



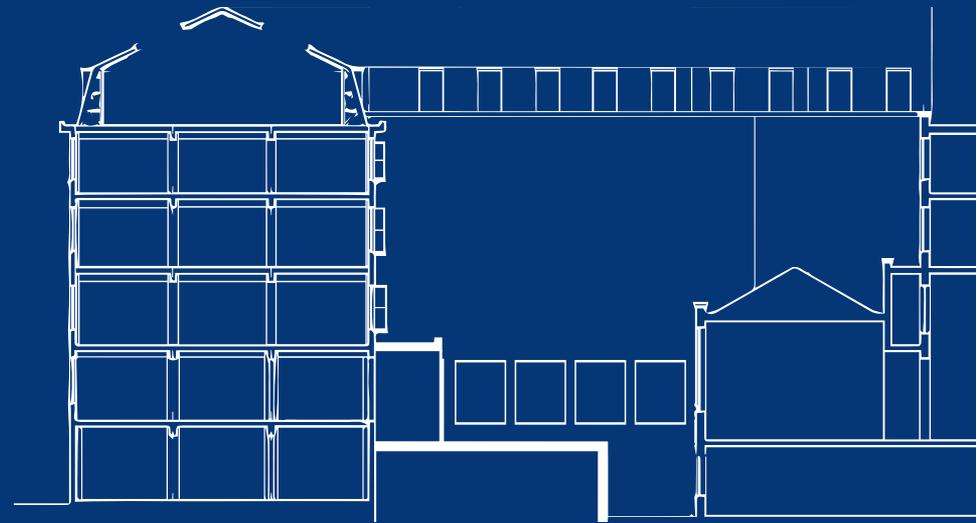
AN POST PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

This is two-stage competitive process open to Artists, Curators and Creative Producers

GPO WITNESS
HISTORY

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1. INTRODUCTION

An Post has recently commenced construction of GPO Witness History, a new Interpretive and Exhibition Centre (GPOWH) to be located within the confines of the General Post Office (GPO) on O'Connell Street, Dublin, Ireland. An exhibition to commemorate the events of 1916 has been commissioned and is to be open to the public from early 2016.

2. PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

An Post, on behalf of GPO Witness History, is seeking proposals for public art for an internal courtyard which is part of the Interpretive and Exhibition Centre. Due to the nature of the Centre and the space, proposals for permanent art are not being sought and will not be considered. This does not exclude temporary installations made from durable materials. An Post and the IEC may, depending on available funding, decide to select one public art proposal or a number of proposals for commissioning.

3. INVITATION

An Post invites interest in this opportunity from across all art forms and contemporary arts practices including, for example, architecture, dance, film, literature, music, opera, theatre, verbal arts, and visual art and all in all media, including, for example, drawing, print, writing, film, video, objects, performance, photography, song, and more. The purpose of this invitation is to commission new artwork/s.

The commissioners are especially interested in proposals that show an openness and responsiveness to the layered historical and contemporary context surrounding the circumstances of the commission/s. Proposals from individual artists and collaborations, collective responses and interdisciplinary practices are sought and equally welcome.

These commissions can include work in any artform and can be achieved through once off interventions or a series of interventions, residencies, collaborative projects, inter-disciplinary responses, and time based work, etc. The proposed process must involve artists (making new work) as a central aspect of the commission. Curators, artistic directors and creative producers can also make proposals.

4. CONTEXT - THE 1916 PROCLAMATION

The proposal must relate to the 1916 Proclamation and its contemporary resonance as, probably, the best known document relating to the history of the Irish state ; its address' to the people' of Ireland and its declarations of equality and sovereignty on behalf of the people of Ireland and the 'common good'. The 1916 Proclamation is more than a document of history but has relevance to the Ireland of today and to how we might view the future. *See appendix 1 on page 8.*

A fully accessible paved area within the central open courtyard of the GPO building has been identified as a key space for the siting of and engagement with the public art commissions. The courtyard has been designed and finished with potential not only to host installations or performance but also with the intentions that temporary installations (ie durational) or performances can be presented, documented, distributed and circulated or screened, for example, for the duration of 2016.

