

Dublin City Council Arts Plan 2025 – 2029



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Temi NLA at Liberty Vibe 2022
photo by Pati Guimaraes



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Roxanna Nic Liam and Eric O'Brien in *Stór* by playwright Ciaran Taylor

Introduction



The Dublin City Arts Plan sets out priorities for developing and supporting the arts in Dublin. It sets out how The City Arts Office works in partnership with other sections within the City Council and through the Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department. It sets out the key partnerships with agencies such as the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media that support Dublin City Council's work with artists, audiences and communities on a local, national and international level. It is shaped by our equality and human rights values of dignity and respect, and diversity and accessibility. Through this Arts Plan Dublin City Council continues to support a city that nurtures, and develops creative work through all the art forms.

The Arts & Dublin City Council



Arts services and the programming of arts projects are provided through multiple sections of Dublin City Council and are not limited to The City Arts Office. The following list is not exhaustive, but captures the extensive range of arts provisions supported by Dublin City Council:

- » All the Area Offices support local arts initiatives.
- » The Library Service supports arts at a community and citywide level, offering access to various ideas and voices past and present.
- » The City Events Unit provides large, medium and boutique opportunities for the public to experience the arts in their local parks, streets and community spaces.
- » The Parks Service commissions and hosts arts events, significant sculptural work and installations.
- » World-class art institutions, such as Hugh Lane Gallery, are owned and maintained by the City Council.
- » The Council oversees cultural and Arts activity through community culture projects, such as its stewardship of 14 Henrietta Street and Richmond Barracks.

What Are “The Arts”?



The Arts Act 2003 states that:

‘‘Arts’ means any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes.’

(Arts Act 2003 Government of Ireland)

There are three fundamental ways in which people engage with the arts:

- 1 Experience: we can encounter the arts by attending concerts or plays, reading books and visiting exhibitions.
- 2 Participation: we can collaborate and engage with the arts, such as by joining a choir or a local drama society, taking photos as part of a youth project, attending a writing workshop, painting, or joining dance classes.
- 3 Creation: we can create art as practising, professional artists, or as emerging, amateur artists.

The role of Dublin City Council is to safeguard, develop and protect an ecosystem of places, people and funding for the arts. Our goal is to maintain a sustainable and accessible circle of arts practice, arts participation and arts engagement in partnership with the Arts Council and all other national agencies.

The Context of the Arts Plan



This City Arts Plan recognises that the context for the arts has changed in the aftermath of the Coronavirus pandemic, particularly with increasing economic pressure and precarious financial conditions experienced by many artists. The arts community experiences considerable hardship, with the sector only recently beginning to recover from the hiatus of the pandemic but still experiencing the pressures of the cost of living and working in the arts. Nevertheless, there is a new appreciation for the value of the arts and a new political awareness, at both local and national levels. Public appreciation for the arts in an increasingly diverse society has led to increased funding and visibility.

Alongside this new public appreciation and significant increases in government support, there is a continuing concern that artists, and those who participate in the arts, are suffering from a lack of affordably built infrastructure in which to make and display their work.

A thriving creative ecosystem needs the vital building blocks of physical workplaces that are appropriate and affordable for artists to create and share their work with audiences. It also requires the soft infrastructure of talented people with a wide range of knowledge, skills, and abilities to make the best possible use of those spaces.

This Arts Plan celebrates the arts in Dublin while identifying the continued deficits in hard and soft infrastructure and setting out actions to address these deficits.

There is a broad understanding and acknowledgement of the situation, experience and needs of artists, participants in the arts, and audience members for the arts from groups subjected to discrimination, inequality and disadvantage, and the particular barriers they face. This City Arts Plan reflects Dublin City Council's commitment to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights for these groups.

The Purpose of the Arts Office

Dublin City Council recognises the unique and transformative role of the arts in the lives of its residents, businesses and visitors. The arts are a critical component of Dublin City Council's aim to showcase Dublin as a diverse and vibrant city to its population and the outside world. It recognises that such artistic expression is a cornerstone of Dublin's cultural identity and its international reputation.

The City Arts Office is a developmental unit within Dublin City Council. It supports and produces quality, learning and innovation in the arts, and enables access and participation as artists, participants, and audience, with particular attention to groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage, through collaboration and strategic partnership at local, regional and international levels.

The idea of an Arts Office in each Local Authority to 'develop the Arts in their administrative areas' is set out in The Arts Acts, 1973.

The Local Government Act of 2001 determined that Local Authorities can '... take such measures, engage in such activities or do such things (including the incurring of expenditure) as it considers necessary or desirable to promote the interests of the local community...' including '... artistic, linguistic and cultural activities'.



Schedule 13 of the Local Government Act defines 'artistic, linguistic, and cultural activities' as 'The provision of art galleries, arts centres, concert halls, museums, theatres, opera houses and the holding of artistic, linguistic and cultural performances and promotional activities.'

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 requires a public body, in the performance of its functions, to have regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination; promote equality of opportunity and treatment of its staff and the persons to whom it provides services; and protect the human rights of its members, staff and the persons to whom it provides services.

