

## Reimagine...Letterkenny, Creating a Cultural Culture

The Irish Architecture Foundation(IAF) in partnership with Donegal County Council, Donegal County Museum, Regional Culture Centre, An Grianán theatre with support from Creative Ireland, Creative Communities, present a competition for the commission of a permanent architectural or designed intervention along the pedestrian walkway connecting Port Road and High Road in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, for Spring 2020.

This Open Call worth €25,000 (incl vat) will see the winning team collaboratively engage with groups from Letterkenny in order to develop a public outcome and installation to draw greater attention and increased use along the pedestrian walkway in 2020

***Deadline 10th January 2020***

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## **The Brief**

Reimagine Letterkenny, Creating a Cultural Corridor is an open call for a multidisciplinary design team to explore creatively with the local community how this walkway could be used more by the town, become an attractive pedestrian asset and create a cultural identity uniting three of the main cultural buildings in Letterkenny town. The winning team will be a multi-disciplinary team which includes an architect or architectural graduate. We encourage the team to also include a broad mix of professional backgrounds and skill sets that may include, but not be limited to, designers, artists, geographers, historians, social scientists, social workers, community workers, urban planners and so on. The mission is to highlight the walkway and its benefit to the community connecting important cultural areas in the town, to increase the feeling of safety in this area and increase greater use.

This Open Call is commissioned by Donegal County Council, with additional grant-aid support from Creative Ireland's, Creative Communities programme and produced by the IAF's Reimagine Programme (see Context section).

Through this open call, the aim of the stakeholders is to use creative strategies and potential design solutions to find a way to better connect An Grianán Theatre, The Regional Culture Centre (RCC) and the Donegal County Museum to each other and to the rest of Letterkenny Town. They intend to increase awareness and use of the pathway.

This Open Call worth €25,000 (incl vat) will see the winning team collaboratively engage with groups from Letterkenny in order to develop a public outcome and installation in the Letterkenny in 2020. The winning team will be expected to deliver a solution under the two categories;

- Collaborative Process: Meet the stakeholders and community to research, co-create and develop the public output in a number of creative sessions to be proposed in response to this call.
- Public Output: Create a permanent intervention to create awareness and increase use of the pathway

The total budget for this project including design fee, manufacturing, install, transport, events, expenses and including VAT is €25,000

The project outcome will also encourage and empower people and communities of all ages to engage in a creative way with the issues revealed through IAFs consultations from Spring to Autumn 2019. These findings are detailed below in the context section. We wish for teams of architects, artists, designers, historians, archaeologists and others to reflect on how the walkway can be highlighted/illustrated to create more awareness and connect these cultural buildings to each other, and the town. The aim of the Reimagine project is to reveal the positive impact which considered public realm architecture and design of public space can have on communities.

Reimagine... aims to ensure as many people from the community have a say in their local environment. Therefore, the IAF have spent a number of months researching how/ if people use this walkway; how they feel about it; and how they feel about a project such as this. This information has

been used to shape this brief, more details can be found in the context section of the call.

To enter this open call complete and submit the **IAF Reimagine Letterkenny Creating a Cultural Corridor Open Call Application Form** available on the IAF website along with artwork for an A0 board detailing the proposal for an intervention for The Walks. Please outline in your application how you will engage the community to co-create this project with you.

## **Context**

The Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) launched a national campaign in 2019 called Reimagine... This programme works with communities across Ireland to co-create and co-design solutions to challenges, issues or opportunities they've identified in their locality. We then work with them to co-create an architectural/ design solution Letterkenny was selected as one of these towns for 2019.

In this project, we looked at the walkway connecting the Port Road and the High Road. The project team approached us as they wanted to raise awareness and use of this area. They identified that since the OPW had completed the building of the new courts, many people thought there was no longer a pedestrian walkway connecting the Port Road and High Road, and so the Donegal County Museum to the RCC and An Grianan Theatre.

We aim to use creative strategies and potential architectural interventions to find a way to better connect these buildings with each other; the other recreational spaces near by such as Tennis courts and shopping centre; and the wider town. We want to increase awareness of walkway and pedestrian use. The cultural buildings also identified that this could be an area that could help strengthen awareness of the cultural buildings present, and create a cultural brand in the area.

We wish to engage with the local community members, those who live and work in the area. We wish to engage current users, new users and also encourage visitors to the town and cultural buildings to use this pathway.

Rather than coming with a preconceived notion of how to engage people with the space, we began this project with an investigative process to establish how the people living and working in the immediate surrounds of pathway might already use this amenity, what would make them use it more, or how this amenity might serve these people better. Our mission is to highlight this walkway and its benefit to the community

From Spring 2019 to Autumn 2019, we have been investigating, in small ways, how local people already use this space, what makes people disinclined to use it and what other potential uses people envision. Previous activities undertaken ranged from observations, interviews and questionnaires designed to build a picture of what people like about the walkway what they want from the space and how we might enhance the space further for greater use. We also trialled some potential signage to see if this would increase use. We drew arrows on the ground, to see if people used them or noticed them, we hung cardboard signs pointing out the walkway and how many minutes it would take to reach the Port Road from the High Road. The research report (appendix 1) outlines the observations seen during this research and the responses of the local community. It also highlights what people see as important in this project and what they want to have reflected in this space. This information should inform your project submission.

We invite teams to apply with an indication of how they would engage with the local communities and what issues, if any, they wish to focus their research and project development on.

