

# ARTIST'S BRIEF

## ForM Sculpture Exhibition

Bangor Castle Walled Garden

1 – 30 June 2026

**Submission Deadline: Monday 2 March 2026, 11:59pm (sharp)**



Artists living in the Island of Ireland are invited to propose works for ForM Sculpture Exhibition; an annual outdoor sculpture exhibition.

### 1. Submission Criteria

This exhibition is open to artists who live in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.

Participation in the exhibition is through a selection process, or by direct invitation from the Arts Service of Ards and North Down Borough Council. There is no submission fee to propose artwork for exhibition, and no commission is taken on any works sold of works selected for exhibition.

A selection panel will include the Arts Officer and staff of the Arts Service, and if deemed necessary; independent curators, who will meet to review all submissions.

**The selection panel will select work based on the following criteria:**

- The quality and originality of the proposal
- How appropriate the proposed work is within the garden environment, e.g. content, material, display
- Ability to deliver the proposed work based on previous experience and images of previous work

### 2. Awards

We are pleased to offer three awards to selected artists. Votes will be made by a Panel which will consist of invited professionals from the Visual Arts/Crafts sectors and stakeholders

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place** - £200 artists materials of your choice
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - £150 artists materials of your choice
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - £100 artists materials of your choice

#### Award Scoring

The awards from the Panel Votes will be scored on the following criteria:

- Concept/theme of work in response to the environment of the Walled Garden
- Quality of work
- Originality of work

### 3. Artist's Brief

*Artists are invited to make submissions for an open air exhibition in Bangor Castle Walled Garden, Valentine Road, Castle Park, Bangor, Co Down.*

Designed by the Ward family in the 1840s the Walled Garden covers 1.5 acres. It had never been open to the public and was once rumoured to be a secret garden. North Down Borough Council restored the Garden to its original Victorian design and it was opened to the public in April 2009. The southern section of the Garden remains true to its Victorian roots. It is divided into four quadrants - the kitchen garden, the herb and topiary garden, the damp garden and the flower garden. These four areas are separated by avenues of spectacular pleached lime trees and rose covered arches. The northern section of the Garden offers visitor facilities including a small cafe, toilets and grassed area for picnics.

#### Opening Hours

Artists are encouraged to visit the garden prior to proposing artworks (especially if you have not exhibited in ForM in the past). The Garden is now open to the public off-season **Mon-Sun 10am-3pm**, however please check opening hours online first before your visit: [click here for opening hours](#)

