



Fingal Artist Mentoring Programme 2026/2027 Guidelines

Introduction

Fingal County Council Arts Office is offering six professional artists the opportunity to participate in the year-long, developmental 1:1 Artist Mentoring Programme. Open to visual artists at any career stage, the programme, led by Sharon Murphy, takes place from May 2026 – May 2027 monthly. The 1:1 Mentoring aims to provide a nurturing and empowering environment for artists to grow, thrive, and sustain their creative practices – at an identified critical juncture - through a structured and holistic mentoring approach.

Sharon Murphy brings over 30 years of experience leading in the performing and visual arts in diverse contexts - national cultural institutions, theatre companies, galleries, local authorities, and public art/per cent for art - as director, producer, curator, commissioner, theatre practitioner, educator, mentor and most recently as a visual artist.

About the Artist Mentoring Programme

The Fingal Artist mentoring Programme is a professional development initiative where an experienced mentor creates the environment for the artist to explore, test, probe, and create new pathways. The mutually engaged mentoring relationship aims to foster the artistic, personal, and professional growth of the artist at a time of change in their practice through:

- Time and space for reflection and experimentation
- Guidance and support: tailored to help navigate challenges and make informed decisions.
- Knowledge sharing: Insights and expertise from the mentor's/mentee's experiences.
- Personal and professional development: balancing artistic practice with personal responsibilities and goals.
- Constructive feedback: Supportive critiques to refine and improve artist's work.

Benefits include: self-knowledge and an understanding of how to play to your strengths, increased agency and confidence, expanded perspectives, skills development, career advancement, and personal growth.

By taking part in the Programme, each mentee will:

- Develop a 3-5 year strategic artist plan
- Enhance self-knowledge and understanding of personal strengths.
- Increase openness to change and generosity in sharing experiences.
- Sustain creative practice through self-reliance and focus.

The Artist Mentoring Programme will span over one year, from May 2026 – May 2027, and sessions will take place on a monthly basis.



The Programme includes:

- 10 one-on-one mentoring sessions, each 2 hours long, ideally in-person.
- 2 one-on-one coaching sessions, each 2 hours long, which includes the creation of a 3-5 year strategic artist plan.

Artists will maintain a written or visual journal to map their journey, reflect, and contribute to an exit meeting to share experiences.

Commitment to full participation is required.

Eligibility

- Open to professional visual artists at all career stages.
- Applicants must have been born, have studied, or currently reside in the Fingal administrative area.
- Applications from artists who are from under-represented communities are particularly welcome.
- Applicants must be aged over 18.
- Applications must be available and committed for the duration of the programme.
- Preference will be given to those who have not previously participated in the programme.

Application Materials

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

- Contact details.
- Artist statement and biography.
- Benefit to practice: Please outline why you feel this Programme will benefit your practice.
- Supporting documentation:
 - A current CV, samples of recent work – a maximum of 10 good quality images including image list outlining name, title, date, size, and brief description. Examples of text, audio recordings, moving image work, with corresponding explanations.
 - 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.

Application Closing Date: Friday 13th March 2026 at 4pm.



Assessment Process and Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprising of members of the Arts Office team and the mentor. A shortlist of applicants may be invited to interview which will take place In April 2026.

Assessment Criteria:

- The potential of the applicant to benefit from this programme at this time. (50/100)
- The track record and commitment to practice development of the applicant. (30/100)
- Supporting material. (20/100)