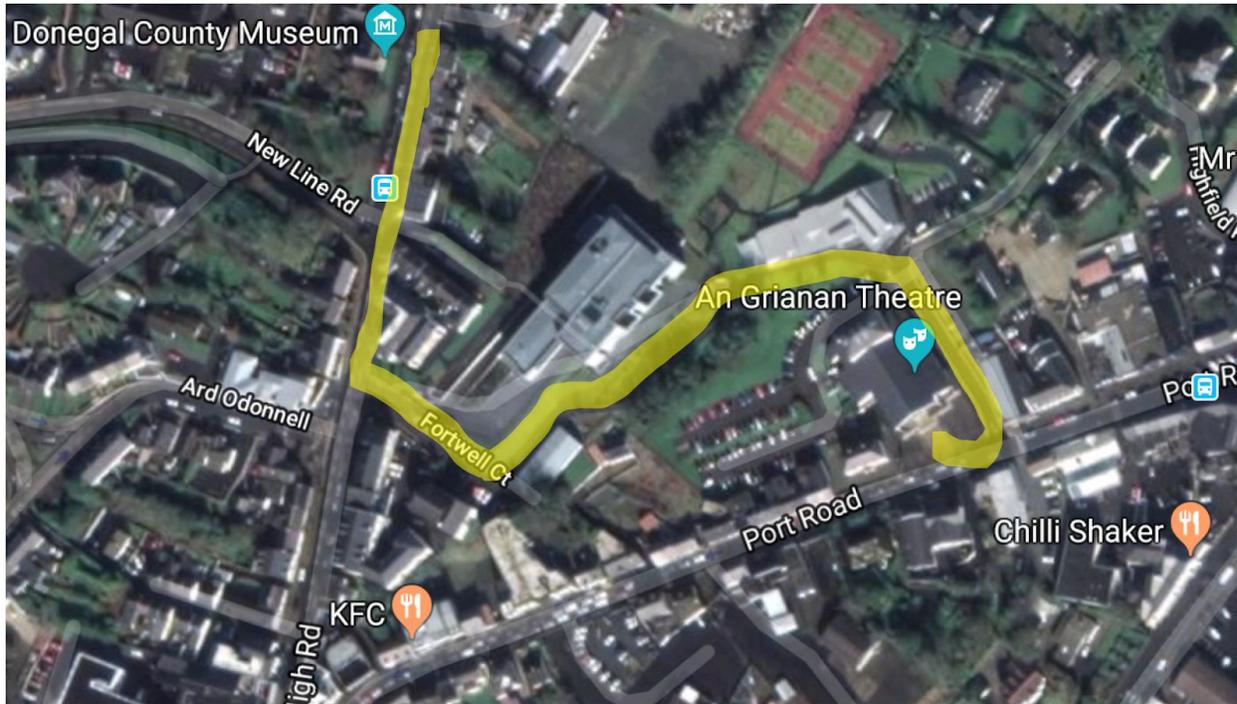
### **The project must:**

- **consider raising awareness and use of the pathway, highlighting it's crucial specific ability to connect these cultural buildings and other surrounding recreational spaces.**
- **proposing a programme of events to engage the community to co-design this project.**
- **have a tangible outcome but also respond to the community's need and feedback.**
- **teams should propose a creative outcome for the project, although it is important to understand that this outcome may develop over the course of the process of**

collaboration with the project's participants.

## The Location

The pathway runs from Fortwell St, off High Road and connects to the path in front of the RCC. It connects the High Road to the Port Road. There is no steps along the pathway, though the surface is rough in places.



## **About the Commissioners and Partners**

This call out is commissioned by the Donegal County Council with support from Creative Ireland Creative Communities and produced by the IAF.

### **Regional Culture Centre**

RCC Letterkenny is a multi-disciplinary arts facility developed by Donegal County Council. The distinctive glass and aluminium structure was designed by award winning Letterkenny-based MacGabhann Architects. It presents a programme of exhibitions, concerts, film, digital media and education and outreach. The centre incorporates a first floor art gallery, an auditorium with 140 retractable seats and full cinema facilities, three multi-purpose workshops, a dedicated music studio space, a small music rehearsal rooms and two foyer galleries. An ongoing programme of local, national and international art exhibitions is presented throughout the year.

### **Donegal County Museum**

Donegal County Museum is part of the Culture Division of Donegal County Council and is based in an old stone building, which was once part of the Letterkenny Workhouse. The Museum cares for a comprehensive collection of artefacts dating from the Stone Age to the Twentieth century and organises an annual programme of events which includes temporary exhibitions, lectures, seminars and workshops both in the Museum building and in venues throughout Donegal.

### **An Grianán Theatre**

An Grianán Theatre is a mid scale arts centre based in Letterkenny, Co Donegal. The building which has a 383 seat auditorium, large foyer areas and a small space for meetings and workshops, is owned by the Donegal County Council and is governed by An Grianán Theatre Management Company CLG. The theatre runs a year round programme of arts and cultural activities across all the performing arts as well as providing an extensive programme of classes and youth theatre activities. An Grianán Theatre has also established itself as a theatre producer and regularly produces professional and community productions which also tour to other festivals and arts centres. Most recent projects include The Experience of Being by Carol Moore, produced and toured in May 2019 and The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare, a large scale outdoor community production which was part of the Creative Europe funded Shaking the Walls project.

### **Irish Architecture Foundation**

The Irish Architecture Foundation has an established network and track record of delivering major projects primarily aimed at developing audiences for architecture in Ireland, while also raising the profile of Irish architecture abroad. Their programme of exhibitions, public realm projects and competitions, publications, school and community workshops, talks and symposia is intended to generate dialogue as well as critically engage a diverse public. The IAF was established in 2005, and our vision is to encourage initiatives which push the boundaries of definitions of architecture and its effect on society, culture and community.

The Irish Architecture Foundation will produce this competition, as well as promote the project through all stages.

