



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

**Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC**

11th NOVEMBER 2019

Item No. 4

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CULTURE COMPANY



Members of CLAY Youth project in Crumlin create a Garden of Dreams in collaboration with artists Garreth Joyce and Jane Groves, as part of The National Neighbourhood

Dublin City Council Culture Company was established in March 2018, wholly owned by Dublin City Council. It was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and has a Board of Directors of 7 persons.

Dublin City Council Culture Company runs cultural initiatives and buildings across the city with, and for, the people of Dublin.

We collaborate with people, communities, cultural organisations, businesses, and Dublin City Council to embed cultural experiences and increase cultural participation throughout Dublin.

Find out more at dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie

OUR VALUES

We are led by our values. They guide what we do and how we do it.

PARTICIPATION

We make culture real. We connect, activate and support people to revel in their imagination and creativity.

PARTNERSHIP

We know we are stronger together. We are a catalyst, bringing people and organisations together to grow knowledge, understanding and respect.

RELEVANCE

We believe culture is at the heart of human development and quality of life. We aim to embed culture in the everyday life of the city.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

We appreciate learning. We develop and share new ways of working that enable everyone to create more connections to culture.

QUALITY

We do everything in the best way possible. We find and use knowledge, experience and skills to build impact, quality and sustainability into every project.

OUR GOALS

We have identified five goals which we will strive to achieve over the next five years, Working with, through and for people in Dublin we will: *ENGAGE, EXPERIMENT, LEARN, SHARE, EMBED*



Members of the Meeting Place Club in Finglas making a film as part of The National Neighbourhood

WHAT WE DO - OUR PROGRAMMES:

14 HENRIETTA STREET



Visitors to 14 Henrietta Street

We protect, share and add to the cultural life of the city. We tell stories, make connections and uncover history.

14 Henrietta Street is a social history museum of Dublin life, from one building's Georgian beginnings to its tenement times. We connect the history of urban life over 300 years to the stories of the people who called this place home.

In intimate small-group tours, we bring to life the stories of the humans who passed through the house, their changing circumstances, their experience of family life, of politics, and the impact of world affairs.

By listening and talking with visitors, historians, local residents and their families and through the knowledge of others, the museum continues to discover new stories, gathering memories and adding to the museum's collection and visitor experience.

14 Henrietta Street is owned and conserved by Dublin City Council and run by Dublin City Council Culture Company.

In our first year of operation (September 2018 to September 2019) we have welcomed over **33,000 visitors** to *14 Henrietta Street*.

What people say about *14 Henrietta Street*...

"A really moving emotional experience. All of us on the tour briefly bonded as we felt we shared a communal experience." visitor, *14 Henrietta Street*

"It really brought the human side of history alive for us" visitor, *14 Henrietta Street*

14 HENRIETTA STREET - YOUR TENEMENT MEMORIES



Former tenement residents share their memories and stories of tenement life in Dublin with us as part of our Your Tenement Memories oral history project at Ballyfermot Library

Your Tenement Memories, a project from *14 Henrietta Street*, aims to capture the living memories of *14 Henrietta Street* and tenement life in Dublin. The oral history project ran a series of drop in events across Dublin in 2019 connecting with people and communities about their stories and the heritage of the city.

Your Tenement Memories visited libraries and community centres in areas where tenement residents were relocated (Drimnagh, Ballymun, Walkinstown, Crumlin, Cabra, Darndale, Coolock, Finglas, Donnycarney and Ballyfermot) across Dublin to talk to people about their memories, as well as running a series of drop-in sessions at 14 Henrietta Street.

Your Tenement Memories is supported through the Dublin City Council Creative Ireland Team

So far in 2019 we have.....

- Run **16 memory collection events** across the city (City Centre/14 Henrietta Street, Drimnagh, Ballymun, Walkinstown, Crumlin, Cabra, Darndale, Coolock, Finglas, Donnycarney and Ballyfermot)
- Collected memories from **128 people** as a result of these events, and we have since gone on to have multiple recorded interviews which are now part of the museum's official collection.