In giving effect to this Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, Dublin City Council has developed and published: an equality and human rights values statement that captures its ambition in implementing the Duty; an evidence-based assessment of equality and human rights issues that face the identified groups for the Duty and that are relevant to its functions; and an implementation plan that provides a framework for the ongoing implementation of the Duty, across all of its functions (identifying where the assessment and the implementation plans are available).

The groups identified for the Duty are: those covered by the grounds of gender (including gender expression, gender identity and sex characteristics), civil status, family status (including lone parents and carers), age, disability (broadly defined to include all impairment groups), sexual orientation, race, religion, membership of the Traveller community, and socio-economic status (at risk of or experiencing poverty and exclusion); those at the intersections of these grounds; and rights holders under relevant human rights instruments.

In the preparation of this City Arts Plan, the Arts Office, to give effect to the Duty: established the equality and human rights issues facing the identified groups for the Duty, that relevant to the plan (see Appendix); ensured a focus on these issues in developing this plan; and undertook a formal check at final draft stage of the plan, to ensure these issues were adequately and appropriately addressed. In reporting on progress under this plan, the Arts Office will annually report on the progress made in addressing these equality and human rights issues. The Arts Office is further guided in its work, by its commitment to compliance with the Equal Status Acts 2000–2018.

Empowered by this legislative framework, Dublin City Council is committed to making the arts accessible to all communities and those individuals who choose to identify as belonging to no fixed community within the city, identifying and adapting to the specific needs of the diversity of groups and removing any barriers. This means that ideally, and as resources allow:

- » Every resident and visitor will have access to affordable and appropriate spaces within their locality where artistic work can be created and shared.
- » Every professional, practising artist will have the opportunity to connect and engage with other artists and those who wish to participate in and enjoy the arts.

This ambition is realised through the development of two types of infrastructure:

- » Places and Spaces (hard infrastructure).
- » People, including networks, communities and organisations (soft infrastructure).



The Arts Office supports these two types of infrastructure by:

- » Collecting relevant data and feedback through local research and development in each administrative area, including for the collection of relevant equality data through such initiatives and for securing feedback from the diversity of communities in each administrative area.
- » Collaborating with the Arts Council to identify areas of deficit and leverage new funding and resources.
- » Working across the City Council sections to target the Creative Ireland Programme under the guidance of the City Librarian and to support and advise on all Arts initiatives.
- » Creating opportunities for artists to live and work in the city by maintaining the portfolio of arts buildings within its remit, and supporting all other sections within the City Council who use buildings for the arts.
- » Providing professional mentorship, governance advice, curatorial support, strategic development and facilitation sessions for groups or organisations during periods of transition or growth.
- » Building capacity for the arts in the city by honing partnerships, within the Dublin City Council and with the broader community, including those communities experiencing inequality and disadvantage and their representative organisations.
- » Developing policy through the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on the provision of arts services and new arts infrastructure.

The City Arts Office will implement the Address Step of the Duty in an ongoing manner in relation to policies, strategies and programmes that are developed on foot of this plan.



Samuel Adeleke and Holly O'Toole at Creative Hubs

New Directions and Initiatives

Dublin City Council now works in partnership with the Arts Council through the Arts Council & Dublin City Council Partnership Framework. Through a detailed Service Level Agreement (SLA), Dublin City Council collaborates with Creative Ireland to deliver high-value and sustainable developments through programmes such as Cruinniú na nÓg and Gaeilge365. We work closely with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media to address the deficit in artist workspaces in the city. These partnerships are supported by the leadership of our elected representatives on the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and through its subcommittees and are underscored by a new appreciation of the value of the arts to a reimagined night-time economy.



The Arts Office completed an initial study of arts provision, infrastructure and engagement in the North Central Area of the city in 2022. This informed the development of Creative Places, Faoin Speir and the new artist workspaces in Artane Place with critical funding support from the Arts Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and the Media. The development of the Artane Place project pointed towards the need to develop workspaces for artists in the wider administrative areas outside of the city centre. In 2022 the Arts Office held open calls for new artist workspaces in Filmbase and Merchants Quay, as well as tendering for a feasibility study for a new 500-seat venue.

Central to this development of places and spaces is the ability to respond to and support creative and artistic practices and networks in our communities, increasing opportunities for artists to live and work in their locality. Without new audiences and participants and increased capacity, new buildings for the arts will be difficult to sustain. Hard and soft infrastructures in the arts must be developed in tandem.

In developing and engaging with partner organisations and internal partner organisations, and in the provision of funding and support to other organisations, the Arts Office will work to ensure a shared commitment to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality, and protect human rights, passing on the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in an appropriate manner.