## **Supporters;**

### **Creative Ireland**

The Creative Ireland Programme is guided by a vision that every person in Ireland will have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential. It is an all-of-government initiative, from 2017 to 2022, to place creativity at the centre of public policy. Further information is available here: <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en>

The National Creativity Fund enables the Creative Ireland Programme to activate, enable and support genuinely ground-breaking and innovative initiatives, research projects and community programmes, which have creativity and wellbeing at their centre. Through a series of strategic partnerships with cultural organisations, education and academic institutions and healthcare specialists, the selected projects are ambitious, innovative and inclusive and will help inform and implement the vision of the Creative Ireland Programme right across Government. Over €1.2m will be invested in the 30 initiatives over the duration of the Fund in 2018 and 2019.



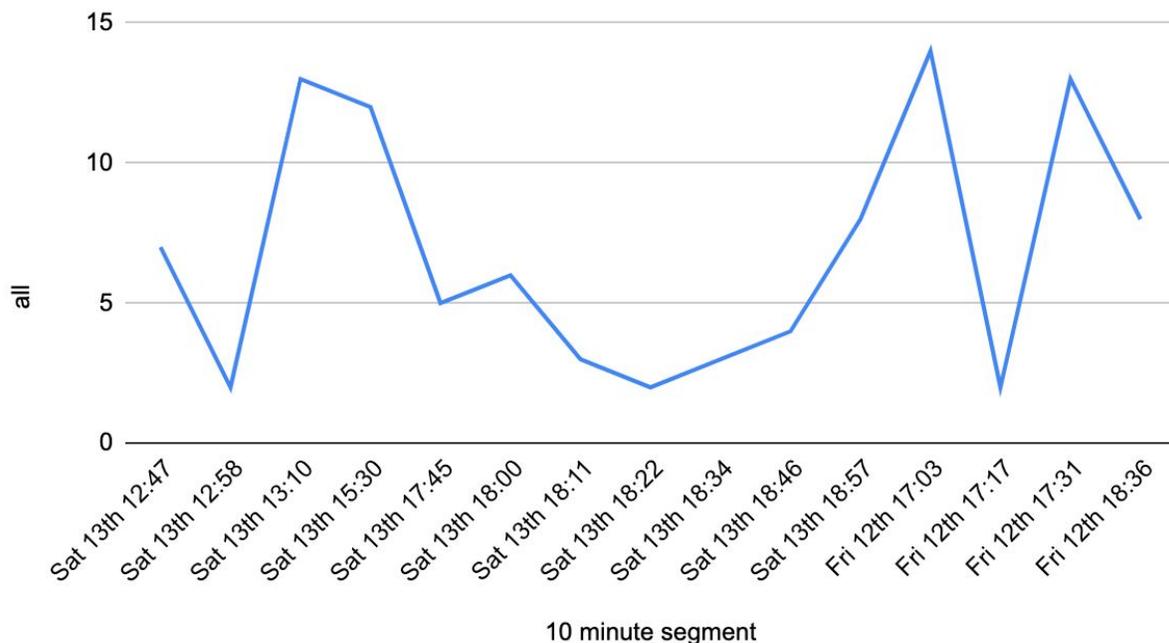
## **Key Findings from Research Phase**

The IAF spent a number of days in Letterkenny speaking to people about the walkway, their use of the cultural buildings in the area, observing how people use the walkway and talking to people about what would make them use it more. Below is a summary of these findings. The full findings are included in the appendix of this document.

### **Usage of the pathway**

The IAF spent a number of days on the path surveying uses and the amount of people travelling through the space.

Amount of people using the path in 10 minute segments



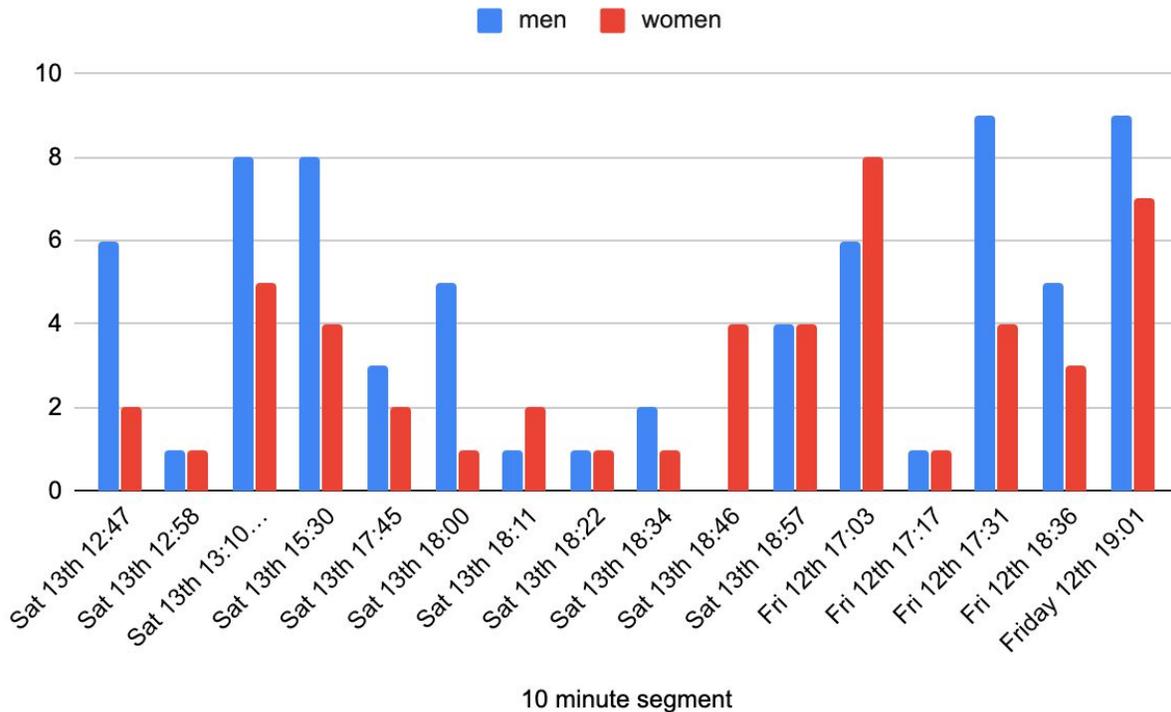
On average 7 people use the walkway every 10 minute segment. Implying that around 40 people use the walkway every hour during daylight hours.

