

Irish Architecture Foundation

IAF Reimagine... Programme Information Pack



Ballyfermot Play Park Picnic Event image courtesy of IAF

Irish Architecture Foundation

Contents:

1. Introduction to IAF Reimagine... programme
2. Criteria under which projects will be assessed
3. Timeline
4. Next steps...



IAF What if project, photo by Ste Murray

Irish Architecture Foundation

1. An Introduction to the IAF Reimagine... Programme

The IAF **Reimagine...** programme is a new initiative by the IAF that seeks to embolden communities to create inspiring places and spaces. The programme acknowledges that no one has more expertise of a place than the people who live there and it enables these local citizens to engage with and effect change within their local neighbourhoods with the help of architecture, design and built environment professionals, facilitated by the IAF. **Reimagine...** ensures that the communities needs are at the core of the outcome, be it as simple as a need for more benches for an ageing community, a safe welcoming place for younger people to meet, a temporary pavilion or intervention or even an annual event or festival to celebrate and reconnect the community. The IAF can provide the expertise, connections, facilitation and intervention to 'reimagine' your area, all we need from you is a community problem that needs solving and the willingness to make it happen.

Since its foundation in 2005, the IAF has worked with communities of place and interest in the capital city and beyond to explore issues and affect change in the built environment. We have worked with children to design a play park in Donegal, consulted young people on their local environment in Fingal, Co. Dublin, we have examined public space with older people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and in 2019 we break ground on a play, skate and BMX park in Ballyfermot, west Dublin, designed in close collaboration with the community and financed by Dublin City Council.

So far, through **Reimagine...** we are working with the community group Imagine Dundrum to include the voices of children and young people in the Local Area Plan for Dundrum in Co. Dublin. We are also working with the civic and cultural institutions in Tallaght to 'melt the walls' between the institutions and their nearest neighbours, activating the public realm in between. As you can see from these examples each project will be different and varied, depending on the communities' needs and budgets available.

If you believe you know of a project, an area or a community group interested in working with the IAF to 'reimagine' something, please submit a project proposal through the online [form attached here](#). You will be asked a number of questions about your proposed project, the groups involved, where you see the IAF helping most and some funding questions.

Irish Architecture Foundation



IAF Public Age Project, Image courtesy of the Decorators



Imagine Dundrum workshop, photo courtesy of IAF

Irish Architecture Foundation

2. Criteria under which projects will be assessed under the Reimagine... programme.

The Project:

How do you envision that the IAF can particularly help in this project?

The possible outcomes and willingness for diverse responses to this project.

What is your starting point, your area of concern? What do you see might come out of a process of engagement with the community? How open are you to what might come from a creative engagement process? How you envision the IAF can help? What are your expectations?

Location:

Where is the project based, what type of area is it? Eg. Is this project outside Dublin? Is it in a town, village or city?

Timescale:

What stage is the project at currently?

Is it likely that some 'thing' will happen within calendar year 2019? (the project may not be fully complete in 2019, or could be one phase of a longer term engagement, but at least one moment of significance should occur in 2019)

Support:

Is there buy in from senior staff?

Is there at least one connection to a strong community group?

Will there be staff time commitment that helps push the project forward?

Can you finance an outcome, big or small?

Other Considerations:

Is this project responding to a social urgency?

Is it of political/strategic importance?

Does this project echo the IAF's values and strategic goals in anyway?

These are included at the end of this document.

Irish Architecture Foundation

3. Timeline:

- The deadline for proposals is 12pm, Monday the 25th February. Proposals are to be submitted through an electronic Google form, a link can be found [here](#)
- These project proposals will then be assessed under the aforementioned criteria.
- We will be announcing a short list of selected projects by the 4 March.
- We will then visit these shortlisted projects on-site and meet the major stakeholders.
- The selected 5 projects will be announced by Mid March.
- All agreements and timelines to be agreed and signed by the time of announcement
- All projects to have delivered at least one aspect before the end of the year



The Brambles OHD18 tours, Image by Ste Murray

Irish Architecture Foundation

4. Next Steps

If you believe you know of a project, an area or a community group interested in working with the IAF to Reimagine... please complete this [form linked here](#). You can apply with as many projects as you see fit. We will be back in touch to update all on the short list status.