Strategic Priorities

The plan has eight strategic priorities:

Priority 1

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Priority 2

Arts Infrastructure

Priority 3

Public Art

Priority 4

Young People and Children

Priority 5

Arts in Community and Neighbourhood

Priority 6

Supporting the Artist and Arts Organisations

Priority 7

Festivals, Events and the Public Realm

Priority 8

An Ghaeilge

These priorities are based on the aspiration that every citizen and visitor in Dublin is no more than fifteen minutes away from a quality arts experience. This experience should reflect the diverse communities and cultures of the city. Additionally, it should expose people to a wide range of national and international artistic trends. These priorities acknowledge the inestimable value of the arts as the foundation on which all other values are built. The richer the art, in and of itself, the richer our encounters, conversations and ideas will become, with a more powerful inspiration for young people, communities and visitors. The priorities are underpinned by these values:

- » Excellence: all involved in the arts want a high standard of provision.
- » Equality and Human Rights: the diversity of groups in the City are encouraged and supported to engage with the arts as artists, practitioners, and audience members.
- » Practice, participation and experience: recognising the unique value of practising the arts, of learning and expression through the arts and of enjoying the arts as part of a community and individual identity.
- » Young people: art is a lifelong pursuit that begins in childhood and is refined over time. Young people aren't just future artists; they're also the artists of today, contributing to the present as well as the future.
- » Access and transparency: we aim to make it much easier for people to see how they can get involved in the arts or apply for support for arts projects, with particular attention to the involvement of and support for people from groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage and to meet their specific needs.
- » Collaboration and partnership: successful implementation depends on the range, depth and quality of our collaborations in the arts inside or outside of Dublin City Council.
- » Climate and environmental sustainability: art and culture are agents of social change. The City Arts Office recognises the potential for the arts to act as a catalyst for climate action as well as noting the responsibility to support artists in developing environmentally sustainable practices.

Priority 1

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Introduction

Dublin is home to a diverse population. The City Arts Office recognises the need to ensure equal access to opportunities for artists, participants and audiences from communities that experience inequality and disadvantage. In giving effect to its Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty obligations the City Arts Office has embedded the values of respect and dignity, and diversity and accessibility within the Arts Plan.

Vision for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The city's art and culture are shaped by the values, beliefs and behaviours of all its people as well as by its history and heritage. Our vision is that the diverse practices, audiences and modes of participation in all aspects of the arts should be celebrated, supported and given a platform to reach broader communities.

Objectives

1.1

Dublin City Council will work to eliminate barriers to participation due to discrimination, inequality and disadvantage, for every individual based on gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, age, religious belief, membership of the Traveller community, race, disability or socio-economic situation, and be flexible in adapting for needs specific to these groups.

1.2

The City Arts Office will develop a new policy for equality and human rights in arts provision, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, that identifies and responds to the barriers to equal access to the arts as artists, participants, and audience members that exist today for those from groups subjected to inequality and disadvantage.

Actions

To deliver Objectives 1.1 and 1.2 Dublin City Council will:

- » Engage with the diverse communities in the city to inform how the council builds and sustains an infrastructure of places, people and investment that can allow the arts to become a genuine reflection of this diversity in terms of programming, audiences, participants and artists, and take action to give effect to the outcomes of this engagement.
- » Engage with the diverse cultures in the city to inform how the council builds and sustains an infrastructure of places, people and investment that can allow the arts to become a genuine reflection of this cultural diversity and a resource to sustain and nourish this diversity of cultures and take action to give effect to the outcomes of this engagement.
- » Agree to a model for diversity-testing arts programming and festivals, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. This will build on the diversity scoping in Arts Grants 2022 and include identifying gaps and specific needs, and establishing proactive steps in policy and programming to include and make provision for a diversity of practitioners, participants and audiences from groups subjected to inequality and disadvantage, addressing gaps and adapting for specific needs.
- » Collect equality data through arts grants and other open calls to allow for continuous assessment of the impact of provisions on groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage, and to update policy and programming in response to specific needs and trends in our diverse communities that emerge from analysis of this data.

- » Develop an equality and human rights policy and subsequent strategy, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, to enhance access to the arts as artists, participants, and audience members for those from groups subjected to inequality and disadvantage, and setting out clear goals in a transparent manner, which will hold the Arts Office accountable to stakeholders from these groups. This policy will be in place by March 2026.
- » Ensure channels of communication and information provision are reflective of, accessible to and reach those diverse communities that experience inequality and disadvantage, and make additional provisions as required to ensure this outcome, including responding to language diversity.
- » Take steps to ensure that communication and information materials produced are reflective and affirming of the diversity of groups.
- » Take steps to track and stimulate a representation for and affirmation of diversity within programming.
- » Stimulate and support capacity building on equality and human rights within the Arts Office staff and across partner organisations' staff, particularly in relation to tackling discrimination, eliminating stereotypes, making provision for diversity, and targeting action for more equal outcomes.

Stimulate and support capacity building, within communities experiencing inequality and disadvantage and their representative organisations, to:

- » engage with the arts as artists, participants, and audience members.
- » harness the potential in community arts.
- » and navigate and access the supports available for this.

Priority 2

Arts Infrastructure

Introduction

Dublin is recognised as a global capital for arts and culture. Our theatres, music venues, museums and galleries are renowned across the world. Our cultural and creative industries are also essential to Dublin's economic and social success. Critical to Dublin's continued success are the very buildings, spaces and places where it happens — its cultural infrastructure. In recent years, the importance of cultural infrastructure has become more evident highlighting the need to protect and grow our cultural facilities. Good cultural infrastructure will help Dublin to become a better place to live, work and visit and allow the city to be competitive on a global stage.

Vision for Arts Infrastructure

Our vision is that the entire city will be an arts venue, and be energised through creative engagement with mixed-use developments in former industrial lands; through the design and use of side streets; temporary use on underused sites or buildings; and the provision of new spaces for arts and cultural uses as part of larger regeneration developments, underpinning accessibility with respect for principle of universal design. This vision is embedded in Chapter 12 of the City Development Plan 2022–2028.