The IAF also surveyed the surrounding roads and areas to see what the average footfall was in these area to compare the pathways use to;

Port Road	60
An Grianán carpark	16
High Street	11
Walkway	7

The IAF also kept track of the gender break down to see who was using the pathway most. Largely the break down was close to 50/50 however there were more male single users, women tending to be in groups more.

Amount of people by gender using the path in 10 minute segments



The IAF then interviewed people using the path to a) see if they were regular users, b) if the way finding indicators had had any impact and c) if they could think of anything to improve the experience of using the path. People were generally asked the following; 'Excuse me can I ask if you've used this laneway before, how often would you use it? Is there a specific reason you don't use it often? Can you think of something that might make it better?'

It became clear from these conversations that everyone despite age and demographic felt uneasy on the pathway. With one woman remarking that her adult son used it but she felt uncomfortable doing so 'she doesn't feel safe, it needs lights and signs.' One local resident described herself as a 'regular user of the path'. But behind the boxing club makes her 'wary'. If her daughter is running down to the tennis courts (which is often) this mother will watch her until she gets beyond that elbow [the one by the boxing club] as she just thinks 'it's too tight and too hard to see far along so issues if there was anybody coming along' its especially if intimidating. The safety issue was not seen as an issue for women or children with one man in his thirties pointing out it could be safer. 'If I felt safer I'd use it more. I don't like that corner [the one by the boxing club] it makes me feel uneasy. I walk very quickly through it...I prefer to walk through the courts... Maybe if it was done up [he'd use it more].'

They majority of people spoken to on the walkway pointed out the need for lights, and to make the sight lines along the oath better so people could see what was coming towards them. While they find the path very useful the also don't feel very comfortable on it. However, they do find the path useful and most are regular users. Other changes people would like to see are signage, clean the path it up a bit i.e. cutting back the nettles, planting flowers etc. Another regular user remarked as he was leaving the interview that he liked the chalked signs and the colour.

Those who do regularly use the path feel others don't probably because they're not aware it's there. One girl remarked that she 'uses it a bit because I live in town. Don't think many people know it exists so maybe a sign

or something...'

The IAF then began prototyping simple way finding indicators to see if people began using the path more. These included writing chalk arrows and signs on the ground, creating cardboard signs and using these. These wayfinding interventions are shown below.

Chalk Drawings:



## Carboard signs:



While these cues were in place the interviewer encountered 3 groups who'd never used it before. The observer overheard 3 instances where one person was introducing another to the route. While carrying out in depth interviews in the museum it was clear that people weren't sure if the path was still there. When asked how to get to the RCC from the museum one visitor commented he used to 'cut down the back of the old swimming pool' and they no longer used the walkway because 'they weren't sure it was there'. Another group interviewed pointed out that while the person she was with had known the way, she 'was visiting and had no idea.' It is clear that many believe the pathway no longer exists after the new build in the area and it is only through word of mouth or people exploring that people are realizing it still exists and is usable.

The initial ask from the community had been to connect these cultural institutions however it's clear from speaking and observing people that this pathway connects the shopping centre, the bus station, tennis courts, and cultural institutions to the town and this should be also considered when encouraging people to use the pathway more.

## **Criteria for Assessment**

Rather than selecting the winning team based solely on the proposed outcome/s, we will also select the winning team based on the expertise within the team, the approach that would be used to develop the project in collaboration with local people, those passing by, or communities of interest, and evidence in the application of an interest in and sensitivity to the challenges faced by local communities when using public space in Letterkenny.

Items to be considered in this Open Call:

- 1.) To design a permanent architectural intervention for the cultural corridor walkway in response to the established wants and needs of its users, neighbours and stakeholders i.e. safety, awareness increase use...etc
- 2.) The design should be installed by 25th March 2020
- 3.) The structure should respond to the community's needs for the space and to the cultural importance of the area it's in.
- 4.) It is crucial to this project that the overall design is to be agreed upon by the local community and feedback from the community must be adapted into the design. We invite teams to apply with an indication of how they would engage with the local communities and what issues, if any, they wish to focus their research and project development.
- 5.) The project should have a tangible outcome but also respond to the communities' needs, feedback and wider works currently happening within the surrounding cultural buildings and Letterkenny town.
- 6.) It is also required that the appointed design team engage the local community for approximately a month after appointment to further develop their idea with the community. Methods for this engagement should be proposed in the application and these events should be included in the proposed budget.
- 7.) We also wish for teams to propose a creative outcome for the project, although it is important to understand that this outcome may develop over the course of the process of collaboration with the project's participants.

The marks will be allocated as follows:

### **Team**

The winning team will be a multi-disciplinary team which includes an architect or architectural graduate. We encourage the team to also include a broad mix of professional backgrounds and skill sets that may include, but not be limited to, designers, artists, geographers, social scientists, social workers, community workers, urban planners and so on. The application form must contain a brief biography of all team members (all team members must be confirmed at the time of application) as well as a maximum of five examples of projects or research undertaken by one or more team members relating to consultative processes, community-led design, urban realm projects or engaging temporary interventions. Lastly, a member of the team must be able to provide public liability insurance indemnifying the Council against all claims to the limit of €6.5 million and employer's liability to the value of €13 million as required.

**Marks: 10**

**Proposed Outcome:** This outcome will be further developed in collaboration with local groups in the area and will in some way explore or elucidate the challenges and opportunities presented to local community when using this public space.

A tangible outcome is required for this project but consideration should also be given to the communication methods of the project and how it connects to the nearby cultural centres. A condition of this proposal requires that a series of public engagements must be included to further develop the initial proposal. This outcome may be speculative, discursive, or may even go some way towards improving the experiences of local people in Letterkenny's public spaces and will demonstrate the role architecture can play in engaging users and locals with public space. Through the research phase of this project we have gained valuable insights which have shaped this brief but further engagement sessions will be required by the team awarded the competition. For example, we would expect a number of sessions to take place to which will invite the immediate neighbours (contacted through the local cultural institutes) to gain their insight on the proposal and give further insight on how they use the space.

It has been noted during the course of this project so far there has been a sense of fear in response to this area. People are happy to use it in sunny days but feel visibility is poor at night people feel 'unsettled'. Proposals which aim to address this to develop a sense of ownership in the local community over the project, will be favoured. A number of events that can take place in and around the interventions should be included in the proposal.

It should be understood that the proposed outcome may develop over the course of the project, given the project's highly collaborative nature. It should also be noted that the proposed solution may be subjected to planning permission which may influence the desired outcome of the project.

**Marks: 30**

### **Budget**

The budget for this project is €25,000 *in total*.

This is to be inclusive of:

- design fee
- team expenses, including travel
- cost of process & consultation; the collaborative aspect of the project, research, development, facilitation
- delivery of the outcome; fabrication, materials, transport and construction costs of any outcome physical or otherwise
- Install
- VAT
- and any other expenses.

The winning team will present a well thought-out budget reflective of all of these costs and showing that the resources allocated to this project will be used to their maximum potential, while also being realistic and achievable.

**Marks: 20**

### **Methodology and timeline**

The aim of this project would be that this intervention be installed by Easter 2020. Therefore rather than just propose a predetermined outcome, the winning team will also describe their experience of or interest in running, learning from and creating work inspired by a collaborative process. They will explain the approach they will take in order to develop the project and will demonstrate that they will be flexible in their approach and responsive to the needs of the project's participants. They will explain how they will develop the project

over a planned period of time.

**Marks: 10**

**Demonstrable interest in architecture with regard to engaging communities in Public and Cultural Spaces**

The winning team will demonstrate an interest in and sensitivity to the challenges and opportunities presented in engaging the public in cultural and public spaces, an awareness of architecture's impact on communities and an enthusiasm for encouraging use in all communities.

They will also indicate in their project proposal how they intend to engage the wider community in the design of this project and in the programming around this intervention in 2020. Engaging the local community and allowing them multiple points to feed into the overall project is crucial to Reimagine... as such, proposals which highlight a number of engagement opportunities will be favoured.

**Marks: 30**

## **Competition structure**

This is an open call with submissions to be made to the Irish Architecture Foundation, by post or email, on or before 10 January 2019. A jury will select the winning team. We anticipate that this will be a one-stage competition, but reserve the right to shortlist and interview teams should the jury feel it is necessary. The public will also have a voice in the selection process.

To enter this open call please complete and submit the **IAF Reimagine Letterkenny: A Cultural Corridor Open Call Application Form** available on the IAF website along with artwork for an A0 board detailing their proposal for an intervention for the walkway.

Teams apply by completing and returning the competition application form (digitally or physically), which must contain short biographies of all confirmed team members, a maximum of five examples of previous work or research related to the project, an outline of how they plan to engage the community and brief answers to a number of questions related to IAF Reimagine... Letterkenny A Cultural Corridor. Applicants should also provide artwork for an A0 board detailing their proposal for an intervention for this walkway.

Submissions should be sent by email or post (five hard copies) to:  
[engagement@architecturefoundation.ie](mailto:engagement@architecturefoundation.ie) Reimagine Letterkenny: Creating a Cultural Corridor, Irish Architecture Foundation 15 Bachelor's Walk Dublin 1

## **Competition timeline**

13 November Competition opens

27 November Deadline for questions

29 November Circulated answers

10 January Ideas submitted

13-15 January Judging and finalists decided

17 January Winner announced based on public and judges opinion

24 January Contract signed

23 January - 17 Feb development

17-21 Feb Mid Term, idea approval, image approval

March Fabrication

March 23-4 April Install/ Launch

## **Competition jury:**

The jury will be made up of nominees from the following organisations:

Donegal County Museum

An Grianan

RCC

IAF

An independent appointed architect

Community voices

Donegal County Council

## **Deliverables:**

1 A Number of community engagement connection points to give greater insight into the challenges and values in the area which should be reflected in the outcome. These community engagement points should run during the development stage of this project and again once the intervention is delivered.

2 An architectural intervention in place from March/ April 2020 which to enhance the walkway encouraging greater use, dwell time and ownership by the local community. Something to be in place for launch Easter Week

3 A number of proposed events to engage the community with this intervention once it's in place.

## **Terms and conditions**

- Applications received after 10th January will be deemed ineligible.

- Entries which have not considered community engagement will not be considered.

- While we strongly encourage multidisciplinary teams to enter, the winning team must contain at least one architect or architectural graduate.

- Furthermore, one member of the team must be able to provide Public Liability insurance indemnifying the Council against all claims to the limit of €6.5 million and Employer's Liability to the value of €13 million as required.

- The winning team may be subject to Garda Vetting.

