



**NOTIFICATION TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, LEISURE & RECREATION
SPC**

TO BE HELD IN THE MS TEAMS

ON MONDAY 29 JUNE 2020 AT 9.30 AM

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AGENDA

MONDAY 29 JUNE 2020

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3	Presentation on Libraries Update - Mairead Owens, City Librarian	7 - 18
4	Motion submitted in the name of Cllr Mary Freehill	
	<i>“ That the Libraries curate an exhibition of the work and achievements of women councillors and women officials on DCC over the centuries. The exhibition will demonstrate the difference the increase in women as elected members and promotion of women officials made to the lives of women in Dublin”</i>	
5	Report on Play Strategy - Debbie Clarke, Play Development Officer	19 - 22
6	Parks & Landscape Services Update Report / Report on Sculpture Dublin - Les Moore, City Parks Superintendent	23 - 28
7	Report on Arts Policy and Strategy Development - Ray Yeats, City Arts Officer	29 - 34

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MINUTES OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, LEISURE AND RECREATION SPC MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2020

Members:

Cllr. Vincent Jackson (Chair)
Cllr. Claire Byrne
Cllr. Deirdre Conroy
Cllr. Anne Feeney
Cllr. Mary Freehill
Cllr. Lawrence Hemmings
Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. Micheál MacDonncha
Cllr. Rebecca Moynihan
Cllr. Seamus McGrattan
Cllr. Damian O'Farrell
Adekunle Gomez, African Cultural Project
Julian de Spáinn, Conradh na Gaeilge
Ross Keane, Irish Film Institute
Sunil Sharpe, Give us the Night
Willie White, Dublin Theatre Festival
Mary O'Connor, Federation of Irish Sport

Apologies:

Ciaran Taylor, White Cane Audio Theatre
Cllr. Deirdre Conroy

Officials present:

Richard Shakespeare, Assistant Chief Executive
Barbara Dawson, Director, Hugh Lane Gallery
Anthony Flynn, Executive Manager
Mairead Owens, City Librarian
Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian
Leslie Moore, City Parks Superintendent
Jim Beggan, Senior Executive Officer
Donncha Ó'Dúlaing, Senior Executive Officer
Ruairi O Cuív, Public Arts Manager
Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer
Jackie O'Reilly, A/Senior Executive Officer
Simon Clarke, Administrative Officer

Minutes by Denice Kirwan/Paula Ebbs

Others present:

Cllr. Mannix Flynn
Cllr. Patricia Roe

Due to the election of the Chairperson Gary Gannon as a T.D; Cllr. Vincent Jackson agreed to act as Chairperson for this meeting until a new Chairperson is elected by the City Council.

1. Chairpersons business – Update / Amendment on the Commemorations & Naming Committee – Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian.

Action: Amended. Terms of Reference were agreed.

2. Minutes of meeting held 11th November 2019.

Action: Agreed.

3. Presentation on Sports and Leisure Facilities – Jim Beggan, Senior Executive Officer

A brief overview of sports services and facilities was presented. Members were informed of the refurbishment plans of the sports facilities through the Capital Programme 2020 – 2022. In line with DCC's commitment to reduce energy usage there is provision to continue the Energy Management Programme by way of ongoing necessary upgrade/refurbishment works across the facilities under the remit of the Sports and Recreation Services. By 2020 ten of the centres which have the largest energy usage will have their energy use managed and maintained through Energy Performance Contracts. All centres are accessible to all and affordable through offering really competitive prices and a number of payment options.

Action: Report noted. Management to investigate if there is existing staff in the department to provide leisure services through the use of Irish language

4. Report on Sculpture Dublin – Leslie Moore / Ray Yeates

Management informed members that Sculpture Dublin aims to raise awareness of the city's sculptural heritage and to create a series of new sculptures in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council initiative, being developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the City Arts Office. Provision have been made in the 2020 budget.

Action: Report noted.

5. Update report on Euro 2020 – Don Daly, Project Manager.

The Committee were informed that the Dublin fixtures have now been confirmed. 50% of all stadia capacity went on sale in June 2019 to the general public. Allocations for nations involved in the play-offs will go on sale in early April after the March play off final. Recruitment for volunteers is on schedule. The Mobility Group's aim is to promote mobility in the city, such as marking the routes and identifying suggested routes to the stadium. Free transport for fans on match days has been confirmed. Meetings are on-going in relation to the fan zones in both Merrion Sq and Dublin Castle. Engagement with the local communities is on-going.

Action: Management addressed issues raised. It was noted the use of the Irish language will be taken into account during the event. Report noted.

6. Report of Audit of Artists Workspaces in Dublin City Council's Administrative Area – Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer.

This audit was commissioned by Dublin City Council's Arts Office with a view to quantifying artists workspaces in the city. Over the past five years there have been a number of closures of artists workspaces, and it is important to quantify the number of new/replacement workspaces. This audit identified 89 buildings which specifically constitute artists workspaces

The comprehensive research will inform the next City Development Plan. It was noted that a substantial number of workspaces have been lost due to commercial development. It was suggested that EU funding may be an option to fund workspaces. Further research is required to include musicians, night venues as well as short, medium and long term requirements. Meetings with the artists in Merrion Square are on-going and they will be offered a move to Kildare Street for the duration of the Euro 2020. It was also noted that there are 2 recording studio spaces available in Ballyfermot Library and there are also studios in Ballyfermot College for Further Education.

Action: Report Noted. Re-establish the Artists Workspaces Sub-Committee. The City Arts Officer will respond directly to any queries raised by Members.

7. Review of the Arts Grants - Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer

The Arts Grants are a Reserved Function of the Elected Members of Dublin City Council. The final say on the recommendations of the Assessment process is reviewed by a sub-committee of the SPC and brought to a full Council meeting for formal approval. €530,000 is distributed in Arts Grants annually. There has been no increase in 13 years.

It was noted that the application process can be very frustrating particularly for new and non-professional applicants. Very few applications were received from the North Central Area. Social inclusion also needs to be addressed. Public consultation will be completed by the end of the year. Arts Office will liaise with the 5 Area Committees to determine how best to engage with local communities. It was suggested that Revenue Grants be opened up to all applicants with immediate effect. A comprehensive review of Arts Grants to coincide with a new Arts Plan by the end of 2020 is proposed. This will involve public and professional consultation and research. It will not be possible to significantly alter Arts Grants for 2020/2021 and any new scheme proposed by review would launch in 2021/2022.

Action: Report Noted. Ray Yeates will respond directly to any queries from Members.

8. Report on the New City Library at Parnell Square - Mairead Owens, City Librarian

Phase 1 of the project will deliver the new library building and all works to house No. 27 together with limited works to the other Georgian buildings. The Design Team has been instructed to proceed with Stage 2C of the project, which is design to tender. Ground investigation works and a package of enabling works will be undertaken ahead of the main contract. The Chief Executive has written to the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure & Reform seeking a meeting to discuss the possibility of Exchequer grant aid for the project.

Members commended the library services across the city and supported the concept of a Cultural Quarter at Parnell St.

Action: Report Noted. Members requested a detailed comprehensive report outlining funding, timelines and governance to the next meeting. An update on any events to celebrate George Bernard Shaw's 70th anniversary was requested. Libraries to look into developing the skill of storytelling.

9. Management Update

The following issues were raised:

- Fairview Park Tea rooms – no provision of a Changing Places toilet facility for people with disabilities. It was suggested a DCC Policy is required. A report from the Central Remedial Clinic to the next meeting to include associated costs.
- Winter Lights: It was confirmed that the projectors are rented. Efforts are being made to improve the images and engage local artists. Artists and schools in the community were engaged to create designs for the 2019 programme. This will continue again for 2020.

- Dalymount/Tolka Park: A detailed breakdown report was requested by members.
- Discovery Centre: EIA will not be submitted without further consultation with the North Central Area Committee.
- Wolfe Tone Park: It was confirmed that this space would be dealt with as soon as possible.
- Redmond's Hill: A request for the trees to be pruned.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge should be included in the plan around the city's events. Conradh na Gaeilge will engage with DCC regarding an Irish language plan for the city such as an Irish version of the Cultural Audit Map and any other events in Sports or Libraries etc.
- Solar Power bins: These are leased and placed in areas with the highest footfall but will be extended to other areas as the budget allows.
- NEIC greening: Is it possible to run a project that would provide residents with everything they need for the greening of the front of their properties in the Donnycarney / Killester area.
- Africa Day: City Hall has been made available. Arrange meeting with Management if necessary.
- Park signage; investigate the possibility of painting information such as distance to the bins on the footpaths.
- Greening in Dublin 8 area was complemented for both the visual and biodiversity aspects.

Action: Report noted. Management to follow up on all requests.

10. Breviate of draft Minutes of the Commemorations and Naming Committee held 28th January 2020

Action: Noted.

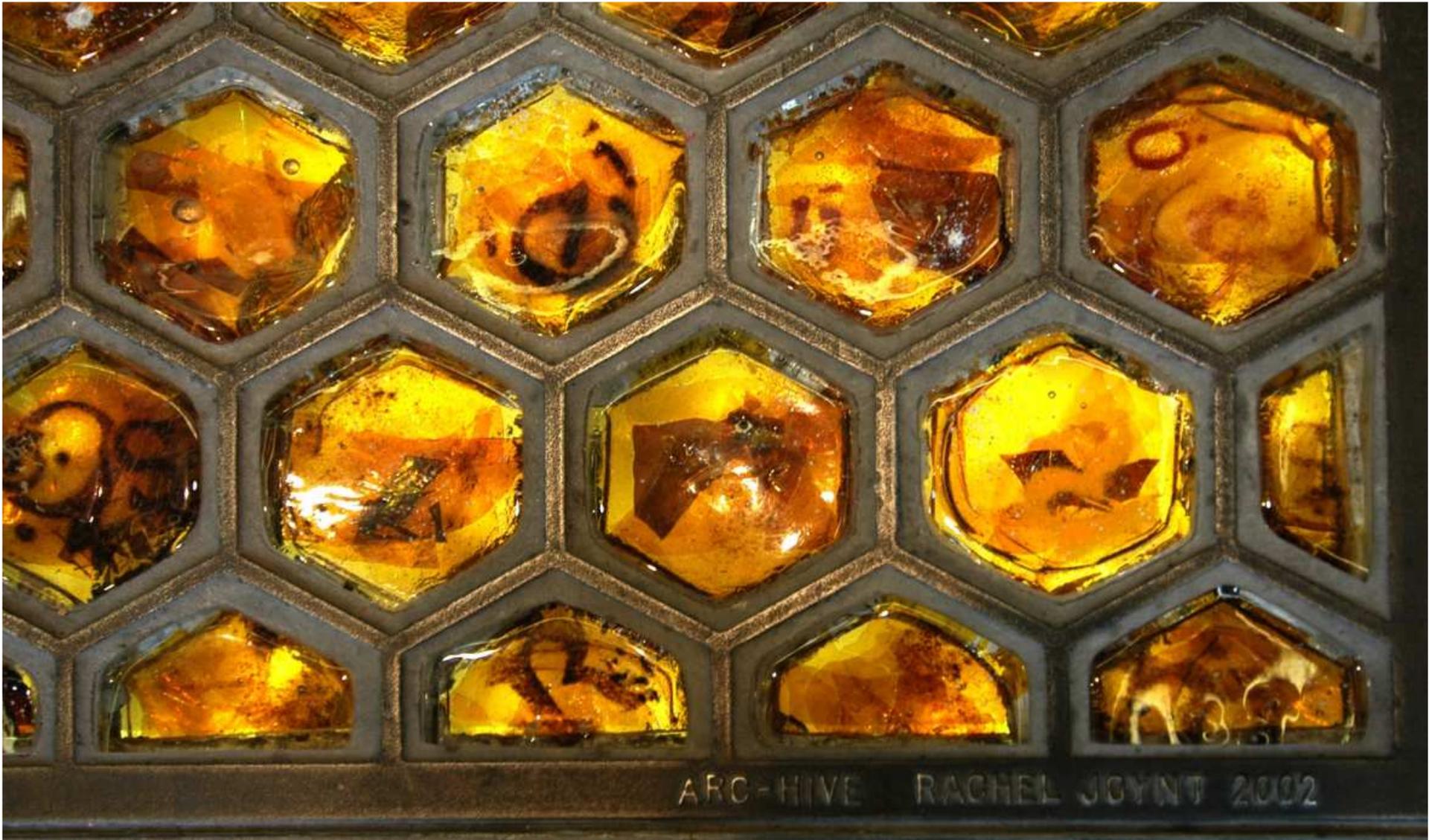
11. A.O.B.

The following issues were raised:

- Ross Keane would like to become a member of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
- Simon Clarke, Events Unit, is available to meet Sunil Sharpe to discuss MusicTown 2020 if required.
- DCC branding should become more visible around events and on buildings etc. and efforts are being made to improve this even further by including it in the conditions of an application for funding.
- It was suggested that DCC revise their policy to allow artists to use hoarding posters.

Date of next meeting: Monday 18th May 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

Vincent Jackson
Chairperson.



Dublin City Libraries
Activity during COVID-19 pandemic lockdown



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Social Media Activity

Dublin City Libraries' social media streams on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Branch libraries have set up Facebook pages to connect with their local communities.

	13 Mar – 15 May 2020 (2 months approx.)	Average for 2 months Q2 2019	% increase
Facebook engaged users (dublincitylibraries)	31,796	6,219	411%
Facebook total (organic) reach (dublincitylibraries)	340,189	126,342	169%
Twitter engagements (dubcilib)	24,456	3,785	546%

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Library staff source online content and create/upload blog articles and information to promote online resources on a daily basis.

151 blog posts were uploaded between 13th March and 8th June including a series of short 'how-to' videos explaining how to find, register for, and use a selection of our online resources such as RBDigital and Borrowbox. The blog posts are promoted daily on library social media channels.

Blog page views as a percentage of total library website views have gone up from **7.38% (Jan 2020) to approx. 16-17% currently.**



Comhairle Cathrach
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Dublin City Council

Virtual Library Usage : DCC staff read from their homes for Spring into Storytime

Page 9



'Look What Blew into the Zoo' written by Fiona Tierney, illustrated by Úna Healy & read by Ronan

Dublin City Libraries posted an episode of Spring Into Story Time.
May 23 at 2:31 AM · 🌐

4,000 listened to stories read by DCC library staff on Facebook

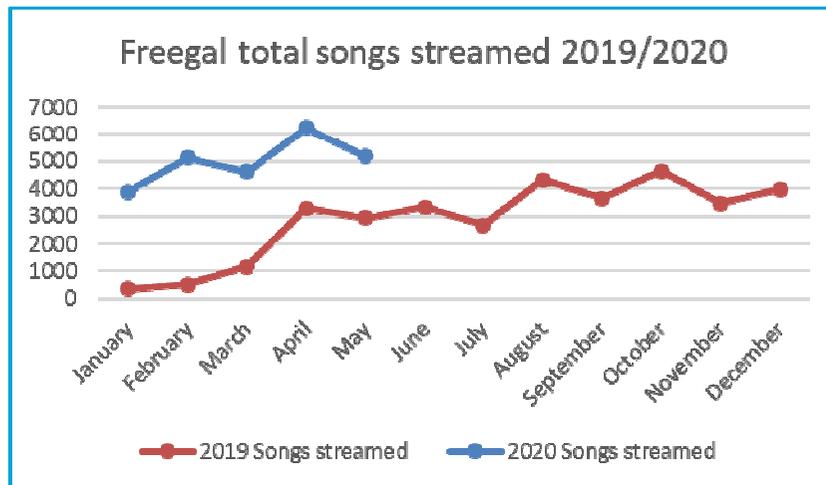
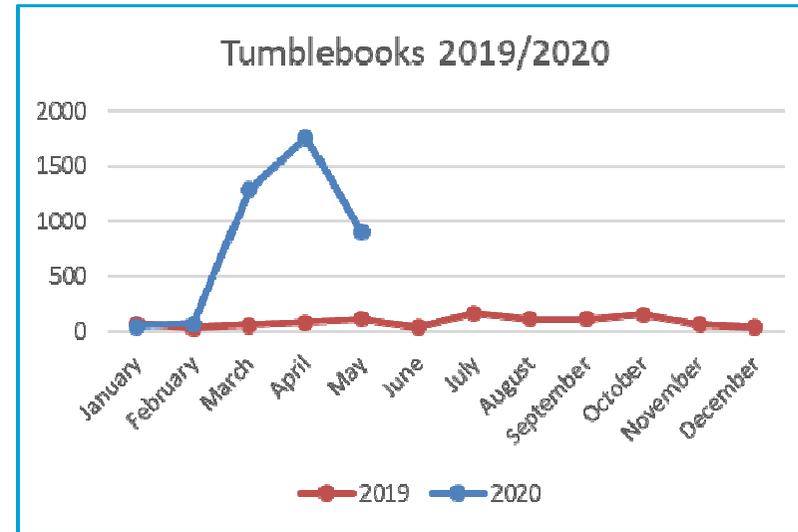


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Dublin City Council

Virtual Library Usage

Each day, through the 'Spring into Storytime' blog programme, library staff promoted a story from the Tumblebook Library collection, a curated database of over 1,100 children's e-books.

Tumblebooks showed an increase in usage of 1448% during the months March, April and May compared to the same months in 2019.



Freegal, a free music service showed an increase in song streaming of 117% during the months March, April and May compared to the same months in 2019.

Virtual Library Usage : Healthy Ireland at Your Library : online videos created with professionals during COVID – 19



Talking to Children about Coronavirus Anxiety



Dublin City Libraries posted an episode of Healthy Ireland at Your Library — with HSE Ireland and 9 others.

April 20 · 🌐

Today we're delighted to share this practical and reassuring video by Dr Mary O'Kane, 'Talking to Children about Coronavirus Anxiety'.

Dr Mary O'Kane Early Years is a lecturer in Psychology and Education and delivers popular workshops in many of our library branches.

13,000 views



How to remain calm and positive



Dublin City Libraries 为 Healthy Ireland at Your Library 发布了剧集 — 和 Healthy Ireland 、其他 2 位用户

5月6日 · 🌐

As part of Healthy Ireland at Your Library, we present some practical tips by Fiona Hall MIACP on how to remain calm and positive.

2,300 views



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Dublin City Council

Virtual Library Usage : Work Matters at the Library : online videos created with professionals during COVID – 19

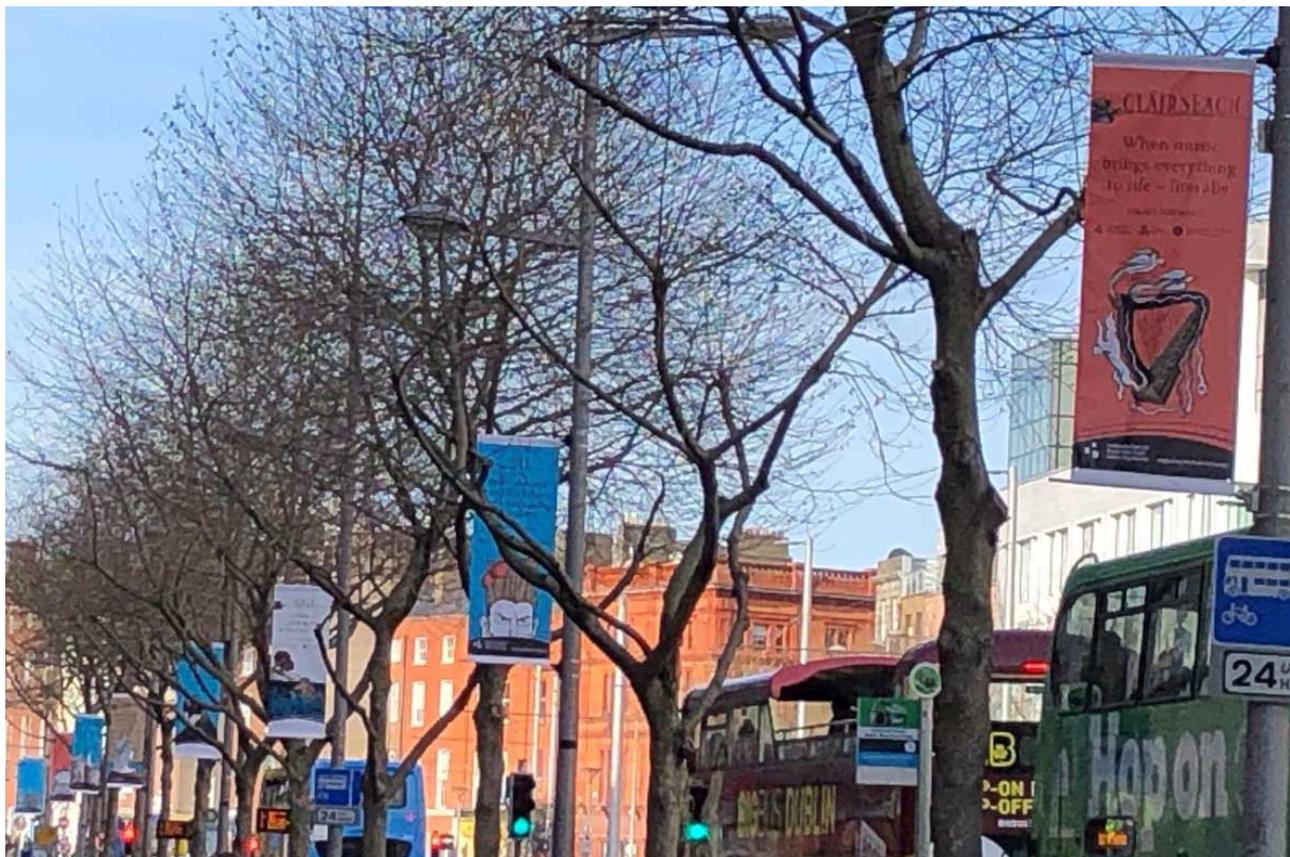
Episodes

Episode	Title	Duration	Views	Likes
EPISODE 1	How to Write a CV	11:34	5.9K Views	38
EPISODE 2	Job Options: Finding the right job	13:20	3.1K Views	31
EPISODE 3	Competency Based Questions: WI	15:54	4.6K Views	18
EPISODE 4	How to structure your answers - th	10:46	4.2K Views	16
EPISODE 5	Confidence and Credibility: Verbal	11:54	3.9K Views	14
EPISODE 6	The LinkedIn Challenge	6:01	3.6K Views	7

26,000 views
of videos to
assist job-
seekers



Gaeilge sa chathair le linn Covid – 19



Tionscadal idir Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann agus Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath eagraithe le leabharlanna na Cathrach bunaithe ar an leabhar ‘A history of Ireland in a 100 words’.

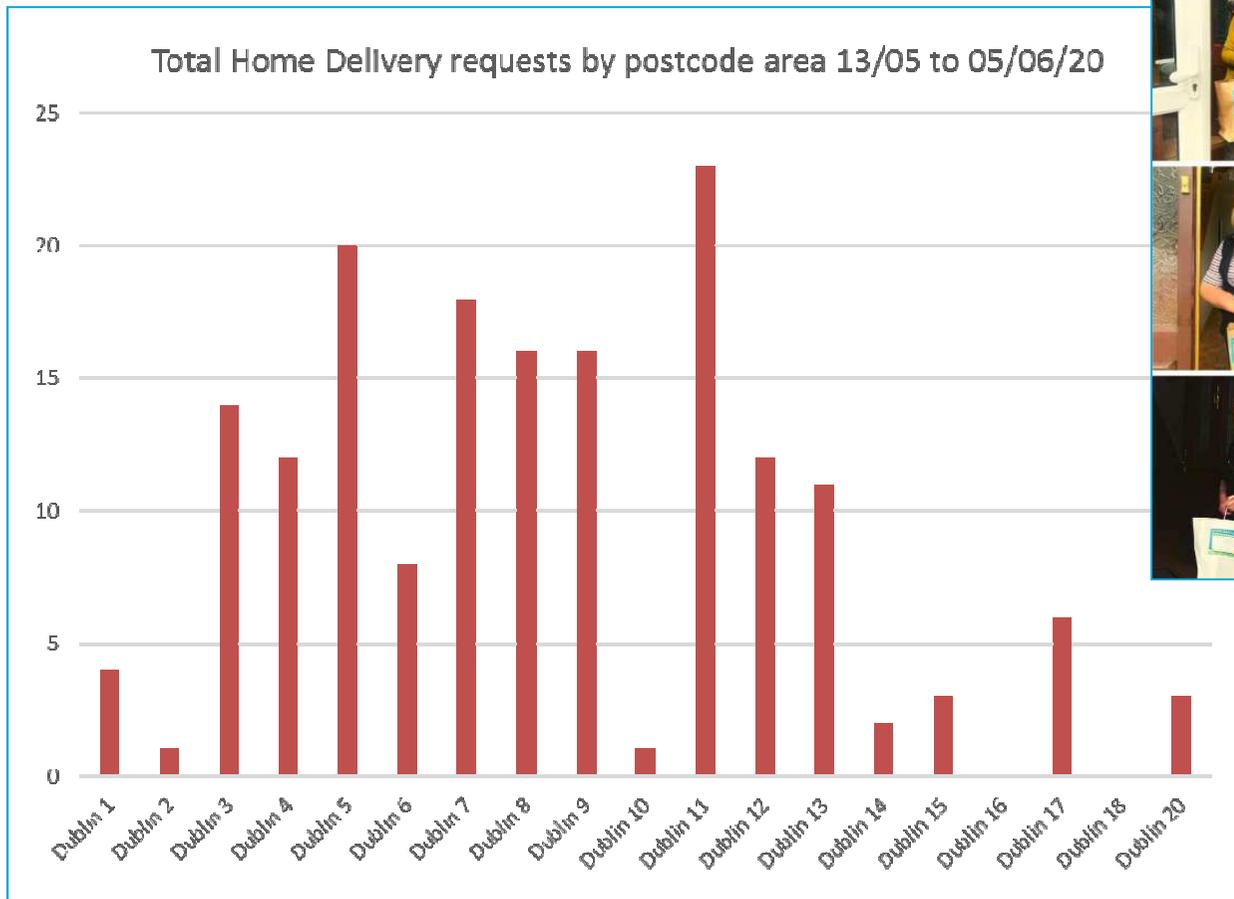
Bratacha ar focail atá in usáid go hiondúil as gaeilge ar sráideanna na Cathrach i rith tréimhse an vírúis.



Home delivery service

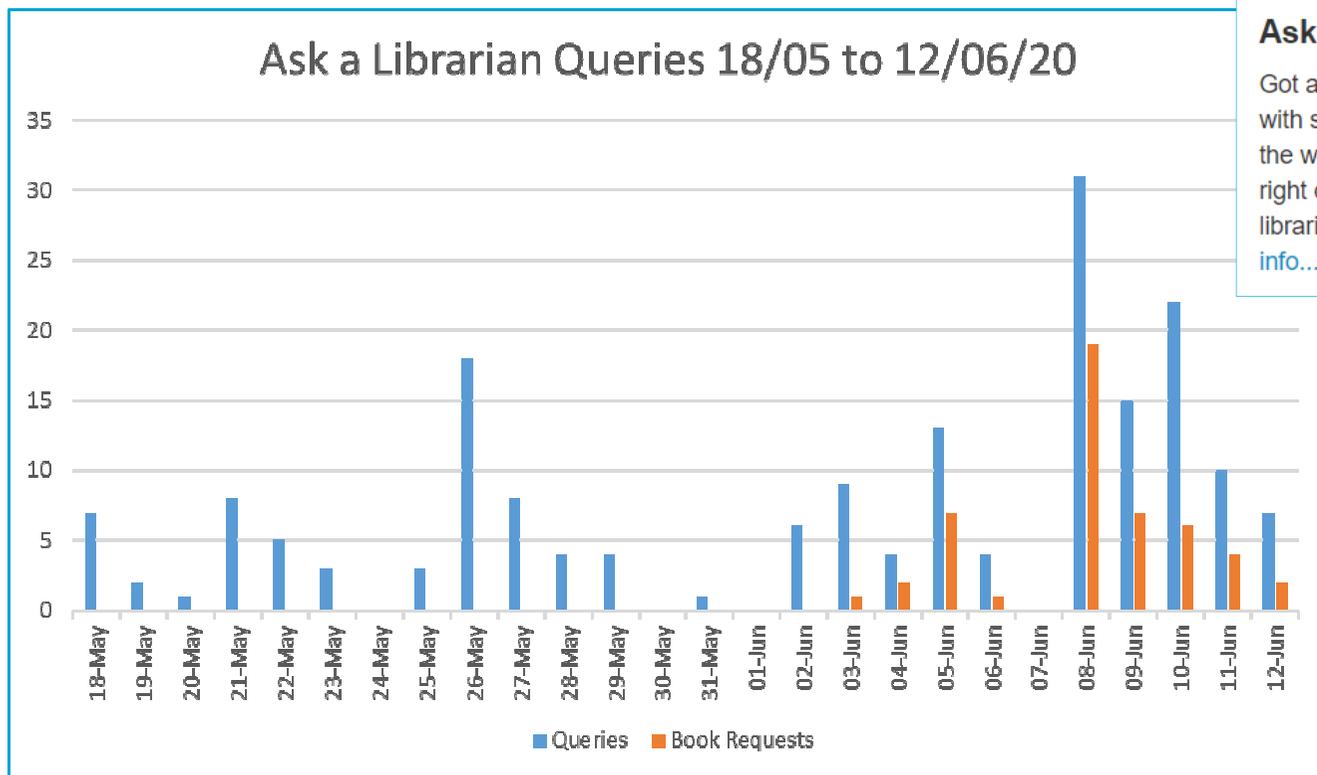
Home Delivery Service for Cocooners commenced on 13th May, in partnership with the Dublin Volunteer Centre.

There were **170** requests for home delivery from 13th May to 5th June.



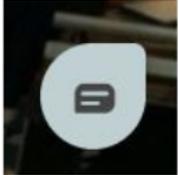
Ask a Librarian

Ask a Librarian team responded to 185 online and offline queries from 18th May to 12th June. Queries ranged from book/document sourcing to printing, forgotten PINs, e-resources support, home delivery and libraries re-opening.



Ask A Librarian!

Got a question? Need help with something? Launch the widget in the bottom right corner and chat with a librarian in real time. [More info...](#)



Since the launch of the 'Call and Collect' service on 3rd June the Ask a Librarian team have responded to 49 queries from library patrons to hold items for collection.

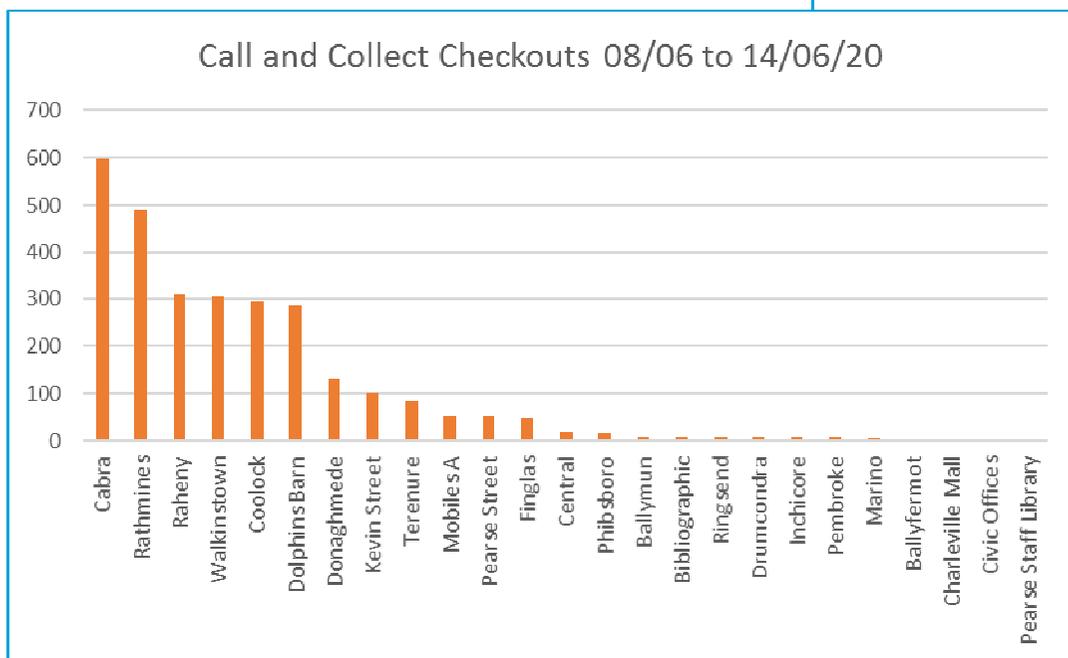
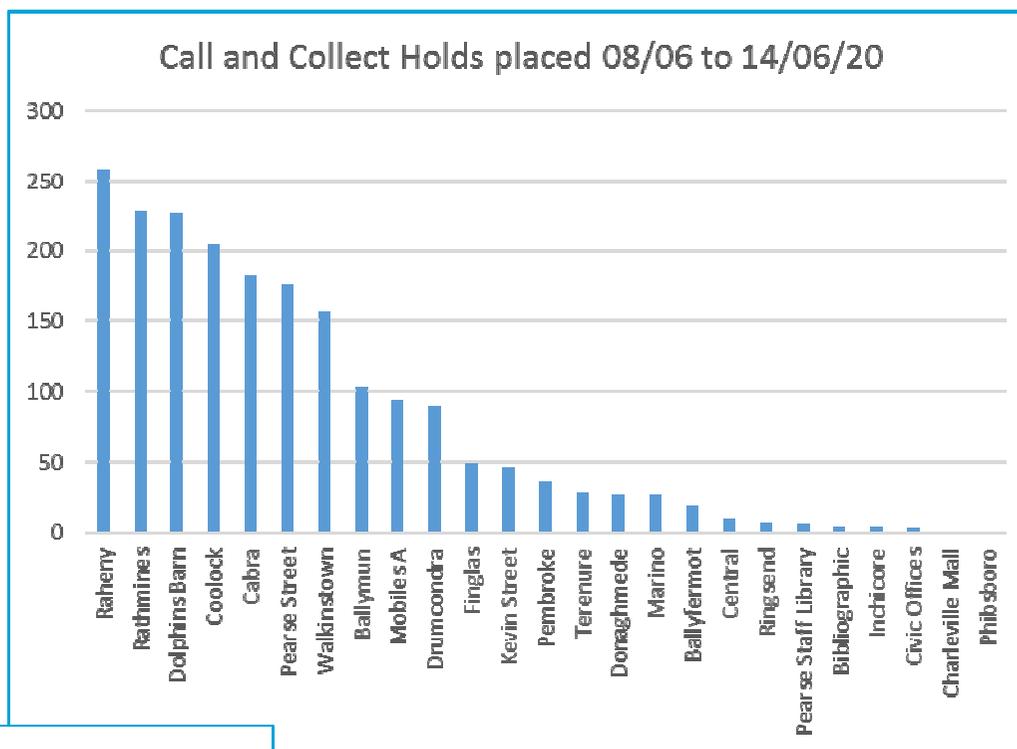
A new online 'Call and Collect' form launched on 10th June.

139 orders have come in via the form between 10th and 14th June.

Call and Collect

The 'Call and Collect' service commenced on 8th June, operating from six branch libraries initially - **Cabra, Coolock, Dolphin's Barn, Raheny, Rathmines and Walkinstown.**

During the first week of the Call and Collect service, **1,255** holds were placed at the 6 Call and Collect branches, **730** at other branches and services such as Ask A Librarian, totalling **1,985 holds.**



2,276 items were checked out to patrons at the 6 Call and Collect branches, **557** at other branches, totalling **2,833** checkouts.



Comhairle Cathrach
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Dublin City Council



Dublin City Libraries Activity during COVID-19 pandemic lockdown



Comhairle Cathrach
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Dublin City Council



‘Pollinating Play’ Dublin City Play Strategy 2020 - 2025

Realising the vision for Dublin as a child-friendly, playful city



Introduction - The Dublin City Play Strategy

The new Dublin City Play Strategy; ‘Pollinating Play’ (2020 – 2025) is a key guiding document for Dublin City Council and its partners as a sound basis for fully implementing a comprehensive play strategy for the city and to realise the vision for Dublin as a ‘Child Friendly and Playful City’.

This strategy follows on from the Dublin City Play Plan (DCPP); Play here, Play there, Play Everywhere’ (2012 – 2017) and will be implemented in support of the plan as a continued local authority response in promoting and supporting ‘play’ for children and young people.

Purpose & Scope

The scope of the new play strategy will embrace children and young people within the 0 – 18 age group and also be guided by the further extended age group identified in ‘The National Children’s’ Strategy; ‘Better Outcomes Brighter Futures ’(2014) 0 – 24 age group

Strategy Principles & Values

The Dublin City Play Strategy is underpinned by the Article 31; *the child's right to play*

The strategy vision, mission, principles, themes and actions are informed by the definition of play set out within United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and General Comment 17 on Article 31; which defines the child's right to play:

“Children's play is any behaviour, activity or process initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves; it takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise”.

The principle of 'Play Sufficiency' is adopted from the **2010 Wales 'Play Sufficiency Duty'** in order to develop a comprehensive action plan.

Our Vision; *Dublin Will be a child-friendly and playful city where all children and young people can enjoy and fully exercise their right to play*

Our Mission; *We will adopt a city-wide coordinated approach to provide high quality play opportunities for children and young people.*

Context: Influential Policies and Strategies

- **1992:** Ireland's ratification of UNCRC
- **2000:** National Children's Strategy
- **2003 - 2008:** Ireland's first National Play Strategy 'Ready, Steady Play!' was launched in 2003
- **2012:** 'Your City Your Space' Dublin City Council Public Realm Strategy
- **2014:** Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) launched 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' (BOBF) (2014 – 2020), a new policy framework for children and young people
- **Present;** The Dublin City Parks Strategy (2019 – 2022)

Using the Play Strategy

The strategy and action plan will be used as a guiding document for developing actions to improve children and young people's play experiences within the context of their specific service or setting such as:

- Organisations and individuals with a responsibility for children's play.
- Parents, carers, service providers,
- Decision makers, planners etc. can adopt the action plan included within the strategy as a guide for best practice in planning for play.

Developing the Strategy.

The consultation process to date has used a wide range of consultative methods. Parents/carers, children and young people gave their views by participating

- Approx 600 completed online surveys '**Have your say about play**',
- Pop-up play consultations in a number of the city's main parks
- Organisations/ youth workshops in recreation centres
- National Playday - large number of children participated in short interviews and playful and creative workshops
- Dublin City's Comhairle na nÓg -
 - completed the online survey,
 - participated in 'play strategy' workshops

- Formed a sub-group to review the strategy draft.
- Ongoing; 'Children's views on COVID 19 Restrictions' - DCU

A Strategy and action plan to future proof 'play' for Dublin's Young Citizens

Dublin City Play Strategy includes an action plan based themes with specific focus on adopting 'play sufficiency' as a key principle in assessing quality in play provision and environments. This presents a holistic approach to supporting play in terms of the overall health and well-being of children and young people as active citizens who can participate in their city and communities through *positive childhood experiences in which they can **play now, play more and play better!***

Dublin City Play Strategy Themes

THEME 1: Develop and awareness of play and its value and importance in creating a child friendly and playful city
Theme 2: Adopt the principle of 'play sufficiency' as a framework for ongoing monitoring, review, evaluation and research regarding progress, effectiveness and overall impact of the play strategy.
Theme 3: Create an effective city play infrastructure for children and young people that supports their everyday freedoms and improve the design of our play spaces.
Theme 4: Place a key focus on accessible and inclusive opportunities for play by supporting children and young people requiring particular attention to fully exercise their right to play.
Theme 5: Support and encourage the development of play-friendly communities to provide time and spaces in local neighbourhoods for 'everyday street play' opportunities and experiences.
Theme 6: Highlight the benefits and importance of 'risk' and 'challenge' in play for children and young people by supporting them to asses and take risks
Theme 7: Highlight tie creative, social, physical and emotional benefits of play for older children/teenagers that includes opportunities for risk, challenge and social interaction.
Theme 8: Support Children and young people to fully exercise their right to play by providing ease of access to engage in cultural life and the arts.
Theme 9: Work in partnership to support schools to facilitate play as a 'right' for children and young people by increasing and improving opportunities for play that places particular emphasis on outdoor, self-directed 'play'.
Theme 10: Promote and support the value and importance of facilitating outdoor, child-led play in early childhood and education settings.
THEME 11: Adopt the theory and concept of 'Playwork Practice' as a play led approach to providing play services and managing facilities in other contexts e.g. neighbourhood play schemes, hospitals, direct provision etc.

Next Steps

July 2020: Complete narrative and distribute draft document for approval/agreement

- Dublin City Council Departments
- Dublin City Play Strategy Partners

September 2020:

- Endorsement and approval of Dublin City Play Strategy
- Launch and distribution of Dublin City Play Strategy
- Ongoing promotion and implementation of Play Strategy

Debby Clarke
Play Development Officer

29TH June 2020



PARKS, BIODIVERSITY & LANDSCAPE SERVICES UPDATE REPORT

Report on Response to Covid 19 event:

Parks throughout the City remained open during the Covid event and even with reduced staff the parks have never looked better or been in so much demand. This is all down to the commitment and dedication of Parks Staff who have worked tirelessly throughout to keep up the standard in all our Parks.

Changes to work practices were introduced with staff operating in Pods, staggered start/finish times to maintain social distancing and to reduce the risk of any transmission. Additional PPE was purchased and all staff were supplied with individual bottles of hand sanitizer for their own personal use.

Staff adjusted to the new working arrangements very quickly and new Health & Safety measures were put in place to protect staff including regular cleaning of depot offices, canteens and toilet facilities as well as installing screens in vans to allow for two staff members to be in a vehicle at the same time.

The care, attention and cooperation of staff with these measures was successful as there was only one reported case of covid infection in the 190 staff involved in Parks operations.

In the Civic Offices, Parks staff who have been able to work remotely have done so with a roster in place for the administration team who have been able to attend socially distanced. All aspects of work from operations, administration, project design/management and forward planning have been able to continue their works programmes.

The Pandemic highlighted more than ever the importance of parks to local communities and their role in the mental health and wellbeing of our City.

One of our most difficult challenges was in the centre of the City where there is a high percentage of apartments, the highest population density and the lowest provision of greenspace. Parks were extremely busy. This was particularly so because of the fine weather and at weekends the gardai had to temporarily close some city centre parks because of the number of people who wanted to get out of their homes to walk and exercise. Signs were placed at the entrances to all parks to promote social distancing and there has been close liaison with the Gardai to monitor the situation.

Coastal areas, Dollymount, Clontarf and Sandymount were also very busy and there were huge amounts of waste collected from Parks bins and litter collections.

One of the legacies from the event has been the allocation of car parking spaces on the Causeway road to the North Bull Island Nature reserve and Dollymount beach which is being converted to a shared 1.2km pedestrian/cycleway.

While Parks facilities such as tearooms, tennis courts, playgrounds, outdoor gyms, skateparks, all weather pitches are gradually coming back into operation the public toilets and markets are not yet operational, however plans are in preparation.

Dublin City Council Parks Service's initiatives to promote nature in the city.

In the period of the current Biodiversity Action Plan (2015-2020), Dublin City Council has implemented a number of actions and initiatives to support nature in the city. This has seen the gradual 'wilding' of former mono-culture amenity grassland in its parks, open spaces, roadside verges and graveyards to allow wild flowers, which in the past have been considered weeds, to flower and seed. Mowing regimes in peripheral areas of parks and on verges have been adjusted to allow the grasses and suppressed wildflower species such as clover and dandelion to grow and provide habitat and food for insects and pollinators.

This wilding policy has coincided with the elimination of the use of the chemical glyphosate as a herbicide and in fact the Parks Service has significantly reduced its use of all such chemicals over the last three to four years. Many parks and all playgrounds are now chemical free. Alternative methodologies for weed control using manual methods, electric trimmers, heavy mulching and plant-based products for spraying including concentrations of vinegar are being trialled.

The reduced frequency of mowing in many areas has been supplemented by the mass planting of bulbs to take areas out of the mowing cycle for a number of months. These bulb mixes which are evident at the moment include muscari, gladiolus, camassia, tulips and allium as well as daffodils which herald the coming of spring. These combinations of bulbs flower well into May and are cut back mid to late June. We are trialling various wildflower seed mixes which will last well into autumn and would require cutting only once a year.

Together with the planting of perennial pollinator-friendly plants in ornamental schemes, it is expected in 2020 that over 80% of planting schemes by Dublin City Council will be suitable for pollinators.

The support of local people is critical in this journey as the traditional scorched earth policy of eliminating every 'weed' must change. Although aesthetically this mean that 'weeds' will be more evident, wild flowers are an essential food source for bees and many insects which in turn feed into a wider ecosystem.

To promote this positive change the staff of Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services have been working with local community and Tidy Towns groups to improve greenspaces for pollinators, to plant trees across the city and to implement greening strategies in those parts of the city which traditionally had a deficit of green infrastructure, and several of these projects are seeing practical results.

North East Inner City Greening Strategy

Dublin's North East Inner City (NEIC) has significant social and economic challenges which both the Government and Dublin City Council have set out to address as part of a multi-annual programme of improvements. The NEIC Greening Strategy is one of these initiatives.

The lack of trees and greenspace is one of the challenges for people living in one of the most densely populated parts of the country. Green space, trees and access to nature reduce health inequalities, improve physical and mental well-being.

In a tree canopy survey carried out in 2017 it was found that there are just 1000 trees in the NEIC equating to a canopy cover of only 1% compared to the figure of 10.2% tree canopy coverage for the city as a whole.

A year on from the start of this greening strategy every opportunity is being considered including build-outs onto roads and the redesign of existing car parking layouts for the construction of tree pits (James Joyce Street), Green walls (Seville Place, Liberty House and St Patricks Parade), the refurbishment of central medians within carriageways to facilitate greening interventions (Drumcondra Rd Lower) and the retro-planting of existing plazas and public spaces like Store Street, Belvedere Place and Gloucester Place.

Over 200m of roadside hedgerows have been installed within the north east inner city to date.. Research has shown that roadside hedgerows are very effective at reducing pollution exposure, cutting black carbon by up to 63%”

The greening interventions so far have seen the removal of 830 sq. of hard surfaces, which allows for the re-establishment of the natural soil structure and its ecological and environmental functions. De-paving allows for the creation of open ground and under tree planting, creating street level habitats. An increase in the tree canopy cover and de-paving helps with the capture of rainfall and reduces surface water runoff which supports sustainable urban drainage.

Since this initiative began 80 street trees have been planted in the first year. Over 8 different species of trees were introduced as part of these projects such as the tried and tested Plane tree (Platanus) but also more unusual trees such as the Honey locust (Gleditsia), Dawn Redwood (Metasequoia), and The Pagoda Tree (Sophora), which are being trialled in response to the warmer climatic conditions which prevail in the City Centre.

Birch (Betula) was chosen as the predominant species for planting as the locations were within densely populated areas beside main traffic corridors. Evidence has stacked up for the ill effects of traffic fumes and minuscule particulates, with studies linking them to asthma, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, dementia and depression. Research has shown that Birch is the best performing species at removing air pollution, capturing up to 79% of ultra-fine particles from the air, dramatically increasing the air quality for the local community.

Street tree selection is very important to future proof the longevity of trees. The urban realm introduces a lot of stress factors, and the trees chosen need to be pollution tolerant, drought tolerant, capable of enduring occasional flooding, tolerant of paving and robust enough to withstand anti-social behaviour.”

One of the central tenets of the strategy is the importance of community engagement. In order for any recommendations to be fulfilled, it is essential to establish a consultative process that engages the community and gives them an ownership of decisions that are made toward the regeneration of their area. To date there has been a wide variety of engagement through

community workshops, stakeholder meetings and public engagement from senior citizens residential centres to primary schools, meetings in community centres, libraries, to open air meetings within parks.

The next phase of the NEIC Greening Strategy will see further community participation with volunteer groups, schools and local residents to facilitate and promote greening opportunities on an individual scale to develop and enhance private spaces.

The main parks in the area Mountjoy Square, Diamond Park, Liberty Park and Sheriff Street Park are also currently the subject of improvement plans.

The NEIC Greening Strategy and projects is an initiative by Dublin City Councils Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services and the NEIC Area Office. The NEIC Greening Strategy is one of a number of greening initiatives aimed at reducing the impacts of greenspace and tree canopy deficits, which were highlighted in the Dublin City Parks Strategy 2019.

These include the Liberties Greening Strategy (2015) and The Stoneybatter Greening Strategy for which the outcome of the public consultation will be published shortly.

Les Moore,
City Parks Superintendent
29th June 2020

SCULPTURE DUBLIN UPDATE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Sculpture Dublin aims to raise awareness of Dublin's sculptural heritage and to commission new sculptures in parks and public spaces city-wide. It is a Dublin City Council initiative, developed by Parks and Landscape Services and the City Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery and Visual Artists Ireland.

The idea originated with *Art in Parks* (2014), a guide to public sculpture sited in 22 Dublin City Council parks. *Art in Parks* acknowledges a wealth of sculpture in Dublin's parks and includes information on almost 40 works dating from the early 1900s and spanning 100 years.

The programme ambition is two-fold: to increase the visibility of public sculpture in Dublin, building public awareness and understanding of sculpture, and to commission exciting new works which enhance and draw attention to different locations and aspects of the city.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Stakeholder consultations were facilitated by DCC and Visual Artists Ireland in 2019 to forge a vision for the programme. The findings have informed key programme objectives:

- Programming – develop a programme of new commissions;
- Public Engagement – achieve a new public awareness of and interest in sculpture;
- Legacy – make sculpture central to the identity and experience of the city / make Dublin a destination city for sculpture.

DELIVERABLES AND OUTCOMES

Over 2 years, the programme will deliver a series of new public sculpture commissions, an extensive public engagement programme and communications campaign.

The programme is informed by DCC's *Policies and Strategies for Managing Public Art* and will support and adhere to the following DCC strategies and policies:

- *Dublin City Parks Strategy*
- *Dublin City Cultural Strategy and Arts Plan*
- *Dublin City Development Plan*
- *Your City Your Space Dublin City Public Realm Strategy and Masterplan*

The desired impact is a city where sculpture is part of everyday conversation, contributing to overall public confidence and pride of place. A range of stakeholders (arts, community, academia, city officials, business etc.) will have worked together to enhance the cultural life of the city. The programme will be realised through meaningful processes of consultation, selection and co-creation, ensuring that the city's sculptural offering will become a powerful cultural asset with significant local, national and international resonance and reach.

COMMISSIONS

One permanent sculpture will be commissioned for each of the DCC administrative areas as follows:

- South Central: Ballyfermot People's Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin
- Central: Smithfield Square Lower, Smithfield, Dublin
- South East: Bushy Park, Terenure, Dublin
- North West: Kildonan Park, Finglas, Dublin
- North Central: St Anne's Park, Raheny, Dublin

A temporary sculpture will be commissioned for the O'Connell Plinth – an empty plinth outside City Hall.

Selection of locations

A range of sites in each area were surveyed by the Sculpture Dublin team and Steering Group and assessed against the following criteria:

- Be in the public domain;
- Be visible to a broad and diverse general public;
- Be in the ownership of Dublin City Council;
- Be suitable for the best display of the sculpture;
- Give scope for artists to create a significant and noteworthy sculpture;
- Represent a deficit in the provision of public sculpture in the city i.e. there are no existing sculptures in the immediate surrounding area.

Reports have been submitted to the Local Area Committees, including potential sites in each area. Feedback from Local Councillors has been incorporated into the final assessment and selection of a location for each area by the Steering Group.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Public Consultation and Engagement Programme will consist of 2 strands:

- Local Engagement Programme (in 5 local areas, around the sites of commissioned works)
- General Engagement Programme (city-wide)

The Local Engagement Programme will include:

- Awareness-raising through stakeholder lists and programme publicity;
- Online consultation and facilitated public meetings;
- Artist's Cafes and Culture Clubs;
- Community Advocates programme;
- Schools programme;
- Talks programme for local libraries;
- Creative projects with community partners.

The General Engagement Programme will include:

- An inaugural Annual Sculpture Day in April designed to enable greater access to and engagement with public sculpture in the city and its cultural institutions;
- A city sculpture trail and guided tours;
- A public talks programme focused on historic and contemporary sculpture (various locations);
- Heritage and conservation schemes;
- Online information on the DCC public art collection and collections of public sculpture in Dublin;
- Online essays on public sculpture and commissioning of public art;
- Information on temporary exhibitions of sculpture in museums, galleries, college and studios through 2021;
- Public events surrounding the unveiling of commissioned works;

PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Sculpture Dublin is overseen by a Steering Group made up of representatives from Parks and Landscape Services, the Arts Office, the Hugh Lane Gallery, Visual Artists Ireland and an external expert on sculpture. It is an advisory, non-statutory body. Sculpture Dublin is managed by the Programme Director who reports to Parks and Landscape Services and the Steering Group.

A budget allocation of €1m (to include six new sculptural commissions, extensive public engagement and administration) has been agreed within the CRES Parks Capital Programme 2020-2022 for the delivery of the programme.

PUBLIC LAUNCH

The programme will be publicly launched at City Hall on 6 July. Full details of commissions, public consultation and engagement will be published on the programme website.

Les Moore,
City Parks Superintendent

Donncha Ó'Dúlaing
Senior Executive Officer

Ray Yeates
City Arts Officer

29th June 2020



REPORT ON ARTS POLICY & STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The recent Government announcement of an additional €25M to support the Arts has recognised the impact of Covid19 on a vulnerable sector. Thousands of Arts events have been cancelled since March with the inevitable losses in income, employment and opportunity. During the lockdown however the Arts provided respite, support and relief in a difficult time and it is gratifying to see the intrinsic value of the arts recognised.

Nothing can replace the experiential, “in the moment” power of the arts experience but the landscape in which the public can visit a gallery, attend a play or a concert or any other live event has changed utterly. Much emphasis has been placed by the media on the issue of physical distancing for the hospitality sector and a call for financial supports to get them back on their feet. Precisely the same is required for theatres and venues who may need to completely reconfigure their spaces and by doing so, wipe out their box office profits or else are forced to raise ticket prices significantly with the knock on effect on access for all to the arts. The reality is that without the support recently announced, smaller Arts venues, Community Arts groups and artists will not survive. The willingness to share their work online and the way they immediately stepped up to the plate to provide arts experiences for the citizen in lockdown was laudable and indicative of the generosity of many artists and arts workers but it doesn't pay their bills. The level of engagement by the public highlights the vital role the arts have in everyday life, a fact often overlooked or taken for granted.

Re-imagining a programme of events for Cruinniu (funded by Creative Ireland and programmed by the Arts Office) in Dublin and presenting it as a digital version have given a number of insights into what the positive and negative legacy of the pandemic has been. The first observation is that artists are extremely agile in terms of their own ability to re-imagine their artform and present it in a completely different context at very short notice. One of the unexpected benefits of translating a live event to online is that it makes it easier to measure its immediate impact through viewer numbers, comments etc. In a way, it provides readymade market research on audience engagement. That the digital version can have a life after the day of an event is also of benefit and makes it more widely available. The huge appetite for arts experiences is reflected in the online engagement with Cruinniu events that surpassed expectations.

In what is a demonstration of resilience many well-known Visual artists are now selling work directly through their social media channels. Many have engaged with #Artistsupportpledge, a worldwide phenomenon, where they sell a certain number of works (for not more than 200 euro). When each Artist has sold over €1,000, they will purchase one other artwork from another artist for €200. That visual artists are also taking matters into their own hands and selling works directly is significant. The field is traditionally reticent about the price of artworks and one can interpret that well-established artists have resorted to selling their work online (even though they are connected to galleries). Either this is a sign of the desperate nature of their income due to the loss of opportunities to sell their work through galleries or artists are

becoming more forthright and more commercially engaged as they need to sell work to survive.

The Arts are now in reset mode. The Fringe Festival and the Dublin Theatre Festival will bravely hold Festivals that try to make the best of reconfigured venues or work outdoors. Culture Night has consulted widely with all presenters and venues and will stage major online events, record and broadcast live events and experiment with how the guidelines permit crowds to assemble. While we hope for a *new normal* the constantly shifting landscape keeps all those working in the arts in a fluctuating, responsive state as we process the long-term effects of the pandemic on our everyday lives. As we attempt to incorporate the new restrictions the pandemic has imposed, it is vital that the space in which different arts forms can function is reimaged and reformed. Bold new steps are needed to reimagine spaces where restricted art forms can take place within the current restrictions and changing guidelines. Sharing information and encouraging safe experimentation will define the work of the Arts Office until year-end at least.

The Artist of course is central to the Arts but those who learn through or participate in the Arts from schoolchildren drawing to adult choirs also provide Artists and themselves with unique opportunities. A diverse and growing audience is also vital that feels welcome and gets into the habit of attending Arts events as early in life as possible. To reflect the broad scope of the Arts both professional and voluntary, Dublin city Council need to focus not just on professional arts organisations who are attempting to strategize and combat the effect of the new restrictions but on community and voluntary arts organisations that are badly hit. These organizations have already been struggling with compliance measures before the pandemic, administration capabilities for these organisations are already difficult to come by and manage and now the pandemic has increased the need for compliance significantly. Voluntary and grassroots organisations are part of the essential arts fabric of our city and country. Serving as a point of contact for new people to engage in the arts, building community engagement and offering entry points into the arts for young people.

Activity Report:

MusicTown, The International Literature Festival, and Culture night will proceed in online and socially distanced formats.

The International Dublin Literary Award (IDLA) and International Literature Festival Dublin (ILFDublin) share a common vision to celebrate world literature. Beginning in autumn 2020, and with plans to align the annual timelines of both events in the future, The Arts Office and Libraries will collaborate to realise this vision more effectively and continue to underline the importance of Dublin as a global literary city.