Objectives

2.1

Dublin City Council will develop an arts infrastructure policy to address a proportionate amount of the identified deficits and create the required spaces. These spaces will be created through Council-led development or repurposing of buildings in partnership with relevant private and public agencies. This policy arises from the Development Plan and has been agreed upon by the Artists Workspaces Subcommittee of the SPC, to address the deficit in built infrastructure for artists and audiences within the city.

2.2

Dublin City Council will manage its current portfolio of arts infrastructure objectives.

2.3

Dublin City Council will expand its current portfolio of arts infrastructure.

Actions

To deliver objective 2.1, Dublin City Council will:

- » Continue to work with the recently created Cultural Infrastructure Toolkit that will demonstrate how arts infrastructure can be addressed and how it adds value to new city developments.
- » Continue to build on the recent cultural infrastructure symposium with private property developers and owners on the practical benefits, significance and direct contribution that arts infrastructure can make to the process of regeneration, to local place-making and the creation of destination value.
- » Continue to broker relationships between property developers and owners with the arts community by creating opportunities and discourse that foster understanding and solutions for both parties.
- » Continue to apply the principle of universal design in the development and management of arts infrastructure, and to strengthen the broader commitment to this across stakeholders.
- » Publish an Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Policy, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, by Spring 2026.

To deliver objective 2.2, Dublin City Council will:

- » Manage and maintain the LAB Gallery and LAB Studios, the Unit 4 James Joyce Street (Incubation Space), 15 Bachelors Walk, Dance House and Axis Arts Centre.
- » Support Temple Bar Cultural Trust to protect key artistic spaces, ensuring that any changes of use to such buildings continue to deliver artistic spaces or similar cultural uses.
- » Manage the artists' residences in the city at 7 and 8 Albert Cottages, St Patrick's Lodge and 9 Wooden Buildings.
- » Sustain and support standards of non-discrimination, non-stereotyping, adaptation for specific needs, and securing the participation of groups that experience inequality and disadvantage.

To deliver objective 2.3, Dublin City Council will:

- » Review the feasibility study for a new 500-seat performing arts space (and ancillary spaces) within the inner city.
- » Manage and support twelve new workspaces at Artane Place in 2024/25.
- » Support the sustainable use of the former DIT College of Music Building on Chatham Row.
- » Repurpose the George Bernard Shaw House from a museum to an artist-in-residence dwelling.
- » Alongside managing the artists' residences at 7 and 8 Albert Cottages, St Patrick's Lodge and 9 Wooden Buildings, Dublin City Council will develop new residences to support artists living in and visiting the city.
- » Continue the development work on Liberties Creative Campus at 8 and 9 Merchants Quay, aiming to deliver new workspaces for artists within the Liberties area of the city in preparation for capital funding through national or local authority programmes.
- » Continue to apply the principle of universal design, ensuring access across the Dublin City Council portfolio of arts infrastructure.



Northside Music Festival 2019

Priority 3

Public Art

Introduction

Public art can engage in ways that art in more formal settings, such as in galleries, theatres and concert venues cannot. Whether by discovering public art in our local environment or by collaborating in the creation of new work, public art can ignite encounters that are both immediate and long-lasting.

The principal source of funding for public art is the Per Cent for Art Scheme. This includes funding from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Policies and Procedures for the Management and Development of Public Art in Dublin City and the Policy for Decommissioning of Public Art passed by Dublin City Council in 2009 provide structures for the oversight and implementation of public art in Dublin.

Vision for Public Art

The Dublin City Public Art Programme (2021–2026) will create connections and collaborations between different areas of Dublin City Council's work, and strengthen the relationship between the public's experience of art and the city. The future of the city's public art will be built on consultation and engagement, inclusive of those groups that experience inequality and disadvantage, including all art forms and ways of practice including temporary, time-based or permanent artwork.



Public Art Launch 2021

Objectives

3.1

To implement the Dublin City Public Art Programme (2021–2026) by commissioning public art under three strands. Individually, these strands have distinct characteristics but when combined they offer a cohesive approach to the Dublin City Public Art Programme:

- » Strand 1 – Public: to develop a new approach to public art through Citizen Commissioners who place communities and neighbourhoods, and the diversity of and within these, at the centre of public-art-commissioning processes. The key principles are to encourage inclusion and to enable diverse communities to participate as equals in this collaborative commissioning process, taking account of and being responsive to the specific needs of groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage.
- » Strand 2 – Art: to value the contribution which artists, curators and creative producers make to the city, and through this strand, to offer opportunities for artists to make connections between communities and localities, which can include communities of practice, interest or place in the city and take account of the diversity within these.
- » Strand 3 – City: to undertake context-specific commissions with partners within Dublin City Council, or with external partners where funding is made available and the proposals demonstrate a clear relationship and relevance to Dublin City Council’s core values and principles, as well as its commitments under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Dublin City Council has partnered with agencies such as Fáilte Ireland and the National Transport Authority, as well as undertaking commissions within Dublin City Council such as the commissioning of the portrait for City Hall of Kathleen Clarke, the first woman Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Actions

To deliver objective 3.1, the Dublin City Art Programme will:

