

The Ark Children's Cultural Centre's purpose is to realise children's right to art and culture with ambition and joy. We do so by commissioning, producing and presenting fun and ambitious art for, by, with and about children from birth to age 12.

We believe that children are entitled to great art made especially for them. We are therefore delighted to invite artists to submit a proposal for an installation, space transformation or creative experience for children from birth to 2 years and their grown-ups in The Ark's basement. (16m long x 3.2m wide x 2.6m high).

Cruinniú na nÓg at The Ark

Supported by Creative Ireland, Cruinniú na nÓg @ The Ark 2026 will host a full programme of creative activities for children from birth to 12 years. For children aged 2 to 12 years and their grown-ups, there will be animation and illustration workshops, family friendly music concerts, the opening of Cartoon Saloon's 'My Father's Dragon' exhibition and creative response areas for children. We are also creating a dedicated space for children from birth to 2 years to be creative also in our basement space.

The Opportunity

The open call is for a lead artist to create an installation, creative experience or space transformation for children from birth to 2 years to engage with along with their grown-ups, which will open to the public on Cruinniú na nÓg . The babies & early years space will then stay in place for The Ark's Summer programme from June to August. Materials can be replenished for this space but any structures, set-ups, furniture should be created to last for the full summer programme. This age range includes stationary babies, crawlers and toddlers and each of these stages should be considered in the design of the space.

Child participation is at the heart of The Ark's practice. The artist will therefore be given the opportunity to devise and lead a series of workshops with this age range and their grown-ups in order to explore ideas, test design elements, prototypes and child engagement to ensure the accessibility and suitability of the finished creative space for the intended age range.



Proposal:

Please send us a text document or video or audio recording answering the following questions:

- Why are you applying for this opportunity? (300 words max)
- Your experience working with or for children from birth to 2 years (500 words max)
- Provide 3 examples of your work that are relevant to this opportunity (You can provide text, images or links to videos, websites etc).
- Outline your artistic ideas and the potential experience for children visiting The Ark this summer (2 pages max).

Please include a CV or artist bio along with your proposal.

Application Process:

Shortlisted applicants will receive a prep fee of €150 and a travel fee to attend an in-person or zoom meeting with staff from The Ark.

A total salary or fee of €3,450 will be available for the selected artist to cover the cost of attending initial meetings, research and prep days and workshop delivery/installation days.

Applications and any questions should be send – by email only - to Aisling Clancy, Engagement & Participation Manager, creativehubs@ark.ie

Key Dates:

- Open Call: Wednesday 11 March
- Deadline: 5pm, Monday 23 March
- Shortlisted invited to interview: Monday 30 March
- Kick off Meeting: Tuesday 7 April
- Workshop Delivery Period: 13 April to 25 May
- Exhibition Installation Period: 25 - 29 May
- Exhibition/Experience Opening: 6 June

EDI Policy

The Ark is committed to creating a diverse environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. The Ark actively seeks to ensure equality in terms of access and engagement regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, orientation, membership of the Traveller Community, socio-economic status, family or civil status, disability, or religion. The Ark's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy can be found [here](#).

Child Safeguarding at The Ark

The Ark is committed to the protection and welfare of children, and we recognise our obligation to create a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of children and young people who avail of our services. The Ark has policies and procedures that support best practice in child protection and welfare. We recognise that the safety and welfare of children is everyone's responsibility, and the best interests of the child are paramount. All of The Ark's activity is carried out in line with [The Ark's Child Safeguarding Policy](#).

Please note that successful candidates will be required to provide proof of identity and complete our Garda vetting process.