



Socially Engaged Creative Producer-in-Residence

Swords Cultural Quarter

Brief

About Swords Cultural Quarter

Swords Cultural Quarter is a developing civic and cultural district centred around North Street, Seatown Road, Bridge Street and Main Street, incorporating landmarks including Swords Castle, County Hall and the Carnegie. It forms part of Fingal County Council's wider Sustainable Swords Strategy, which seeks to reimagine and revitalise the county town through culture, community and public life.

The Cultural Quarter, encompassing Culture House, The Carnegie and the surrounding public realm, is emerging as a new model for how culture can be created, shared and experienced locally. Building on Swords' evolving cultural infrastructure, the initiative aims to foster long-term relationships between artists, communities, libraries and civic partners, supporting an integrated ecology of creativity, learning and participation.

At the heart of this vision is a commitment to collaborative and socially engaged practice. The Cultural Quarter seeks to create the conditions for artists and communities to work together over time, placing participation, co-authorship and experimentation at the centre of cultural life.

In partnership with [Create](#), Fingal County Council Arts Office has been developing approaches to meaningful community engagement and collaborative artistic practice within Swords. As part of this ongoing development, Fingal County Council invites applications for a Socially Engaged Creative Producer-in-Residence to support the continued growth of this emerging cultural ecosystem.

The Residency

The Socially Engaged Creative Producer-in-Residence is a 12-month residency opportunity for an experienced collaborative arts practitioner, producer or cultural facilitator interested in socially engaged and durational arts practice.

The residency is intended to support the development of relationships, conversations and creative processes between artists, communities and the wider Cultural Quarter. Rather than focusing solely on delivery or event production, the residency emphasises process-led engagement, care, collaboration and the creation of sustainable conditions for artistic and community-led activity to flourish over time.

The resident will work alongside artists, local communities, civic partners and cultural stakeholders to support creative exploration and participation within Swords Cultural Quarter. The residency offers time and space to develop an embedded approach to collaborative practice while contributing to the evolving cultural identity of Swords. Alongside supporting the development of Swords Cultural Quarter's collaborative cultural ecology, the residency offers the successful applicant an opportunity to develop their own socially engaged creative practice or community-led project. Working with artists from any artform, local communities and partners, the resident producer will have the opportunity to research, test and develop ideas that may contribute to the future artistic programme of Swords Cultural Quarter.

The residency is guided by a number of core principles:

- **Relational Practice** – supporting meaningful relationships between artists, communities, organisations and local stakeholders.
- **Durational Engagement** – recognising the importance of time, trust-building, listening and sustained dialogue within collaborative arts practice.
- **Process-led Approaches** – valuing experimentation, co-creation and shared authorship in the development of artistic work.
- **Creative Development** – supporting the resident to develop their own artistic or socially engaged practice through research, collaboration and experimentation, with potential for future presentation or continuation within Swords Cultural Quarter.
- **Care and Support** – nurturing artists, communities and creative networks during a significant period of cultural growth within Swords.
- **Collaboration and Connectivity** – strengthening connections across the local cultural ecology and supporting new partnerships and opportunities to emerge.

The residency prioritises creating the right conditions for collaborative artistic practice to evolve organically within the locality, encouraging creative ambition, participation and exchange.

The Residency Includes

- A residency fee of €15,000
 - Workspace and meeting space within Swords Cultural Quarter
 - Access to facilities and programming opportunities within The Carnegie and associated Cultural Quarter venues
 - Opportunities to connect and engage with Fingal County Council Arts Office, Community Department and other relevant teams
 - Peer support and engagement within Fingal's wider cultural network
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Context and Related Programmes

The residency will sit alongside a number of related cultural initiatives within Fingal, including:

- **Fingal Voices** – a choral commission developed in partnership with the Contemporary Music Centre, supporting collaborative work with choirs and communities across Fingal.
- **Poet-in-Residence Programme** – a partnership between Fingal Libraries and Fingal Arts Office supporting a poet to work collaboratively across arts, libraries and communities in Swords.

Together, these programmes contribute to the long-term development of Swords Cultural Quarter as a place for collaborative artistic practice, participation and cultural exchange.

Who Should Apply

Applications are invited from professional practitioners with experience in socially engaged, collaborative or community-based arts practice. This opportunity may particularly suit artists, producers, facilitators, curators or interdisciplinary practitioners interested in long-term engagement and cultural development within a community context.

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Experience developing collaborative or socially engaged arts projects
- An interest in durational and relationship-based practice
- Strong communication and relationship-building skills
- A commitment to ethical, inclusive and accessible approaches to participation

- Experience working collaboratively across community, civic or cultural contexts
- Organisational and coordination experience appropriate to supporting multi-strand projects and activities
- Reflective and responsive approaches to practice, including evaluation and learning
- Openness to experimentation, adaptation and evolving methodologies
- Experience in production planning, fundraising or budget management is welcome

Applications from practitioners from under-represented communities are particularly encouraged.

Residency Aims

The residency aims to:

- Support collaborative and socially engaged arts practice within Swords Cultural Quarter
 - Foster meaningful connections between artists, communities and cultural infrastructure
 - Encourage experimentation, participation and co-authorship in cultural activity
 - Contribute to the long-term cultural development of Swords
 - Create opportunities for creative exchange, dialogue and learning within the locality
 - Create opportunities for the resident to develop new collaborative artistic work that may inform future programming within Swords Cultural Quarter
 - Support sustainable and embedded approaches to collaborative practice
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Application Requirements

Applicants are invited to submit:

- A written expression of interest (maximum 2 A4 pages) outlining:
 - Previous relevant experience
 - Interest in the residency
 - An outline of their approach to collaborative or socially engaged practice within the context of Swords Cultural Quarter
- A current CV (maximum 3 A4 pages)
- Two examples of previous relevant projects or work

Deadline: 5pm, Friday 24th July

Applications to: Create, [via this online application form](#).

Process & Timeline:

- Submit application by Friday 24th July
 - Shortlisting by panel: Friday 31st July
 - Interview notification for shortlisted: Tuesday 4th August
 - Interview date: Tuesday 18th August
 - Final Decision: Monday 24th August
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Fees and Duration

- **Residency Duration:** 12 months
- **Residency Fee:** €15,000

The resident will be supported by the Swords Cultural Quarter Programme Manager and Fingal County Council Arts Office.

It is expected this residency will run from September 2026-September 2027.

Further Information

For further information please visit:

- [Fingal County Council Arts Office](#)
- [Create](#)
- [Swords Cultural Quarter](#)