

# Clare County Council

## **Súil Curatorial and Programming Policy 2024-2026**

Súil will provide the people of Clare, surrounding counties and tourists, with access to professional, contemporary art exhibitions and events. Súil aims to significantly improve the quality and quantity of the opportunities available to Clare artists, offering a purpose built, professionally curated and managed space in their own county. Súil's curatorial and programming policy ensures that fair, transparent and high-quality stakeholder outcomes are at the core of gallery operations.

Súil's curatorial and learning practice posits accessibility at its core and provides a range of supports for visitors and artists including large text exhibition labels, sensory maps, social stories, wheelchair and buggy access, inclusive tours and events. Súil offers quiet hours with reduced lighting and sensory elements, to support neurodivergent visitors.

The gallery will offer learning programmes for Clare Primary and Secondary schools, including DEIS schools and Gealscoileanna. Súil will act as an additional resource in the realisation of national and local initiatives including, Bealtaine, Cruinniú na nÓg and Culture Night.

Most exhibition programmes will consist of artworks in the gallery space and a learning programme, planned and designed in tandem by the arts team. The learning programme will create opportunities for visitors of all ages to explore and engage with the artworks on show. Some examples could include thematically programmed talks, practical workshops and bespoke projects in collaboration with local community groups.

Súil's programming team is comprised of the Visual Arts Co-ordinator, embedded MA research student and Arts Office staff members with specialist arts knowledge. Artists, cultural partners, national cultural institutions, key partner organisations and arts specialists will be consulted as required.

Programming will include a mix of established gallery models of commissioned exhibition programmes, touring exhibitions of national interest, exhibitions of the Clare County Council art collection and open call exhibitions, allowing artists to propose exhibition ideas for selection.

A public submission competition for open call opportunities will take place in 2025. A panel of peer selectors including artists, curators and arts office staff, will assess and select the open call exhibitions. Unsolicited exhibition proposals will not be accepted.

Audience research, gallery attendance figures and continuing consultation with relevant stakeholders, including artists and audiences, will inform further gallery programme policy direction. Due to gallery scheduling and programming commitments, Súil is not available for private hire or events.

This policy is informed by consultations with artists and is gallery best practice based on research conducted on visual arts spaces throughout Ireland. This policy is not static and will adapt in response to the changing needs of our stakeholders.