- The winning team will be contracted by the Irish Architecture Foundation to undertake the project. They will consult and liaise with the commissioners to secure site(s) or venue(s) for consultative elements, development of the project and the project outcome. as required, and they will liaise with Galway County Council specifically to secure any permissions required for the project's development and outcome.

- The project outcome must occur in Letterkenny by 4 April 2020.

**Further information** For further information, contact the IAF's engagement officer Anne Kearns at [engagement@architecturefoundation.ie](mailto:engagement@architecturefoundation.ie). Questions should be submitted by 27 November and answers will be circulated publicly 29th November

## **Appendix 1**

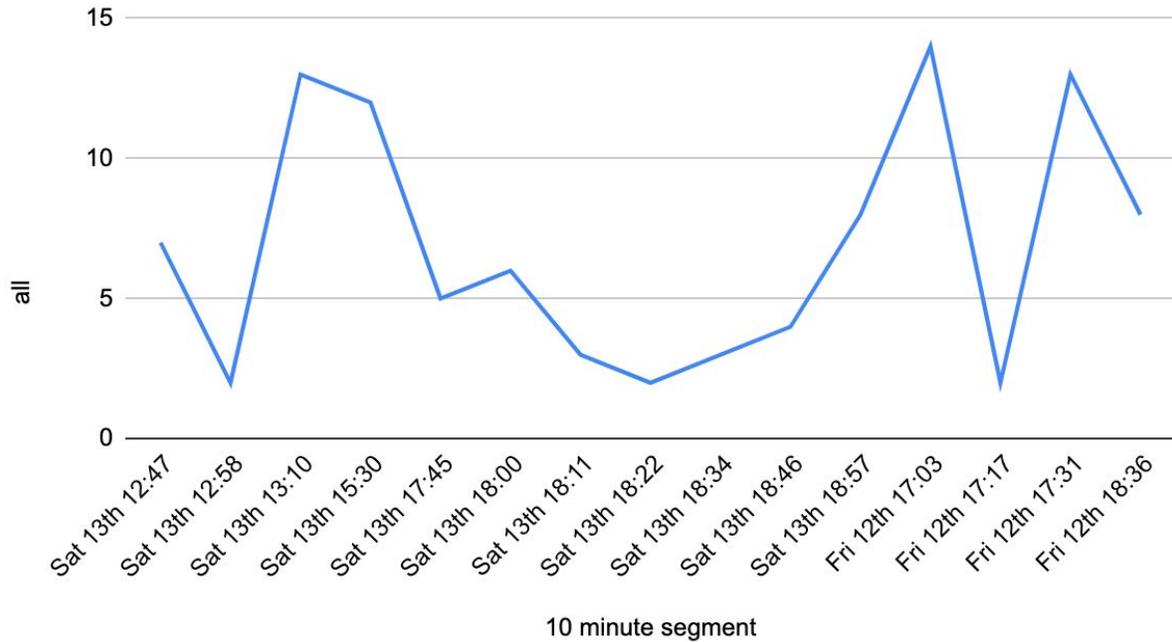
### **Research Phase of Reimagine... Letterkenny, Creating a Cultural Corridor**

The IAF spent a number of days in Letterkenny speaking to people about the walkway, their use of the cultural buildings in the area, observing how people used the walkway and talking to people about what would make them use it more. Below are these findings.

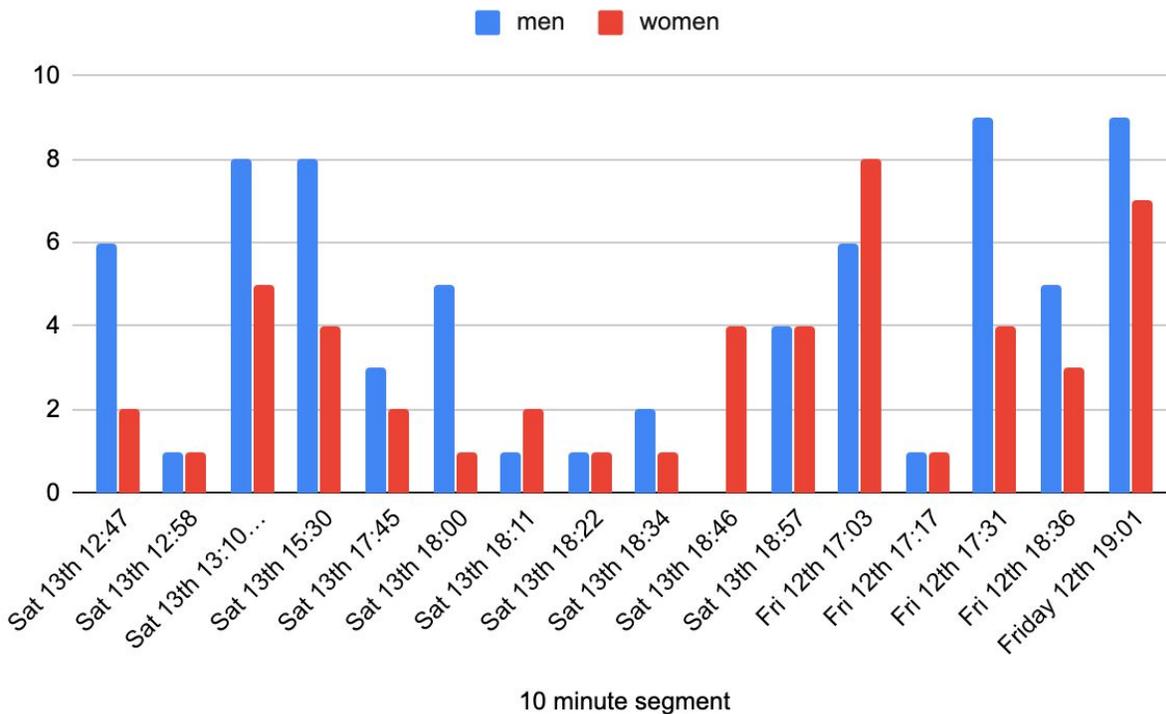
**Observed usage of the pathway**

The IAF spent a number of days on the path surveying uses and the amount of people travelling through the space.