See appendix 2 on page 9.

5. COMMISSIONER- AN POST AND THE GENERAL POST OFFICE

An Post is the state owned provider of postal services in the Republic of Ireland. Its headquarters are located in Dublin on O'Connell Street, one of Europe's premier boulevards. It was laid out in its current configuration in 1772 as part of the works undertaken by the Wide Streets Commission. Known as Sackville Street until 1924, it became the office and business centre of the capital following the completion of the Carlisle Bridge (now O'Connell Bridge).

The GPO is the key landmark building on the street and has iconic status in terms of Dublin City. A postal service has existed in Ireland for 350 years. The headquarters of the Irish Post Office, the General Post Office, was completed in 1818 and was designed by Francis Johnston, founder of the Royal Hibernian Academy and the leading architect of his day. The Greek revival style facade, built of granite and Portland stone comprises six Greek Ionic columns supporting a portico adorned by Mercury, Hibernia and Fidelity.

The GPO is close to historically residential areas that have gone through various changes and developments over the years. The area is also an important commercial area of the city, reflecting the fortunes of the living city around it. In all 950 An Post staff work in the GPO. Designed as a public building, anyone can enter and avail of its services, which still include the purchase of stamps, postage of letters and packages, as well as services which reflect the changing technologies, social histories and habits in how we communicate.

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic was read out on the original steps of the building, signalling the start of the Rising. The building was extensively damaged during the ensuing battle and a subsequent fire, and was reconstructed in 1925 before re-opening in 1929.

More information about the history of the postal service, An Post and the GPO at www.anpost.ie/history

6. CURATORS

An Post has appointed curators Ruairí Ó Cuív and Valerie Connor to advise on and manage the commission/s.

7. BRIEFING

A briefing meeting will be arranged for interested artists, curators and artistic directors. A question and answer session will form an important part of this meeting which will be held in the GPO Public Post Office on the evening of Wednesday, April 15th, 2015. Applications to attend should be directed to info@gpowitnesshistory.ie and more detail will be provided. Only those making advance application to attend will gain admittance on the evening.

As numbers are limited, the briefing session may be filmed and an edited version of these will be posted online on Vimeo. By making an application to attend the briefing sessions, persons give their consent to being filmed.

8. SELECTION PROCESS

This is an open submission two-stage competitive process.

■ Stage 1 – Short List

Proposals will initially be assessed and short-listed by experts in public art.

■ Stage 2 - Final Selection

The final selection will involve experts in the contemporary arts, representatives of An Post, OPW and the Interpretive and Exhibition Centre as well as other expertise.

Candidates whose proposals have reached the final selection process might be called upon to be interviewed.

9. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Contemporary connection with the 1916 Proclamation and the commissioning context.
- Quality and originality of artistic ideas.
- Research capacity and creative process.
- Technical Feasibility.
- Clarity of costs in relation to the nature of the commission.
- Capacity of the artist, curator or creative producer (and team) to develop, manage and deliver the project on time and within budget.
- Track record/potential of the individual artist or team.

10. TIMEFRAME

The commissions are being undertaken as part of a larger initiative in the GPO which includes the Interpretative and Exhibition Centre developed to commemorate the history of the GPO and the 1916 Rising. Selected commissions will be delivered as part of the launch and programme of associated events which begin in the GPO in March 2016.

11. BUDGETS

In recognition of the fact that art does not necessarily come in neatly bundled packages, there is flexibility for those making proposals. The commissioning value can be set between €10,000 and €50,000. This gives scope for budgets to be related to the scale and nature of the proposed commission. The proposed budget has to include all costs relating to the commission.

Funding from other sources can be added to the total funding requested from the An Post 1916 Commissions but clear indication of the sources and methods of gaining these funds is required at the initial stages of each commission.

