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## Dublin City Council Cultural Strategy (2015 - 2021)

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In the work of Dublin City Council the relationship of Culture to economic development, tourism and community is apparent in the many Festivals, Arts Events and local cultural activities in the City. Dublin's cultural reputation also plays an important role in foreign direct investment and is critical to maintaining Dublin's status as a premier destination for overseas and domestic visitors.

The process of devising this strategy was informed strongly by the 3,000 Dubliners that took part from all parts of the city in the consultations for the European Capital of Culture Bid.

This strategy was composed at a series of Dublin City Council workshops involving all sections of Dublin City Council engaged in Culture including Planning, Heritage, Archaeology, Arts Office, Hugh Lane, Libraries, Community and Social Inclusion, Sports, Parks. A group of professionals in Arts and Culture and from Cultural Organisations worked closely with these officials as they had the benefit of experienced international consultants. City Councillors also took part and were kept informed of progress at both Area Meetings and at the SPC. The SPC endorsed this strategy on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The Strategy sets out a clear definition of Culture as adopted by Unesco as *“the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature, but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”*. (UNESCO 2001).

The document has a clear vision for Culture in Dublin, identifies priorities and most importantly sets out important accountable strategic directions for Dublin City Council that are realistic and achievable.

At the Arts Culture Recreation and Community SPC meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015, the members agreed to recommend the Draft Cultural Strategy to the full City Council for approval.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PREAMBLE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A DEFINITION OF CULTURE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>VISION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PRIORITIES</b>	<b>5</b>
1. CULTURE AND CREATIVITY	5
2. PARTICIPATION AND PRACTICE	5
3. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND TOURISM	5
<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>5</b>
PRIORITY 1 - ACTIONS	5
PRIORITY 2 - ACTIONS	5
PRIORITY 3 - ACTIONS	6

## Preamble

This strategy acknowledges the change, diversity and the divisions that define Dublin today. It will facilitate the emergence of the next stage in the city's cultural expression, creating a new identity from the lives, the creativity and the ambitions of the current population.

This strategy acknowledges that Dublin is a city with a rich cultural heritage that is now in a period of great change. A change driven by major technological advances, by demographic shift, and by new forms of social participation and cultural expression. These forces can underline the historical divisions of a city and create new ones.

This strategy acknowledges that a diverse, inclusive and collaborative cultural expression can reconcile these divisions, and develop a city that is welcoming, tolerant and economically resilient; and further acknowledges that cultural unity depends on the equal recognition of all forms of culture. This strategy has been informed by public consultation and acknowledges the ongoing development of a new National Cultural Policy by the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

## A Definition of Culture

Dublin City Council agrees to adopt the UNESCO definition of culture, namely that Culture is:

**“the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature, but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”. (UNESCO 2001)**

## Vision

The Cultural Vision of Dublin City Council is that:

*Culture is central to human development, central to Dublin's quality of life and its relationship with Ireland, Europe and the rest of the world.*

*Cultural diversity and equal respect for all cultural expression confronts division and exclusion, honours tradition while embracing the future.*

*Dublin is, and will be, a city in which to make, experience, and share culture.*

*Culture builds community, develops the economy, and empowers people, enabling change through imagination and creativity.*

*Leading, developing and working in partnership, Dublin City Council will create and support opportunities for all citizens to equally engage in inclusive and diverse cultural experiences*

## Priorities

### 1. Culture and Creativity

To position Culture, Creativity and Creative Industries as central to Dublin's global competitiveness and reputation as a modern European City.

### 2. Participation and Practice

Increase cultural participation and practice through:

- (a) Partnerships in formal and informal education.  
and
- (b) Planning and delivering improved cultural infrastructure in the City and its neighbourhoods.

### 3. Social, Economic and Tourism

As part of social, economic and tourism development, Dublin City Council will continue to increase the resources available to cultural expression through public and private investment.

## Actions

### Priority 1 – Actions

1. Embed and prioritise the Culture and Creative Industries in the City development plan.
2. Work with other City Council Departments to develop a specific response and commitment to this strategy to be presented to its SPC.

A template to facilitate and guide the response will be provided, based on the outcomes of 1, above.

3. Commission comprehensive research to make explicit the relationship between tourism, economic development, creativity, cultural and creative industries, and community, and provide a coherent baseline for ongoing research.
4. Convene an inaugural conference for the creative and cultural industries to upskill all stakeholders, build international networks, attract thought leaders in the field and position Dublin as leader in CCI thinking and practice. Reconvene this conference annually or bi-annually as appropriate.

### Priority 2 – Actions

To increase cultural participation and practice through:

- a.) Partnerships in formal and informal education.  
and
- b.) Planning and delivering improved cultural infrastructure in the City and its neighbourhoods.

Dublin City Council recognizes the importance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 31

- Recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
- Shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic and recreational and leisure activity.

Dublin City Council will:

1. Perform an Audit on existing strategic educational partnerships in Dublin City Council.
2. Establish a structure and guiding principles for these strategic partnerships in all areas of Education and Culture ;
3. Foster the development of Internships and apprenticeships, and best practice guidelines, between the strategic partners identified in 2, above. e.g, third level institutions and the municipality; national institutions and artists; between national institutions, artists and educational institutions.
4. Conduct cultural audits (qualitative and quantitative) in all City Areas paying particular attention to developing cultural clusters, in the context of the revised development levy funding

### Priority 3 – Actions

As part of social, economic and tourism development, Dublin City Council will endeavour to continue to increase the resources available to cultural expression through public and private investment.

1. Establish a sub-committee within each City Council Area to develop a cultural infrastructure programme that will include the detailed cultural mapping of their areas on the understanding that infrastructure is both “hard” (buildings) and “soft” (networks, community organisations, programmes, histories etc.)
2. Seek to make appropriate increases in its annual expenditure for cultural provision based on the demonstrated proof of the economic, social, tourism and community development impact of cultural action emerging from all previous actions.

All of the above actions will be reviewed and refreshed on a yearly basis by consultation with the Public and all City Council Departments as appropriate.