More events and interviews are planned for 2020

THE NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD



Members of the Bluebell Breakfast Club perform songs inspired by their lives, composed in collaboration with songwriter Seán Millar, on stage at the National Concert Hall with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, as part of The National Neighbourhood

We build cultural projects with communities, connecting artists, groups and villages with libraries, museums and creative places across Dublin City.

The National Neighbourhood is a year-round programme that creates ways for people to see and make culture in their place with people they know. These new experiences, explorations and connections are the foundation for people to build creativity into their everyday lives.

Made by Dublin City Council Culture Company in partnership with Dublin City Council (Dublin City Libraries, local area offices, Arts Office, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane) and National Cultural Institutions (Abbey Theatre, Chester Beatty, Irish Museum of Modern Art, National Archives, National Concert Hall, National Gallery of Ireland, National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland).

This year so far we have worked with **26 community groups** and **26 artists (plus an entire orchestra)** in over **10 neighbourhoods** across the city with more projects still ongoing.

What people say about *The National Neighbourhood*....

"This project has lifted the heart, soul and minds of people in this community and given voice to those who are seldom heard" community partner, The National Neighbourhood

"During my time in this project, it made me love Dublin more. ... It made me feel like I'm just the same as everyone else. We're all part of the human race and we forget that we are." participant, The National Neighbourhood

"The Project ...provided a great opportunity to develop links between the National Institutions and local community which can be further developed" cultural partner The National Neighbourhood

TEA & CHATS



Members of Culture Club take part in a Tea & Chats session following a tour of City Hall.

We want to listen, explore and learn about what's important to the people of Dublin, to understand what matters to them.

Tea & Chats is part of our programme of year-round conversations with the people of Dublin. They are informal chats (over a cup of tea) with a group of people about their thoughts and ideas on our city and culture. What does your city and your community mean to you? How might culture connect us all?

These conversations are the foundation of our work. This ongoing consultation process informs the development of our cultural programmes and projects, guides our work and ensures that the people of Dublin remain at the centre of all that we do.

This year we so far we have had over **70 Tea & Chats** with a range of groups across the neighbourhoods of Dublin.

What people say about *Tea & Chats*

"They asked us to stay telling their teacher 'it's interesting' and 'we love chatting like this'. The class made it clear how much they appreciated the opportunity to speak with us." engagement coordinator, *Tea & Chats*

CULTURE CLUB



Culture Club at Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane

We invite people to see, experience and learn about Dublin's cultural places.

Culture Club is a series of hosted talks and tours that introduce and encourage people to connect with the cultural spaces of the city.

Working closely with our partners, we open up new ways for people to access cultural activity more easily and confidently in order to develop and expand their cultural habits.

Made by Dublin City Culture Company in partnership with Dublin City Council (Dublin City Libraries, City Hall, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane) Chester Beatty, IMMA, National Archives, National Gallery of Ireland, National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland, Registry of Deeds, RHA, Temple Bar Gallery + Studio and The Lab.

In 2019 so far we have welcomed **1,615 new cultural audience members** to Culture Club and hosted **117 events**.

What people say about *Culture Club*

'Thank you for a new and unexpected experience last week. It was innovative and unique... You are enhancing the lives of many people by offering these experiences.' participant, Culture Club

"I have had such a busy time going to cultural events I feel much better in myself". participant, Culture Club

"It took me completely out of my comfort zone but in a good way". participant, Culture Club

WINTER LIGHTS



Members of the Ballybough Craft group working on their design for this year's Winter Lights.

Dublin City Council Culture Company is working with community groups and artists across Dublin to animate this year's *Winter Lights* at the Samuel Beckett Bridge, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, and Civic Offices at Wood Quay.

We are working with Ballybough Craft Group, transition year students from Synge St and Warrenmount Schools, and students from Henrietta Street School. They will be collaborating with and graphic and light artists Colm Molloy, Brian Kenny, Garreth Joyce and Steve Mac Devitt. Through drawing, digital sketching and painting the group will create their own work inspired by themes of community and Dublin in winter, to animate buildings across the city this December.