12. SUBMISSION

Artists or teams making an application are required to submit a proposal and provide supporting documentation and material relating to previous work. Written elements of proposals must be provided in hard copy and accompanying copy on USB or disc (CD/DVD).

Proposals

Proposals should include a written response of between one and four A4 pages. Other material (including visualisations, images, recordings, and video) can be provided in hard copy or on USB, CD/DVD.*

Proposals should include:

- Artistic concept and intentions.
- How the proposal relates to the 1916 Proclamation.
- Intended process/nature of intervention.
- How the commission will be achieved.
This should include an outline of known / projected technical issues and how it is intended to achieve these.
- Proposed budget which should include where relevant a summary breakdown of costs to include:
 - Artist's/team member fees.
 - Development costs.
 - Production costs.
 - Interaction with communities/localities.

- Insurances, and other related costs.
- Contingency.
- Total value of proposed commission.

Supporting Documentation

- Examples of relevant work to be submitted in hard copy and accompanying copy on USB, CD/DVD.
- Summary biographies of team members and CVs (to include all key members of the team if applicable).

* Please note that a loose leaf copy of the required elements of the proposal should be supplied to facilitate photocopying.

13. CLOSING DATE

The closing date for receipt of proposals is 13th May 2015 at 4.00 pm. Late entries will not be considered.

14. CONTRACT AND CONDITIONS

A contract will be agreed and signed between An Post and the appointed individual or team. Please examine the General Conditions for conditions relating to all offers for commissions.

15. DOCUMENTATION

Each commission will be comprehensively documented to facilitate promotion and also as a legacy and record of the work.

16. FURTHER INFORMATION

Queries

Applicants are welcome to make enquiries regarding commissions. These can be directed to Ruairí Ó Cuív at ruairi.ocuiv@gmail.com

Address for applications

Applications should be marked An Post 1916 Public Art Commissions and delivered to:

**GPO Witness History Public Art
Commissions
An Post Communications
GPO
O'Connell Street Lower
Dublin 1**

17. CONDITIONS

Submissions

- Submissions for Stage 1 will not be returned.
- There will be no feed-back for individuals or teams after Stage 1.
- Applicants are responsible for the cost of delivering applications.
- Emailed or faxed submissions will not be accepted.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- All materials submitted should be clearly labelled with the applicant's name and contact details.
- All reasonable care will be taken with each submission. An Post and its promoters or managers do not accept responsibility for any loss or damage which may occur.
- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.
- Artists or teams may be asked to supply the names and contact details of referees as part of the selection process.

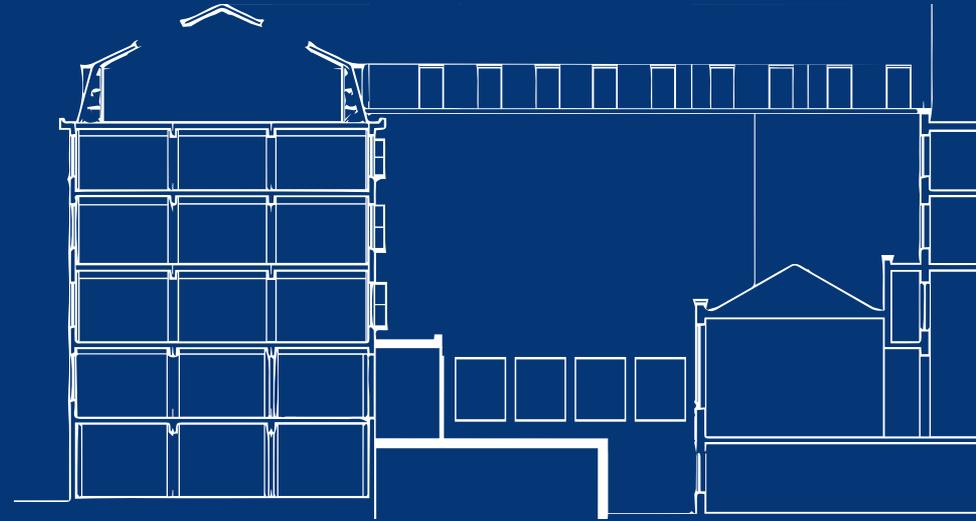
Terms and Conditions

- An Post reserves the right not to award commissions and in this instance reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.
- An Post reserves the right to offer a financial fee which differs from that sought for in proposals.

