

**Laois County Council Arts Office in association with Creative Ireland
Laois and Dunamais Arts Centre
Call for Writer in Residence
(Mid-August to mid-December 2020)**

Introduction

Laois County Council Arts Office, in association with Creative Ireland Laois and Dunamais Arts Centre, invites applications for a Writer in Residence for the period mid-August to mid-December 2020. This Residency is financially supported by Laois County Council Arts Office, grant-aided through the Creative Ireland Laois 2020 programme, and hosted by Dunamais Arts Centre, Portlaoise.

The Residency is open to writers originally from or currently based in the Midlands region, working in any genre (e.g. fiction, non-fiction, poetry, script-writing, etc). The Residency will focus on '*A Sense of Place*', which is the overarching theme for the Creative Ireland Laois Plan 2018-2022. The writer's work may draw inspiration from this theme in a variety of ways. The residency will allow time for the writer's own work as well as a programme of engagement and interaction with the local community in the lead up to and during the Laois Leaves Festival of Writing & Music in early November.

Writer's brief

Writers are invited to take inspiration from the people and culture of County Laois and the Midlands region. Applicants are asked to include in their application an outline of the project/s that they would work towards over the course of the residency. This should include ideas about the public engagement aspect of the residency. In the past, writers in residence have engaged with book clubs, writers groups, schools and have organised workshops and engaged in one to one discussions with writers in the area.

Laois County Council Arts Office organises the annual Leaves Festival of Writing & Music in November. It is envisaged that there would be links with the writer in residence during the Leaves Festival in November 2020. New approaches and responses around the public engagement aspect for this residency are welcomed.

Arrangements for time spent in Residence at Dunamais and for any public engagements will be supported by Dunamais staff, and arranged with all Covid-19 related Hygiene, Health & Safety measures adhered to.

Residency objectives

To create opportunities for the writer to:

- Develop her/his own work.
- Engage with members of the Laois community and, where appropriate, to provide them with opportunities to engage with other writers.
- Celebrate the people and culture of Laois and the wider Midlands region.

Fee

The fee of €8,000 is fully inclusive of fee, expenses, insurance and VAT.

Dunamaise will also offer additional in kind supports:

- A Writers Room, with allowance for relevant materials, communications and hospitality.
- Admin, Marketing and Technical Support with various elements of the Residency
- Liaison with relevant community groups for Outreach activities, facilitation of meetings, workshops or talks, as may be relevant to the Residency.
- Partnership in supporting further phases of development of work initiated or developed during this Residency, subject to securing further relevant funding.

Selection process

Writers will submit a proposal together with details of previous work to date as follows:

- Curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages);
- Examples of previous work; e.g. publications, programmes or published articles, such as reviews; digital links will be accepted.
- Typed proposal outlining artistic ideas and approaches (no more than two typed pages); this should include an outline of the benefits of the residency to her/his stage of development as a writer and ideas in relation to public engagement during the residency.

Please ensure that all submitted materials are clearly marked with the writer's name.

Closing date: Monday 27th July, 2020.

Applications should be submitted, by email only, for the attention of Michelle de Forge to michelle@dunamaise.ie

Subject Line: **Writer in Residence Application from (YOUR NAME)**

Criteria for selection

- Artistic merit and distinctiveness of proposal (25/100)
- Quality of previous work (25/100)
- Suitability of the proposal to the context (25/100)
- Facilitation ability and experience. (25/100)

The selection panel will include representatives of Dunamaise Arts Centre, Laois County Council Arts Office and Creative Laois.

Interviews

Applicants will be short-listed on the basis of their submissions and short-listed applicants may be invited for interview during the week of 3rd August, 2020.

Queries should be referred to: Michelle de Forge michelle@dunamaise.ie

Subject: Query re. Writer In Residence App.

Please note the collaborating partners reserve the right not to appoint if none of the applications received are deemed to be suitable. In this instance the partners reserve the right to pursue a different procurement process.

In advance of the residency the following will be agreed:

- Clear goals, roles and responsibilities and agreed criteria for the writer in residence and the collaborating partners;
- An agreed programme of work that is flexible and responsive;
- The support that will be provided by Dunamaise Arts Centre;
- A timetable that balances time for the writer's own work and time for interaction with various publics;
- Ongoing review, evaluation and meetings to ensure the artists is supported as required.

This residency will require flexibility around contact hours.

Summary of key dates

3rd July 2020: Call for submissions
27th July 2020: Closing date for receipt of submissions
3rd August 2020 : Interviews for short-listed applicants
The Residency will begin no later than mid-August 2020.

Background Information:

Dunamaise Arts Centre presents the best in performing and visual arts to audiences from Laois and across the Midlands region. Comprising an exhibition gallery, a 240 seat theatre, cinema, workshop spaces and a café, we mark 21 years as a leading regional arts centre in 2020. Primarily a receiving house for touring productions, we are now adapting a number of new residency and artists' development supports through the remainder of 2020, and programming within the confines of Covid-19 related restrictions. This Writers Residency is the first in a series which we hope will further promote and strengthen the connectivity and and collaboration of the vibrant arts community across the Midlands.

<http://www.dunamaise.ie/>

Laois County Council Arts Office has been at the forefront of local arts development since 1989. Laois was one of the first local authorities to appoint an Arts Officer. Laois arts service aims to maximise participation in and access to a wide range of quality artistic experiences across a range of arts disciplines. Our aims are to create an environment which supports the artist and artistic ambition and increase socially inclusive participation in all artistic programmes. Laois County Council has developed a high quality programme including exhibitions, learning and participation initiatives, festivals, public art projects and artists' residencies. <https://laois.ie/departments/arts/>

Creative Ireland Laois provides an opportunity for everyone in the county to become involved in creativity and culture. Laois welcomes the opportunity to be part of this national programme. 'A Sense of Place' is the theme chosen for the Creative Ireland Laois Plan for 2018-2022. Laois is a county where culture and creativity are recognised as being integral to life. The Creative Ireland vision for Laois is to nurture and foster creative

expression in all its diversity; to embrace and welcome new ideas; and to create the conditions to help turn those ideas into reality and embed creativity into all aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of Laois. www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/laois

Creative Ireland is a five-year programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. It is an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme that inspires and transforms people, places and communities through creativity and is committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realize their full creative potential. www.creativeireland.gov.ie

Child Protection

In accordance with the national Child Protection Guidelines *Children First*, the selected candidate will be required to follow child protection procedures as specified by Dunamaisé Arts Centre and will be required to undergo Garda Vetting.

Insurance

The Writer in Residence agrees to keep Dunamaisé Arts Centre fully indemnified against all claims howsoever arising and howsoever caused in respect of any damage, loss or injury of any kind or nature, whether arising directly or indirectly from the provision of the residency and to provide evidence of Public Liability insurance which indemnifies Dunamaisé Arts Centre with a limit of indemnity of €6.5 million.

It is the responsibility of the writer in residence to ensure that any other person(s) not employed by Dunamaisé Arts Centre, but employed by the writer in residence to assist them with the residency have adequate Public Liability (€6.5 million) and Employer's Liability (€13 million) cover which indemnify both Dunamaisé Arts Centre and the writer.

The Writer in Residence is jointly funded by Laois County Council and Creative Ireland Laois.



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022

