

**IRELAND  
EXHIBITION  
VENICE  
ARCHITECTURE  
BIENNALE  
2018**



**Culture Ireland**  
Cultúr Éireann

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funding

**architecture**

artscouncil.ie

OPEN CALL FOR  
**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

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## INVITATION

Interested in presenting at the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale 2018?

Have a compelling proposal for Ireland's exhibition at the world's leading architecture event?

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council invite you to submit a proposal to represent Ireland at the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale 2018.

Submissions must be received by **noon, Friday 18 August 2017**

## BACKGROUND

The Venice Architecture Biennale is the world's leading architecture event, featuring more than 60 national exhibitions and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Ireland at Venice 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 Venice Architecture Biennale, with the aim of increasing opportunities for, and the profile of, Irish architects internationally. As well as serving as a global showcase for Irish architecture, the Venice Architecture Biennale offers Irish architects the opportunity to engage with international audiences, influence future trends in architecture and explore their individual practice.

### **2018 Theme**

Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects have been appointed by the Board of La Biennale di Venezia as the overall curators of the 16th International Architecture Exhibition in 2018.

The curators have chosen "Freespace" as the theme for the 16<sup>th</sup> Architecture Biennale. The curators have explained their choice with the following words:

*Freespace* describes a generosity of spirit and a sense of humanity at the core of architecture's agenda, focusing on the quality of space itself.

*Freespace* focuses on architecture's ability to provide free and additional spatial gifts to those who use it and on its ability to address the unspoken wishes of strangers.

*Freespace* celebrates architecture's capacity to find additional and unexpected generosity in each project - even within the most private, defensive, exclusive or commercially restricted conditions.

*Freespace* provides the opportunity to emphasise nature's free gifts of light - sunlight and moonlight, air, gravity, materials - natural and man-made resources.

*Freespace* encourages reviewing ways of thinking, new ways of seeing the world, of inventing solutions where architecture provides for the well being and dignity of each citizen of this fragile planet.

*Freespace* can be a space for opportunity, a democratic space, un-programmed and free for uses not yet conceived. There is an exchange between people and buildings that happens, even if not intended or designed, so buildings themselves find ways of sharing and engaging with people over time, long after the architect has left the scene.

Architecture has an active as well as a passive life.

*Freespace* encompasses freedom to imagine, the free space of time and memory, binding past, present and future together, building on inherited cultural layers, weaving the archaic with the contemporary.

More details on the theme may be found on La Biennale di Venezia website

<http://labiennale.org/en/architecture/news/07-06.html?back=true>

The Biennale will run from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Ireland has a provisional reservation on space in the Arsenale for 2018 (in the same location as the Architecture Biennale in 2016 and the Art Biennale in 2017, images and maps available on request).

## **OPEN CALL**

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are now seeking expressions of interest from **curators and commissioners** who wish to lead a team to represent Ireland at the 2018 Architecture Biennale and who can demonstrate the appropriate level of knowledge and skill to manage and deliver such an important presentation in Venice and in Ireland.

For 2018, proposals are sought on the following basis:

- The proposal may focus on presenting one architect/ architectural practice or relate to a number of Irish architects and their practice.
- The proposed architect(s)/practice(s) must be central to the team.
- Effective response to the curators' selected theme.
- The production/project management structure must reflect the scale of the opportunity and remain in place for the Venice exhibition and subsequent Irish tour.
- Teams must include a curator and producer/commissioner to lead the delivery of the exhibition.
- The appointed team will be completely responsible for concept, design, delivery and management in Venice in 2018 and the subsequent national tour in Ireland during 2019.

## **BUDGET**

A core budget has not yet been set for the 2018 Biennale, although the 2016 operating budget of approx. €300,000 may be used as a guideline. It is important to note that the venue rental estimated to be €100,000 is included in this figure.

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

- Design and develop their concept
- Deliver appropriate exhibition graphics, images, equipment and materials as required
- Allow for the installation and de-installation costs of the exhibition
- Allow for travel and accommodation in Venice
- Set up a financial management and reporting structure

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

The delivery of an Irish Tour is critical to the proposal and a separate budget will be put in place for this at a later date.

## **EXHIBITION BRIEF**

The team to represent Ireland will be chosen on the basis of the following criteria:

### **Criteria**

- The quality, readiness and appropriateness of the proposal to represent Ireland on the world stage.
- Relevance of the proposal to the overall theme of the Biennale
- The relevance of the presentation to contemporary architectural practice and the development of architecture in Ireland
- Knowledge of current trends in architecture and architectural exhibition, nationally and internationally and experience in research and exhibition delivery
- Experience and expertise in mediating architectural projects at international level and/or exhibitions to both an expert and non-expert public
- Experience in project management/producing including liaising with stakeholders
- 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
- Ability to deliver a national tour.

## **EXHIBITION BRIEF (Cont'd)**

### **Experience**

It is desirable the team have experience of:

- Curating and mediating large-scale exhibitions/projects
- Developing audiences and communicating architecture to the public
- Working with constituencies (architecture and the arts)
- 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 cultural projects

## **SUBMISSION**

### **STAGE I**

#### **Submission**

Applicants must submit no more than **3 x A4 pages in PDF format** outlining their ideas, approach and capacity to deliver a presentation of Irish architecture within the platform of the Venice Biennale and its subsequent presentation in Ireland. All the criteria listed in the previous pages should be addressed and the full team identified. A proposed project management budget including fee structure should also be indicated. Applicants should submit their proposals by email to [info@cultureireland.gov.ie](mailto:info@cultureireland.gov.ie)

The application must be accompanied by all relevant biographies.

#### **Selection**

Stage I applicants will be short-listed by a panel which will include representative/s of Culture Ireland, the Arts Council and up to three experienced external panellists, the names of which will be published in advance.

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### **STAGE II**

#### **Interview**

Stage II will involve interview by panel, to include 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).

From the proposals short-listed in Stage I, teams will be invited to present in person to the selection panel scheduled to meet in the early September 2017.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- This call for submissions is open to individual architects resident in or from Ireland, 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 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 in terms of scores under each of 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, 18 August 2017*

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*All proposals will be acknowledged by Culture Ireland by 25 August 2017*

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*Successful short-listed applicants will be notified early September 2017. 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 at the end of September/early October 2017. Interviews will be conducted in Dublin (location to be advised)*

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*The successful proposal will be announced October 2017*

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## CONTACT

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

Tel: 01 631 3917

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