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**Azure Dementia Inclusive Training**

**For artists and art educators with a visual arts background**

Laois County Council Arts Office in partnership with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) is seeking 8 artists to participate in Azure Dementia Inclusive Training.

This training is aimed at artists and arts educators with facilitation experience that are interested in working with person's living with dementia and their carers/family and provide expert guidance on how to deliver dementia-inclusive art viewing workshops where the person living with dementia and their carer/family can participate. Free of charge to participating artists. All training and assessment will be delivered online.

Selected participants are required to attend all the following professional development training dates. If you cannot commit to this programme of activities, it is recommended that you do not apply for this opportunity.

May & June

Sessions 1-3 on Wed mornings 10.00-13.00 on May 26, June 2, 9 and Session 4 on 14.00-17.00 on June 16

Assessments take place on Wed mornings 10.00-13.00 on June 23 and 25. (Participants to only attend one of the assessment sessions)

**Module 1: Wednesday 26 May, 10:00-13:00**

* Introductions
* Background and Ethos of the Azure Network
* Dementia Awareness delivered by the Alzheimers Society of Ireland with the Irish Dementia Working Group.
* Agewise Training delivered by Age and Opportunity

**Module 2: Wednesday 2 June, 10:00-13:00**

* Overview of the Azure Methodology
* Focus on the Description Phase of the Methodology
* Review of video of an Azure session to identify the structure of the tour
* Advice on approaching the preparation of an Azure tour
* Check-in on basic facilitation skills

**Module 3: Wednesday 9 June, 10:00-13:00**

* Overview of Azure facilitation strategies
* Focus on active listening
* Focus on asking supportive questions
* Comparison of Traditional Tour and Azure Tour
* Review of video of an Azure session to identify facilitation strategies

**Module 4: Wednesday 16 June, 14:00-17:00**

* Experience of an online Azure tour
* Guest speaker (tbc) presenting on their dementia inclusive arts programme
* Debrief and wrap up

**Practice session 1: Wednesday 23 June, 10:00-13:00 (one half of trainees attend)**

Opportunity for trainees to practice facilitating an online Azure tour for other trainees and to receive feedback from course trainers.

**Practice session 2: Friday 25 June, 10:00-13:00 (other half of trainees attend)**

Opportunity for trainees to practice facilitating an online Azure tour for other trainees and to receive feedback from course trainers.

July

4 practical arts engagement sessions with the IMMA Visitor Engagement Team (VET) on delivering sessions to the public (1.5hrs per session)

July & August (exact dates TBC)

‘Effective Online Presentation Skills’ with Aileen O Meara Media (3 sessions x3hrs/session)

Sept - Nov

Laois Art Office will invite all participants to apply to facilitate a series of online arts engagement courses (5 sessions per course) and/or in person courses to older people (in line with Covid-19 regulations) living at home and in residential care homes in Laois, using an art pack co-developed by Laois Arts Office (Laois County Council Art Collection) and IMMA (IMMA’s art collection). Successful facilitators will be provided with a one-off fee for this work.

**Timeline**

Applications open: Thursday, April 22

Submission deadline: Wednesday, May 12

Notification of successful participants: Friday, May 14

Start date: Wednesday, May 26, 10.00-13.00

**Selection Criteria**

(1)Experience working within the visual arts and/or other art genres

(2)Experience in delivering facilitation programmes for older people and/or other types of age groups

(3)Experience to date in arts engagement practices in person, online and/or within a socially distanced context

(4)Knowledge of presenting online and using online technologies such as Zoom, etc

(5)Access to broadband and ability to fully commit to and participate in this professional development programme

**How to Apply**

Download the application form at <https://laois.ie/departments/creative-ireland/ci-projects-2021/creativity-older-age/>

The application form should be completed and submitted by email to Laois County Council Arts Office at artsoff@laoiscoco.ie. Inclusive of all supporting material, Artist CV and sample of works. Refer to application form on suitable formats.

**For more information**

For all enquiries, please contact Laois Arts Office on 057 8664033/13 or artsoff@laoiscoco.ie.

This is an initiative of Laois County Council Arts Office in partnership with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) and in collaboration with Laois Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland Laois

Supported by Creative Ireland Laois as part of the Creativity for Older Age challenge fund 2021 - Creative Ireland Programme (2017–2022) and in partnership with Laois County Council.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Laois County Council Arts Office

At the forefront of local arts development since 1989. Laois was one of the first local authorities to appoint an Arts Officer then. Laois arts service aims to maximise participation in and access to a wide range of quality artistic experiences across a range of arts disciplines. Our aims are to create an environment which supports the artist and artistic ambition and increase socially inclusive participation in all artistic programmes. Laois County Council has developed a high quality programme including exhibitions, learning and participation initiatives, festivals, public art projects and artists’ residencies.

www.laois.ie/departments/arts

Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)

Over the last decade IMMA's Engagement and Learning Department has pioneered the development of programming for older people in museums in Ireland. It has demonstrated its commitment and capacity to deliver innovative, impactful programming, and has successfully established itself as the leading authority in this space.

Programming for older people both within the walls of our cultural institutions, in their local communities and in residential settings is becoming increasingly important as Ireland's population continues to age. IMMA has identified the need and opportunity to make provisions to guarantee the inclusion of older audiences in all of its programming and recognises the diversity of the experience of older people in Ireland; from those who are healthy, independent and well, to older people with disabilities, and a growing population of people living with dementia or caring for someone living with dementia.

In 2020 IMMA appointed Ireland's first Art & Ageing Curator, and with the support of Creative Ireland, launched its Art & Ageing Programme and additionally creating a suite of digital tools and printed resource packs. The pilot was a huge success with over 33,000 views of the digital resources and over 14,000 packs distributed by IMMA or via our project partners including Age & Opportunity, Alzheimer Society of Ireland and HSE Dementia Understand Together.

www.imma.ie/learn-engage/art-and-ageing

Creative Ireland Laois

Provides an opportunity for everyone in the county to become involved in creativity and culture. Laois welcomes the opportunity to be part of this national programme.

‘A Sense of Place’ is the theme chosen for the Creative Ireland Laois Plan for 2018-2022. Laois is a county where culture and creativity are recognised as being integral to life. The Creative Ireland vision for Laois is to nurture and foster creative expression in all its diversity; to embrace and welcome new ideas; and to create the conditions to help turn those ideas into reality and embed creativity into all aspects of the social, economic and cultural life of Laois.

[www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/laois](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/laois)

The Creative Ireland Programme (2017-2022)

A five-year programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. It is an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme that inspires and transforms people, places and communities through creativity and is committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realize their full creative potential.

[www.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie)