

**IRELAND
EXHIBITION
VENICE
ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE**



**Cultúr Éireann
Culture Ireland**

**the arts
council
= chomhairle
ealaíon**

**funding
architecture**

2027



**Call for Expressions of Interest for the curation of
Ireland at Venice 2027**

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INVITATION

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon are inviting expressions of interest to curate Ireland's representation at the *20th International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia* in 2027.

Compelling, ambitious and imaginative proposals are sought for consideration from Irish architects, architecture practices, or curators or teams with expertise in architecture.

Please engage with this opportunity, if you are interested in:

- presenting Irish architecture and architecture practice to an international audience;
- using this global platform to stimulate discussion on architecture in and from Ireland;
- gaining international profile and creating future global opportunities for Irish architects;
- touring the exhibition nationally in 2028.

Through Ireland's participation in the *20th International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia*, we seek to reflect the statement of Shelley McNamara and Yvonne Farrell of Grafton Architects, curators of the 2018 Biennale to:

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

You are invited to submit a proposal by **noon on Wednesday, 12 November 2025.**

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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. The Venice Architecture Biennale attracted over 285,000 visitors in 2023.

Ireland at Venice is Ireland's national representation at the Venice Biennale which is led by Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon. Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are committed to building on Ireland's growing reputation at previous Architecture Biennales.

Through Ireland's participation in the *International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia*, Culture Ireland and the Arts Council aim to raise the profile of Irish architecture and create opportunities for Irish architects internationally.

As well as serving as a global platform for contemporary Irish architecture, the Venice Biennale offers architects the opportunity to engage with a diverse international audience, stimulate discussion, and influence future trends in architecture. It also offers the participants a unique opportunity to engage and connect with international architects, curators and collaborators.

2027 Theme

At the time of publishing this invitation, the overall curatorial theme has not yet been announced.

It is the preference that the national representation of Ireland respond to the overall curatorial theme, when available. Should the theme be made public by the closing date it will be found on La Biennale di Venezia website (www.labiennale.org/en/architecture/).

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Ireland's Pavilion

Subject to confirmation, it is intended that Ireland will reserve the space currently used in the Arsenale for 2027 (in the same location as Ireland's *national* exhibitions over the last decade). Images and maps are available in Appendix 1.

The 20th *International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia* will be held from May to November 2027 and Ireland's Pavilion must be open throughout the full exhibition period.

Irish Tour

It is a requirement that the exhibit is returned to Ireland for a national tour in 2028 for the benefit of Irish audiences. Consideration **must** be given to this tour and be addressed in proposals.

ROLE OF CURATOR FOR IRELAND'S EXHIBITION

The Curator will be responsible for the delivery of Ireland's exhibition at the Venice Biennale 2027 and the subsequent Irish Tour in 2028. The Curator will lead on and **must have experience of commissioning and/or exhibiting architecture.**

The Curator or a member of their team must have experience as a creative producer and/or be an **organisation/ touring** partner, and be able to demonstrate the ability to undertake:

- project management
- budget management
- fundraising
- arrangements with venue
- communications and press

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- liaising with the Biennale Office
- provision of administrative and production support
- liaising with Culture Ireland the Arts Council
- developing plans for the national tour with venues/partners in Ireland.

DETAILS OF OPEN CALL

Culture Ireland and the Arts Council are seeking expressions of interest from those who wish to curate and present an exhibition to represent Ireland at the *20th International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia 2027*.

The applicant (the curator) must be one of the following:

- an architect or architectural practice
- a curator with expertise in architecture working with an architect/s or architectural practice/s
- a team, which must include an architect/s as a core member/s and may also comprise curators with expertise in architecture, makers and other practitioners

All those involved should be identified and be party to this initial expression of interest.

Those making a submission must demonstrate the appropriate level of knowledge and skill to develop, manage and deliver an exhibition of scale to represent Ireland in Venice in 2027 and to tour it in Ireland in 2028.

For the *20th International Architecture Exhibition at Venice, La Biennale di Venezia 2027* proposals are sought on the following basis:

- 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 Venice Biennale;

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- The proposal may involve presenting one architect or architectural practice or presenting 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 proposal should be ambitious, reflect the scale of the opportunity, and be appropriate to representing Ireland on this world stage;
- The curator must be Irish or resident in Ireland;
- The appointed team will be responsible for concept, design, delivery and management of the exhibition in Venice in 2027 and its subsequent return and national tour in Ireland during 2028;
- Consideration must be given to sustainability in all stages of the life cycle of the project.

CULTURE IRELAND SUPPORT

Culture Ireland is the named Commissioner for the Venice Biennale. Culture Ireland will work with the successful applicant and support the project in relation to communications, launch and opening events. A guide to exhibiting at the Venice Biennale will be made available to assist in delivery of the selected project for 2027.

Experience

It is desirable that the applicant has experience of:

- Developing, curating and mediating large-scale exhibitions / projects;
- Communicating architecture to the public through exhibitions;
- Working with a range of international contacts and networks, relevant to the arts and cultural sectors;
- Generating and managing private and public funding;

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- Experience of working with the media and stakeholders in the promotion of the arts and/or cultural projects.

