



How We Move

Open Call: Architect in Residence

Opportunity for Architect in Residence

Kildare County Council Arts Service have been awarded funding for a new project, How We Move. This is a project connecting arts, health, movement, design, architecture and placemaking, funded by Creative Ireland under the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme 2026–2028.

As part of the multi-disciplinary team for this exciting project, project-lead Kildare County Council Arts Service in partnership with the Irish Architecture Foundation seeks to appoint an Architect in Residence for the duration of the project.

Applications are now invited from architects to be part of this team and work to deliver a process of creative co-design and placemaking for the project.

The selected architect will work closely with the project team led by Kildare County Council Arts Service throughout the project, contributing spatial insight, design thinking and multidisciplinary facilitation. The Architect in Residence will be supported by IAF throughout the timeframe of the Residency.

About the How We Move project

How We Move is an ambitious collaborative project exploring how interventions in everyday public spaces can encourage movement, creativity, participation and wellbeing. The initiative is led by Kildare County Council Arts Service in partnership with Kildare Sports Partnership, Offaly Sports Partnership, Healthy Ireland, the HSE, Irish Architecture Foundation, Luail National Dance Company and Offaly County Council Arts Service.

Working across selected towns in County Kildare and County Offaly, the project will research how people move through public space and develop prototype Movement Zones that invite communities to engage differently with their environment and with one another.



The project aims to work primarily with three target groups: young school children, busy mid-life commuters and older people. It will likely need to adopt a variety of approaches to engage these audiences effectively. Accessibility and inclusion are central to the process, and additional target groups may emerge as the project develops.

Why this residency?

The project situates architecture as a collaborative cultural practice that works alongside artists, communities, sport and health practitioners and local authorities to explore how public space can better support movement, creativity and wellbeing.

Applications are invited from architects with an interest and experience in working across disciplines, who enjoy collaborating with communities, and who see design as a shared process of listening, observing, testing ideas, and designing and making together.

About the residency

For this project an Architect in Residence is an architect embedded within a community, organisation or multidisciplinary team for a defined period of time. The Architect in Residence contributes spatial thinking, creative leadership, research and facilitation throughout the development of the project.

Working alongside the project partners and local communities, the Architect in Residence will:

- facilitate conversations between design, community and artistic practice.
- contribute to research into movement behaviours within the public realm.
- develop spatial strategies that respond to observed movement patterns.
- co-create prototype Movement Zones in collaboration with the choreographer, wider project team and local communities.
- help shape a framework that can be replicated and adapted across Ireland.

The residency is collaborative in nature. The successful architect will not be expected to arrive with a completed methodology or design solution. Instead, the approach will evolve through collaboration with project partners and participating communities.



Timeframe

The residency will run for the duration of the project from September 2026 to December 2027.

Residency fees

Architect Fee: €12,500

Project Expenses: €2,500

The expenses budget is available to cover agreed travel, workshop delivery, materials and other residency costs associated with the residency.

A separate project budget will also be available to support the development and delivery of the public realm interventions, Movement Zone prototypes, signage and associated design elements.

Why apply?

This residency offers a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of architecture, movement, health and public environment.

The successful architect will become part of an ambitious multidisciplinary team exploring how creative practice can improve the experience of public space for residents of all ages and abilities.

The residency offers the opportunity to:

- work alongside leading partners in dance, sport, health and local government.
- contribute to an innovative pilot project with strong potential for long-term social and public health impact.
- explore architecture as a cultural and socially engaged practice.
- help shape a project with the potential to influence future approaches to placemaking across Ireland.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from Registered Architects who:

- are based in Ireland and available to travel to selected towns in County Kildare and County Offaly.
- have experience in co-design, collaborative practice and working with communities of place and interest.

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- are interested in collaborative, participatory and socially engaged architectural practice.
- enjoy working across disciplines with artists, communities and public bodies.
- are curious about the relationship between architecture, movement, health and wellbeing.
- have strong communication and facilitation skills.
- are interested in research, experimentation and creative placemaking.

Experience in community engagement, public realm design, landscape, temporary interventions or participatory practice is desired.

Applications can be made by individual architects, formal practices or collectives.

The successful applicant will be required to hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance. Evidence of insurance may be requested prior to appointment.

How do I apply?

Applicants should submit:

1. Curriculum Vitae

A written CV without images (maximum two A4 pages)

2. Statement of Interest (maximum 300 words)

Please tell us:

- about your professional experience relevant to this project.
- why this opportunity interests you.
- examples of any community engagement or collaborative approaches you may use for this project.

Please note that applicants are not expected to present a completed methodology or design proposal. The delivery approach will be developed collaboratively with the project team.

3. Previous Work

Examples of previous relevant work (maximum four A4 pages)



Applications and any questions should be emailed to:
opportunities@architecturefoundation.ie

All documents should be submitted as individual pdf files rather than one combined document.

Incomplete applications will not be assessed.

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be assessed by a panel composed of Paula Barrett from Kildare County Council Arts Service, Emmett Scanlon of the Irish Architecture Foundation and an independent architect.

Up to four shortlisted applicants will be invited to a short online conversation with the panel.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- quality of previous work and relevant experience, including experience of public realm projects, community engagement, and/or health and wellbeing initiatives (40%).
- understanding of the ambitions of How We Move and demonstrated interest in the role (20%).
- demonstrated ability to engage in collaborative co-design with multiple stakeholders and communities (20%).
- creative and spatial design capability, as demonstrated through the Statement of Interest and previous work (10%).
- quality, clarity and completeness of the application (10%).

Timelines

Applications open

29 July 2026

Questions close

21 August 2026

Applications close

31 August 2026



Assessment

September 2026

Online interviews

September 2026

Successful applicant notified

September 2026

Public announcement

October 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Architect in Residence?

An Architect in Residence is an architect embedded within a multidisciplinary team for a defined period of time. Rather than delivering a conventional architectural commission, they contribute design thinking, research, facilitation and creative leadership throughout the development of the project.

Is this a design commission?

This residency is centred on research, collaboration, creative placemaking and community co-design. Design proposals and interventions will emerge through the collaborative process rather than being predetermined.

Do I need to be based in Ireland?

Yes. Due to the nature of this project, which requires in-person participation in activities taking place across selected towns in County Kildare and County Offaly, the architect must be based in Ireland.

Can an architectural practice apply?

Yes. However, applications should name an individual lead architect who will undertake the residency.

Will there be funding for public realm interventions?

Yes. A separate project budget will be available for the development and delivery of Movement Zones, public realm interventions, signage and associated design elements.