The LAB Gallery will reopen with two solo exhibitions by Alan Magee and Evgenia Martyosian subject to new health and safety provisions. Online programmes have included live webinars, sharing talks and events online and facilitating Visual Thinking Strategies workshops for local teachers, children and a growing network of artists and educators. The installation of the forthcoming exhibitions by Aoife Dunne and Gemma Browne will take place later in the summer. The Lab rehearsal Studios will open in August.

The Léargas EC funded Visual thinking Strategies Programme transferred its closing events to online webinars This project is led by the Arts office and involved 6 European partners and a network of 40 educators working in the field of visual arts education. It involved training and testing of the Visual Thinking Strategies methodology with primary and secondary teachers, state education agencies, freelance art museum educators and teaching artists. The European partners and the arts office team responded quickly to the cancelled live conference with regular online zoom meetings, and then undertook together a speedy re-design of the

'live' conference into an online version in the form of webinars, films and designed materials for the website www.permissiontowonder.com. The intended audience for the 'live' conference increased by 40% from a proposed 'live' event in Dublin Castle for 160 people giving public access to the online material for over 800 people from all over the world since the end of May 2020.

Dublin City Arts Office and Libraries continue our collaboration to develop **Creative Hubs** for Children, focusing on Ballyfermot, Cabra and Coolock libraries. A summer programme will take place in July and August featuring live online music, puppetry, storytelling, dance and visual arts and illustration workshops; online videos; and inspirational how-to guides for children and parents.

Presenting Partners and collaborating artists include The Ark, Coisceim Dance Company, Puca Puppets, Ceol Connected; Eamon Sweeney and Chris Judge.

Local collaborators: Ballyfermot-Chapelizod Partnership and Northside Partnership (Preparing for Life)

The Arts Office is supporting the Liberties Festival in making the transition to a different kind of Festival this year both practically in the Steering Group and through Arts Grants.

Portrait of Kathleen Clarke

The process to short-list artists for the commission to paint a portrait of Kathleen Clarke, the first woman Lord Mayor of Dublin, is deferred due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The intention is that the commissioned portrait will hang in the Council Chamber in City Hall. The short-listing meeting will be reconvened as soon as it logistically possible and permissible.

Luke Kelly by Vera Klute

The Luke Kelly sculpture by artist Vera Klute has been vandalised by spray painting on four occasions this year. On each occasion the sculpture is successfully cleaned the following morning. An Garda Síochána have arrested two people in relation to two of the incidents. Meanwhile, Dublin City Council is liaising with the artist and continues to explore options with an Garda Síochána including direct CCTV coverage of the sculpture and enhanced lighting to reduce the chance of this vandalism occurring again. The City Council has no plans to move the statue at this time as this art work is much loved and respected by the majority of the community in the Sheriff Street area.

Policy Development.

A new City Arts Plan is set to be published before the end of 2020. This plan will highlight the involvement of multiple parts of Dublin City Council in the Arts from Planning to Events and Festivals, Heritage and Architecture. Public Consultation and SPC review scheduled for September/October 2020.

The Dublin City Arts Plan sets out the range of supports and programmes throughout Dublin City Council's Arts provision and the ongoing initiatives by Dublin City Council that continue to strengthen the Arts in Dublin.

Dublin City Council has chosen three themes to highlight the concerns and trends reported through inquiries by Elected Members on behalf of their constituents, by members of the Artistic community and the Public.

They are:-

1. Infrastructure and the Arts: Built Infrastructure such as Artists Workspaces, Theatres Concert Halls and Office Space for Artists and Arts Organisations.
2. Funding: How Dublin City Council works with other Agencies and independently to provide grants and other financial opportunities to Artists, Arts Organisations, and Communities engaging in the Arts.
3. New Opportunities: What initiatives and strategies will be required to further support the Arts in Dublin? (new Programme for Public Art, increasing the understanding of the development of cultural buildings, new partnerships post Covid and the Arts)

Arts Grants Review. This review initiated at the last SPC meeting has been undertaken by Arthur Lappin (formerly of the Arts Council). Initial study and previous reports to the SPC underline the need to set priorities locally and citywide.

Dublin City Public Art Programme

The second Dublin City Public Art Programme will launch in the Autumn. The three key aspects of linking art, city and public will define the structure of the programme. Dublin City Public Art Programme seeks to engage with the city in its entirety including through the five electoral areas and through community engagement. The approach of the programme is to embrace the diversity of public art practice while being deeply committed to engaging with communities and localities. The timing of the launch in autumn 2020 offers artists opportunities to make new work in the post COVID 19 context when so many artists and arts organisations have suffered due to the pandemic.

Developing Policy on Arts Infrastructure

It is difficult to look at the use of buildings or development of new buildings for the Arts in Dublin without a policy driven strategic approach. Currently sites, the possibility of Arts buildings in new developments and the repurposing of old buildings are all under consideration.

When Local authorities such as Dublin City Council consider buildings for use for recreation or leisure it will traditionally think of community centres, sport facilities, parks and libraries and it supports these important developments through capital and revenue expenditure and through dedicated staff. Local Authorities have far less engagement in Arts infrastructure although they have built and supported Arts Centres, Artists' Studios and buildings such as DCC's development of The Lab Gallery, Dancehouse, Axis Ballymun, and lately Heritage sites 14 Henrietta Street and Richmond Barracks.

This takes into account the direct and indirect ownership that DCC have of key arts and cultural facilities in Dublin such as in Temple Bar (it is important to note that the development of Temple Bar's cultural footprint was initiated by Central Government). This leads to the following question. How and when does the possibility of a site or building that could be used for the Arts arise? How does DCC respond and with what expertise? How many Arts buildings should there be in the Dublin City Administrative Area? What Art Forms should they serve? How many of these should involve the public and how many will not be Public facing? How do we set out a policy that is fair to all Art Forms that provides a set of principles and guidelines when approaching Arts infrastructure? In developing a new Arts Plan and as a strategic objective

the new Development Plan, an approach to these questions will be attempted. As part of this initiative, a URDF funded survey of Artists demand for Artists workspaces is now underway.

Framework Agreement with the Arts Council.

The CCMA have made a National initiative in recent years that each Local Authority will have a Framework Agreement of shared objectives with the Arts Council. Following the signing of this agreement that lasts for eight years further applications by the Arts Office annually to the Arts Council are not required. The assistant Chief Executive has asked the Arts Council that the Framework Agreement for Dublin include all aspects of the City Council's involvement in the Arts.

Creative Ireland Funding

Following on from the success of Cruinniú na nÓg in June. Dublin City Council will now distribute further Creative Ireland funding. It had been hoped this could lead to creative internships but this approach is being reviewed in the current restrictions

**Ray Yeates,
City Arts Officer,
29th June 2020.**

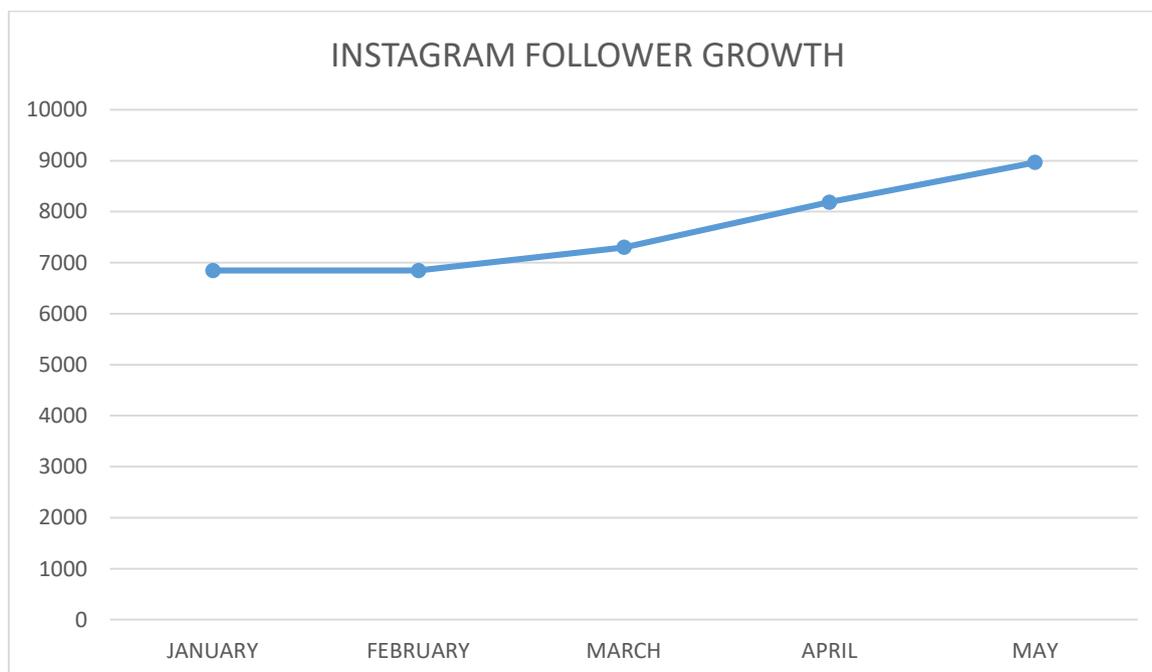
HUGH LANE GALLERY

Online Programmes and Social Media Engagement

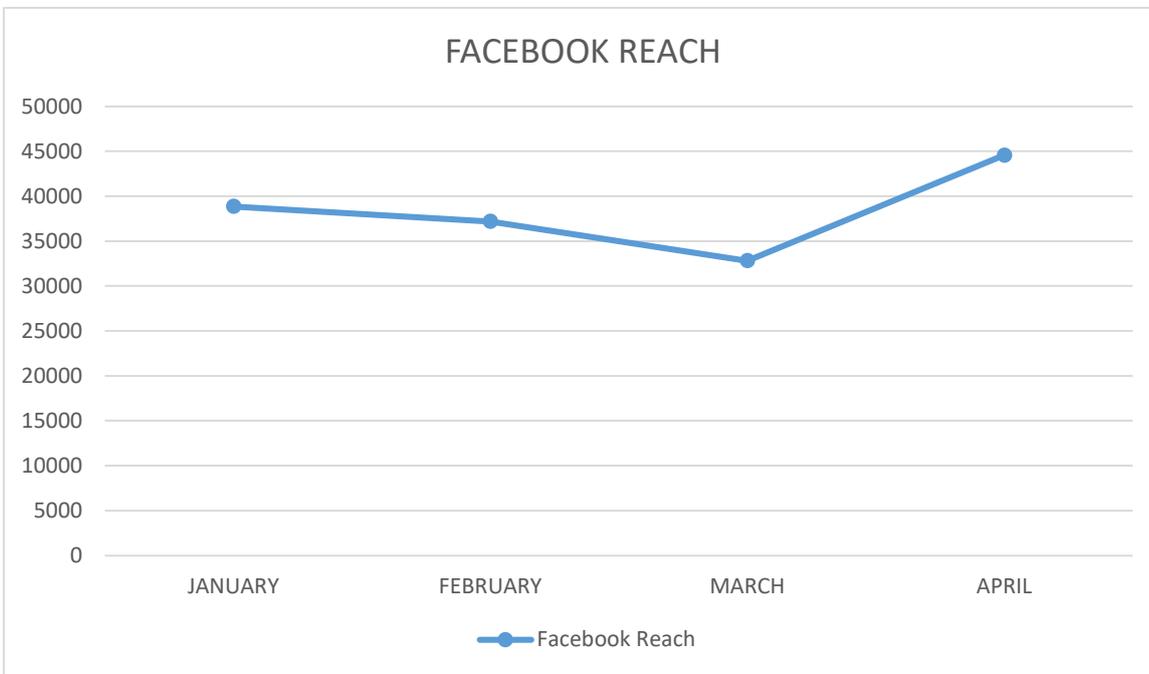
In response to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the restrictions that have been put in place, the Hugh Lane Gallery has created a series of new and highly dynamic online programmes which are updated weekly. The response has been excellent with our line audience growing exponentially. Our Twitter engagements reached 282k by the end of May. We aim to reach 10,000 followers on Instagram by mid-July and our Facebook followers are growing steadily.