BUDGET

A budget for the 2027 Biennale is €520,000, comprising €340,000 from Culture Ireland and €180,000 from the Arts Council. This includes the rental cost of €170,000 which is paid directly by Culture Ireland. Therefore, the estimated net operating budget is €350,000. It has been the experience of previous representations at Venice that significant fundraising was required to supplement the budget to realise the ambition and scale of the selected project. Applications need to demonstrate consideration of this and applicant teams should have experience in this regard.

A separate budget of up to **€120,000** will be made available by the Arts Council for the national tour in 2028. This will require a separate application to the Arts Council in late 2027.

Within the operating budget, the successful applicant must cover:

- The design, development and production 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 the promotion of the exhibition;
- The delivery of an opening launch event in Venice in May 2027.

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The successful team will be required to set up a project management plan, including a financial management and reporting structure, and agree this with Culture Ireland and the Arts Council when signing the Grant Agreement.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be assessed and selected on the basis of the following criteria:

Artistic Quality

- The clarity of the proposed architectural concept, design and output and its relevance to contemporary Irish architectural practice in the context of architecture culture, ideas, challenges and practices in Ireland;
- The track record of the applicant and the artistic personnel involved in the project as evidenced in their CVs and other supporting materials submitted;
- The creative vision, ambition, originality and competency demonstrated in the proposal.

Meeting the Objectives

- The ambition, innovation, quality and appropriateness of the proposal to represent Ireland to an international audience in the context of the platform of the Venice Biennale;
- The relevance and compatibility of the proposal to represent contemporary Irish architectural practice in the international context of the Biennale taking account of trends, issues or themes in contemporary practice;
- The ambition and capacity to deliver the national tour in 2028.

Feasibility

- It is a requirement that a member of the team has experience of delivering large-scale projects and/or exhibitions;
- Experience, expertise and success in mediating, communicating and delivering exhibitions of architecture to diverse audiences including networking skills and international connections;

- Experience in project management of significant projects and evidence of producing and delivering projects internationally bearing in mind the need to meet significant time and travel commitments;
- Experience in budget management and fundraising capacity, working with large scale budgets;
- A full life-cycle plan for the exhibit setting out the sustainability of the project considering materials, travel and transport, re-use etc.;
- The extent to which the proposal demonstrates the provision of equitable conditions and remuneration for participating architects/artists.

SUBMISSION

Expressions of Interest outlining the applicant's proposed ideas for the exhibition and their approach and capacity to deliver a presentation of the scale required to represent Ireland at Venice in 2027 should:

- Include a completed cover sheet (please use the template provided at Appendix 2);
- Include a working title;
- Identify the full team and their individual roles including that of the lead applicant / curator;
- Include confirmation of agreement from an architect or architects in cases where their work is to be exhibited;
- Include a detailed outline of the creative vision for the proposal and the architectural output to be exhibited;
- Explicitly address all criteria outlined above;
- Include an outline plan for the national tour of the exhibition in Ireland in 2028 (where and why);
- Include a life-cycle sustainability plan for the exhibit;
- Not exceed **5 x A4 pages in PDF format** (excluding the cover sheet);

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- Be accompanied by all relevant biographies;
- Include an outline budget.
- Include an indicative fund-raising plan.
- Additional information to include: CVs of all personnel proposed for the project (institution/curator/architect(s)).

All applications must be submitted by email to IrelandAtVenice@cultureireland.gov.ie by noon, Wednesday, 12 November 2025.

SELECTION PROCESS

THE SELECTION PROCESS WILL COMPRISE THREE STAGES:

- Stage I: Submission of Expressions of Interest
- Stage II: Shortlisted applicants invited to prepare expanded proposals.
- Stage III: Shortlisted applicants invited to present their proposals at interview

STAGE I

- Applicants must submit an Expression of Interest no more than 5 x A4 pages in PDF format including all items listed at Submission above (pages 8–9).
- All Expressions of Interest will be evaluated by Culture Ireland and the Arts Council according to the Evaluation Criteria outlined above (pages 7–8). Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in Stage II and III of the selection process.

STAGE II

- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to develop expanded proposals. These should address in detail all aspects of their original Expression of Interest and include a visual representation of their proposed exhibit. A fee of €3,000 will be provided to the shortlisted applicants to enable them to do so.

Stage III

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Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview to present their expanded proposals. The interview panel will be led by an independent Chair and comprise:

- A representative of Culture Ireland
- A representative of the Arts Council
- Two panel members of international standing with architectural expertise

The exact date of the interview has not been set yet, however, it is envisaged that it will take place in early February 2025. The successful applicant will be notified shortly thereafter.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- This call for submissions is open to architects, architecture practices, curators or teams with an expertise in architecture. Applicants should be Irish or resident in Ireland.
- Submissions will not be returned.
- The €3,000 fee will only be paid to shortlisted applicants in order to prepare their expanded application and visual presentation for interview. No other fees or expenses will be paid for participation in any other stage of the selection process.
- The receipt of each proposal will be acknowledged by email.
- All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their application following each stage of the process they participated in.
- Culture Ireland and the Arts Council reserve the right to appoint an individual or team to curate Ireland's national representation at Venice if the open submission process does not lead to a successful outcome.
- The decision made by the selection panel is final.

