

John Coolahan Early Years Artist Residency
OPEN CALL Guidelines
The Ark
May 2019 – April 2020



We are looking for applications from professional artists from the fields of **dance, theatre or music** with an existing practice involving children in the early years. The focus for this residency is participatory workshop practice in your particular arts discipline.

The chosen artist will be able to demonstrate a strong commitment and level of artistic quality in their work for this age range whilst also articulating a thoughtful and exciting artistic vision for this year-long opportunity with The Ark. The successful artist will also need to demonstrate strong organisational capacity and show how they see this opportunity would positively impact, enrich and expand their early years practice and artistic development overall.

2018 was the inaugural year of this new residency and undertaken by visual artist Lucy Hill who will complete her residency in April 2019. (More information on Lucy and her residency here: <https://ark.ie/news/post/we-announce-our-brand-new-artist-in-residence>)

We are now seeking an artist from the fields of dance, theatre or music only to take up the 2nd year of this Early Years Artist Residency running for 12 months from May 2019 to April 2020.

During the residency period the selected artist will develop and present a series of early years workshops for children aged 2-4 with participating accompanying adults as part of The Ark's programme. Key dates are given below.

The themes or focus for each of these workshops is purposely open as we wish for the chosen artist to have the freedom to explore ideas or themes that may be especially of interest to them, relevant to their artistic vision for the residency and the development of their early years practice. We also wish to allow for the integration of any learning or refinement to the artist's approaches or ideas from month to month as the residency progresses. The artist may also, if they wish, choose to bounce off themes in other parts of The Ark's programme.

At the same time, a clear sense of an overarching artistic vision for the whole year would strengthen your proposal. We want to hear about ideas that you want to develop in and through the workshops that may be new or a development of work you've done before that this yearlong opportunity in particular gives you the scope or the trajectory to explore.

In addition to the opportunity to create and lead a yearlong early years workshop programme at The Ark, the selected artist will also be supported throughout the residency in the development of their own practice. This will include the opportunity to work with a mentor and to undertake travel and training relevant to your residency proposal and your early years artistic practice and areas of development you have identified in your application.

The chosen artist will be asked to reflect on their process and journey through the residency with blog-posts which will be shared on The Ark website at intervals during the year. The Ark will manage photographic documentation throughout the residency in line with our child-protection policy.

As with all work involving children, the selected artist will be required to undergo Garda vetting and to follow our child protection policy and health and safety guidelines during their time with The Ark.

Key dates:

It is our intention to programme workshops created and led by our Early Years Artist in Residence at regular intervals through the year. This workshop programme will be called 'Seedlings' on The Ark website and our printed material.

The proposed pattern for the delivery of these workshops is monthly engagements on the first Saturday of the month and the previous Friday. This structure is intended to create clarity and regularity for both artist and audience. It also aims to build-in time for the artist to reflect on workshops in between and integrate any key learnings, refine ideas or approaches before the next iteration.

Please note, the first 4 dates given below are currently set. The residency fee allows for up to 24 workshop dates in total across the 12 months. We will set the subsequent dates in discussion with the chosen artist to take place monthly through the year.

Set dates for Seedlings Early Years Workshops 2019:

- Friday 3rd May and Saturday 4th May 2019
- Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June 2019

Budget:

The total overall fee to the artist is €7,800

[This is broken down as:

- Planning/admin/meeting fees @ €1,200
- Development fees per month of workshops @ €1,800
- Up to 24 dates of workshop engagements @ €4,800]

Payment will be made in instalments during the residency agreed in advance with the artist.

Materials: any materials or other resources needed for delivering the residency workshops will be covered within reason to be finalised with the selected artist and depending on the particular needs of their art form.

Expenses: There is a transport and per diem allowance for the artist if they are living more than 50 miles from Dublin. Unfortunately, accommodation cannot be covered.

Mentoring: There is an allocation in the budget for mentoring for the artist. This allows for up to 4 meetings between the artist and a chosen mentor across the year.