- » Strive to maximise applications for Per Cent for Art funding from across Dublin City Council departments, with particular attention to groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage as beneficiaries and their specific needs.
- » Place communities and neighbourhoods at the centre of public art commissioning processes through Citizen Commissioners, for which the key principles are to encourage inclusion and diversity, and to enable communities to participate as equals in this collaborative commissioning process.
- » Reinforce links between art commissions and the public. In this spirit, Dublin City Council will support a public engagement programme for each commission in the Public Art Programme, ensuring, within this, an engagement with those groups that experience inequality and disadvantage and their representative organisations.
- » Support artists, curators, artistic directors and creative producers, encouraging the creation of new artworks across all art forms and different forms of art practice, including collaborative and participatory practice.
- » Seek partnerships within Dublin City Council or with external partners (e.g. OPW, Fáilte Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and National Transport Authority).
- » Document all public art commissions to capture the legacy and facilitate public engagement, in a manner inclusive of those groups that experience inequality and disadvantage.

Further information regarding Public Art in Dublin City Council is available in the [Policy and Procedures for the Management of Public Art in Dublin City](#).

Priority 4

Children, Young People and The Arts

Introduction

Dublin City Council's Arts Education and Learning Policy acknowledges that each person in Dublin City has a right to practice and participate in appropriate and equal artistic activity and learning. Dublin City Arts Office has a long tradition of advocating for and delivering quality arts services for children and young people in Dublin City. In recognition of this, and of the specialist nature of arts practice with children and young people, we are focusing on this cohort in this three-year plan.

Vision for Children, Young People and the Arts

Children and young people in Dublin, in all their diversity, will have access to high-quality provisions that empower them to practice and participate in the arts in their neighbourhood and city, meeting specific needs that arise from their diversity. This can happen at home, with friends, at school and in local libraries. They can also explore the arts in new areas of the city or through youth programmes and early childhood settings.

Objectives

4.1

Dublin City Council will provide arts experiences that contribute to children and young people's sense of self, wellbeing, friendships, enjoyment and fun while providing them with valuable ways to learn about and appreciate their surroundings, and respond to specific needs across the diversity of children and young people.

4.2

Dublin City Council will continue to demonstrate the impact and positive outcomes of localised arts provision for children and young people through targeted programmes.

4.3

Dublin City Council will commission arts-based research to highlight deficits in the provision of the arts for children and young people, paying attention to those from groups that experience inequality and disadvantage and their specific needs. This will inform the development of equal and inclusive arts policies and services for children and young people in each administrative area.



Actions

To deliver objective 4.1 Dublin City Council will:

- » Consolidate internal partnerships and provision for children and young people with colleagues in Dublin City Libraries, the Dublin City Gallery, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin City Community Services, Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg, Dublin City Play Development and the Parks Department. An example of this deliverable would be The Children's Arts in Libraries Creative Hubs programme in partnership with The Ark Cultural Centre for Children.

To deliver objective 4.2 Dublin City Council will:

- » Convene and coordinate opportunities for shared programming, communication, networking and training, that includes young people in decision making, and raise the profile and capacity of artists, educators and community workers working with children and young people in Dublin City.

To deliver objective 4.3 Dublin City Council will:

- » Continue to leverage funding for action research through local, regional and European partnerships to support artists and educators to reach children and young people in under-served communities and neighbourhoods.
- » Commission and pilot key pieces of practice-based research. For example, commission research in Dublin City/North Central and North West Administrative Areas, to highlight local service provision.

Priority 5

Arts in Community and Neighbourhood

Introduction

Alongside its broader citywide focus, Dublin City Council is structured into five administrative areas: North West, North Central, Central, South Central and South East. Within these areas are a range of active communities and neighbourhoods – each requiring levels of support for the arts. In partnership with the Arts Council, we work to deliver research-led arts provision, infrastructure and engagement in each administrative area and community as part of a wider process of sustainable development. This approach has informed the development of Faoin, Creative Places Darndale, Speir in Artane and Beaumont, and the new artist workspaces in Artane Place.

Vision for Arts in the Community and Neighbourhood

Our vision is that artists and communities will be able to find opportunities, people and places in their locality to support their work, ensuring that all communities, including those without a strong tradition of arts provision, can participate and learn through the arts. This will build a diverse and growing audience for the arts.

Objectives

5.1

Through the Arts Infrastructure Plan, and as set out in the City Development Plan, Dublin City Council will work with communities and neighbourhoods to develop their arts infrastructure by:

- » Supporting area-level needs analysis and planning for the arts through the five DCC local administrative areas.
- » Supporting community-level analyses and planning for the arts.
- » Developing policy in community arts and participation.
- » Building capacity in communities to engage in the arts.
- » Assist and encourage applications for new funding opportunities.

Actions

To deliver objective 5.1 Dublin City Council will:

- » Work with the Dublin City Council administrative areas and communities, including the diversity of and within these communities, through consultation and agreement, to establish an understanding and vision for successful arts provision in their area and/or community.
- » Conduct needs assessments and research on the arts in the Dublin City Council administrative areas or specific communities, having regard to the diversity of those within these areas and communities and their specific needs, and share findings with the Dublin City Council Area Committee and other key stakeholders.
- » Develop area-based or community-based plans, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, building on the community's strengths, responding to specific needs of groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage, and addressing deficits, with particular attention to those experiencing inequality and disadvantage.
- » Advise Dublin City Council Area Offices of the opportunities in local, national, and European funding, and support their applications to these agencies.
- » Support local groups engaged in the arts or who wish to utilise the arts in their community work.



