as Ireland's national exhibition, Free Market, 2018 Architecture Biennale and the Art Biennale in 2017 and 2019) Images and maps available on request.

The International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia will run from 26th May to 25th November 2020 and Ireland's Pavilion must be open for this period.

## OPEN CALL

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are seeking expressions of interest from **curators** or **curator-led teams** who wish to present an exhibition to represent Ireland at the 2020 International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia.

Those making a submission must demonstrate the appropriate level of knowledge and skill to manage and deliver an exhibition of the scale that represents Ireland in Venice in 2020 and is appropriate to tour in Ireland in 2021.

For the 17<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia 2020 proposals are sought on the following basis:

- The proposal may focus on presenting one architect or architectural practice or present the work of a number of Irish architects. In such cases the architect or architects to be exhibited must be listed and their engagement confirmed at the time of making the proposal;
- The focus of the proposal must be a topic or subject area which is explicitly relevant to contemporary aspects of architecture in Ireland, such as its culture, theories, practices, practitioners, histories, future directions. Such focus should relate to the international context and forum for architecture that is part of the Biennale at Venice;
- The ambition of the proposal should be high. It should reflect the scale of the opportunity, and the fact that the exhibition will be representing Ireland on this world stage. Further, it should aim to build on the high standard of previous exhibitions at Venice;
- The proposal should offer an effective response to the overall Curator's', (Hashim Sarkis), theme, if published. If the theme has not been published the proposal should embrace his call to imagine how to respond to new challenges facing architecture:
- "The world is putting new challenges in front of architecture. I look forward to working with participating architects from around the

world to imagine together how we are going to rise to these challenges.” Hashim Sarkis, 2019;

- The curator and producer to lead the delivery of the exhibition must be identified in the proposal. The curator must be Irish or working on the island of Ireland;
- The appointed curator or curator-led team will be completely responsible for concept, design, delivery and management of the exhibition in Venice in 2020 and the subsequent national tour in Ireland during 2021.

## **BUDGET**

A core budget has not yet been finalised for the 2020 Biennale, although the 2018 operating budget of approx. €300,000 may be used as a guideline.

The space provisionally reserved by Ireland in the Arsenale for 2020 has a venue rental estimated to be €100,000. This rental cost is included in the overall budget of c. €300,000 and paid directly by Culture Ireland to La Biennale. Therefore, the estimated net operating budget is €200,000.

A separate budget of up to €50,000 is later provided by the Arts Council in 2021 for the national tour of the work in Ireland.

Within the operating budget, the successful team must also cover:

- The design and development of their concept;
- The delivery of all appropriate exhibition graphics, images, equipment and materials as needed to communicate and mediate the exhibition to a public audience, internationally and nationally;
- All shipping, installation and de-installation and return costs of the exhibition;
- All travel and accommodation in Venice for the curatorial team, installation team, participating team and invigilators.
- Costs associated with PR, promotion of the exhibition.

The successful team will be required to set up a financial management and reporting structure and agree this with Culture Ireland and the Arts Council.

Based on recent national representations and pavilions, successful teams should expect to raise further financial support to complete a successful exhibition in Venice.

Further details regarding budgetary requirements will be outlined to the successful team on appointment.



## **EXHIBITION BRIEF**

### **Criteria**

The team to represent Ireland will be assessed and selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- The ambition, innovation, quality, readiness and appropriateness of the proposal to represent Ireland on the world stage;
- The relevance and compatibility of the proposal to the overall theme of the Biennale, if available;
- The relevance of the presentation to contemporary architectural practice and the development of architecture culture, ideas, challenges, concerns, practices etc. in Ireland;
- The relevance of the presentation of such concerns, in terms of Ireland and Irish architecture, in the context of an international audience and platform such as Venice;
- Experience, expertise and success in mediating, communicating and delivering exhibitions of architecture to diverse audiences;
- Experience in project management of significant projects and evidence of producing and delivering projects internationally;
- Experience in budget management;
- Organisational capacity and resources;
- Availability to meet time and travel commitments;
- Reporting and editorial skills for documentation and dissemination;
- Networking skills and international connections;
- Ambition and capacity to deliver the national tour in 2021.

## **Experience**

It is desirable that the Curator and/or the Curator-led team have experience of:

- Curating and mediating large-scale exhibitions / projects;
- Developing audiences and communicating architecture to the public through exhibitions;
- Working with a range of international contacts and networks, relevant to the arts and cultural sectors; this will be of use in disseminating information and generating profile for the exhibition;
- Generating and managing private and public funding;
- Experience of working with the media and stakeholders in the promotion of the arts and/or cultural projects.

## SUBMISSION

### STAGE I

#### Submission

Applicants must submit no more than **5 x A4 pages in PDF format** outlining their ideas, approach and capacity to deliver a presentation of Irish architecture using the platform of the Biennale at Venice.

It is also a requirement that proposal documents include outline details of the national tour of the exhibition in 2021.

All the criteria listed in the previous pages should be explicitly addressed and the full team identified.

A proposed project management budget including fee structure should also be indicated.

The application must be accompanied by all relevant biographies.

Applicants should submit their proposals by email to [info@cultureireland.gov.ie](mailto:info@cultureireland.gov.ie)

A panel will review and shortlist proposals received at Stage I and interviews will be held with those shortlisted at Stage II.

The panel will comprise:

- An independent Chair
- Representative of Culture Ireland
- Representative of the Arts Council
- Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli,
- Curator Manifesto, 2018
- Catherine Ince,
- Chief Curator V&A East, Victoria & Albert Museum

## **STAGE II**

### **Interview**

Stage II will involve interview by panel, to include representatives of Culture Ireland, the Arts Council and the three experienced external panellists who were involved in the shortlisting phase (any change in panellists will be advised to shortlisted teams in advance of interview).

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present in person to the selection panel scheduled to meet on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- This call for submissions is open to individual curators, and architect-curators resident in, or from, Ireland and practices based in Ireland or from Ireland.
- Submissions will not be returned.
- No fees or expenses will be paid for either submission stage.
- The receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged by email.
- All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of each stage of the process in which they were involved.
- Culture Ireland and the Arts Council reserve the right to invite a potential team to represent Ireland at Venice if the open submission process does not lead to a successful outcome.
- The selection panel's decision is final.

## **FEEDBACK**

Written feedback will be provided to all shortlisted applicants based on the evaluation criteria outlined.

Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon

## SELECTION TIMELINE

Submissions must be received by noon, **15 April 2019**

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All proposals will be acknowledged by Culture Ireland by **17 April 2019**

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Successful short-listed applicants will be notified in **early May 2019**.  
Shortlisted applicants will be provided with details of Stage II submission requirements at this time.

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Stage II applicants will be required to attend in person and present at interview on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**  
Interviews will be conducted in Dublin (location to be advised)

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The successful proposal will be announced in **early June 2019**

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## CONTACT

Any enquiries regarding submissions should be addressed in the first instance to: Jenny Walton, Culture Ireland, Room 315, 23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 01 631 3960

Email: [info@cultureireland.gov.ie](mailto:info@cultureireland.gov.ie)