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FEEDBACK

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

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SELECTION TIMELINE

*Submissions must be received by **noon, Wednesday, 12 November 2025 (Stage I)***

All proposals will be acknowledged by Culture Ireland.

*Short-listed applicants will be notified in December 2025 at the latest. They will be provided with further details of **Stage II** submission requirements at that time and will have 6 weeks to prepare their expanded proposals.*

*Shortlisted applicants will be required to present at interview (**Stage III**) at a date in early February 2025 (to be confirmed at a later stage).*

Announcement of successful proposal will follow completion of Stage III of the selection process.

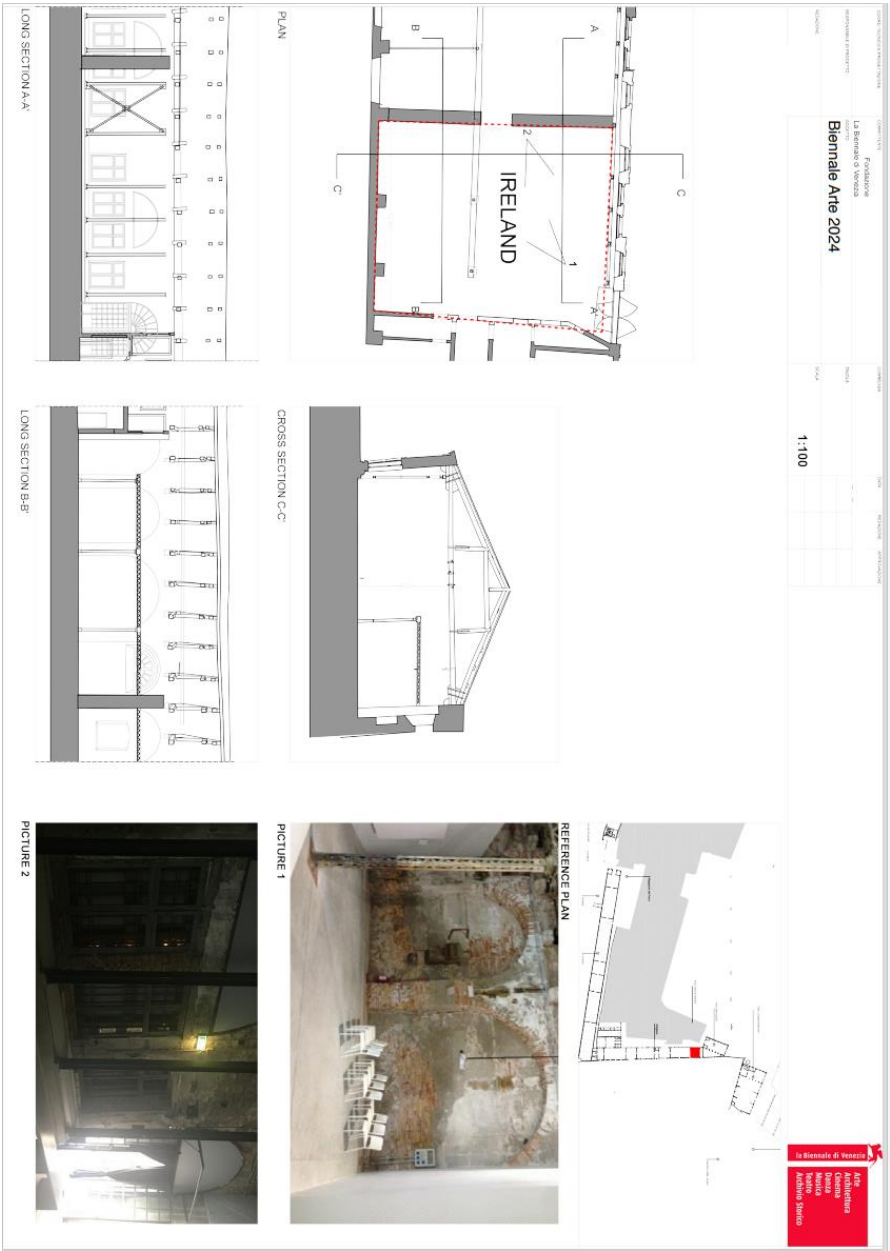
CONTACT

Any enquiries regarding submissions should be sent by e-mail to:
IrelandAtVenice@cultureireland.gov.ie

An Access Officer, should you need one, can be contacted by email access@artscouncil.ie

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APPENDIX 1: IMAGES AND MAPS



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APPENDIX 2: COVER SHEET FOR SUBMISSION



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN CURATION OF IRELAND'S REPRESENTATION AT LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2027

Title of Project:	
Lead Applicant / Curator:	
Proposed Artist(s):	
Contact Details:	
Other Participants and their Roles:	



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