



## **Project Arts Centre Programming Policy for Independent Artists and Companies**

Since 1966, Project Arts Centre has been a catalyst for **radical artistic projects**. We work with some of the most exciting artists making work today, both nationally and internationally... We make space for artists to **experiment, test and build something new** at our home in the centre of Dublin, through our Digital Space, Project Portal, and on tour on the island of Ireland and across the world.

We present a year-round programme with a rich variety of contemporary theatre, dance, performance, multidisciplinary and visual arts which aims to connect with audiences in a variety of ways. The work in our programme looks to the urgencies of today, and emerging experimental and cross-disciplinary practices are prioritised. We place the artist and audience at the centre of our programming and will work with artists/companies to ensure their work reaches the appropriate audience.

We programme five spaces:

- **The Gallery**
- **The Cube**
- **The Space Upstairs**
- **Project Portal (our digital space)**
- **The Bar**

Our Curatorial team are:

Sophie Motley is Artistic Director and has overall responsibility for Project's programming but is specifically responsible for programming the performing arts.

Sara Greavu is Curator of Visual Arts and has responsibility for Project's visual arts programme.

Cathy Coughlan is Head of [Project Potential](#), working with emerging artists who identify within our four priority TEDI areas (Disability, Cultural Diversity, Sexuality & Gender Diversity and Socio-Economic Background), artists working in a community context offsite and access provision.

Project's programme is curated, which means we invite artists to participate in our various programme strands. We will generally make these approaches to artists who already have

a relationship with Project, or whose work we have been engaged with over time. However, this is not the only way to engage with Project as an artist.

We do offer open calls for various opportunities, and these will always be advertised on our website and social media channels. All open calls will clearly articulate the process for application and the criteria for the opportunity, and all financial details.

The best way to start a relationship with Project is to invite us to see your work, whether in studio, live or online. We try to see as much new work as possible and connect with artists and communities. Our programme is informed by our research and work we see; however, it is not always possible for us to see everything we are invited to.

**Before contacting us, we invite you to consider whether your work fits within our programme and why you would like to partner with Project.**

Woven through all our programming work are the commitments we have made in our policy Towards Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. We recognise that our connections with artists from a wide range of lived experience is a means not only of addressing inequality but also of enriching the artforms in which we work. While there are things we get right, we know there is always room to improve, to recalibrate, to learn.

### **Visual Arts Programme**

There are four strands of activity in which artists' involvement with Project Visual Arts takes place:

**Exhibitions** - our programme includes 5 major exhibitions per year, both group and solo projects.

**Public Programmes** - a programme that may include discursive events, talks, workshops, performances and more; both standalone public programmes and those related to the exhibition programme.

**Research** - supporting artists and thinkers to undertake new research and test ideas publicly, where useful.

**Publishing** - a publishing platform, interwoven with the other strands of activity, to bring new work and new ideas into print.

**The gallery programme** is curated, and exhibitions are organised around a loose thematic trajectory, with the programme being developed by the Curator of Visual Arts. The programme is developed in collaboration with artists and is based on artistic quality,

challenge and risk, and conceptual relevance. It is programmed with reference to the local and national arts ecosystem, engagement with current ideas and discourse, institutional partnerships and Project's capacity to support and produce proposed projects. Annual exhibition plans are put in place up to five years in advance, with the main planning and production taking place between 12 and 18 months in advance.

Because of this, **the gallery is not available for rent for exhibitions.**

Have a look at our recent programme and see if you think your work fits. We seldom programme from unsolicited proposals but we are interested in seeing what you're up to and learning about your practice. Feel free to let us know about your work or if you have upcoming exhibitions or events.

### **Performance Programme**

Project's performance programme is year-round. Project is a venue for the three main Dublin Festivals (Dance, Fringe, Theatre) in addition to hosting several smaller scale festivals throughout the year including Live Collision, Music Current, New Music Dublin, Reception Dublin, Disrupt Disability Arts Festivals. For programming in those festivals, please contact them directly.

Outside our festivals programme, Project's own programme has three main strands:

**Hosted programme** - this is where artists/companies rent the Space Upstairs or Cube space for the presentation of work. Priority is given to new work which meets our artistic priorities. Generally, artists/companies applying to the Arts Council for larger Project Awards or Arts Grant Funding will be encouraged to join this strand of our programme.

**Commissions & Co-Production Programme** - this is where Project may invest in the development or production of a piece of new work by an artist/company based in Ireland or abroad. We generally will do this as a partner and the size of the commission depends on the scale of the work. Project will generally offer no more than three commissions/year. The input towards a commission is usually between €2-5k.

**Presented Programme** - this is where Project will **pay a guarantee (performance fee)** for the presentation of a work by an artist/company. This strand of our programme is a priority for Project and in the coming years our focus will be on

- international artists,
- emerging contemporary practices
- cross-disciplinary & collaborative approaches to the creation of new work.

**Artists/Companies who are earlier in their career, applying for smaller-scale project awards, contemporary dance or circus artists or artists working in more experimental practice** will be encouraged to join this strand of our programme.

