



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC

20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### Item No. 7

## DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CULTURE COMPANY REPORT UPDATE FOR THE ARTS, CULTURE, LEISURE & RECREATION SPC SEPTEMBER 2021

### About Dublin City Council Culture Company

Dublin City Council Culture Company was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2018 and has a Board of Directors of seven persons. It 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 <https://www.dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie/>

The Culture Company provides a six-monthly report to the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC. During the time since our last report our buildings (14 Henrietta Street and Richmond Barracks) have remained mainly closed due to government restrictions. We have continued to run and develop our programmes online, responding and adapting to the changing situation. We look forward to reopening our buildings which we have begun to do now, and we are gradually reintroducing in person activities across our other programmes too.

### General update since last report

In June we published our 2020 annual review, a video artwork made by artist Steve MacDevitt with commissioned music by Counterpoint Music inspired by the people and partners who participated in, and helped make our programmes happen in 2020. You can watch 2020 - a year in review online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV23vMMYA0o>



### Some of the things we achieved in 2020:

- We were awarded 1 European Museum of the Year Award (the Silletto Prize 2020) for our work and community engagement at 14 Henrietta Street;
- We moved into 1 additional building, Richmond Barracks;
- We made 1 new Creative Residency, appointing Dublin's first Historian-in-Residence for Children;
- We learnt to Zoom and reached 5,872 people online with our programmes;
- We initiated 124 creative processes and activities with 35 artists and makers;
- We ran 574 creative workshops and 381 cultural events;
- We made things in creative projects with 5,447 participants;
- We led 160 partnerships with cultural organisations across the city;

- We launched the Dublin City Cultural Audit & Map, auditing and mapping so far 3,468 cultural buildings, facilities, organisations, and networks across the city to a live database (DCC internal) and a public website called Culture Near You;
  - We began a partnership with 8 European capital cities, to create a series of pilot projects that promote cultural inclusion over the next three years.
1. **Strategy and policy - Culture Company recent achievements and developments**



*Transition year students at Clogher Road Community College, Crumlin make the finishing touches to their new school mural, created as part of Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks. Photo by Mark Stedman.*

#### **Priority - culture and creativity**

- In June, a group of Transition Year students from Clogher Road Community College collaborated with artist Jorge Ruiz Calleja to create a new 26-metre mural, to mark the start of the school's new journey with Educate Together.
- **Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks** has continued to run a regular programme of creative taster sessions, workshops, classes and talks. A number of local groups (gardening, painting, writing and dance) have developed from these programmes. They are now meeting regularly and continue to receive facilitation and support from the Culture Connects team.
- Programmes at **14 Henrietta Street** - our talks programmes continue to run online and a new Georgian walking tour launched in June. We also introduced a new self-guided museum experience to allow visitors to return to the building in line with government guidelines at the time. A series of online workshops for teachers (primary and secondary levels) have been running to introduce our online curriculum-based teaching resources to schools.

#### **Priority - participation and practice**

- **Cultural Impact Study 2021** - evidencing the power of culture to create active citizens. We have undertaken a new body of research that examines the impact of cultural participation in the work of Dublin City Council. Working with numerous sections across CRES (Archaeology, Heritage, Climate Change, Parks, Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Libraries, Arts Office, Events, Community Development and Dublin City Council Culture Company). To be shared with all sections later this year.
- The first meeting of the new **Culture Company Advisory Group** was convened in May 2021. This citizen advisory group will be in place from 2021 - 2023 and is made up of 94 people representing a diverse and broad cross section of Dublin life. The group includes people who have participated in our projects, community advocates, artists, singers, dancers, researchers, academics, makers, digital storytellers, publishers, social innovators, historians, and more. The group will support the creation of ideas and connections for the Culture Company. Many of our 70 advisory group members from 2018-2020 remain involved in the work of the Culture Company through steering groups and similar in other programmes.

- The **Historian-in-Residence for Children Creative Residency**, a partnership with Dublin City Libraries has been extended for an additional year, with historian Dervilla Roche continuing her residency and work with schools and children.
- From May to August, with our partners, we have hosted 2,488 participants at 133 **Culture Clubs**.
- From February to July, 808 participants took part in **The National Neighbourhood**. Online workshops with our partners, artists and facilitators continue to bring people together to connect through culture with 26 public consultation sessions through our **Tea & Chats** programme.
- In May, **14 Henrietta Street** launched three new historical publications which expand on, and uncover, the lives of the people who lived at 14 Henrietta Street and the surrounding areas. Commissioned and published by the Culture Company and written by historians Dr Melanie Hayes, Dr Tim Murtagh and Donal Fallon, the books are an extension of the engagement work that runs through the museum.