Our first online Sunday@Noon concert took place on the 31st March with over 3,000 people + listening through Facebook. All of the gallery's programmes can be accessed through our website and on Hugh Lane Gallery YouTube channel and Hugh Lane Gallery Soundcloud. Our programmes are a mixture of talks, mini podcasts, sketching and drawing classes, Artists Takeover, Curators Choice, # museumfromhome and # Flashback Fridays (see www.hughlane.ie).

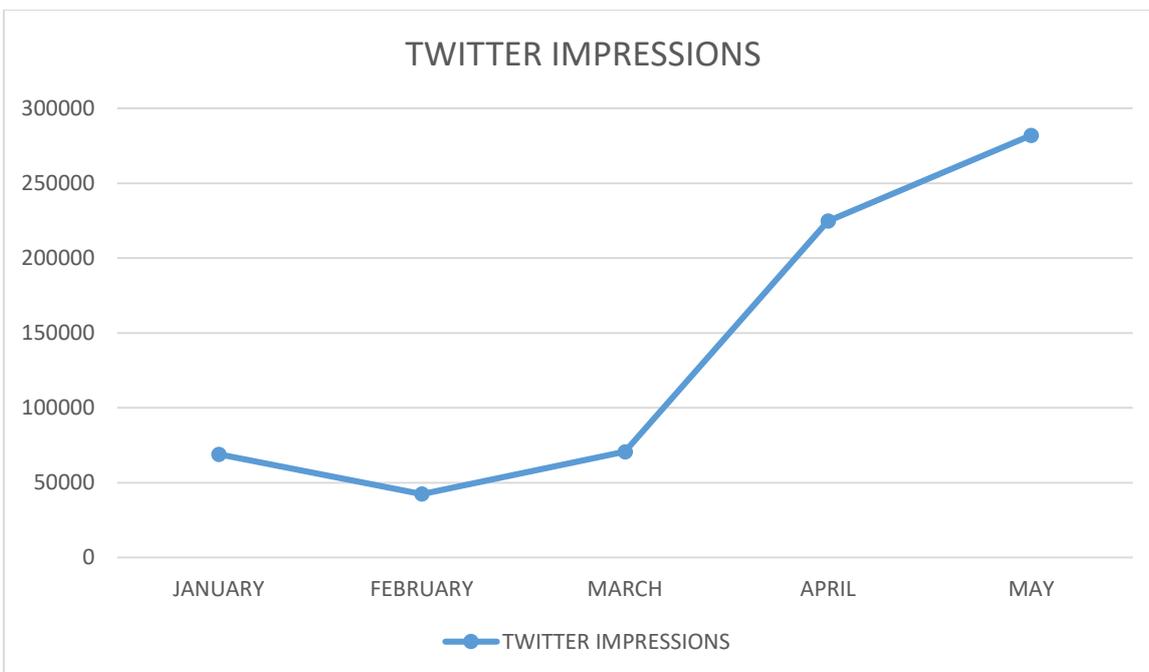
The Gallery Newsletter goes out weekly via email and I hope every Councillor is receiving it. We currently have a subscription of over 3,600 and we have approximately 1200 active readers. According to the Constant Contact's statistics page, the 30% open rate is 18% higher than the Industry Average which is normally 12%.



Currently at 9264, we project to hit 10,000 followers by mid-July



Facebook Reach is the number of unique people viewing our content through following, sharing or liking our content. It is too soon to Project May's figures as our first Sundays@Noon concert which aired on the 31st is still being served by the Facebook Algorithm going up by a few hundred views every days (Total of 3,000 as of 3rd June)



Much like Facebook Reach, Twitter Impressions show the number of timelines that our tweets were on through followers and other social engagements. We have continued to beat our own records over the last two months with May ending on 282K Impressions.

<https://twitter.com/TheHughLane>

<https://www.instagram.com/thehughlane/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thehughlane/>

City-wide project with primary schools 2019-2020



Children with their artwork made in March 2020 during their Zoom@Hugh Lane Gallery visit with artist Rebecca Shelford prior to the Gallery's closure.

Prior to the Hugh Lane Gallery's closure in March 2020, Zoom@Hugh Lane Gallery - Phase II of our city-wide outreach project for primary school had engaged with thirteen primary schools through the DCC administrative areas from November 2019-March 2020. A short film documenting the visits to the Gallery and highlighting the artwork made by the children is being produced. Planning is now also underway for Phase III of Zoom@HughLane Gallery due to take place during the school year 2020-21. It is aimed to continue to incrementally engage year on year with every primary school in the Dublin city area.

The participating schools were Gaelscoil Colaiste Mhuire, D1 - Central Area; City Quays NS, Gloucester St South, D2 – South East Area; Presentation Primary School, D8 – South Central Area; North Dublin Muslim NS Project, D3 - North West Area; St Columba's NS, D9 – North Central Area; Gardiner St school D1 - Central Area; John Scotus NS, D4 - South East Area; St Enda's Primary School, D8 – South Central Area; Our Lady of Consolation NS, D5 – North Central Area; St Joseph Senior NS, D11 – North West Area; S N Seosamh Na mBrathar, D3 – North Central Area; St Patrick's NS, D20 – South Central Area; Naomh Padraig NS, D11 – North West Area; St Michael's NS, D10 - South Central Area; Gaescoil Ui Earcain, D11 – North West Area.

New Programme: Transition Year Programme January 2020

Our inaugural week-long programme for transition year students took place in January 2020 with the aim of giving young people insights into the curatorial departments of the Gallery from education to exhibitions, collection and also conservation.



Taking place in our dedicated Education studio space and throughout the Gallery, the participating students were encouraged to discover more about art and their own creative potential through discussions on art and philosophy, talks on selected artworks, story collage and Visual Thinking Strategies, as well as the reflective potential of sketchbooks.



Each student explored artworks from the collection that personally inspired them to create their own sculptural vessels and collaborative prints arising from their close looking and these were on view to the public in a special display in gallery 8 prior to the Gallery's closure.



Since Gallery Closure: New Virtual Education Programmes online

To date 46 newly created digital art activity films and online art talks have been created and been viewed over 17,000 times.



Following the closure of the Gallery in March, new imaginative online education programmes have been curated by the Gallery's education team and shared via Zoom and the Gallery's YouTube channel enabling the Gallery stay connected with existing audiences as well as attracting new audiences. These online programmes are proving to be very popular and include live illustrated art history talks and coffee conversations which take place every Wednesday; two x four-part live lectures series *Irish Women Artists & Writers in the Hugh Lane Gallery's collection* and *A Gallery of Modern Art for Ireland* exploring the cultural life surrounding the foundation of the gallery. These series were fully booked with 54 and 70 participants respectively. Also taking place online is our live Culture Club art talks followed by online discussions enabling further exploration of the subjects. Online animated art films for all ages have also been commissioned from our panel of artists which are available on our YouTube channel.

Our National Drawing Day object inspired art activity film with artist Megan Scott was highlighted in the *Irish Independent Magazine*, *What's Hot* and was viewed over 1,800 times in three days.

A new online series *Artists Takeover* sees selected artists guest curate our e-newsletter and share ideas for looking, listening, watching and reading with all our audience.

The Gallery's participation in the National Neighbourhood with Dublin Culture Company will be through a programme of illustrated talks, presented online to community groups from all over Dublin with the ambition of also welcoming everyone in person once with Gallery re-opens on June 30th

The newly created online talks and art activity films have taken place and are available to view on the Gallery's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ul2v2RVcfveDkIAcvwWtQ/videos>

Online programme of newly created talks March-June (Coffee Conversations, Culture Clubs and Art History series)

Online programme of newly created art activity ideas for children, teens and adults available to view here:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUil_e1LlOsrodDN7Lhc6Yza2MQ2JOlqp

'The talks are absolutely brilliant. Really enjoying them'. Participant in Hugh Lane online art history series.

'Thank you and the team there for putting these talks together and for all the virtual and other events which are being made available to us. It is truly wonderful.' Participant in Hugh Lane online art history series.

Exhibition: World without Ends

Hugh Lane Gallery Dublin and Rubin Foundation New York

World Without End exhibition, organised in partnership with the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation New York, features 12 International Artists work in response to global borders and stories around borders was due to open on the 29th April. It was postponed due to Covid -19. Michael Dempsey Head of Exhibition and Sara Reisman Artistic Director of the Rubin Foundation reached out remotely and successfully created a mini podcast discussing the concept of borders and borderisation which can be found on Hugh Lane Gallery SoundCloud. The exhibition is now scheduled to open in the Hugh Lane Gallery on the 30th September. Runs to 30th January 2021

Capital Refurbishment Project: 1930's Wing

The programme continues with remote meetings. The project is now at Tender stage and stage 2 tender will be issued on 29th June with the successful contractor going on site at the beginning of October. The refurbishment project is very welcome as the fabric of these galleries is no longer functioning to best museum standards. The refurbishment will make good the fabric of the building and introduce environmental controls which will bring these galleries up to best museum standards internationally.

Website Redevelopment Project.

Work continues on the new website with remote meetings and workshops. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of the year.

Sundays at Noon concerts

Hugh Lane Gallery is streaming a series of concerts without audience for first time ever in its 45 year existence. The first concert held on the 31st May reached an audience of over **3,600 people**. The first concert featured charismatic husband and wife team, Dublin-born violinist Gillian Williams and her husband, French cellist Arun Rao, known as *Duo Chagall*. They performed works by Beethoven, Mozart, Colman Pearce as well as presenting the world premiere of *Unequal Music, String Duo for Violin & Cello (2020)* from award-winning Belfast composer, Stephen Gardner. The concert received over 3,000 views.

The second concert in the **Sundays@Noon series** takes place on **Sunday 14th June** and features improvisation duo Izumi Kimura on piano and Cora Venus Lunny on violin.

The following week, **Sunday 21st June**, renowned poet Paula Meehan reads from her work with tailored original musical responses from piper Mick O'Brien and clarinettist Paul Roe.

The final concert in the series on **Sunday 28th June** features classical guitarist Redmond O'Toole showcasing his 8-string cello-style guitar with mesmerising transcriptions of Bach, Haydn and Albeniz alongside French guitar music from Poulenc and Monpou.



UCD Festival

Francis Bacon's Studio illustrated talk

As part of the Creative Fellows contribution to UCD's online Festival 2020 the Director presented an illustrated talk on Francis Bacon's Studio which she secured for the Hugh Lane Gallery in 1998 and which opened to the public in 2001. This talk presented a behind-the-scenes look at this achievement delving further into the life and art of one of the most important figurative artists of the 20th Century.

Described by Ambrose Clancy of the Washington Post as "...one of the most stunning events in European Art Circles in years" the studio is one of the most famous art attractions in Ireland.



Protocols for reopening of Hugh Lane Gallery

HLG will reopen to the public on Tuesday 30th June, in line with An Taoiseach's announcement last Friday, which is three weeks earlier than originally scheduled in the Government's Road Map.

The Gallery will reopen with the Lane Legacy Exhibition, in galleries 1-9, along with the Harry Clarke Room, Sean Scully display and Francis Bacon's Studio. The Gallery Café and Bookshop will also open complying with all health and safety regulations.

In preparation for reopening the gallery team has carried a full Risk Assessment for staff and visitors in all areas of programming. The goal is to have an enriching and enjoyable visitor experience in a safe and secure environment.

