

Percent for Art Commission

Scoil Chríost Rí Presentation Girls Secondary School
&
St Mary's CBS Boys Secondary School

Stage 1 Briefing Document & Application

December 2010

Introduction:

Scoil Chríost Rí and St Mary's CBS situated at Borris Road, Portlaoise, County Laois wish to commission a site specific public artwork/s funded by the Department of Education and Science 'per cent for art scheme'. The artwork/s will be 3D sculptural of a permanent nature to be sited externally at the shared piazza between the new school buildings, the environs, with the possibility of a further element sited internally within each school building. The brief asks the artist/s to

- Reflect the ethos of the schools
- Respond to the location of the schools in Portlaoise
- Focus on excellence in Education

The selected artist will be expected to facilitate meaningful interaction with each school and extended school communities through a series of talks, studio visits and possibly workshops. This is open to further discussion and consideration.

The schools wish the final artwork/s to be sited not later than April 2012.

Background:

Both **Scoil Chríost Rí and St Mary's CBS** have strong historical associations with Portlaoise being centrally located within the town for over 100 years. The Presentation sisters have been involved in education in Portlaoise since they first established a convent in the old Infirmary in 1824. A new convent was erected in 1886 and it was on this site that the secondary school building for SCR was built and opened 1968. Likewise, the CBS has had a presence in Portlaoise since 1847 and the old school building has been occupied at Tower Hill since that time.



SCR - old School building at Ridge Road



CBS - old School building at Tower Hill

SCR Mission Statement

Scoil Chríost Rí is a girls' Catholic secondary school reflecting the CEIST values of respect, compassion and justice in the development of young people

Scoil Chríost Rí is a place of growth that strives for excellence in teaching and learning by providing a rich and diverse curriculum catering for the needs of each individual student with particular reference to those who are specially challenged.

CBS Mission Statement

St Mary's C.B.S. is a community of students, teachers, parents, management and ancillary staff. The central purpose of this community is the intellectual, emotional, religious, physical, social and moral education of our students.

The school strives to maintain an atmosphere of respect, Christian care and concern in which our students can grow to maturity. St. Mary's C.B.S. promotes partnership, excellence in teaching and learning and the development of leadership skills across the school community.

The New Campus:

The development of a new campus was funded through a public private partnership, which led to the building of two new school buildings that sit side by side each other on a 30 acre greenfield site. The schools are located approximately 1 kilometre outside the town of Portlaoise. Each of the school buildings has been designed by a different architectural firm - SCR is designed by Henry J Lyons and St Mary's CBS by A&D Wejchert & Partners. Within the campus these buildings share spaces for recreational and functional use, such as, the central piazza, sports complex and performance space, car parking and sports courts/pitches. **However, the distinctive design of each of the buildings reflects their independence as two secondary schools, with a separate, ethos, management structure, teaching staff and pupils.**



New school buildings at Borris Road, Portlaoise - SCR left, central Piazza centre and CBS right

Both new schools have a contemporary architectural expression and have been designed for purpose to include an extensive schedule of overall accommodation - classrooms/multimedia learning labs/subject laboratories/specialist rooms/meditation spaces/social areas/external courtyards/lecture rooms/music, drama, arts spaces/learning support etc to the match contemporary teaching methods, and curriculum choices provided by each school. SCR (all girls), accommodates 525 pupils and CBS (all boys), 459 pupils. Both are growing schools with expected student population expansion over the next 5 years.

Context:

It is within the context of building two new schools for these long established secondary schools in Portlaoise, that have moved out of the town to a new campus location (facilitating the sharing of specific spaces and facilities) - that this Per Cent for Art commission is considered.

Key considerations for this commission:

The context - the individual schools', the location, the physical spaces and educational environment and its users (secondary level pupils, teachers, staff, etc) is considered of key significance in developing the vision and ambition for this commission. How the chosen 'artwork/s' may work here (now and for the future) takes consideration of the distinct interests/ideals/philosophies and identities of both schools as entry points for consideration in the making of new artwork/s.

The Commissioning Process:

The selection process will take the form of a two-stage open competition. It is open to all interested professional artists. Selection will be based on the information supplied, establishing the competence of the artists to carry out this commission.

Stage 1

Artists are invited to express their interest in being considered for this project at the first stage of this commission. Artists may do this by completing the application form and submission of a CV and CD/DVD of images of recent work. A site visit is not required in Stage 1. No designs or detailed concept proposals are required in Stage 1.

The closing date for receipt of Stage 1 completed application form together with supporting documentation and material is **1 March, 2011**. *Please be advised that the schools will be closed for midterm from 21-25 February, 2011 and will not be accessible to couriers at that time.*

Stage 2

From the completed Stage 1 applications; a shortlist of artists will be selected by panel jury. This panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection. Stage 2 shortlisted artists will be paid a concept development fee of €600 to work on a detailed proposal for final selection. A further brief will be given and a site visit is expected at this stage.

Site Location:

Two schools on one site - Scoil Chríost Rí and St Mary's CBS, Borris Road, Portlaoise, County Laois

Budget:

The total budget for the project is **€98,790**. This includes the costs of materials, artist's fees, artist's research and design development, artists' insurance, all fabrication costs, supply and installation, travel, and any other costs incurred in the production of the artwork/s. The artist will be responsible for meeting all of these costs out of the total budget allocated.

Queries:

Applicants can make enquiries regarding the commission to Rina Whyte, email rinawhyte@yahoo.com or by telephone + 353 87 238 9591.

Guidelines:

It is recommended that you read the guidelines and supply supporting documentation and material as requested.

1. ***Include a current CV.***
2. ***Include the best examples of your working practice and images of your work.***
3. ***Please do not send original artworks.***
4. ***Please complete the application form clearly in black ink or type.***
5. ***Include a stamped addressed envelope for return of material.***
6. ***Keep a copy of your application for reference purposes.***

2) Artists are asked to submit the following:

- a. Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- b. List of previous relevant projects or commissions, cost, time scale to deliver, list of specialist or other contractors engaged by the artist in connection with the completion of these installations
- c. Visuals of previous work
- d. References and contact details
- e. Confirmation that if successful the artist is ready to submit current Tax Clearance Certificate, Artist's Exemption and provide insurances. This confirmation is mandatory.

3) Supporting Documentation:

To assist in the assessment of your application, supporting documentation should be included and should be submitted and it must be clearly labelled:

Supporting documentation	Number of Items Enclosed	Enclosed (please tick)
CV		
Stamped addressed envelope (SAE)		
CDs/DVDs of visuals/sound etc		
Other, please specify		

Freedom of information:

Applicants completing this form should note that information provided to The Principal, St Mary's CBS, Borris Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois regarding this commission project may be disclosed in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (1997 and 2003). Every effort will be made to protect client confidentiality.

Garda Vetting:

The successful artist may be subject to Garda vetting procedures.

General Information:

Where did you hear about the competition (please tick to indicate):

Local Authority Arts Office Website Local Media
VAI Other

If other, please specify _____

Declaration

I have read the award conditions, agree to be bound by them, and certify that the information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____

Date _____

This application form should be returned, addressed as follows:

Per Cent for Art Commission,
The Principal,
St Mary's CBS,
Borris Road,
Portlaoise,
Co Laois.

Closing date for the receipt of completed applications is **3pm** on **1 March, 2011**

Please note that applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.