*Three books recently commissioned and produced by the Culture Company, for 14 Henrietta Street.*

- **14 Henrietta Street** was highlighted as a best practice example in the field of cultural heritage at EU and national level, presenting at the Creative Europe 2021 – 2027: Spotlight on Cultural Heritage seminar in July.
- **14 Henrietta Street** presented at the Oral History Network Ireland Conference: Storytelling and Oral History in June, presenting its Your Tenement Memories Oral histories project and methodologies.

### **Strategy and policy: social, economic and tourism**

- **Richmond Barracks** was temporarily turned over to St James Hospital to operate as a vaccination centre to assist the vaccine roll out in April 2021. Since then we have continued to run a number of successful online programmes. We are working closely with St James's on a phased return to in-person activities and the provision of cultural activities in the centre while continuing to support the work of their vaccination programme.
- **ACCESS Culture for All (Urbact)** - we continue to represent Dublin as part of the ACCESS Culture For All network. The network of eight European capital cities - Amsterdam, Dublin, Lisbon, London, Sofia, Riga, Tallinn, and Vilnius, are working together to share ideas, experiences and to create new policies for cultural inclusion and cultural participation.
- Key research and data developed by the Culture Company was submitted to the new City Development Plan. Qualitative data gathered on attitudes to culture and participation through our **Tea & Chats** programme (public consultation and engagement with communities across the city), along with quantitative data from the **Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map** project have been supplied to the development plan team.
- Our research and development team assisted Smart Dublin to write Dublin's bid for the European Capital of Smart Tourism (a partnership between the Culture Company, Smart Dublin and Fáilte Ireland). Data from the **Culture Near You / Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map** project also contributed to the bid.
- **Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map** presented its methodology and best practice to other cities (national and international) interested in developing their own cultural mapping projects.
- Our **Tea & Chats** team have been working with groups from Dolphin House over a number of

months. They are connecting them with our creative engagement team and are exploring a number of opportunities to develop some citizen-lead creative projects with them.

- Two datasets gathered through the **Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map** project have been added to open source data via Dublicked and data.gov.ie, and more will be added before the end of the year. Additional map data was used by participants (including the winning project) in the Smart Dublin Active Travel Challenge.



*The team at 14 Henrietta Street with the Siletto Award, presented to the museum at the European Museum of the Year awards in May. Photo by Marc O'Sullivan.*

- **14 Henrietta Street** is in the process of applying for Museum Accreditation as part of the National Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI).
- **14 Henrietta Street** was awarded the Siletto Prize 2020 at the European Museum of the Year Awards in May 2021. The only Irish nomination among the 60 nominees, the prestigious Siletto Prize is awarded to the museum which has demonstrated excellence in involving its local community in planning and developing museum and heritage projects.

## **2. Information relevant to SPC**

### **Public consultation and research**

In this report we would like to highlight our ongoing research, public consultation and maintained data and its potential to be a valuable asset to the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC and DCC in their work, and in demonstrating the impact of the council's work to increase cultural participation across the city.

Three specific examples of this are a) Dublin City Cultural Audit & Map / Culture Near You b) Culture Impact Study 2021 and c) Tea & Chats. Our approach to our research is:

1. **We listen** to people, to learn and respond to what matters to them
2. **We make visible** the city's cultural buildings, organisations and networks
3. **We test** new methods, models and approaches to culture and society

Through our own programmes we use the information gathered to generate the conditions for people to access culture more easily and confidently and thereby grow the city's cultural ecosystem

We are pleased to share the information gathered through our research and all of this is available to DCC staff and members of the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC, either through the administrative systems of DCC or on request.

### **Examples of the research available:**

#### A) **Dublin City Cultural Audit & Map**

- The Cultural Audit and Map was officially launched by the Lord Mayor in November 2020
- Developed as part of Dublin City Council Culture Strategy (2016-2021)
- It is a live database, that is constantly monitored and updated
- It shows the overall cultural infrastructure of the city, DCC assets alongside privately owned and run assets. It includes: arts and heritage, parks and nature, sport and fitness, food, hobbies, community involvement and education, as well as artists and makers who call Dublin home.
- It works within the DCC GIS (Geographical information system) and can be overlaid with CSO data for example to provide opportunity for analysis via Feature analyser.
- This dynamic database can track changes to the cultural infrastructure of the city over time and therefore has ongoing potential of use of this live and maintained data to the ongoing work of the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC and DCC.
- We are keen to support the Data being used more for other DCC strategic planning work and cultural projects on an ongoing basis. Some examples of where the data is being used at the moment include:
  - Data from the audit is contributing to work on the City Development Plan. See here a link to the Case Study: Cultural Infrastructure Research for the City Development Plan 2022 - 2028: <https://www.dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie/unlisted/dublin-city-cultural-audit-and-map-1>
  - Two data sets from the map have been added to open source data via Dblinked and data.gov.ie, with more to follow by the end of the year.
  - Future Case Studies from other DCC sections use of the data for their ongoing work will be shared with the SPC in the future.
- There are approximately 3,500 records on the map. Through looking at the breakdown of categories, we can distinguish between facilities, groups, businesses, and individuals active in the cultural sector in the city, giving strong insights into the cultural life of Dublin.
- Approximately 500 are categorised as a business or enterprise, around 1,200 are classified as a facility or amenity (which include parks, gardens, public spaces, pitches and facilities, community centres places of worship, libraries); approximately 1,300 are classified as a community networks, group or organisation, while around 500 are categorised as individuals (such as artists, makers and people in the creative industries).
- There is also a public facing resource of this data called Culture Near You which you can find here: <https://www.dublincity.ie/culturenearyou/>

#### B) **Dublin City Council Cultural Impact Study 2021**

- This is a new study which evaluates a number of projects run by DCC to demonstrate, celebrate and share the impact citizen engagement has had in furthering participation across a number of key projects.
- In this research we aim to highlight the important work cross sectorally that DCC is doing in the area of cultural participation and the impact this has on the people involved.
- A number of projects were selected from individual sections within CRES, these were Archaeology, Heritage, Climate Change, Parks, Dublin City Gallery Hugh Lane, Libraries, Arts Office, Events, Community Development and Dublin City Council Culture Company.
- The research will provide a series of case studies of the projects selected.
- Outcomes of this research will provide key learnings and a practical guide for best practice for working effectively with communities through cultural participation now, and into the future.
- The study will be shared later this year, and will be accompanied by an internal symposium for Dublin City Council staff to share learning and discuss ways to incorporate these practically in their work will also be part of this programme of work.
- Read more about the **Cultural Impact Study 2021** - evidencing the power of culture to create active citizens here: <https://www.dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie/unlisted/cultural-impact-study-2021>

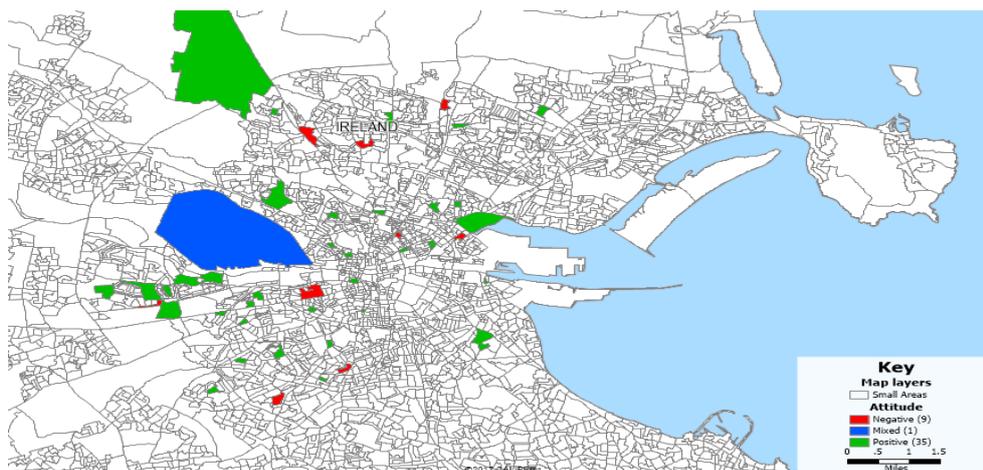
#### C) **Tea & Chats**

- *Tea & Chats* is an ongoing programme of informal and open conversations over a cup of tea with people about what matters to them. By listening and connecting, we can build relationships, collaborate and suggest ways for people to embark on their own cultural adventures.