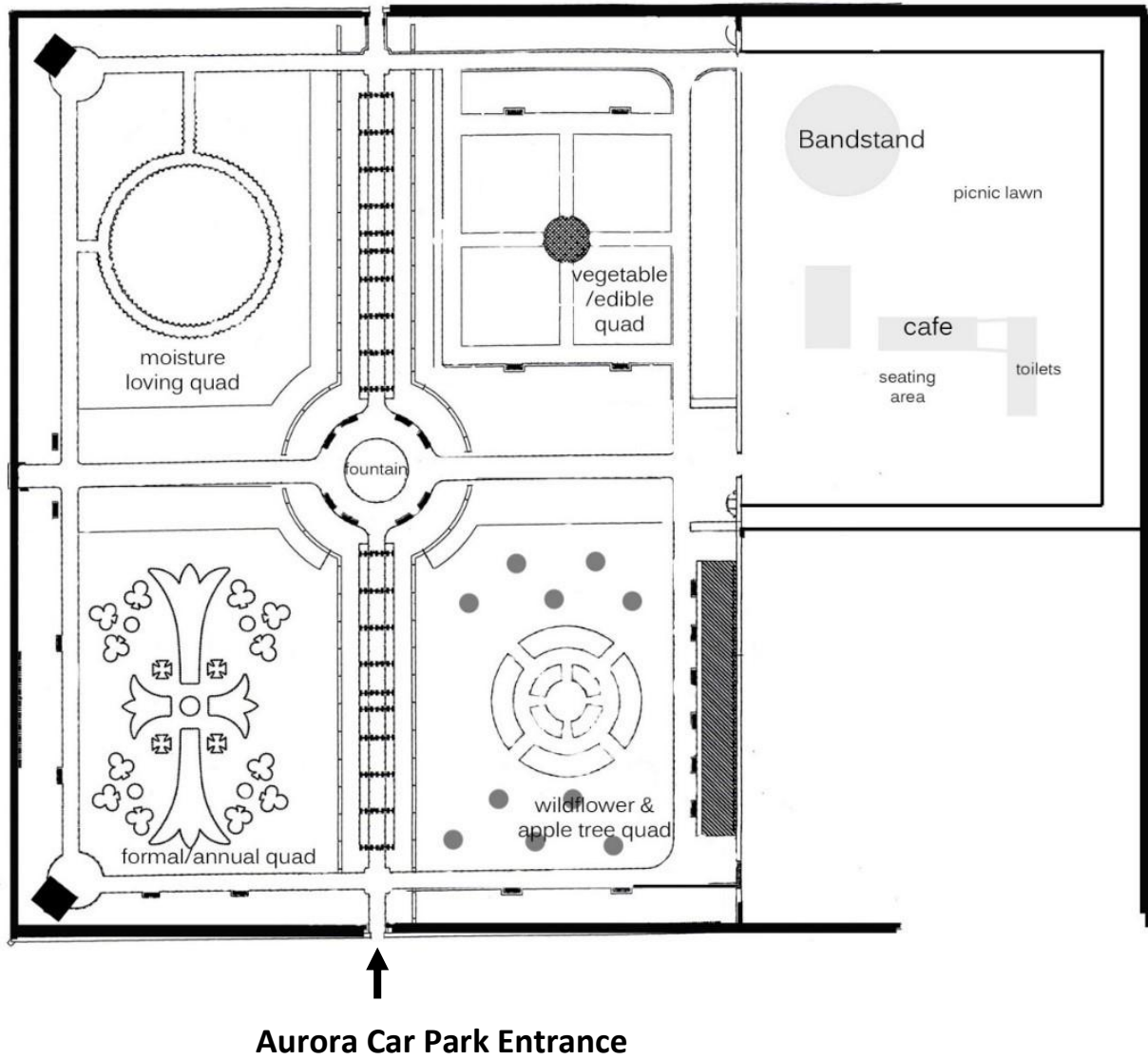
#### Examples of past work:



