

Deadline for applications to be part of the panel: 12 noon Monday 27 July.

Project overview

Commissioning of original exterior murals to activate public space and celebrate Longford's identity, creating a self-guided mural trail across Longford town centre and key approach routes for residents and visitors. A panel of artists will be formed and from there, panelled artists may be invited to propose work for specific areas in Longford. Invitation may be directed to one artist, or a call out to all artists on the panel. The panel will last from 2026 – 2030, with an option to extend by up to two years if deemed necessary by Longford County Council.

Who can apply and eligibility

This panel is for professional visual artists with a background in creating large-scale exterior work, who are interested in creating original works in Longford between 2026 and 2030.

Artists aged 18+; able to provide or obtain public liability insurance and comply with Longford County Council health and safety requirements. Commissioned artists must provide a Tax Clearance Certificate.

Applicants may be considered for immediate commissions in 2026 and for inclusion on the **2026–2030 Artist Panel** for future commissions.

Sites scale and budgets:

Fee per mural: Approximately €5,000 –€15,000, depending on scale and complexity. Fee covers design, materials, travel, insurance, VAT and artist fee.

Access and equipment: Artist will be required to take on the role of PSCS and manage / co-ordinate the works (setting up exclusion zone, hiring M.E.W.P/Scaffolding – erecting of same as needed to carry out the mural). Artists will work with PSCS County Council on traffic management planning if necessary.

Themes, community engagement and requirements

Suggested themes: Original concepts that engage local communities in heritage, biodiversity or citizen wellbeing.

Community element: Shortlisted artists must include a brief public engagement activity such as a workshop, talk, or school visit.

Permissions and safety: Upon commissioning an artist for a mural from this panel, Longford County Council and Longford Tidy Towns will arrange landowner permissions and planning where needed. Artists must submit a risk assessment and method statement before work begins.

Application requirements submit as single PDF:

Artist statement and information on previous work, including public Engagement activities. (max 300 words).

Methodology for working on site, regarding health and safety, risk assessment, traffic management, working at height, managing scaffolding and / or Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP). Please include information on types of materials used to create work. Artists may include information on their experience working at height and relevant certs if available. (max 300 words)

Visuals: Up to 6 images of past large-scale works (embedded JPEGs).

CV and two professional references.

Proof of public liability insurance or a statement of willingness to obtain it.

Submit: One PDF to arts@longfordcoco.ie with 'Longford Murals' in subject line Enquiries to: arts@longfordcoco.ie

Selection process and timeline:

Application deadline: 12 noon Monday 27 July.

1st mural production: August - November 2026.

Panel formation: Shortlisted artists will be invited to join the **Longford Artist Panel 2026–2030**. Panel members will be eligible for future commissions and invited to periodic calls for proposals across the five-year programme.

Selection criteria: Artistic quality of previous work; experience with large-scale exterior work including project management & budget management, and health and safety.

Permissions safety and additional notes:

Shortlisted artists will receive full site briefs, health and safety induction, exact dimensions, and photographic surveys.

The project aims to create durable, accessible murals that celebrate Longford's identity and attract local and visitor engagement.

Inclusion on the panel does not guarantee a commission. Longford County Council reserve the right to not appoint artists to this panel.

Insurance:

Any external person or company working with Longford County Council on a project must have insurance cover in place. If selected for a commission, the artist will need to have Public Liability Insurance in place up to a limit of €6.5 million. The insurance policy must indemnify Longford County Council and Longford Tidy Towns. If employing another person / people, Employers Liability Insurance to a limit of €13 million is necessary (this will only be needed if the person working with you does not have an insurance policy of their own). These are standard insurance policies and several companies in Ireland provide them for artistic activities.

About Longford

Longford Town and County Longford share a rich, layered heritage shaped by waterways, agriculture, industry, and distinctive peatland landscapes. Longford grew as a barracks and market town, its streets and civic buildings reflecting 18th and 19th Century expansion. The town's history connected local craft and industry to wider trade networks via the River Shannon, and the royal canal. Across Longford, extensive bogs and peat extraction shaped both economy and identity, and many former industrial sites have been reclaimed as nature trails that reveal industrial archaeology and biodiversity. Co. Longford also contains important historic sites, monastic ruins and natural heritage. Active local history and heritage groups preserve and celebrate community memory, often working with Longford County Council through County Longford Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage services.

The natural heritage of Longford and the surrounding areas contain habitats that support a wide range of plants and animals. The Longford County Council Biodiversity Action Plan highlights the importance of places such as the Royal Canal and the mid Shannon Wilderness park. It calls for the protection of native species and the restoration of damaged habitats. It also promotes stronger ecological corridors across the county. Local communities play an important role in caring for these natural spaces. The landscape around Longford continues to provide vital refuge for wildlife. The plan encourages ongoing action to safeguard this biodiversity for future generations.

Longford Tidy Towns

Longford Tidy Towns is a dedicated volunteer group that works throughout the year to improve the town's appearance, biodiversity and community pride. Their efforts include planting, cleanups, pollinator projects and supporting local environmental initiatives. The group celebrated another gold medal win at the national SuperValu Tidy Towns Awards 2025, marking another strong performance at national level. These achievements reflect the commitment of volunteers and the strong support they receive from the wider community.

Sources of further information on Longford history and heritage:

[Longford County Council Heritage Office](#)

Heritage policy, conservation initiatives, protected structures and community heritage projects across the county.

Longford Biodiversity Action Plan

Longford County Council's strategy for protecting and enhancing biodiversity, including actions relevant to Longford's natural heritage, ecological corridors and community led conservation.

Longford County Library – Local Studies Service

A public resource containing historic newspapers, maps, photographs, manuscripts and reference materials relevant to Tullamore's development.

Longford Culture and Creativity Plan – Creative Ireland

Longford's strategic vision for culture and creativity under the Creative Ireland Programme, outlining priorities, community engagement approaches and long-term cultural development goals.

Longford Historical Society

A leading local resource offering research publications, archival material, exhibitions and expert historical commentary on Tullamore and the wider county.

Longford Town Centre First Strategy

The Longford Town Centre First Strategy provides an opportunity to Longford and County Longford to reimagine and reinvigorate this important County Town.

Discover Ireland – Longford

Provides an overview of key heritage sites, cultural attractions and visitor information.

Royal Canal Greenway

Outlines the historical significance of the canal and its role in shaping Tullamore's growth and identity.