Travel and Training: Proposals for travel and training opportunities that will support the artist's development and are relevant to their early years practice up to a max of €1,000 will also be discussed and finalised with the selected artist.

About The Ark

The Ark is a dedicated cultural centre for children. We create opportunities for children, along with their families and friends or with their school, to discover and love art. Through our work with leading Irish and international artists children can enjoy performances in our unique child-sized theatre, view engaging exhibitions or participate in creative workshops.

You can read more about us at <http://ark.ie/about>

FAQs

- **What kind of artists are we looking for?**

We are looking for artists from the fields of **dance, theatre or music** only who have experience with children in the early years. We are looking for an artist with a clear and engaging artistic vision for the residency.

Whilst we are seeking applications from performing arts practitioners, it is important to note that this particular opportunity is focussed on participatory practice. Thus we are not looking for proposals for performance works to be created, developed or produced. Rather we are seeking someone who can create and deliver high-quality artistic workshop experiences for children aged 2-4 in their particular discipline and wishes to grow in this aspect of their practice.

Applicants should be artists who are excited about the possibilities of creating and presenting a year-long workshop programme for that age range with The Ark and can see long-term benefits to their practice from this experience as well as the other aspects of the residency including mentoring and travel/training support.

This is a yearlong opportunity and so it will require a significant degree of commitment on behalf of the selected artist. For this reason we are looking for professional artists working in dance, theatre or music who have an existing practise with children in the early years and can demonstrate their commitment to this area of arts practice.

The selected artist will also need to demonstrate strong communication and organisational skills which are vital to the success of this yearlong collaboration with The Ark.

This opportunity is unfortunately not suitable for artists still studying or those who have recently graduated or those artists with an established practice with a different age range who are new to early years work.

- **I'm an artist from a different discipline (i.e. not dance, theatre or music). Can I apply?**

Unfortunately not on this occasion. For the 2019-2020 residency we are seeking applications from artists in the fields of dance, theatre or music only. However, this is an annual opportunity so there will be a chance for you to apply in future years.

- **What information should I include in my application?**

We are keen to learn about your experience to date as an artist and in particular your work related to children in the early years, why this area of work is important to you as well as your interest in the scope for your development as an artist offered by the residency. We'd love to see examples of your work (images, film clips, audio samples,

reviews etc.) so please include them in your application via web links and/or file transfer links (e.g. Dropbox or WeTransfer).

Please select a **maximum of 3 links** to send us. Take some time to choose those links that you consider show your strongest work and that are most relevant to this opportunity. The panel will only look at your first 3 links or files so please do not send any more than this.

Please don't include CVs or other additional documents as the panel will only see your application form.

- **Is there a word count/time limit?**

Please limit your answers to 250 words per question as indicated on the application form. Think about the key concepts/values/experience you want the panel to know and make those clear in your answers.

- **How will the panel assess the applications?**

The panel will review each application in relation to the following key criteria:

- *Demonstrated existing professional early years arts practice*
- *Artistic quality and clear vision for the residency*
- *Enthusiasm and commitment to the development of your early years participatory arts practice*
- *Quality of ideas and how you see them engaging children aged 2-4*
- *Clear vision for the potential impact of this residency on your career as an artist*

- **How many places are there?**

One artist will be chosen for this residency in 2019

- **Can I apply if I haven't connected with The Ark before?**

Yes, absolutely. We strongly encourage all artists working in dance, theatre and music interested in the residency and the area of early years arts participatory practice to apply.

- **What do you mean by early years?**

Early years is generally defined as children aged between 0 and 6. We are interested in receiving applications from artists with an existing practice with children in any part of that age range. However, it is important to note that for this residency with The Ark the focus will be children aged between **2-4 years** only.

- **What do you mean by Travel and Training?**

The residency offers support for the selected artist to undertake travel to another location. This is to enable the artist to receive input of knowledge or experience which is fitting to their early years work and would be beneficial or nurture the further development of their artistic practice. The travel proposed by the artist can be to another location in Ireland or overseas within the limitations of the budget.