### 3. Artist's Brief (continued)...

- Artists are encouraged to make site-specific work/s or propose work that responds to the environment of Bangor Castle Walled Garden.
- Artwork should not alter or damage the garden in any way. It is not encouraged to have artworks situated on the grass as the grass is cut regularly and artworks would need to be moved on an almost daily basis. Gardeners will not take responsibility of moving the artwork, this would fall to the artist. The majority of works are to be sited within the broad borders amongst the planting.
- Artists may consider hanging works from the red brick walls of the garden, the walls are already strung with high tension wires. Artwork **must not** be attached or screwed directly onto the walls, so please visit the garden first to assess the wall space and ensure that work is scaled appropriately to the high-tension wires, and has appropriate, secure hanging attachments – which must be clearly outlined in your proposal. If you are planning to create wall hung work, you are strongly encouraged to visit the garden **before** completing an application form. As the garden matures and trees and plants grow over the walls, wall space is becoming less available each year.
- The exhibition benefits from a variety of scale and therefore larger scale works are encouraged.
- The only areas that are out of bounds for artworks are the greenhouses and the bandstand, as well as the working areas of the vegetable plots.
- If your work requires a plinth, please consider appropriate materials in keeping with the organic nature of the garden. Artists must supply their own plinths, so please consider this at time of application. White plinths are discouraged unless part of the overall design of the artwork / sculpture. Please outline your plinth design in your proposal, as well as how it will be secured.
- Locations of the works will be curated. The panel will consider locations to ensure adequate viewing space around artworks to ensure that there is a flow for visitors and to avoid congestion / bottlenecks at certain parts of the garden (at narrow paths, entryways, etc). Wall space may also be limited as plants mature over the summer months. Every effort will be made to locate artworks as close as possible to a proposed location, but ultimately the location is at the discretion of the curatorial panel and the garden staff, and are subject to change.
- Artists are responsible for delivery of artworks to the Walled Garden (including any transport requirements and costs) and for the installation of artwork.
- Artists should consider that the garden is outdoors and is open to the public and therefore work must be durable, safe, weather-proof and be able to last the duration of the exhibition.
- **Artists will exhibit at their own risk.** Whilst the utmost care will be taken of all artworks exhibited, the artists should be aware that the organisers will not be present every day and will not be responsible for any damage, loss of, or destruction to any works for any reason whatsoever. Artists are responsible for insuring their own artwork against all risk, and all artists must have valid Public and Products Liability Insurance to be included in the exhibition. Any insurance should therefore be affected by the artist against all risks. Successful proposals will be required to supply a copy of their Public and Products Liability Insurance at time of offer, this is a condition of exhibition and artworks will not be included in the exhibition without this.

## Map of Garden



## 4. Dates

Artists proposing work should take note of all the important dates below as it may not be possible to accommodate work outside of these dates.

*Please be advised that these dates are currently TBC and are an approximate guideline so are subject to change, however successful artists will be notified of all dates as soon as we can confirm more information.*

**Submission deadline:** Monday 2 March 2026, 11:59pm (sharp)

**Notification to artists:** Mid March – Early April

**Installation of artworks:** Thursday 21 and Friday 22 May

*Please note that you will be allocated a date and time slot to deliver and install your work. Work not delivered on your allocated date/time may not be included in the exhibition.*

**Opening Reception:** Thursday 28 May, 5pm

**Exhibition Dates:** Monday 1 – Tuesday 30 June\*

*\*Please note artworks will be on display to the public from the date of installation, but exhibition information will not be available until the dates of the exhibition.*

**De-Installation & Collection:** Wednesday 1 July

*Artists must arrange removal of artworks from Walled Garden (after these dates the artworks will remain at the artist's own risk)*

**Please be advised that all dates are subject to change and artists will be advised if this is the case.**

## 5. Submission Process and Requirements

Please note Submission to the exhibition is via an online application form. There is no submission fee to propose artwork.

It is recommended that artists apply in good time before the deadline. It is also recommended that applicants save each page of the online form before submitting the response to ensure they do not lose their progress should they encounter technical or internet issues.

*All online submissions will receive an automated response with a unique reference code. Applicants should save this email for their records. If the applicant does not receive this response it may mean that the submission has not been received. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact us **before** the deadline during admin office hours at:*

[arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk) if they have any issues with the form or to check their submission has been received.

Admin office hours: Mon – Thurs: 9am – 5pm Fri: 9am – 4.30pm Sat & Sun: CLOSED

### Submission requirements

Please have the essential support materials prepared and ready **BEFORE** you complete the application form:

1. **Proposal of work** - (200 Words / 800 characters MAX per artwork) - *to be entered into the question field on the online application form*
2. **An Artist Statement** - (PDF or Word format ONLY) – *to be uploaded as one individual document, no more than 1 page in length*
3. **An Artists CV** - (PDF or Word format ONLY) – *to be uploaded as one individual document, no more than 3 pages in length*
4. **1-3 images\* max** (or sketches) of each of the **proposed sculptures/artworks** - (JPEG or PNG format ONLY) – *to be uploaded as individual images*
5. **3-6 images\* max of previous similar work** - (JPEG or PNG format ONLY) – *to be uploaded as individual images*

***Failure to submit the essential information and supporting documentation, and in the formats as stated above will make the application invalid, and the proposal will not be considered. Failure to supply the information in the appropriate question fields as requested on the online application form will make the application invalid, and will also not be considered.***

\*Images should be of good quality, good resolution (no less than 1MB each), and clearly convey the proposed artworks. Images can convey different angles of an artwork if necessary. Video footage may also be uploaded to show a 360 of the sculpture.