OUR CITY OUR BOOKS



Readers in Kevin's Street library talk to us about their favourite books, as part of Our City Our Books

We want to celebrate the people of the city.

We are growing a virtual bookshelf for Dublin, that represents the lives, families and culture of the people that call Dublin home.

Our City Our Books is a website and programme that shares suggestions of books cherished by people in Dublin. We collect recommended reads from people, connecting communities of readers with the books that have shaped the lives of those who live here.

Made by Dublin City Council Culture Company in partnership with Dublin City Council and Dublin UNESCO City of Literature

Our City Our Books will go live in late 2019.

CULTURE NEAR YOU



We are making the city's cultural buildings, organisations and networks more visible and easier to find.

We want to let people know what cultural spaces, venues and people are in their neighbourhood, and add to Dublin City Council's knowledge base to inform decisions about the city.

Culture Near You is an online map and dynamic database that highlights where culture happens and the people who make it happen, as well as featuring local stories and tips to tell you more about the city's neighbourhoods.

In addition to being a civic service that gives the public cultural choices, *Culture Near You* will constantly grow and evolve, creating a dynamic database of the city's cultural infrastructure and assets (tangible and intangible).

This project used the "cultural mapping" process to identify and record information on the city's cultural landscape. We have embraced a multiplicity of viewpoints and developed a bespoke "folksonomy" particular to our city, to organise information, to illuminate stories and to define the heart of our urban communities.

Made by Dublin City Council Culture Company in partnership with Dublin City Council to deliver Priority 2(4) and 3(1) of the Dublin City Cultural Strategy (2016-2021).

Culture Near You is live at <https://www.dublincity.ie/culturenearyou/> and will officially launch late 2019.

CREATIVE RESIDENCY @ KING'S INNS



From left to right - Tracy Geraghty Project Manager Dublin City Council Culture Company, Aalia Kamal Head of Engagement Dublin City Council Culture Company, Mary Griffin, CEO/Under Treasurer, The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Michael Cush, Barrister, artist Jesse Jones, Iseult Byrne CEO Dublin City Council Culture Company and Renate Ní Uigin, Librarian, The Honorable Society of King's Inns.

We create partnerships to try out ideas, test new approaches and add to the city's cultural vibrancy. We encourage artists and organisations to think bigger and expand horizons, informed by the city's people and places.

Creative Residency @ King's Inns supports an artist to develop their work over a 6 months period, to explore the theme of art and law. initiated in 2019, it provides a place to live and work, a network of support and peer learning, and funding for the development and creation of a new artwork.

The recipient of the inaugural *Creative Residency Award* is visual artist Jesse Jones, her 6 month residency commenced on 1st September 2019.

Made by Dublin City Council Culture Company in partnership with The Honorable Society of King's Inns

What people say about the *Creative Residency @ King's Inns*

"I hope this residency will allow me to explore this further in my practice, it is a unique opportunity to access to the inner workings of the Kings inn as a site of learning, archiving of the law and also a community context in and of itself; that is richly connected to the history and practice of the law in Ireland" Jesse Jones - artist and recipient of the inaugural *Creative Residency*

"This represents a new adventure for King's Inns, our members have always made valuable contributions to many aspects of society and we feel it is timely and appropriate to explore how the arts and legal communities can complement each other." Mary Griffin - Under Treasurer / CEO, The Honorable Society of King's Inns

ENGAGE THE CITY



This year's engage the city artists.

We support and strengthen the city's cultural and community sectors to expand their impact and legacy. We want to explore and discover with others, so we created opportunities for artists and community members to learn, participate and grow.

Engage The City was a programme where artists and communities could apply for support (money, mentorship and group workshops with other people in the programme) to try out new ideas where artists and communities work together.

This year our Engage the City artists were Zoe Ní Ríordáin, Ray Hegarty, John Conway, Sinéad McCann, Shaun Dunne, Helen Barry, Berlinda Mapa, Elaine Chapman, Andrzej Majur, and Farah El Neihum.

Iseult Byrne
CEO

11th November 2019