The type of experience suggested by the artist for travel and training could include participating in formal or informal training (for example training in Aistear the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework) or it could involve setting up an opportunity to see or

experience relevant or inspiring early years workshop/installation/performance programmes in other locations, meetings with other early years artists/programmers/early childhood experts in other locations or other relevant opportunities. It could be a combination of some of these possibilities or another idea entirely that you think is right for you and your practice.

The travel and training does not all have to take place in one trip as long as it is possible within the budget limitations.

For the purposes of the application form, the artist isn't required to give absolute concrete travel and training plans but we would like to see the kind of vision you have for this aspect of the residency and how it would benefit you. We are open to the possibility that your initial ideas presented in the application form may evolve during the course of the residency and are open to re-working those plans with you over time.

- **What do you mean by mentoring?**

To further support your development over the course of the residency we will support up to 4 meetings with you and a mentor over the course of the residency year, within a budget limitation. The precise type of mentorship that may suit you will depend on various factors including your discipline, where you currently are in terms of your career, what your goals are and what you consider to be the areas of your early years practice you would most benefit from in terms of this extra support.

Bearing all those variables in mind, we would like to hear the type of suggested mentor you would like and why you feel that would be a good choice for you.

Suggested mentors for example could include someone who could challenge your growth in an aspect of your artistic discipline you wish to develop through the residency. Or they may be someone who has a particular perspective in terms of early years child development, education or research. Or it could be someone with expertise in workshop facilitation, leadership or other career development support which could help you develop those areas of your work.

We are excited to hear your ideas for what would best work for you and are open to suggestions not mentioned here.

- **Can I apply for this residency if I'm not based in Ireland?**

Unfortunately no. This opportunity is for artists based in the Republic of Ireland only.

- **How accessible is The Ark?**

The venue is fully accessible and we welcome applications from artists with a disability. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss your accessibility needs.

How To Apply:

To apply, simply complete our online application form [here](#).

Only applications received via this online application form will be accepted.

Answers may also be filmed. Please submit your video links (along with passwords to access them) as your answers in the application form.

Key dates:

Residency Open Information Sessions

Monday 8 October 2018 at 12pm and 4pm in The Ark

Any artist interested in applying is welcome to attend either of these sessions to ask questions about the residency and the application process. There is no need to book – simply turn up. Note: these information sessions are completely optional and there is no requirement to attend one of these sessions in order to apply.

Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be received by 5pm on Tuesday 30th October 2018

No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

The shortlist will be confirmed by: **Friday 9th November 2018.**

Interviews:

Shortlisted artists will be requested to attend an interview on either the afternoon of **Monday 12th November 2018** or the afternoon of **Friday 16th November 2018.**

The Ark selection panel will include Aideen Howard, Director and Aisling O’Gorman, Creative Arts Manager and one external panellist. The panel will together select one artist for the residency in 2019.

We aim to ensure the application and selection process is straight forward and fair. If you have any questions about the process, or the residency in general, please email Aisling O’Gorman at aisling@ark.ie.

Data Protection:

Any information that you supply in this application will be used only for the purposes of this application process. Unsuccessful applications will be retained for a maximum of 3 months. You can see more information on how we look after your data in our [Privacy Statement](#).



John Coolahan Early Years Artist Residency: Application Form

Residency duration: May 2019 – April 2020

How To Apply:

Firstly please take some time to read the detailed [guidelines](#) for this opportunity so you understand the details and what we are looking for.

Then if you wish to apply, please complete the online application form below. Only applications received via the online form will be accepted.

Open information sessions for those interested in applying will take place at **The Ark on Monday 8th October 2018 at 12pm and 4pm**. No need to book for these, you can simply turn up.

All applications must be received by 5pm on Tuesday 30th October 2018. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.

Please put all information that you would like us to know, including any web links to your work, within the application form and not as separate attachments. CVs or additional documents won't be shared with the panel so please do not include them.

Name *

First Name Last Name

E-mail *

Phone Number *

-
Area Code Phone Number

Address

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Website (if relevant)

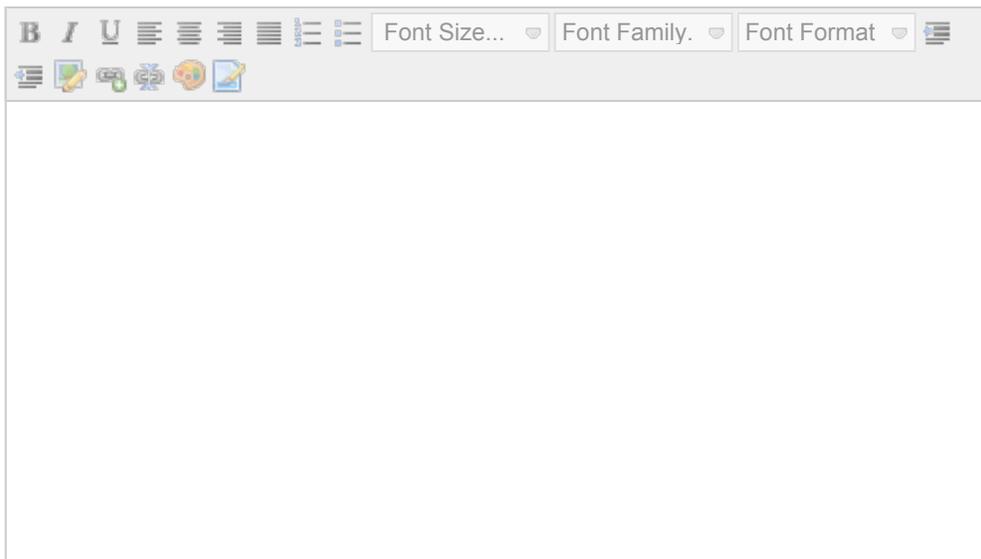
Please write a short (max 250 word) biography about you and your work *

If you are selected, this will be used on The Ark website alongside a photograph of you if you are selected for the Residency0/270

We have five questions for you. You are welcome to submit your answers in writing using this form or by video if preferred.

If you are submitting video or audio responses please put the link and the password if applicable (recommended) as your answer to the relevant questions in the form below.

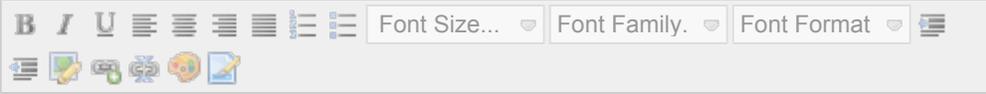
1. Please tell us about your interest and experience in creating art in your particular discipline (dance, theatre or music) with children in the early years. (Max 250 words) *



As this residency is focused on participative practice, we are especially interested in your workshop creation, leading and facilitation experience with children, particularly those in the early years. We are also interested in any performance or other contexts in which you may have developed, made, performed or presented art to early years audiences or children generally. Please outline or describe relevant examples of work/projects you have been involved with and specify your role

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2. Please provide supporting images/video clips/audio files etc that illustrate examples of your previous work. Please select links that you consider most relevant to this particular opportunity. Please provide a maximum of three relevant links only. *



A rich text editor toolbar with the following elements from left to right: Bold (B), Italic (I), Underline (U), bulleted list, numbered list, decrease indent, increase indent, link, unlink, image, video, audio, and document icons. To the right of the icons are three dropdown menus: 'Font Size...', 'Font Family.', and 'Font Format'.

Links can be in the format of video links (YouTube or Vimeo), web page links and/or file transfer links for photographs etc (e.g. Dropbox or WeTransfer). Please submit no more than 3 files with each file transfer link.

3. Tell us why you are interested in this 12 month opportunity with The Ark and how you hope it would benefit your development as an artist and impact your early years practice? (Max 250 words) *



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4. Please tell us about your overall artistic vision for the residency as well as any specific themes, concepts or ideas you would particularly like to explore. (Max 250 words) *



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