

A national cultural project with international relevance

RCPI is creating Ireland's first publicly accessible medical museum, transforming a collection of over 50,000 objects, archives and rare books into a distinctive new visitor experience at No. 6 Kildare Street in the heart of Dublin. Through heritage, science, innovation and personal stories, the museum will create a new cultural and educational destination, opening one of Ireland's most significant medical heritage collections to the public for the first time.



At a glance

- **Target Opening:** 2029
- **Location:** No. 6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2
- **Museum Visitor Space:** 352m² (approx.)
- **Collection:** 50,000+ objects, archives and rare books
- **Procurement:** Two-stage process (EOI followed by ITT)
- **Current Project Stage:** Exhibition Design Partner Procurement
- **Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)** accredited since 2018
- **Project Governance:** Museum Board and Capital Committee oversight reporting to RCPI Exec and Council
- **Audiences:** Public, schools, healthcare, researchers, international visitors and RCPI's global membership community.
- **Exhibition Project Value:** Estimated €1.5m - €3m (Indicative estimate only. RCPI reserves the right to amend this estimate)
- **Total Museum Investment:** Approximately €8m, comprising €3m committed by RCPI and a €5m fundraising target.

Project vision – the museum will:

- Reveal one of Ireland's most significant medical heritage collections.
- Incorporate object-led storytelling, interpretation and digital engagement.
- Establish a new cultural and educational destination in the heart of Dublin.
- Achieve the highest standards of accessibility, inclusion and visitor-centred design.
- Create an engaging visitor experience for public, educational and professional audiences.

Scope of opportunity

RCPI is seeking an experienced exhibition design partner to help develop and deliver the museum visitor experience, including:

- Exhibition design
- Visitor experience planning
- Spatial planning and gallery design
- Digital, interactive and audiovisual integration
- Accessibility and inclusive design
- Design development and technical documentation

Why this matters

- A rare opportunity to help create Ireland's first dedicated medical museum and shape a nationally significant cultural institution from inception.

Indicative Museum Floor Plan



No. 6 Kildare Street

RCPI's historic home since 1864 —a landmark Victorian building in the heart of Dublin.



Collections snapshot

Stories that inspire - at the heart of the museum are extraordinary stories of courage, innovation, resilience and care.



Kathleen Lynn - Founder of St Ultan's Hospital and Chief Medical Officer of the Irish Citizen Army in 1916, Kathleen Lynn transformed children's healthcare and public health in Ireland. Her diaries provide a unique first-hand account of medicine, activism and social change in early twentieth-century Ireland.



The Patient Experience - From an iron lung used in the treatment of polio to objects created by tuberculosis patients and objects from Grangegorman, the museum will reveal powerful stories of resilience, recovery and the human experience at the heart of healthcare.

Hidden treasures - Extraordinary objects reveal the connections between medicine, society and the people who shaped both.



Historical curiosities: Napoleon's toothbrush - Presented by Napoleon to his Irish physician while in exile on St Helena, this extraordinary object highlights unexpected connections between Ireland, medicine and world history.



Ireland and the wider world - From County Galway to India, China and Egypt, Irish army surgeon William Robert Kerans' career reflects medicine's global reach. His military uniform tells the story of a physician whose work spanned continents and some of the nineteenth century's defining events.