Information should be included to explain the images/sketches of proposed works (EG: Titles, dimensions, materials, etc).

Please ensure to outline how your work will be displayed (free standing, wall mounted, on plinth) and include details of any hanging attachments, design of plinth, etc in your proposal.

If you have any queries please send them via email to: [arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:arts@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

**Submission Deadline: Monday 2 March 2026, 11:59pm (sharp)**

*Incomplete submissions, or submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.*

## 6. Sale of Artwork

- Artists may choose to sell their artwork during the exhibition.
- If artworks will be for sale, please be sure to supply the price of each work at time of application.

- Artists are advised that works must be on display in the garden for the duration of the exhibition dates. If work is sold during the exhibition, it must remain in place until the end date of the exhibition (30 June).
- Artists are responsible for the handling of all sales with the customers including payment, and for arranging delivery / installation with the customer.
- For consistency, artist's websites will be provided as the contact information for sales. Customers will contact you through your website, so please ensure that your contact information, or contact form is up to date on your website. For those artists who do not have a website, Ards Arts Centre's contact details will be provided, and customers will then be put in contact with the individual artist.
- As Ards Arts Centre do not handle any of the sales of work, there will be no commission taken on any sales of artwork, so 100% of the sale will go to the artist.

## 7. Guidance Notes - Conditions of Application/Exhibition

1. There is no submission fee, and no commission will be applied to any work sold during the exhibition.
2. Submissions must be of a high standard and quality, both in presentation and in content, and must be original / copyright of the artist.
3. The submissions must convey the appearance of the proposed works.
4. Artists are responsible for delivery of artworks to the Walled Garden (including any transport requirements and costs) and for installation of artwork on the dates/times agreed with the panel.
5. Artists are responsible for supplying all display requirements such as plinths, hanging fixtures for wall mounted works (to be attached to high tension wires **only** – not drilled into wall), etc.
6. Artworks must be stable and secure and present no danger to the public. If artwork is deemed unstable or dangerous after installation it will be removed.
7. All work is to be installed under the supervision of the curatorial panel. Positioning of the artwork will be at the full discretion of the curatorial panel, whose decision is final.
8. All sculptures must be removed after the exhibition without causing any damage to the garden. Artworks must not be removed by the artist before the end of the exhibition.
9. Installation and removal of work will take place only on the allocated dates.
10. Artworks must remain in the garden for the duration of the exhibition, and must not be removed or replaced before the end of the exhibition, for example, if work is sold. The only exception to this is if the work has to be removed due to safety concerns.
11. Artists are responsible for the maintenance of their artwork throughout the exhibition and will undertake any repair/replacement necessary to ensure quality and safety remains for the duration of the exhibition.
12. The artist permits organisers to photograph the works for any publicity purposes in relation to the exhibition, including online, social media, and press.
13. **Prior to delivery of artworks**, artists will be required to sign a contract which will outline all exhibiting conditions.
14. **Artists exhibit at their own risk.** The utmost care will be taken of all artworks exhibited. The organisers will not be responsible for any damage, loss of or

destruction to any works for any reason whatsoever. Artists are responsible for insuring their work against all risks.

15. Insurance – Successful artists will be required to provide proof of suitable Public and Products Liability Insurance to a minimum of £5million prior to installing their work. **This is a condition of exhibition, and work will not be included in the exhibition without PPL Insurance.** In addition, artists should be aware that Council will not indemnify them for any loss or damage to the artworks exhibited.