Priority 6

Supporting the Artist and Arts Organisations

Introduction

Dublin City Arts Office is committed to supporting a thriving arts landscape in Dublin City by ensuring every professional, practising artist will have the opportunity to connect and engage with other artists, together with those who wish to participate in and enjoy the arts. To do this, the Arts Office has set out objectives and actions intended to create a supportive environment in which artists and arts organisations can reach their fullest potential.

Vision for Supporting the Artist and Arts Organisations

Our vision is that Dublin will be a city with an international reputation for encouraging, developing and promoting the arts that welcomes and supports artists of all origins, diverse identities and practices. Artists and arts organisations will be acknowledged as the source of new diversity and expansion of audiences for the arts, and as key collaborators for those learning about and participating in the arts.

Objectives

6.1

Dublin City Council will continue to work in partnership with the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports and Media to support artists in their creation of projects and programmes. This will be an integral part of community development and regeneration and will be a key factor in Dublin's destination value.

6.2

The City Arts Office will develop a policy on workspaces for artists, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Given that freedom is central to artistic expression, Dublin City Council will approach this work with artists as collaborators and co-designers of our framework of support.

6.3

Dublin City Council will continue to develop new opportunities for artists to develop their individual and collaborative practice through new commissions, residencies, bursaries, training and development and mentorship.

Actions

To deliver objectives 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3, Dublin City Council will:

- » Increase Arts Grants support to €1 million over the life of the City Arts Plan.
- » Bring up to 50 artists into Artane Place, Filmbase and Merchants Quay in 2026, provide up to 300 new artists' workspaces in partnership with all agencies, both public and private, over the lifetime of the plan and address the venue deficit for performance at 500 seats.
- » Tionól a reachtáil do Ealaíonatóirí Gaeilge i mBAC. Agus le treon ón tionól úd plean forbartha na healíon tengabhunaithe a fhorbairt.
- » Develop and implement a communications and marketing strategy, reflecting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, that can effectively promote all that is being achieved by artists, with attention to the diversity of artists from groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage, and taking steps to ensure an effective and accessible communication on this with groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage.
- » Track, encourage and support the engagement of artists from groups that experience inequality and disadvantage, in accessing opportunities and support to develop their individual and collaborative practice.



Priority 7

Festivals, Events and the Public Realm

Introduction

Festivals are key producers and presenters of the arts in Dublin and expand public access and engagement. They encourage artists to collaborate and innovate to find new ways to interact with the public.

Smaller local festivals celebrate a place in unique ways, informed by the communities in which they are based and are often sustained through year-round development and engagement. Examples of these local festivals include Made in Darndale and Phizzfest. A public realm that is enhanced through festivals, high-quality cultural events and street art makes the inner city and Dublin's urban villages more attractive for both day and night-time use.

Vision

Residents and visitors to Dublin can regularly enjoy a city that celebrates the arts through a rich and diverse calendar of festivals and singular events in which the arts play a key role, and through enhanced use of the public realm so that everyday spaces can be briefly transformed into cultural hubs.

Objectives

7.1

Through our work with colleagues across Dublin City Council and with external partners, we will facilitate the dynamic presentation and ongoing development of festivals and other events in the city for the benefit of residents and visitors, taking their diversity into account and meeting needs specific to this diversity.

Actions

To deliver action 7.1, Dublin City Council will:

- » Review and develop those arts and cultural festivals under Dublin City Council stewardship in a way that platforms and celebrates broader diversity across groups experiencing inequality and disadvantage, and that promotes collaboration with these groups and an effective response to their specific needs. This includes festivals such as the International Literature Festival Dublin, Musictown, Brigit, Culture Night Dublin and Dublin Lunar New Year.
- » Offer targeted advice and support across Dublin City Council departments and to community organisers to aid their development of street arts, arts in the public realm and local and city festivals, in a manner based on and giving expression to shared values of dignity and respect, and diversity and accessibility.
- » Respond to opportunities to broaden the festival programme and continue to work with agencies such as the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports, and Media, where new initiatives such as Night Time Economy have the potential to engage artists and audiences.



Priority 8

An Ghaeilge

Na hEalaíona trí Ghaeilge

Le bunú agus forbairt an Fhochoiste Gaeilge tá borradh ar iarrachtaí an Chomhairle maidir leis an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn sa Chomhairle agus sa Chathair. Tá an Chomhairle Cathrach ag tacú go láidir le BÁC le Gaeilge agus ag iarraidh Straitéis Forbartha nua don teanga a nochtadh i 2024. Straitéis a léireoidh múnla agus plean oibre nua chun an Ghaeilge a chothú.

Fís

Beidh fáilte faoi leith d’ealaíontóirí a oibríonn trí Ghaeilge nó go dátheangach. Trí comhoibriú leis an gComhairle Ealaíon, Éire Ildánach agus le Roinn na Gaeltachta cuirfear acmhainn nua faoi leith ar fáil a thacóidh le hobair na healaíontóirí úd.