Amount of people using the path in 10 minute segments



Amount of people by gender using the path in 10 minute segments



On average 7 people use the walkway every 10 minute segment. Implying that around 40 people use the walkway every hour during daylight hours.

The IAF also kept track of the gender break down to see who was using the space most. Largely the break down was close to 50/50 however there were more male single users, women tending to be in groups more.

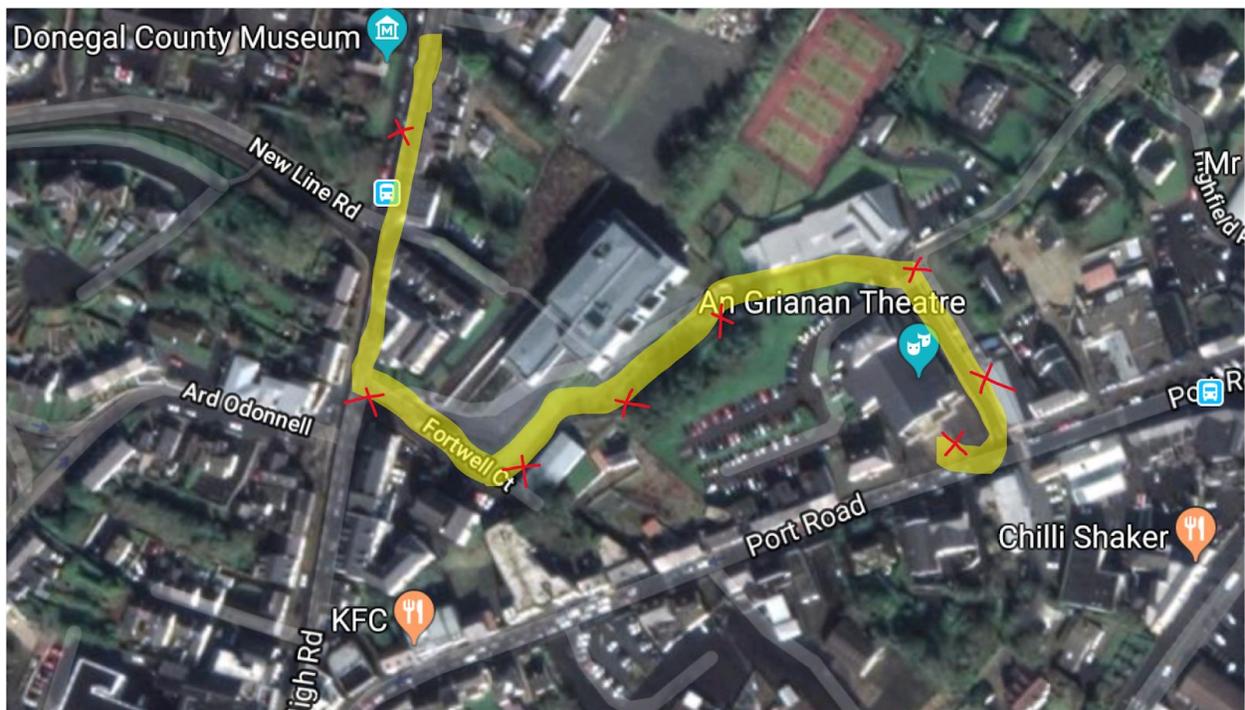
The IAF also for comparison spent time observing the roads and areas surrounding the walk way for example High St., Port Road, use of the carpark behind An Grianán. These findings have been added below.

	Car park	Total	Male	Female
On the lane opposite the fire exit to An Grianán	Friday 12th 16:52	16	6	10
On the lane opposite the fire exit to An Grianán	Friday 12th 18:21	15	6	9

	Port Road	Total	Male	Female
Facing from An Grianán out to port road	Friday 12th 16:52	60	29	31

	High St	Total	Male	Female
Opposite Donegal news	Friday 12th 17:44	8	4	4
Garden next to Donegal Museum	Friday 12th 17:55	15	10	5
Opposite Donegal news	Friday 12th 18:48	11	4	7

Places where observations took place



## Investigative methods along the path

The IAF then began prototyping simple way finding indicators to see if people began using the path more. These included writing chalk arrows and signs on the ground, creating cardboard signs and using these. These are shown below.

### 1) Chalk sign photos







2) Cardboard sign photos:





Responses when chalk arrows had been added;

One woman walking with her adult son remarked 'that he [her son] uses it regularly but she doesn't feel safe, it needs lights and signs.'

One younger couple came by remarking they 'wouldn't have known it was here, they followed the signs.'

At this point the observer overheard 3 instances where one person was introducing another to the route.

The IAF then interviewed people using the path to a) see if they were regular users, b) if the way finding indicators had had any impact and c) if they could think of anything to improve the experience of using the path. People were generally asked the following; 'Excuse me can I ask if you've used this laneway before, how often would you use it? Is there a specific reason you don't use it often? Can you think of something that might make it better?'