- This ongoing public consultation provides valuable insights into behaviours and attitudes to culture across the city.
- Through this engagement process we have gathered the likes and dislikes, concerns and beliefs about Dublin of individual people and community groups across the city. Community groups, individuals and young people have participated in open-ended personal consultation activities where we have asked them to share with us their thoughts about their local neighbourhood, their community and their city.
- We have been analysing this data for research and development of our own projects.
- We recognise the relevance this information may have for the next City Development Plan. We identified 32 topics related to the Development Plan which were raised unprompted by at least 10 or more communities and groups and mapped them according to their geographical locations around the city.
- The topics shared by people with us cover a wide range of subjects: active citizenship with communities helping themselves; the impact of antisocial behaviour; the buildings and places that connect communities
- Reports on these findings are available from our team on request, and can also be analysed by specific areas in the city and DCC administrative areas.

*An example of insights from our Tea & Chats report on attitudes to active citizenship*

### Active citizens: communities helping themselves



**Number of groups talking about this topic:** 56, three of which have a Citywide membership and so are not mapped (there may be more than one group in each small area)

Some examples of the comments: Many groups said you can only feel part of a community if you are proactive:

*“It’s important to be a part of something but it’s all in the individuals own attitude to get up and go.”*

*“You really have to be confident and push yourself to get involved so you can make connections.”*

We welcome the opportunity to speak with more groups across the city, if you would like to refer a local group to take part in our Tea & Chats programme we would be happy to hear from you.

### **3. Updates on planned activities for the next 4 months**



*A biodiversity walk at the National Museum of Ireland, as part of Culture Club, signals the gradual return of in person activities. Photo by Dan Butler.*

- The Culture Company is supporting Dublin City Libraries with the programming and delivery of the 2021 **Dublin Festival of History**, which will run from 20 September to 10 October.
- Completion of our **Creative Residency at King's Inns** is scheduled to take place late September / early October with the unveiling of a new permanent artwork created during the residency by its recipient artist Jesse Jones.
- Announcement of awards to five artists as part of a new **Creative Residency in Sports** made in partnership with Dublin Sports and Wellbeing Partnership. Through the residency, the selected artists will be encouraged to explore the theme of art and sport, with reference to a designated local sports club, and to create a final (permanent or temporary) creative work for public presentation at the end of the residency. Announcement due in September.
- Indoor guided tours resume at **14 Henrietta Street**, in line with government guidelines from 20 September.
- Open call for participants to take part in the next round of **The National Neighbourhood** will be announced in September. In this round we hope to reintroduce some in person sessions to supplement the online sessions we have been running during restrictions.
- Phased reopening and return of in person events at **Richmond Barracks** from September. This will begin with the reopening of Inchicore library for browse and borrow service from 8 September. Small in person classes will start to return in our workshop and garden for groups that have developed from our programmes. Improvements to the garden will provide a covered area for outdoor workshops and will see a dedicated community garden space created.
- A biodiversity worksheet, created by local children as part of **Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks** will be launched during Climate Action Week.
- Development of a local biodiversity walking tour in Dublin 8 will continue. The tour will be developed with local community groups as part of the **Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks** programme.
- **Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks** continues to work with a number of local community groups and organisations to develop creative citizen led creative engagement projects. Projects in development include a mural project with a local GAA club along the city's Luas line (red line) and a writing/drama project with a women's group from Dolphin House.
- **Culture Connects** will also support the development of some creative engagement projects in Fairview Park as part of the Climate Action Week programme.
- We will continue to provide regular **Culture Club** events (nearly daily) with our partners across the city, with a gradual introduction of in person events alongside our current online events.
- **ACCESS Culture for All (Urbact)** - as part of a network of eight European capital cities we are working together to create new policies for cultural inclusion. We have formed a local citizen's

advisory group to explore new ideas around policies for cultural inclusion. They have created an action plan which we will start to pilot in the coming months.

- **14 Henrietta Street** will launch a mobile museum designed to bring the museum experience to care homes and residential settings and to groups who may have difficulty accessing the physical museum.

For further information on the work of the Culture Company or if you are interested in finding out more about our research and data, please contact Iseult Byrne [ceo@dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie](mailto:ceo@dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie)

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**20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**