

North Central Area: Arts Opportunities and Funding

3 March 2021 - Present

1. Individual Artist Outreach

Contacts for individual artists based in the North Central Area were provided by Councilors and the Area Office.

While more than eight contacts were received, several artists did not respond despite follow-up. To date, a total of eight artists have been contacted:

1. Elaine Barker
2. Paul McKinley
3. Shaun Dunne
4. Shireen Shortt
5. Enda Henegan
6. Ciara Ní É
7. Frances Verschoyle
8. Dayana Bautista

Of these nine artists, two discretionary grants awarded:

- Enda Hennigan: €500 for materials to develop her practice.
- Elaine Barker: €2000 for time and equipment to continue her photography project of female sea swimmers at the Bull Wall.

A third project was also funded with support of the Creative Ireland Fund:

- Dayana Bautista: €4,175 for murals and installations in Mucky Lane, Dublin 9

Two of the nine artists were also engaged to deliver artist talks to resident groups in Artane around Rockfield Park:

- Shireen Shortt: €300
- Shaun Dunne: €300.

The Arts Office recently met with Cllr Stocker and local residents to discuss and Arts project and greening a lane opposite Killester College. Roads and Traffic are establishing ownership of the lane. If in DCC ownership or with the permission of the owners a project could proceed with Area Office guidance and support

2. In the Open | Faoin Spéir

Using a list of interested Resident Groups in the Rockfield Park area provided by Cllr Dearbháil Butler, two introductory Zoom calls were scheduled. Two options were provided for flexibility (4pm and 7pm). Following this first meeting, an artist talk was scheduled with two socially-engaged artists who had experience in community arts projects - Shireen Shortt and Shaun Dunne.

Six groups then committed to supporting an Arts Council award application of up to €90,000 called *In the Open | Faoin Spéir*. *In the Open | Faoin Spéir* is an Arts Council funded programme developed in response to the COVID-19 crisis for 2021 which will see a variety of outdoor arts events taking place in public spaces around Ireland. The curator, Louise Osborne, was engaged to develop the artistic approach for the application. An application was submitted drawing on the traditions of street parties and community fetes that populated Rockfield Park in the 1980s and 1990s. The proposed funding for this project (€88,387.56) was recently awarded by the Arts Council in full.

The programme sets out to showcase the colourful array of creativity within this particular community today. Working with theatre makers, historians, illustrators, visual artists, crafters, dancers and musicians, this programme will make visible the stories of local people. Responding to the needs and interests of local community groups, and working with a host of leading contemporary professionals, a series of community engagements will lead to a vibrant spectacle in the park; a thrilling contemporary art showcase masquerading as a humble community fete. The event will take place in April 2022.

The following six artists were included in the *In the Open | Faoin Spéir* application:

1. Gary Keegan (Brokentalkers Theatre Company)
2. Pat Liddy (Pat Liddy Walking Tours)
3. Aoife Raleigh (Dublin Circus Project)
4. Una Woods (Local Illustrator)
5. Pamela Connolly (Pillow Queens)
6. George Murphy (Local Illustrator)

A working Group will be formed shortly to begin the planning for this project and preparatory activity this year may involve smaller scale events.

3. Creative Places: Darndale

Using a list of Community Groups provided by Angela Shafer at the Northside Partnership as a starting point, Zoom calls were scheduled with the artist Muirne Bloomer to explore options for an Arts Council *Creative Places* award application for Darndale.

Creative Places is a new three-year funding stream of up to €150,000 per year. As described by the Arts Council, *Creative Places* is an opportunity for places which have not benefited from sustained arts investment in the past to build local arts programmes which will benefit the people who live in these places. Each programme will have a coordinator or researcher who will begin local conversations to discuss and plan a range of brilliant creative and participatory projects for local people to take part in and enjoy. The approach is inclusive and diverse and rooted in socially engaged practice and community development principles. It builds on existing cultural strengths and is led by community participation and ideas and supported by artists.

From Tuesday, 30 March - Thursday, 22 April, meetings were held to discuss the application process and generate buy-in from stakeholders in the area. An application was submitted by Sphere 17, with the support of Dublin City Arts Office, on 22 April with the support of 15 partner organisations and seven socially-engaged artists. The partner organisations and artists are listed below. The proposed funding for the first year of this three-year project (€150,000) was recently awarded by the Arts Council in full.

Organisations

1. The Northside Partnership
2. Supporting Traveller and Roma (STAR) Programme
3. Preparing for Life
4. Jigsaw/Darndale Belcamp Integrated Childcare Service
5. Doras Bui
6. Aster Family Support
7. New Life Centre
8. TravAct
9. Our Lady Immaculate Junior National School
10. Our Lady Immaculate Senior National School
11. St. Francis Priorswood Senior National School
12. Coláiste Dhúlaigh College of Further Education
13. Coolock Darndale Education and Training Board (Adult Literacy Service and Community Education)

14. Golden Years
15. Darndale Implementation Oversight Group

Artists

1. Muirne Bloomer
2. Shireen Shortt
3. John Cummins
4. Colm Keegan
5. Olan O'Brien
6. Hugh Brown
7. Bealtaine Magazine

The Large Stakeholder Group has agreed to the formation of a Working Group. I hope that two Elected Members would be part of this group. From a Governance viewpoint this is a Sphere 17 project supported by Dublin City Council. My proposal to the Board of Sphere 17 will be that the Working Group is a partnership of DCC and Sphere 17.