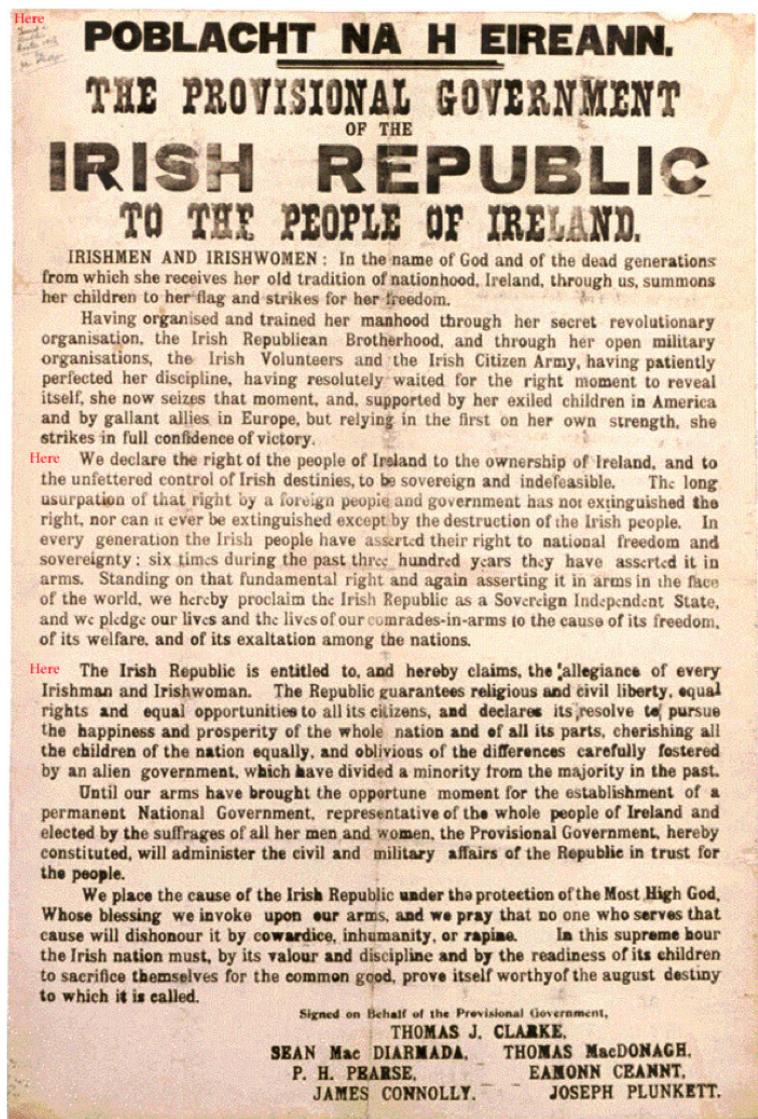
- An Post will issue the successful artist/team with a Contract for Services.
- Teams who are awarded commissions will have to nominate one person who represents the group / company.
- The appointed artist/team will be required to have public liability insurance and, where appropriate, employer's liability, to include people working for the artist or as part of a team.
- The appointed artist/team will be required to have the following insurances:
 - Public Liability Insurance cover of €6.5 million with an indemnity to principal extension.
 - Employers Liability Cover of €13 million with an indemnity to principal extension (where employees are engaged to work on the Commission).
- The Commissioners will not insure equipment belonging to the artist or their associates.
- The proposed commission and process must comply with Health and Safety legislation. The successful submission will be subject to Health and Safety checks.
- The artist or team will be required to comply with legislation and best practice in relation to working with young people and vulnerable adults, and where applicable undergo training in this area, as per national requirements.
- The appointed artist will have to supply an up to date tax clearance certificate prior to signing of contract and for the duration of the commission.
- Non-resident artists from EU and non-EU countries must be aware of any tax or VAT implications arising from the commission and ensure any costs arising from this are included in their budget.
- An Post is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 1997, 2003. If you consider that any of the information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for the sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to the FOI request, be examined in the light of the exemptions provided for in the Acts.

