

Loughshinny Boathouse Studio Award

Brief

The Loughshinny Boathouse Studio Award is a Studio Residency award open to professional visual artist(s) working in any medium. Building on from *An Urgent Enquiry*, a residency commissioning programme in collaboration with Wexford County Council and Dublin City Council, supported by the Arts Council's *Invitation to Collaboration Scheme* in 2019, this opportunity offers a 9-month paid residency in the Loughshinny Boathouse from September 2025 - May 2026. This Studio Residency award will enable professional visual artist(s) to research and develop new work in response to Fingal's coastal environment, focusing on biodiversity, coastal habitats, marine ecosystems and climate change.

The Residency Includes:

- Rent-free use of Loughshinny boathouse
- A fee of €15,000 for the 9-month period inclusive of VAT
- An additional €5,000 towards insurance, materials, production, outcomes, documentation costs and engagement

Loughshinny boathouse is located in the beautiful setting of Loughshinny, a coastal village that lies between Rush and Skerries in North County Dublin. The boathouse is a dual-purpose building providing a lifeguard station from June – August and a studio for artists from September - May. The objective of this award is to provide a space for professional artists working in visual art to develop their artistic practice in response to the coastal environment of Loughshinny and surrounding areas.

Fingal boasts a rich biodiversity that spans its coast, countryside, and urban centres, which contributes to the daily lives and livelihoods of Fingal citizens and future generations. This natural diversity is an invaluable resource and the challenge for Fingal is to develop and grow in a way that preserves and enhances our environment for the future.

Engaging people of all ages in understanding the importance of biodiversity and climate action is a critical role in our society and is essential for the success of Fingal County Council and its initiatives. The arts play a pivotal role in raising awareness and fostering a deeper connection to biodiversity and climate action, helping to inspire and mobilize the community towards conservation efforts.

To view the Fingal Biodiversity Plan 2022 – 2030 visit:

<https://www.fingal.ie/sites/default/files/2023-12/Fingal%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202023-2030.pdf>

To view the Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 visit: [Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 | Fingal County Council](#)

About the Award

The studio, which is non-residential, is available from September 2025 to May 2026. It is open to Irish and International artists at all stages in their professional careers working in visual artists working in any medium. Applicants can invite environmental experts to collaborate with them as part of this award, although this is not a requirement, it is encouraged.

The award covers the full cost of studio rental, utilities and administration.

The award is valued at €20,000 which is inclusive of artist fee of €15,000 and €5,000 for materials, production, outcomes, documentation costs and engagement with environmental experts, if part of the applicant's proposal.

Applications from artists who are from under-represented communities are particularly welcome.

Please note: Accommodation is not provided as part of this award. If required, the successful applicant(s) will need to source their own living accommodation.

Aims

- To research and develop new work in response to the unique coastal environment of Loughshinny and surrounding areas.
- To consider biodiversity, coastal habitats, marine ecosystems and climate change.
- To engage with the public.
- To facilitate public awareness and appreciation of Fingal's natural environment.
- To collaborate with environmental experts, although not a requirement, it is encouraged.

Expectation

- Research and develop new work in response to the biodiversity of Fingal's coastline.
- Actively use the studio on a regular basis.
- The applicant's art practice must be compatible with the studio space.
- Engage with the local community and members of the public. This could be through occasional open studio visits, presentations, talks, walks, workshops, innovative collaborations or other events.

- Provide Public Liability Insurance with cover of €6.5 million with a specific indemnity to Fingal County Council.
- The selected artist will participate in Dublin Climate Action Week and/or National Biodiversity Week in May 2026. This could be in the form of a workshop, open studio and/or a closing event that aligns with the conclusion of the residency.
- Must be available for the timeframe of the award. Outline any other commitments that may impact on your availability for this award.

Eligibility

- The award is open to practicing artists at all stages in their professional careers working in any medium which is compatible with the studio space.
- Applications are welcome from individual artists or artists who work together in a collaborative manner.
- Applications from artists who are from under-represented communities are particularly welcome.
- Applications must be in direct response to the biodiversity of Fingal's coastline, in particular Loughshinny and surrounding areas of Rush and Skerries.
- Applicants must be aged over 18.

Application Material

Applicants must complete an application form via www.submit.com and include the following:

- Contact details.
- Artist statement and biography.
- Proposal: Please indicate your main artistic objectives for this award, what you hope to achieve, outline themes/ central areas of focus that are of interest to you, how you will develop your ideas, make work and which biodiversity experts you would like to collaborate with.
- Proposed schedule: Outline how you will carry out the work you have proposed. For example, describe your activities each month, your research period, material and processes you use and how you will collaborate with biodiversity experts.
- Benefit to practice: Please indicate why you feel this award will benefit your practice.
- Supporting documentation: A current CV, samples of recent work – a maximum of 10 good quality images including an image list outlining name, title, date, size and brief

description. Examples of text, audio recordings, moving image work, with corresponding explanations. If you are considering collaborating with an environmental expert, please include details and a recent biography.

- Links to websites or streaming platforms. If you are providing a link, please ensure it is working and if it is password protected, please provide the password.
- A full budget breakdown.

Application Closing Date: Thursday 31st July 2024 at 4.00pm

Assessment Process and Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising of members of the Arts Office team and an independent art representative.

Assessment Criteria:

- Artistic quality of the proposal. (50/150)
- The track record and potential of the applicant. (50/150)
- Feasibility of the proposal. (20/15)
- Supporting material. (30/150)