



Cultural Adaptations



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

ARTIST BRIEF

Introduction

axis:Ballymun is a partner in a new EU-funded project *Cultural Adaptations*. As part of this we are seeking an artist to be 'embedded' within and to influence the work of both Codema (Dublin's Energy Agency set up by Dublin City Council in 1997) and axis:Ballymun over 2019 – 2020.

This is an exciting, paid opportunity for an artist or cultural practitioner interested in **exploring the role the arts can play in shaping how our society adapts to the impact of climate change**. It offers the chance to participate in an action-research project taking place at the European level, and contribute new knowledge to the local and international sector.

Cultural Adaptations

This opportunity is part of a much larger *Cultural Adaptations* project: a European co-operation project, funded through the Creative Europe programme of the European Commission, running October 2018 – March 2021. Four cultural organisations in countries with similar climate challenges but differing socio-political frameworks (Scotland, Ireland, Belgium and Sweden) will explore the different cultural approaches taken to society's adaptation to climate change.

Each Cultural Partner is working with a local Adaptation Partner on the project:

- Axis (Ireland) and Codema, Dublin's regional energy agency
- Creative Carbon Scotland (the lead partner) and Sniffer Climate Ready Clyde Project (Scotland)
- Greentrack Gent (Belgium) and the City of Ghent local authority
- TILLT (Sweden) and the City of Gothenburg local authority

Each country partnership will jointly research, develop, plan and implement their own Embedded Artist Project in which an artist explores and provides new ways of thinking, fresh perspective and different approaches to the complex and seemingly intractable challenges that climate change present.

Embedded Artist Project Brief

- We are looking for an artist or cultural practitioner working in any art form to make use of their relatively autonomous position as an 'outsider' to help to provide new ways of thinking, fresh perspectives and different approaches to the challenges of adapting to climate change.
- They will be an active participant in and contributor to the project, events and activities with stakeholders and partners, and lead on key areas of work to address specific challenges and opportunities within the programme, and the partnership between Codema and axis:Ballymun.
- The anticipated total time commitment is approx 30-35 days spread over the whole project. This will include:
- Preparing for, attendance at and participation in each of the next three Transnational meetings taking place throughout the project:

1. Gothenburg 12th & 13th November 2019
2. Dublin March 2020 (TBC)
3. Ghent 13th & 14th May 2020

- Preparing for, attending and contributing to various meetings and events of the Irish partnership throughout the project
- Preparing for, attendance at and participation in a final international conference in Glasgow in Autumn 2020
- Contribution to the project evaluation, the Toolkit and Digital Resource and the final report to Creative Europe

Fee

The artist will be paid a total fee of **€10,000** (approx 30-35 days)

Travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for Transnational Meetings and the conference will be paid in addition to this sum. There is a small budget available for materials across the duration of the project (€500), although no physical artwork is anticipated as an output of the work.

Artist Specification

This role is imagined for an experienced and established individual artist or cultural practitioner, working in any discipline, looking to use their creative skills to contribute to society and the wider environment. We anticipate an individual with 5 or more years of experience in the cultural sector will be most appropriate for this role.

The types of skills and experience that will be beneficial for this project include:

- Interest and experience of working collaboratively with diverse groups and in non-arts contexts
- Experience of making strategic contributions to initiatives. Synthesising diverse facts, goals and references, making connections and communicating with different 'audiences'
- Experience of building engagement and developing communications for socially or politically-challenging topics
- Imaginative thinking and the ability to work with complexity and varying degrees of scale.
- Knowledge of or demonstrable interest in learning about sustainability-related issues, including climate change

The artist must be able to begin work on this project by the **end August 2019**

The Concept of an Embedded Artist

Based on the work of the 'Civic Artist' Frances Whitehead in the USA, an Embedded Artist works within non-arts institutions to bring different ways of thinking and working to bear on challenging projects and creatively solve systemic problems within local government and established institutions, generating new, creative perspectives when tackling concerns faced by these organisations.