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APPENDIX 1 - THE PROCLAMATION



POBLACHT NA H EIREANN

THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the last three hundred years they have asserted it to arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

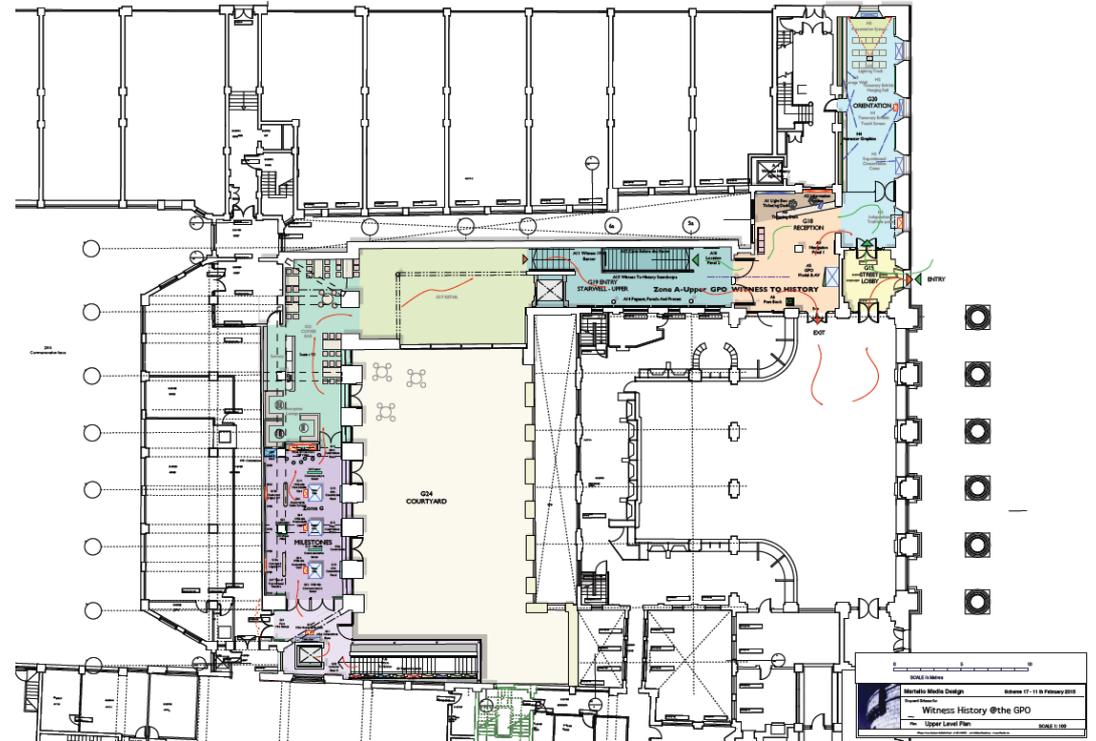
Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government.

Thomas J. Clarke, Sean Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, P. H. Pearse,
Eamonn Ceannt, James Connolly, Joseph Plunkett

APPENDIX 2: GPO WITNESS HISTORY COURTYARD FOR PUBLIC ART



Scale: 1:100
Witness History @the GPO
Upper Level Plan
March 17 - 18 February 2010