

January 2022.

**To: The Lord Mayor, Chairperson and Members of
North Central Area Committee**

Meeting: 17th January, 2022.

Report to Area Committee on Arts Initiatives in the North Central Area.

Creative Places:

With support from the Arts Office, the Area Office and local organisations with Elected Members, Sphere 17 secured 150k per year for three years from the Arts Council to build a programme of Arts Practice and Participation in Darndale. A Working Group and Steering Group has been formed to direct the project. After a successful Culture Night the Working Group worked with a professional facilitator to define the purpose and roles within the project. Following these meeting Muirne Bloomer has been appointed Artistic Director and Muireann O Sullivan Administrator. The 2022 programme will be set out the Steering Group Meeting on January 23rd.

Faoin Spéir:

The Residents Associations of Rockfield Park with the support of Elected Members and the Area Office along with local professional Artists and curators secured 70K in 2021 to build a community Arts fete in 2022. Consultation continues with local groups and there are plans to have a joint event with Creative Places as part of the fete Simmer 2022.

Artane Place (formerly Butterly Park)

Forty people attended an Open day for Artists and Arts Orgs intending to apply for two Artists Workspaces in Artane Place. Nineteen applications were received and a panel made up of local representatives, Xestra Management of Artane Place and the Arts Office will assess these before end of January 2022. A further ten spaces are being explored with Xestra Management. A significant percentage of applications are from artists living locally.

Arts Council Partnership Funding for research into the Arts:

The Arts Council and the Dublin City Council signed a partnership agreement through the LGMA in 2021. This involves all areas of partnership from Infrastructure to programming. Through this initiative the Arts Office has proposed to the Arts Council that the Arts provision and engagement in the North Central Area be studied professionally with a view to identifying areas of strength, deficit and development both in soft infrastructure (People and

organisations) and hard infrastructure (buildings and facilities) The Arts Office has teamed up with Axis Ballymun to conduct the study and engaged Turley Research, who recently conducted a cultural infrastructure study for the Development Plan and Thrive an audience development agency based in Belfast. This research will focus on all aspects of the Arts in the North Central Area through surveys, focus groups and organisational consultation, meeting with key individuals etc.

Networking meeting:

On January 20th a meeting for all involved in all the projects above is scheduled on Zoom to look at further opportunities and to build a network to support further research. Over forty artists have been identified in the area so far by becoming engaged in the applications and programmes. I want to thank the Elected Members and Area Officials for their support and leadership.

Ray Yeates

City Arts Officer