If in the meantime you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with Anne Kearns, Engagement Officer at the IAF, on engagement@architecturefoundation.ie or call on 01 8747204



Reimagine Dundrum,, Image by Ste Murray

Irish Architecture Foundation

The IAF's mission, values and strategic goals:

OUR MISSION

To champion the power of architecture to transform lives and improve the places where we live, learn, work and play. Through a dynamic programme of activity, we inspire people to understand and shape their world.

OUR VALUES

Openness: We are open to ideas, inclusive of all people and generous in creating opportunities for everyone to engage with and be inspired by architecture.

Excellence: We promote best practice in all that we do and are committed to sharing the exceptional work of others.

Courage: We have the confidence to ask questions, to challenge norms and to try things out. We embolden others to do so too.

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

Our strategic goals are underpinned by the principles of inclusion, generosity, inquiry and independence.

Our Strategic Goals are the areas of work that we will focus on over the course of the next five years. By concentrating on them we will be true to our purpose and will achieve our mission and vision. For illustration and informational purposes we have separated out each goal. However, in reality they are fluid. They intersect, merge and support each other.

Advocacy

The cultural and societal value of architecture is understood.

We believe that the quality of buildings and urban and rural landscapes depends on the demands of an informed public coupled with open and resourced architectural practice. We will continue to promote the importance of architecture to the wider society by communicating the potential of architecture and advocating for its societal, economical and cultural value. On a practical level, as an organisation with an overview of the creative industries, we can share our knowledge, experience and expertise to help others deepen their connection to architecture and encourage them to develop related initiatives.

Irish Architecture Foundation

Empowerment

People are confidently engaging with architecture.

People can be empowered through knowledge, access to experiences and by being supported in taking direct action. We produce engaging programmes that introduce people to architecture and architecture to people. We produce exhibitions, learning programmes in schools, publications, and a range of activities driven by a need to know about how architecture shapes—and might reshape—contemporary life. The IAF believes that cultural participation and engagement can significantly enhance the well being of society. We create the conditions where people working with design teams can shape their own environment actively and not reactively. We support groups to become more involved in the design process in their neighbourhoods in response to a need that they have identified.

Innovation

There are new ways of thinking about and practicing architecture.

The IAF is an independent, open and reflective agency strongly attuned to current developments and future trends in the realm of architecture and related disciplines. We believe that architecture, as subject and practice, must be open and self-reflective in order to maintain its relevance in society. At a moment in which the ways we live, work, and think are shifting, we should take time to consider and question how we frame our understanding of architecture and its relationship to people, culture, society and the environment. We have a duty to respond to contemporary issues. We are excited by the unconventional, experimental, contextually rich and culturally engaged.

Connection

People and organisations have come together and achieved more as a result.

The original concept that drove the formation of the IAF was one of connection; that of people to architecture and architecture to people. We believe good design is in everyone's interest, and that our reach and impact is always amplified by working together. As an organisation that is a facilitator and initiator, connection is central to our practice. Our role is in facilitating wide public engagement and being a channel across multiple sectors including culture, arts, community, education and innovation.

Consolidation

Our capacity to deliver has been strengthened and secured for the future.

Survival means reinforcing our people, know-how and financial resources over the duration of this plan. Our existence relies on an imaginative and transformational programme, educational and learning opportunities, institutional marketing and an audience to serve. We will put in place the best management and governance practices to enable the IAF to be a thriving cultural organisation. We will strengthen our financial position to allow us to deliver the best programme to our growing audiences. We have a responsibility to fulfil our mission each year and to ensure we have the capacity (people, know-how and money) to do so.