

PRESS RELEASE FINAL

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CRAWFORD ART GALLERY'S REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT IS LODGED WITH CORK CITY COUNCIL

November 30th, 2022. A crucial step in the transformative redevelopment of the Crawford Art Gallery under the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has been announced. The planning application for the redevelopment of Crawford Art Gallery will be lodged today with Cork City Council. The redevelopment of Crawford Art Gallery as a significant institution in the heart of Cork city, is a flagship project under the Department's programme of National Development Plan investments.

Crawford Art Gallery is located in a series of important buildings, parts of which date back to the early 18th century right in the heart of Cork city. The almost 300 year old building needs significant enhancement and upgrading to meet the evolving demands of a dynamic National Cultural Institution. Crawford Art Gallery and the Office of Public Works (OPW), supported by the Department, undertook multiple studies over a number of years to define the scope and potential of the existing gallery site. Following extensive appraisal works, a detailed business case was produced which considered and analysed a number of development options.

The primary goal of the gallery's redevelopment project is to provide enhanced accommodation which is fit for purpose, reflecting its national cultural status. The proposed project will provide significant new additional exhibition and public circulation areas, a new Learn and Explore facility, significant storage for the National Collection at Crawford, a new entrance and a dramatically improved public realm. The new build element includes 1,919 sq. m (GIA) of additional space and 3,641 sq. m (GIA) of refurbished and reconfigured space.

The building will be restored and significant care has been taken by the interdisciplinary design team, led by award winning Grafton Architects, to retain the building's much loved character. The redeveloped Crawford Art Gallery will contribute significantly to the Cork City Development Plan, and the National Spatial Development Plan's objectives and policies, and intends to further support Cork and Ireland's vibrant visual art scene, connecting audiences to art.

Catherine Martin, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, welcomed the submission for planning as a major step forward in the redevelopment project noting that 'this project represents a once-in a generation investment for this important National Cultural Institution, as part of the National Development Plan. It will be transformative for the Crawford, creating new public spaces, protecting the national collections and delivering the highest standards of sustainability, while also being central to the development of a new, vibrant urban plaza at Emmett Square'

Rose McHugh, Chair, Crawford Art Gallery said, "This is a significant milestone in the project. After years of consideration and design development, we are now in a position to bring the project to the planning process. We are mindful of the significance of Crawford, its buildings and the place it has in the hearts and minds of its very loyal audiences. We are hopeful that we can maintain the momentum with this project and deliver it for the city and the region."

Mary McCarthy, Director, Crawford Art Gallery said, "We are grateful for the design team's attentiveness to our needs for our audiences and artists, ensuring that Crawford Art Gallery's character is maintained, and that the building will be restored, renewed and extended, ensuring that it can thrive into the future. We are hugely appreciative of our audience's feedback and loyalty."

Grafton Architects said *“These proposals add a new layer to this wonderful institution, to retain its unique and special character, to facilitate new ways of moving through the gallery, making the building accessible to all. By carefully inserting a new top lit “courtyard” connecting into more of the existing beautiful rooms, expanding gallery space, creating purpose-built facilities for art storage and increasing and consolidating education facilities, this new redevelopment consolidates the historic and significant role that the Crawford plays in the cultural life of the city of Cork and beyond .’*

Further information about Crawford Art Gallery’s redevelopment project is available at www.crawfordartgallery.ie

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Notes to Editor:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mAkB1SMw4anUiEzXN8yky3Yt7WMg6da6?usp=share_link

(GIA) = Gross internal area

Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish National Cultural Institution, dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a vibrant and dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it is also houses a collection of national importance which tells a compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries.

Built in 1724 as the city’s Customs House, the Gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to Cork two centuries ago. Featured in the gallery’s collection of over 3,000 objects are contemporary artists Aideen Barry, Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Tacita Dean, and Sean Scully as well as much-loved works by Irish artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, and Jack B. Yeats.

An oasis of calm and tranquillity, Crawford Art Gallery is open seven days a week, free to enter, and a must-see for locals and tourists alike. Welcoming over 265,000 visitors annually, the Gallery also houses a The Green Room Café in stunning surroundings, serving local produce for which Cork is famous

Grafton Architects

Grafton Architects is an award winning international architecture studio, based in Dublin. From this base, the practice has completed many significant and prestigious buildings in Ireland and internationally. Recent projects include the completed university buildings in Toulouse, France, the new city library on Parnell Square in Dublin and the headquarters building for the ESB on Fitzwilliam Street in Dublin's Georgian core.

As principal design consultants, Grafton Architects will be responsible for providing all construction-related technical advice and design services for the Crawford Art Gallery and the OPW in respect of the project.

<https://www.graftonarchitects.ie/Contact>

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm
Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays
Gallery: 11am - 4pm
Entry Free

TOURS

Free Tours Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm

Free Tours on Thursday 6.30 pm .

This project is in support of the Night-Time Economy and funded by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media