Time Bock	Grouping	Responses	Direction travelled / Observations	
12:10	Mom 40s and two kids under 10	Walked up from RCC caught them for conversation on way back down time log 12:30	Finishing setting up didn't have time for conversation but observed who came up	
	Man 50s	(Stopped to ask what I was doing. I explained I hanging the cardboard signs to see if people would use it more if they knew it was there.) Response: Yes it would be good if more people knew about it, signs help but also there's some silly hooligans in Letterkenny and left.'	Coming from high road in Port road direction	
12:20	Family Mom, Dad 30s and 10 year old boy.	Use the laneway regularly when walking home and 'very useful when going to the Letterkenny Shopping Centre'	Walking from port road direction up to boxing club direction	
	1 guy 30s	Could be safer. 'If I felt safer I'd use it more.' 'I don't like that corner [the one by the boxing club] it make me feel uneasy. I walk very quickly through it.' 'I prefer to walk through the courts.' Maybe if it was done up.	Walking boxing club side down to RCC	RCC had rehearsals and instrument with him
12:30	Mom 40s and two kids under 10	'Didn't even know this was up here!' We were waiting at the RCC took a walk up here and followed it along. 'Really handy actually' Be good if nettles and stuff were cut back	Had been sat in car waiting at RCC decided to go for walk while waiting	The girls were engaging with the signs as they walked along. (could have been influenced by me as I walked by twice while doing cardboard signs)
12:40	Lady 40s walking on her own	From there but just back visiting Letterkenny on holiday, hadn't been back in years wasn't sure where the laneway would lead but was hoping	Port road direction	Out for a walk

		it would bring her out somewhere on back on the highroad		
	Lady in her 40s who daughter about 12 joined her while speaking (though she's been dropped separately by her father)	Regular user of the path. But behind the boxing club makes her 'wary'. If her daughter is running down to the tennis courts (which is often) mother will watch her until she get beyond that elbow of it as she just thinks it's too tight and too hard to see far along so issues if there was anybody coming along, especially if intimidating. Daughter also takes part in activities in RCC and was on her way at the time. They live 'in town' so it's about 15 minutes walk, even if running late what they'll do is mom will drive daughter from house to top of lane and daughter will run down from there as it's faster than driving around the town. Did mention that they'd seen the signs and thought they were a great prompt. Also discussed how inly recently she'd been talking to another neighbour who'd relocated from Dublin and they were both commenting on how there's a cultural attitude in Letterkenny to cycling or walking that sometimes it's uncool or uncouth as a means of transport but bit more ok if you're doing it to be fit ie walk lap of the town fine but why would you walk to the shops	From boxing club direction to RCC	Do use the space so often that they encountered each other upon it. Didn't arrive together.
12:50	No one			
13:00	One girl, teenager	Uses it a bit, lives in town. Doesn't think many people know it exists 'so maybe a sign or something..'	From high road towards port road direction	
	2 girls, 20s	A: Use it a few times, in college here so when getting busses B: Didn't even know it was here! A: It's definitely shorter than going around	From port road towards high road direction	Had bags with them looks like they'd come off buses

		B: Maybe some flowers or something might help		
END				

*Broke here to observe at the junction of port and high road if more people were walking around that way*

*Observations at cross roads begin 1:10 -14:00*

1:15                1 young couple down left hand side of high road and around port

1:25                1 older couple same as above

*Note: observer moved to better seat for viewing*

1:35                2 guys 30s around from port and up

13:50              one guy around and up

Time Block	Grouping	Comments	Direction travelled / Observations	
14:00	1 Guy 30s	Uses it a fair bit especially if cutting down to the shopping centre from	Walking from port road direction up to boxing club direction	
14:10	1 Guy 30s	Uses every day, it several times a day. Has used in all the time for the 5 years he's lived in Letterkenny. 'Never use the long way'. He has a shop down on port road and lives in town. Closes his shop at 3am and it's too dark so he take the other short cut back (one by the old cinema) But still even though it's dark no one ever goes the long way round. Also made a comment that he'd like the chalk signs.	From high road towards port road direction	
14:20	No one			
14:30	End			

### **In depth interviews in Donegal County Museum**

The IAF also spent a couple of hours in the Donegal County Museum speaking to visitors. We asked them a series of questions:

1. Do you know where An Grianán Theatre or the Regional Culture Centre is?
2. How would you get there from here?
3. Do you ever use the 'shortcut'?
4. Why not? Could we improve it? Does it work
5. Have you been to the Donegal County Museum / An Grianán / Regional Culture Centre before?
6. Do you ever attend any of the other cultural buildings in the surrounding area?
7. Anything else we should know?

Questions 1-4 were around the pathway, if people knew it was there and used it? We also wanted to investigate if they did know it was there, why didn't they use it. The majority of visitors to the area did not know it was there. While they knew there were other cultural institutions near by they didn't know the pathway existed. They also didn't realise how close the buildings were. This is largely due to poor way finding indicators. For example, one set of Tourists interviewed, when asked if they knew of the RCC/ An Grianán Theatre seemed vaguely aware of the direction of the RCC and theatre but indicated they thought it was north in the direction of De Valera Road and Circular Road roundabout (as this is where it's sign posted).

One group while interviewed when asked how they'd get to An Grianán Theatre, or the RCC from the museum responded 'Used to go across by the back of the swimming pool or the other lane but not sure it's there now'

While one user did know the path and was confident it was there, 'Down the back of the courthouse', the other people spoken to that day did not. When asked why people didn't use it the most common answer was lack of awareness that it was there.

- 'Didn't use it anymore cause wasn't sure it was there anymore'

- 'Uses it, not very clear it's there'

- 'Didn't know about it'

When asked if there was anything else the IAF should know one interviewee pointed out that 'while he [the person she was with] knew the way I am visiting and have no idea'

Questions 5-7 were to determine if people were likely to use more than one cultural institution. It was also to assess if a clear brand or visual cue was made between these cultural spaces would visitors want to go from one cultural space to another. The general opinion was yes with two groups (visitors to the area) saying that they were going to a show in either the RCC or An Grianán that evening.