

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Arts Office & Public Library Service

## **Call for Writer in Residence**

### **Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival May – October 2013**

#### **Introduction**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council invites applications for a writer in residence for the Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival for the period May to October 2013. The residency seeks to support a writer in any genre. The residency is envisaged as a part-time position which will allow time primarily for engagement and interaction with the general public and more specifically with those who have an interest in writing. Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival is the focus for this engagement. In addition the residency will also allow time to develop the writer's own work. Collaborative proposals are also welcomed.

#### **Mountains to Sea**

Mission Statement:

*Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival engages audiences in high quality events that have at their core the celebration of books and writing and a meaningful engagement between authors, participants and readers of all ages.*

Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival honours the unique literary landscape of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown by providing opportunities for the public to hear the very best of Irish and international writers read from their work. Literary fiction is at the heart of Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival but events cover an array of genres. In particular there are strong poetry and family and schools programmes. The aim of the festival is to engage the public with a quality literary event that has at its core the meaningful engagement between author and audience.

In addition to the core events of author readings and interviews, other fringe events, have been part of previous programmes (i.e. musical events, book swaps, picture book picnic, etc). A series of writing workshops also takes place.

Uniquely for an urban book festival the town of Dún Laoghaire offers an opportunity to create a festival atmosphere using a variety of locations that range in capacity from 50–500. These include the Pavilion Theatre, County Hall, the Kingston Hotel, the National Maritime Museum, the People's Park, Royal St. George Yacht Club, etc.

The key elements of the Festival are:

- A strong national and international dimension;
- A rich programme of family events;
- An exciting schools programme;
- Events celebrating writers with a connection to the county;
- A strong local dimension with writers from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown;
- Poetry Now is an integral strand within the festival.

In a very short space of time Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival has established itself in the Irish literary calendar. Among the authors who have been part of the Mountains to Sea programme are Paul Auster, Sebastian Faulks, Philippa Gregory, Paul Murray, Maeve Binchy, Sebastian Barry, Melvyn Bragg, Jennifer Johnston, Michael Ondaatje, Emma Donoghue and Joseph O'Connor. In the past Poetry Now has included poets such as Seamus Heaney, Derek Mahon, Robert Pinsky and Paula Meehan. The Families and Schools Programme has featured authors such as Robert Muchamore and Derek Landy.

In September 2013 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will produce the fifth Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival (for details on 2012 event see [www.mountaintosea.ie](http://www.mountaintosea.ie)). The festival will take place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The Festival events will be mainly based in the town of Dún Laoghaire with a small number of schools events taking place in Dundrum. It is anticipated that the festival will have in the region of 70 events. There will be a variety of activities including but not limited to readings, workshops, panel discussions, tours, author lunches and late night festival club nights aimed at adults, families and children with audiences for each ranging from 20 to 400.

## **Residency objectives**

The key objectives of the residency are:

- To involve members of the public (in particular writers from the County) in Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival. This may be through activities such as regular writing workshops culminating in a showcase at the festival or through discussion groups held at the festival, etc.
- To cultivate festival participants and readers in the months leading up to Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival.
- To bring the festival to members of the public who are not able to attend the festival events. This may be through activities such as readings, video links or workshops in healthcare settings, education settings, etc.
- To write a piece of work celebrating the festival. This may take the form of an article, work of fiction, poem or other.

### **Writer's brief**

Writers are invited to take inspiration from varied sources, primarily Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival but also including local communities and the county. The work may involve working with various demographics in the county, including young people, older people and writers based in the County. It is essential that the writer in residence is flexible around working times particularly during the festival period. The writer in residence will be required to organise events over the course of the residency and may also be called upon to introduce events at the festival.

The details will be agreed in consultation with the appointed writer.

The programme will be supervised by the Arts Office.

### **Selection process**

Writers must submit:

- A typed curriculum vitae (maximum 3 pages);
- Examples of previous work;
- Publications, programmes or published articles, such as reviews;
- Typed proposal outlining ideas and approaches around engagement and interaction with the general public and local writers, with a focus on the festival. The proposal should also give a brief outline of what approach the writer's own work might take over the course of the residency. The proposal should be no more than four typed pages.

**Please note:** Applicants must submit four copies of CV and proposal.  
One copy of previous work, publications, etc is required.

Please ensure that all submitted materials are clearly marked with the writer's name.

**Closing date: 12 noon on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

### **Criteria for selection**

- Suitability and distinctiveness of proposal to the context
- Quality of previous work
- Organisational and administrative skills
- Facilitation ability and experience.

### **Interviews**

Applicants will be short-listed on the basis of their submissions and short-listed applicants will be called for interview on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April

**In advance of the residency the following will be agreed:**

- Clear goals, roles and responsibilities and agreed criteria for the writer in residence and the Arts Office;
- Agreed programme of work that is flexible and responsive;
- Review and evaluation process including regular meetings.

It should be noted that this is a part-time residency over a period of 6 months, which will require flexibility around working hours. It is anticipated that the writer will allocate a minimum of 60 days over the 6 month period of the residency.

**Summary of key dates**

4th April 2013 at 12 noon:	closing date for receipt of submissions
18th April 2013	interviews for short-listed applicants

The residency will begin in May and finish in October 2013.

**Budget information**

The total budget for the residency is €12,000. This amount is to be fully inclusive of the writer's fee of €9,000 (including VAT and insurance) and an allowance for publications, public events, materials and other related costs of €3,000 (payments will be made from the Arts Office directly to suppliers).

Please note that the appointed writer will be required to have Public Liability Insurance with cover of €6.5 million. Non-Vat registered service providers may be liable for Professional Services Withholding Tax. The successful writer will be required to provide Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with a tax clearance certificate prior to signing of contracts.

**Support from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Arts Office will act as the liaison support between the writer and the festival team throughout the residency. The Arts Office will be responsible for administering contracts and payments to the writer and will provide limited administrative support to the writer.

**Child Protection**

In accordance with the national Child Protection Guidelines *Children First*, the selected candidate will be required to follow child protection procedures as specified by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo Garda Vetting if they intend to work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

**Insurance**

The writer in residence agrees to keep the Council fully indemnified against all claims howsoever arising and howsoever caused in respect of any damage, loss or injury of any kind or nature, whether arising directly or indirectly from the provision of the residency and to provide evidence of Public Liability insurance which indemnifies Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with a limit of indemnity of €6.5 million.

It is the responsibility of the writer in residence to ensure that other person(s) not employed by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, but employed by the writer in residence to assist them with the residency have adequate Public Liability (€6.5 million) and Employer's Liability (€13 million) cover which indemnify both Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the writer.

**Freedom of Information**

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1997-2003 apply to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Applicants should state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential or sensitive and should not be disclosed to a request for information under the aforementioned Act. Applicants should state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive.

**Prompt Payments**

Under the Prompt Payments Accounts Act, the Local Authority is obliged to pay within 30 days, upon receipt of a valid invoice.

**Applications should be submitted to:**

**Carolyn Brown**  
**Assistant Arts Officer – Arts Supports and Operations**  
**Arts Office**  
**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,**  
**Marine Road,**  
**Dún Laoghaire**  
**Co. Dublin.**

**Queries**

Please refer any queries to [arts@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:arts@dlrcoco.ie) or T: 01-271 9531

*Please note that Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right not to appoint if none of the applications received are deemed to be suitable. In this instance Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council reserves the right to pursue a different procurement process.*