They highlight an integrated approach, ensuring that environmental and social sustainability are considered alongside economics. They facilitate wider public participation and can break down professional, departmental and disciplinary boundaries. The Embedded Artist is comfortable with handling complexity and contradiction, combining research and innovation with implementation, thinking laterally, and inspiring a wide range of audiences, from city officials to local citizens to business people.

Each country partnership will jointly research, develop, plan and implement their own Embedded Artist Project in which an artist is placed in an adaptation project in order to provide new ways of thinking, fresh perspective and different approaches to the complex and seemingly intractable challenges that climate change presents.

The Embedded Artist Projects will provide a core element of action research: practical examples of how cultural actors can contribute to wider climate change adaptation work.

Embedded Artist Project will be incorporated into the Toolkit and Digital Resource during the course of *Cultural Adaptations*.

This role is imagined for an experienced and established individual artist or cultural practitioner, working in any discipline, looking to use their creative skills to contribute to wider society.

The Embedded Artist will make use of their relatively autonomous position as an 'outsider' to help to provide new ways of thinking, fresh perspectives and different approaches to the challenges of adapting to climate change.

Cultural Adaptations: The Wider Project

The Wider Project

Cultural Adaptations is a unique Creative Europe small cooperation project spanning Scotland, Belgium, Ireland and Sweden, focused on developing a new area of work for artists and the cultural sector and contributing to society's work on climate change adaptation.

- It will **put theory into practice** by using the unique skills that artists can bring to adaptation work in wider society as well as the cultural world through four embedded artist projects
- It will **help cultural organisations develop their own climate change adaptation strategies** through four workshops for creating adaptation methodologies for cultural organisations
- It will provide a **Toolkit and Digital Resource** to build capacity and capability among cultural actors and adaptation organisations, increasing the sector's resilience at a time of great climatic, financial and social change, and developing awareness of the potential of

the cultural sector and artists to contribute to this work through communication and dissemination with cultural and sustainability networks;

- It will host a series of four transnational meetings with partners to continually evaluate and develop the shared learning from the project.
- It will host a **large scale international conference** to bring together all the learning from the project, disseminating it to international partners.

To apply:

Please submit

- A CV demonstrating appropriate experience (max 2 pages)
- A covering letter (max 3 pages) which details:
 - How the applicant sees their skills and experiences contributing to the aims and tasks of the Cultural Adaptations project
 - Two examples of projects/contexts where the applicant has contributed to planning and decision making.

Deadline for applications is **Wednesday 31st July 2019**

Interviews will take place the week of **19th August** (flexibility on this if required)

If you wish to discuss the opportunity in more detail before applying, feel free to contact Emma Connors (axis Arts Development Manager) on emma.connors@axisballymun.ie

Completed applications to be sent directly by email to;

Emma Connors
Arts Development Manager
emma.connors@axisballymun.ie

Project Partners

About Axis

axis is an arts centre, a development organisation and a resource for the community and Dublin city. We identify excellence in and provides opportunity for artistic experience of an international standard in Ballymun and beyond. We actively programme and commission original work that is relevant to our locality, history and constituency. **axis** programmes with the intention of exploring and enhancing artists' experiences, while introducing new work and new ways of working. Our multidisciplinary programme seeks to promote participation in the arts, to fuse professional and community practice and involvement, and to create a space where art contributes and makes a difference to people's lives. **axis'** arts development work provides access to both participation and development in all areas of the arts to people of all ages and offers artists the opportunity to enhance their practice through mentoring, collaborative and residential opportunities.

About Codema

Codema is Dublin's Energy Agency and was set up as a not-for-profit limited company by Dublin City Council in 1997 under the SAVE II Programme of the European Union. It was one of 14 local energy agencies set up around Ireland to help local authorities meet their energy performance targets through professional development and implementation of good and best practice. We work with Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, Fingal County Council and South Dublin County Council.

Our role is defined around the core function of supporting the local authorities in their own sustainable energy use. A second role is engaging with EU and SEAI funded energy programmes to bring innovation to the Dublin region. A third and increasingly important role is to increase energy awareness among the citizens and energy stakeholders in Dublin. Over the years, these three strands have become increasingly intertwined and integrated into a comprehensive local and regional service for energy and climate change.