Polasaí

Mar chuid den Straitéis nua thuasluaite beidh an Chomhairle Cathrach ag tacú le saol cultúrtha na Gaeilge i mBaile Áth Cliath agus ag iarraidh go dtugfar aitheantas do na modhanna ealaíona uile a usáideann an Ghaeilge agus fite fuaite go soiléir mar chuid de Fhéilte agus de chlár oibre na n-eagras agus comhluchtaí ealaíona iomlán. Tuigtear dár ndóigh nach féidir leis an ealaín bheith scartha ón teanga agus go bhfuil caighdeán na healaíne mar phríomhaidhm.

Cur i gcríoch

Tionólfar meitheal oibre d’ealaíontóirí a oibríonn i nGaeilge gach bliain. Tríd an tionól seo agus trí ghrúpaí oibre bunófar clár oibre d’ealaíontóirí a oibríonn trí Ghaeilge i mBÁC. Feidhmeoidh an Oifig Ealíon mar áisitheoir ar seo i gcuideachta na n-eagras Rialtais, na n-eagras Gaeilge, agus an pobal ealíon.

Tá €50,000 curtha in áirthinnt as buiséad Éire Ildánach chun cruthaíocht i nGaeilge a thacú.



Things we Throw Away by Wide Open Opera

Measuring the Arts Plan

The economy of the arts is complex, and their economic value can at times be as difficult to measure as their intrinsic value. Short-term economic gains from arts activity can be seen in commercial and large-scale arts events across the city. Dublin City Council is committed to the long-term economic well-being of a city that requires a thriving arts ecology, supported by a framework of places, people and investment. Ultimately, it needs an understanding of how the arts connect to all other parts of an economy and society. We will review and measure the objectives and actions in this plan annually. There are a number of Key Performance Indicators which will allow us to measure progress in key areas of development.

- » Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the Arts Policy in place and strategy implemented.
- » New Policy on Arts and Cultural Infrastructure to be published by December 2025, with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty implemented.
- » An annual commission under Citizen Commissioners.
- » At least three Public Art Commissions in the lifetime of the Arts Plan, reflective of a positive engagement with the diverse communities that experience inequality and disadvantage.
- » Develop area-specific Arts Plans responding to the needs of each Administrative Area of the Dublin City Council, with particular attention to the specific needs of the diversity of communities within these Administrative Areas.
- » Development Plan for the Irish Arts in place and implemented.
- » Number of initiatives taken to identify and respond to the specific needs of the identified groups for the Duty to enable access and participation.
- » Number of actions taken to build staff capacity on equality and diversity, in the Arts Office and partner organisations, and number of participants.
- » Number of actions taken to implement the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in the outworking of this plan, in developing new policies and in engagement with partner organisations.
- » Improvements made in the collection and analysis of equality data to track diversity in audiences engaged, participants enabled, and artists supported.





Appendix

Administrative Area Implementation

Alongside overarching priorities, each administrative area will identify its strategic priorities within the framework of the City Arts Plan. This will allow for greater development and support for people and spaces, artists, communities, arts organisations and arts networks in ways that will be informed, realistic and equitably distributed, and have regard to the promotion of equality. It will identify priorities and plans at an area level so that:

- » Artists who live in these areas should have opportunities to work locally and citywide.
- » Administrative areas will conduct an audit of arts buildings and groups similar to that conducted in the North Central Area.
- » Areas will consider what new, refurbished or shared buildings are needed to provide arts services through a new arts infrastructure policy.

The Arts Office will work with under-resourced areas to identify national and European funding opportunities. The Arts Grants scheme will be restructured to increase the available funding, as resources allow, across the lifetime of the City Arts Plan 2023–2028.

The Dublin City Council Partnership Framework with the Arts Council has focused on the North Central and North West Administrative Areas to date. This partnership has already yielded increased resources and programmes in the North Central Area. The service level agreement (SLA) with Creative Ireland allocates one-third of the available funding to Irish Language initiatives, one-third to creative collaborations between city council departments and one-third to previously underfunded areas.

Funding and Resources

In addition to the annual Arts Grant funding of €550,000.00, Dublin City Council recently granted an increase of €250,000.00 to make a total of €800,000.00. The increase was made after reviewing Arts Grants in 2023. Elected Members agreed to focus the additional funding on improving arts programming capabilities in local communities.

The City Arts Office is conducting a two-year pilot scheme to allocate this amount of €250,000.000 to empower arts organisations and artists to programme meaningfully and effectively in community settings, while simultaneously supporting community development practitioners and organisations to engage with the arts. An amount of €50,000.00 is being allocated to each of Dublin City Council's five administrative areas.