### **Box Office Splits**

**If we are unable to offer a guarantee due to financial constraints or timescale of programming decisions, we will occasionally offer a favourable box office split to an artist or company at an earlier stage of their career if the work meets our programming priorities.**

### **Socially Engaged Work**

**For artists who are interested in working through socially engaged practice, either with schools or communities, both on and offsite, you can contact Cathy Coughlan to discuss your approach or idea. There are also opportunities to deliver short, once off performances, projects and events through our annual Open Day, as well as open calls for engagement opportunities throughout the year.**

### **Circus & Aerial Work**

We are interested in connecting regarding the above provided it fits our programming priorities, but please be aware that our spaces have limitations in terms of rigging points for aerial work. The Cube has a height of 4.7m and The Space Upstairs has 6.8m to the bottom of gantries/lighting rig so we are only able to consider work of scale in the Space Upstairs that has sufficient funding behind it in order to facilitate rigging etc. We are not a bespoke aerial house.

### **A Note on New Writing, Scripts and Plays.**

We rarely present new plays, unless they are connecting with something genuinely urgent and experimental in form and/or content. If you are a playwright, then it is unlikely that your work will be programmed by Project unless it is radically challenging the norms and structure of contemporary theatre practice.

If you are a New Writing artist/company, and have not had your work produced yet, then you are best to look initially to work-in-progress sharing programmes like Scene and Heard, then applying for Dublin Fringe Festival, or presentation in other Dublin theatres that do present new writing regularly i.e. The New Theatre, Bewley's, Glass Mask, Smock Alley. We usually engage seriously with emerging artists and companies once they have been through these two steps, or similar internationally before moving to Ireland.

### **Unsolicited Scripts**

We do not develop new plays and do not accept unsolicited scripts. We do not accept programme applications from amateur performing arts companies or stage schools.

Artists/Companies wishing to present productions of existing/classic/canonical texts will be considered on a case-by-case basis if the production concept fits with our values but are generally not a priority for our programme.

We rarely programme work that has already been produced elsewhere in Dublin outside of festivals.

### **Dublin Fringe Festival**

We see Dublin Fringe Festival as a pipeline to the development of new work and artists, and we do our best to see a lot of work in the festival. Most Irish work presented in The Cube across the year has come from relationships built with artists who have presented at Fringe.

### **Music**

For our music programme, we will generally work with specific promoters who understand Project's spaces and the contemporary nature of Project's programming, including those who wish to reach new audiences. We do host album launches, and programme whole-building takeovers where appropriate (i.e. Dublin Modular) and fitting with our Programming Priorities.

We present a lot of new music through our Project Potential Programme at events such as our Open Day, Spot Light and other digital commissions.

### **Project Portal**

Project Portal is our digital space, and we see it as a space to experiment with new thinking and forms of making work. It holds a wide variety of material, from film to music to new writing and sound works.

### **Bar Programming**

We have an active and busy bar space for Spoken Word, Launch Events, small live music events and DJs, and are actively looking to programme into the bar where possible.

To Summarise, **our Programming Priorities are:**

- **Work which is emerging, experimental, cross-disciplinary or multi-disciplinary.**
- **Work which challenges contemporary forms of theatre, dance, and live art.**
- **Work which responds to our diverse city and its communities.**
- **Work which responds to our four TEDI priority areas (Disability, Cultural Diversity, Sexuality & Gender Diversity and Socio-Economic Background)**
- **Work which engages with emerging discourse.**
- Work which is not writer-led.
- Work which has not been produced before in Dublin (excepting festivals i.e DFF/DDF/DTF)

### **How to Get In Touch With Us**

If you would like to have a conversation about working together, you can invite us to see your work. Consider how your work fits with our artistic programme and why you want to work with us.

**Contacts:**

Curator of Visual Arts Sara Greavu [sara@projectartscentre.ie](mailto:sara@projectartscentre.ie)

Artistic Director, Sophie Motley [sophie@projectartscentre.ie](mailto:sophie@projectartscentre.ie)

Head of Project Potential, Cathy Coughlan [cathy@projectartscentre.ie](mailto:cathy@projectartscentre.ie)

Your email/video/voice-note should include the following information (where relevant):

- Your Contact Details
- What are you contacting us about?
- Invitation to see your work including times/dates/ticketing info
- Information about your project/work and *why* you would like to work with Project specifically.

*NB Make sure to consider how your work fits with our artistic programme and our values.*

**Information on Commercial Hire of our Spaces**

If you are not an independent artist/company and wish to speak to us about commercial hire of our spaces for events, please click [here](#).

Project has two theatre spaces, a gallery and a bar.

**The Space Upstairs theatre space which seats up to 210 people.**

We can provide technical support at additional costs and hire prices for 2025 begin at €1500/day. We provide discounts for charities / arts organisations.

**The Cube seats up to 80 people and hire prices begin at €500/day.**

We can provide technical support at additional costs and hire prices for 2025 begin at €600/day.

The Bar and Upper Foyer can be used as a space in itself for book / album launches, spoken word and music events.

We can provide technical support at additional costs and hire prices for 2025 begin at €350/day.