In preparation for this we have established a one way system through the galleries. We have established the optimum number of people allowed in the galleries at any one time. Based on an allowance of 10m² per person which is an allowance of more than 2 metres apart, the galleries can accommodate 147 people at any one time. We are adopting a clicker system which will log the number of people entering the galleries and also the number of people exiting. This system is more flexible than a ticketing system as some audiences may not be as familiar with online booking as others and we don't want to turn people away. Also there is a danger that people who book a free event may not turn up and then we end up having empty galleries

Our Internal Compliance Officers have been developing and designing solutions in line with Government and DCC guidance to prepare for reopening, in a safe and welcoming way. The cleaning regime has been redesigned to accommodate the reopening; Return To Work forms completed; a contact log is in place for all staff, PPE (gloves, masks, googles, visors and overalls etc.) sourced and in place; an isolation room has been set aside, a screen will be installed on Front Desk; signage for distancing is currently being sourced and installed; segregated welfare facilities for staff established and rosters revised to prevent staff congregation at start times, break times and closing.

Protocols for Art Handling. Due to the necessity for proximity in carrying out their duties special protocols for art handlers have been drawn up by Head of Conservation in consultation with conservation departments in the National Gallery Ireland and National Gallery London. The art handlers will have full PPE, individual sets of equipment and trollies.

Contractual art handlers. Contractual art handlers will follow HLG art handling protocols and bring all of their own equipment

Conservation. Separate working areas for conservation staff including washing areas for equipment and art works have been established and full PPE will be provided

Care of Collection. As part of the preventative measures for the spread of Covid19 the dusting of the artworks on display will be undertaken by conservation on Mondays when the gallery is closed. There is a concern that dust may be contaminated and this will be collected by conservation team wearing full PPE

Exhibitions. The installation for 'World Without End' exhibition which will open on 30th September with 12 international artists has begun. As artists and installation teams from abroad have to quarantine for 14 days the challenge is to find alternative solutions to completing the installation of this exhibition.

Public Engagement in Education and Community Outreach Programmes, including school programmes, courses, talks and tours will continue remotely until September.

All Attendants, art handlers, curatorial and admin staff will participate in induction training on Thurs 18th June in preparation for full operation of the Galleries on Tues 30th June.

Throughout the period of lockdown, there has been 24 hour security, and rostered patrols throughout the gallery. Daily checking of the artworks on display are carried out and daily environmental readings logged. The Lighting Project throughout the 2006 wing has progressed and is due to be completed on 19th June.

Dublin Sculpture

Dublin Sculpture is an initiative of DCC Parks Department managed with the Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery. The Director is a member of the steering committee and the gallery is committed to supporting this innovative project and highlight the commissions through our audience engagement channels and our public programmes. This is a substantial international project in support of innovative contemporary sculpture and will inspire and engage communities and the general public in debates and discussions on contemporary art. Meetings continue remotely

In Conclusion

The gallery team adapted very well to working remotely. Our security management team daily monitors the safety and security of the gallery and the collection and environmental controls are monitored by our Head of Conservation. Finances and administrative responsibilities continue to be carried out efficiently by the administration team and our head of administration and internal compliance officers has drawn up a very comprehensive reopening plan. The curatorial team has risen to the challenges of working remotely, finding new ways of bringing creative and innovative programmes to diverse audiences remotely with impressive results.

The Hugh Lane Gallery will reopen on the 30th June. Despite the challenges of Covid – 19, we are committed to ensuring enriching and enjoyable experiences for all our audiences in a safe and secure environment.

Barbara Dawson
Director
29th June 2020

Sports and Recreation Update Report

All Sports and Recreation facilities closed in line with Government instructions and all sports programmes also ceased to ensure that we complied with these instructions. A rotating team of staff are in attendance in the majority of our facilities on a daily basis and a daily inspection is carried out on any facility which is not manned. This ensures that the required facility management programme is in place to appropriately maintain and secure all facilities. All Managers and their management teams are in attendance each day with a reduced number of staff. A team of staff is in attendance in the Civic offices each day to ensure that all administrative functions continue to be carried out and from the 8th June these staffing levels have increased

As facilities re-open in line with Government directives it is most likely that there will continue to be significant restrictions in relation to user levels and service levels. This will require considerable changes to current work practices and the facility management teams are in the process of planning and preparing the facilities and the staff to allow us to maximise the re-opening services. At a Team meeting on 16th June all facility managers were asked to prepare their re-opening proposals for the centres notwithstanding the fact that no guidelines have issued yet for their re-opening.

In line with Government guidelines the hosting of small outdoor fitness classes commenced on Monday 18th May 2020 on the small all weather pitch at the rear of St. Catherine's Youth and Community centre. In Ballyfermot Sports and Fitness centre small group fitness classes on the 6 all weather pitches recommenced from Tuesday 2nd June 2020. On the 10th June they also started outdoor "Spin" classes for up to 15 people. These classes are provided free of charge initially and are being pre-booked. However it is now proposed to start charging for classes.

As we normally host "summer camps" in July / August in our Recreation centres we are currently reviewing how these could be put in place this summer. There would be restrictions on what could be offered by way of such camps. Our Social Inclusion Development officers (SIDO) have proposals for summer camps in late July and August for children with special needs and physical disabilities. These will be organised with the assistance of Irish Wheelchair Association, Down Syndrome Dublin and ADHD Ireland. It is also proposed to organise "learn to cycle" programmes for children with additional needs.

Dublin City Sport & Wellbeing Partnership (DCSWP)

Supporting people to stay active and healthy during COVID 19 remains the priority of DCSWP. In June, ongoing initiatives are as follows:

Online Presence: Sport Officers continue to engage with the public and community groups via tutorials, skill challenges and exercise sessions across social media channels and zoom.

Twitter: [@dccsportsrec](https://twitter.com/dccsportsrec)

Facebook: [DublinCitySportandWellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/DublinCitySportandWellbeing)

Instagram: [@dublincitysportandwellbeing](https://www.instagram.com/dublincitysportandwellbeing)

Doorstep Exercise: DCSWP Sport Officers in conjunction with a range of community services are hosting weekly doorstep exercise sessions in residential areas across Dublin. Catering for people aged 30 to 93 of all abilities, sessions comprise of standing and chair based exercises that focus on building strength and improving balance. The response has been overwhelming positive with the sessions considered extremely beneficial especially by participants that have been cocooning. All social distancing and hygiene guidelines and protocols are strictly adhered to. Locations and times as follows:

Monday	2pm	Dolphin House, Rialto
Wednesday	2:30pm	Bulfin Court, Inchicore
Thursday	1pm	Annamore Court, Chapelizod
Friday	2pm	St Anthony's Avenue, Fatima

'Get Physically Active' Sport Inclusion Programme: DCSWP Sport Inclusion and Integration Officers are hosting weekly zoom exercise sessions for individuals aged between 19 and 65 years with intellectual, physical and sensory disabilities.

As part of the programme, each session has a different fitness theme covering topics such as the benefits of exercising every day, strength training, making healthy food choices, getting fresh air etc. The participants are also set weekly individual and group challenges, which encourage them to interact with their families at home and with each other in between sessions.

The programme began as a partnership with the Central Remedial Clinic for one group and for a duration of 5 weeks. However due to its success, 'Get Physically Active' is currently being delivered on an ongoing basis, to groups with between 10 and 40 participants, in conjunction with the following service providers.

Monday	11:30am	National Learning Network (Dublin 7 & 15)
Monday	2pm	National Learning Network (Ballyfermot)
Tuesday	12:30pm	St. John of Gods Liffey Services (Dublin 6, 8,10,12 & 24)
Tuesday	3pm	Central Remedial Clinic
Wednesday	11am	Central Remedial Clinic (Raheny, Killester, Clontarf)
Thursday	2pm	National Learning Network (Ballyfermot)

Jim Beggan,
Senior Executive Officer,

29th June 2020

Report on Events Programme 2020



The current Covid restrictions has greatly impacted the way Dublin City Council facilitates events and filming in the city. In the interest of public health, many event organisers and film producers have had no option but to cancel/postpone their event/production. Since the introduction of a ban on mass gatherings in the public domain, the Events and Filming Unit has had to rethink its strategy on how it can facilitate events and filming in the city, support artists, musicians, actors, to bring life back into the city. One strategy by DCC Events currently being implemented is to animate the city with a series of uplifting quotes from famous Irish poets, using the event banners and digi-panels across the city.

Events

In June, DCC Events supported the **Bloomsdays** flagship festival “Reading and Songs” event. This year Irish writers, actors and musicians performed a small extract from each of the 18 episodes in Ulysses. Each of the 3-5min videos were edited together and broadcast as a live YouTube event. This event gained worldwide traction and was a great way of advertising Dublin as a city of culture.

Support was also given to the **Dublin LGBTQ+ Pride** digital festival, as the Dublin Pride event joined hundreds of Prides from across the globe for a special 24-hour Pride event. Sixty Pride flags were erected along the River Liffey, and the Samuel Beckett Bridge was lit up in Pride colours.

Over the years, Dublin City Council Events has facilitated a number of music events to support up and coming musicians in the city. In July two musical events will be broadcast virtually across DCC social media sites.



Wood Quay Summer Sessions

Founded and presented by Dublin City Council in association with First Music Contact, Improvised Music Company, Contemporary Music Centre & Music Network, the Wood Quay Summer Sessions will return each Thursday in July (starting 9th July). The event will feature artists from genres ranging from Jazz, Traditional, Contemporary, and Indie. The concerts will be streamed virtually from The Wood Quay Venue allowing citizens to enjoy this special event from the comfort of their home.

Hotter Than July

Presented by Dublin City Council and Improvised Music Company, Hotter than July is an annual celebration of the cultural diversity within Dublin city through music and dance from around the world.

This year's Festival will be delivered in an exciting and innovative new way with all events being streamed online, the event programme will feature the following exciting content aimed at all ages;

- Live Stream Concerts from World Music Artists
- Storytelling through World Songs (Children Focused Storytelling)
- Instrument making online Workshops (Children and Adult Focused)
- Smithfield Hotter Than July World Choir (Online Workshop for all ages)

<https://www.facebook.com/imcmusic/> & www.dublincity.ie/events for further details

DCC Events are currently working on other large scale events later in the year and will use these events to highlight the cultural richness that Dublin city has to offer.

Bram Stoker

DCC Events, in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, is currently working with event organisers to design a virtual style Bram Stoker festival. The festival estimates it will take approximately 76 arts staff and artists to deliver this unique and creative programme to the citizens of Dublin.

Winter Lights

DCC Events will continue to build on the success of last year's programme, and again with the assistance of the DCC Arts Office and Culture Connects will procure artists and engage with communities to sustainably light up our city over the Christmas period.

Filming

Dublin City Councils, Film Office has been engaging with guilds and industry stakeholders to ensure minimal disruption during the recent crisis. Ongoing engagement with the Location Guild of Ireland, Screen Producers Ireland, Commercial Producers Ireland on how to reduce

the risks to ongoing productions continues with a position that the Dublin Film Office is open to assist and support the audio-visual industry.

During the Covid outbreak, the Dublin Film Office has ensured that productions who need to capture content have been able to do so. Productions ranging from News and Current affairs, music videos (**Daniel James, Dermot Kennedy**), health content (e.g. **Operation Transformation**) adverts, and marketing content have been permitted and given assistance.

During the final phase of the Road Map, the Film Office expects larger productions to be up and running. The Dublin Film Office will work with these productions in securing production offices, unit bases, locations and production support where available and continue to endlessly to promote Dublin as a film friendly city.

Going forward, the Dublin Film Office is currently in the process of creating its own dedicated website to attract location managers, and film producers to film in the capital. The city of Dublin gained much positive attention from the recent tv series "**Normal People**" and it is the aim of the Dublin Film Office to build on this reputation as a principle filming location, in the audio-visual industry.



(Photos of the series "Normal People" during its production on Capel Street, Dublin 1)

Simon Clarke
Administrative Officer
29th June 2020