Luke Kelly by Very Klute



Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

The following equality and human rights issues were identified, from the full evidence-based assessment of equality and human rights issues undertaken by Dublin City Council, as of relevance to this Plan, with steps taken in accordance with the Dublin City Council Duty implementation plan to ensure they were adequately and appropriately addressed:

The LAB Gallery



Dignity and Respect

- Discrimination, both individual and institutional
- Stereotyping and false assumptions, including conscious and unconscious bias and stereotypical representation
- Hostile or unwelcoming environments in service provision, the workplace and the public realm, where people cannot be their true selves

Diversity and Accessibility

- Lack of recognition of and adaptation for diversity: Lack of flexibility and adaptations in the provision of services.
- Lack of recognition of and adaptation for diversity: Lack of provision for language diversity.
- Lack of recognition of and adaptation for diversity: Lack of provision for Irish language speakers.
- Lack of recognition of and adaptation for diversity: Lack of universal design of physical infrastructure.
- Lack of recognition of and adaptation for diversity: Inaccessible communication channels, formats, and messaging.
- Lack of supports for Black and minority ethnic people, including Travellers and Roma to preserve and develop their cultures.
- Lack of visibility for diversity, in: lack of equality data; communication formats, and messaging that do not reflect diversity; and productions.
- Lack of understanding of intersectionality, and lack of recognition for diversity within the identified groups
- Lack of awareness, knowledge, capacity and competence to understand and respond to diversity among service providers and employers

Inclusion and Social Justice

- Limited participation in cultural activities: lack of presence from the identified groups as producers and as consumers of arts and culture.
- Limited participation in cultural activities: Barriers to progressing careers as artists and in the arts, in particular for women.
- Limited participation in cultural activities: Barriers to effective applications for funding and resources.
- Unequal sharing of caring responsibilities between women and men and lack of an adequate and affordable care infrastructure.

Participation and Engagement

- Lack of opportunity or processes to have a say and be heard and to support and enable people to have a voice.
- Barriers to autonomy: Lack of knowledge on how to access support and to navigate the supports available.

Case Studies

Arts Infrastructure Case Study: The Building Culture Infrastructure Toolkit; Building Culture

This toolkit was developed to provide practical assistance to developers to meet the obligations under the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-28, which places a requirement to provide 5% of floor space within large-scale developments for arts, cultural and community uses. The new resources highlight the key building blocks and provide a guide to the process of delivering cultural infrastructure through identifying and responding to a real need, designing for a clear cultural use and selecting a delivery model that is sustainable for both the developer and operator.

As well as a step-by-step guide to delivering cultural space as part of a development process, it provides signposting to help build links between developers, cultural operators and arts organisations. It also provides design specifications for the needs of different art forms and guidance on how to evaluate cultural and community needs in any area of the city.



Children, Young People and the Arts Case Study: Creative Hubs

Creative Hubs, an initiative of Dublin City Arts and Dublin City Libraries, initiates free, high-quality arts experiences for children, schools and families. They are accessible in local libraries and localities, through year-round, multi-disciplinary inclusive programming, currently delivered by The Ark. To date, there are four Creative Hubs, in Ballyfermot, Cabra, Central and Coolock libraries. The initiative supports the development of enhanced educational, community and cultural partnerships. For example, a partnership with Preparing for Life (Northside Partnership) targeted early-years (EY) arts development in Coolock and Darndale through experiential programming, residencies and EY training. Likewise, a partnership with the local Area Office and Kylemore College of Music carried out a participative dance commission in Ballyfermot involving 100 children, accessing professional musicians to work alongside choreographers, and using the resources of the library and Ballyfermot Civic Centre. The Visual Arts Exhibition Commissions and Education Programme are supported through partnerships with The LAB Gallery, Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, The Royal Hibernian Academy and the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Across the four participating libraries, the programme is annually accessed by over 4000 children.

Family Dance at Creative Hubs

Arts in the Community and Neighbourhood Case Study: Sing a Song of Dockland

Sing a Song of Dockland is the vision of David Brophy in consultation with the communities of the Docklands, using song to celebrate the old and new Irish communities that make the Docklands a dynamic and vibrant maritime gateway to the city. In 2022 Dublin City Council and partners Sing Ireland awarded four new commissioned songs to be developed with the local communities of the Docklands: Ringsend/Irishtown, Grand Canal/Pearse Street, North Wall, Sheriff Street and East Wall. The awardees were embedded in the local area working with schools, youth groups and residents to inspire, inform and create each new commission. Groups participating included the Dockers Preservation Society, the RICC Centre, City Quay National School and Central Model Senior School. Each award explored the lived experiences of these Docklands communities and captured experiences to share with the wider city through song and spoken word. This project could not have been realised without the Arts Office's partnership with Sing Ireland and the essential support from Creative Ireland.

Sing a Song of Docklands 2023



Festivals, Events and the Public Realm Case Study: International Literature Festival Dublin

International Literature Festival Dublin, formerly Dublin Writers Festival, was established in 1998 and has grown significantly in recent years, bringing international and Irish writers, performers, artists, and thinkers to Merrion Square Park over 10 days in May, transforming the park into a vibrant literary village. Alongside a critical relationship with international publishing, the festival celebrates local collectives and smaller publishing houses, showcasing the wealth of emerging talent for which Dublin is famous. These fruitful partnerships with the domestic and international literature sectors, help diversify programming and reach new audiences, promoting Dublin as an epicentre for literature and celebrating its designation of UNESCO City of Literature. Regular collaborators include The Stinging Fly, Children's Books Ireland, Poetry Ireland, Dublin Writers Centre, Bealtaine, Dublin City Libraries and the Dublin Literary Award, alongside embassies and other cultural and academic partners.

International Literature Festival by Kamyla Abreu



Dublin City Council Arts Plan 2025 – 2029



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council