



# Ards and North Down

Borough Council

Policy Title	POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR EXHIBITION SELECTION AT <b>ARDS ARTS CENTRE</b>
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Version	1
Policy Summary	The aim of this policy and accompanying procedures is to provide guidance for individuals or groups applying to exhibit in one of the two gallery spaces at Ards Arts Centre. The policy explains how to apply and how exhibitions are selected.
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Any other information	

## Revision History:

Date	Changes made	Version
21.04.2015	New Council name and department amended.	AA V2
27.08.2015	Author Title and name of Department amended.	AA V3
30.08.2018	Exhibition Selection Criteria Reviewed and updated.	AA V4
24.07.19	Exhibition Costs / Artists' Expenses updated.	AA V5
29.05.24	Exhibition Selection Process updated	AA V6

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## **1 ARDS AND NORTH DOWN ARTS AND HERITAGE EXHIBITION POLICY STATEMENT**

Ards and North Down Arts and Heritage Services (AND Arts and Heritage) aim to cultivate the profile and provision for the arts and heritage in the Borough of Ards and North Down through the sustained development of an appropriate programme of arts/culture and heritage events, exhibitions and outreach activities.

AND Arts and Heritage Visual Arts Sub-Panel, under the direction of the Arts and Heritage Manager for Ards and North Down Borough Council, may be called upon if necessary to review exhibition proposals at Ards Arts Centre based on consideration of criteria outlined in this Policy.

The Arts and Heritage Manager maintains the ability to directly commission and select exhibitions that complement and meet the needs of the diverse Arts and Heritage Programme on offer.

### **About Ards Arts Centre**

Ards Arts Centre has two galleries for temporary exhibitions; the **Georgian Gallery** and the **Sunburst Gallery**. The two galleries are non-commercial and host exhibitions by professional practicing local, national and international artists, as well as community initiatives and art organisations.

## **2 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS CRITERIA**

AND Arts Service invites professional artists (solo and group shows), art organisations, and community groups to apply to exhibit their artwork at Ards Arts Centre.

Proposals will be considered by the Arts and Heritage Manager, and if deemed necessary, the AND Visual Arts Sub-Panel. All proposals must follow the format and procedures laid out in this Policy.

**Solo exhibitions** – preference for solo exhibitions will be given to professional\* practicing artists and recent graduates.

***\*Professionals are deemed to be those artists who have been educated to a third level in a visual or applied arts/crafts\* subject area and/or hold professional membership to a recognised professional body (EG: Visual Artists Ireland, Design and Crafts Council Ireland).***

***For those artists who do not meet the criteria of ‘professional practicing’; consideration for solo exhibitions will be based on individual merit: EG: applicants must have a demonstrable high standard quality of work with a specialist skill set and original design within their chosen visual or applied arts/crafts subject area AND be working consistently on a full time or part time basis within the visual or applied art/craft sectors for 3 or more years, with work***

***regularly displayed at recognised non-commercial galleries or craft outlets/design expositions.***

***\*Craft is considered as those disciplines defined by the Design and Crafts Council of Ireland ([www.dccoi.ie](http://www.dccoi.ie)).***

**As Ards Arts Centre galleries are non-commercial, preference will be given to non-commercial exhibitions. For instance, preference for photography exhibitions would be “photographic art” ie: contemporary/fine art/conceptual photography, and not watermarked with a logo; preference for craft exhibitions would be contemporary applied art/traditional craftsmanship, and not work from a commercial product line.**

### **3 PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS**

Applicants must complete an online Exhibition Proposal Application Form. In this form applicants are asked to provide:

- Current address and contact details of the proposing artist or group coordinator
- Information on the Artist/Group proposing to exhibit
- Description of the proposed exhibition (of no more than 500 words), to include exhibition concept / theme, ideas or artworks to be exhibited which includes how the proposal addresses some or all of the listed criteria
- Artist’s statement (of no more than 300 words) which outlines the practice of the artist(s), current research themes and interests
- Up-to-date curriculum vitae of artist(s) / group involved to include education, past/current exhibitions, and if applicable; awards/residencies/bursaries, publications, professional membership, if work has been purchased or commissioned by Government, local authority, museum or corporate client, and anything else of note
- Preferred month for exhibition and preferred gallery (if applicable)
- Jpeg images the artwork proposed or similar to the artwork proposed. Applicants are asked to provide no less than 3 and no more than 6 images per application. Digitally submitted images must be of high quality no less than 1MB and no larger than 3MB per image. Images should clearly depict the work. Please state if images supplied show the final works, works in progress, or examples of similar work.
- Please do not include additional materials (EG: catalogues, CDs, or more than 6 images).

***Please note:***

*Proposals which do not include the required information, or are incomplete by the time of deadline will not be considered.*

*Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.*

*All exhibitors must have current public liability insurance. Insurance certificates will be required to be provided on request by Council Officers.*

## 4 EXHIBITION SELECTION CRITERIA

Due to the exceptionally high volume of proposals received each round, a shortlisting process will be applied to all proposals received. If required, the shortlist will be presented to AND Visual Arts Sub-Panel to review.

Successful proposals for exhibitions will be selected based on the following criteria:

**Artists may only make one proposal per round, either as a solo exhibition or as part of a group/collective exhibition. Applicants who propose to exhibit with more than one group/collective per round will not be considered.**

### Scored Criteria

- Quality of artwork – high standard of work with regard to artistic merit and presentation
- Originality of work
- Quality of concept (theme) and content of proposed exhibition

### Other Criteria Considered

- Dates of previous exhibitions of the applicant and/or exhibitions of similar works or concepts previously exhibited at Ards Arts Centre, Ards and North Down Borough Council venues (EG: Loft Gallery, North Down Museum, Ards and North Down Visitor Information Centres), or venues within the local area within last 24 months on date of application.
- Works which will complement the diverse Arts Programme
- Diverse media and disciplines, and contemporary design
- Diversity of works by individual professional artists, recent graduates, emerging artists or groups/collectives of artists, Community Arts projects
- Local as well as national and international professional artists
- Relevance to / exploration of contemporary issues and current events
- Personal expression
- Target audience identifiable and/or potential for audience development
- Community interest
- Special requirements, costs, or requests associated with proposed exhibits
- Education and outreach potential
- Significant relevant national and international touring exhibitions
- Preference given to non-commercial exhibitions

Due to the high volume of applications received for our Georgian Gallery, recent graduates, amateur group shows and community projects will be considered for the Sunburst Gallery unless needs demonstrate the necessity for the larger space of the Georgian Gallery.

Applicants should note that while careful consideration will be given to each proposal, it may not be possible to award every applicant with an exhibition even if all the criteria are met. This is due to the limited number of exhibition slots available compared to the high volume of applications received each round, and to ensure the exhibition

programme includes a wide variety of disciplines, concepts and solo and group shows and community initiatives.

Works which are deemed to be potentially contentious, of an overtly political nature, offensive, of an overtly adult nature, or unsuitable for audiences of all ages will be considered on individual content/merit and where required will be referred to the Council for approval.

## **5 EXHIBITION SELECTION PROCESS**

- Proposals received are logged, acknowledged and shortlisted based on the criteria as listed in this policy.
- Shortlisted proposals may be presented to the Visual Arts Sub-Panel for approval, if required.
- A recommendation may be made to Ards and North Down Borough Council's Community and Wellbeing Committee subject to further approval of Ards and North Down Borough Council.
- Successful proposals are timetabled into the arts programme and the applicants notified and issued with an Exhibition Contract.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by letter within 14 working days of the decision.

## **6 COMPOSITION OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL VISUAL ARTS SUB-PANEL:**

- Arts and Heritage Manager, and/or Arts Officer/s of Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Members of Ards and North Down Borough Council's Arts and Heritage Panel with specialism in visual arts / crafts.
- Arts Administrative Assistant of Ards Arts Centre

## **7 EXHIBITION COSTS / ARTISTS' EXPENSES:**

- There is no submission fee to propose to exhibit at Ards Arts Centre and Artists are not charged a fee to exhibit.
- Ards Arts Centre provides the exhibition venue, curatorial guidance, marketing and preview event free of charge.
- Ards Arts Centre claim 10% commission on any work sold during the exhibition.
- The Artist/s is responsible for all travel/delivery arrangements and expenses and/or other related exhibition costs.