



To the Lord Mayor, chairperson and
members of the North Central Area Committee

Arts Office Report

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

Creative Places

The Arts Office continues to support Sphere 17 and Artistic Director of Creative Places, Muirne Bloomer, and administrator Muireann O'Sullivan. On January 23rd Muirne Bloomer presented the 2022 programme with an outline of the intentions for year two and three of Creative Places in Darndale. The programme consists of a 'made in Darndale' focus on training and skills development, collaboration with local schools and community organisations, workshops and a proposed programme of events under the theme of carnival called *Dare to be Darndale*. Since the presentation there has been development of a number of projects including Circus skills in local schools, development of a podcast with WOW (Women of Worth), a *Good News Newspaper*, Traveller Stories and Poetry project and a proposed *Another Way 5K* community walk with street performers on the 30th April. A public consultation process planned for March, in the Belcamp Recreation Centre, will see free afternoon performances for local people and offer the opportunity for the local community to be informed about, provide feedback or take part in the Creative Places programme (date tbc). The Steering Group is committed to monthly meetings with the wider Working Group meeting quarterly. The continued support from the Area Office, local organisations and the Elected Members is much appreciated by the Creative Places team.

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)

In December 2021 eighteen applications were made for the initial two available units in Artane Place. A panel made up of local representatives, Xestra Management of Artane Place, The Arts Office and an external arts expert shortlisted seven artists for interview. From these interviews the panel unanimously chose two artists who have since attended further interviews and viewed the spaces again. Both artists are living locally. These artists are currently in the process of developing their co-design needs for the final part of the process. A further eleven spaces in Artane Place are in the early stages of negotiation with Xestra Management. These spaces will be advertised through the same open process and the assessment panel will allocate each of these. It is proposed that there will be another open day to view these spaces and the process is expected to be completed by June 2022.

Music Generation

Music Generation Dublin City is managed by Dublin City Music Education Partnership, led by City of Dublin Education and Training Board in partnership with Dublin City Council. As a long-term performance music education programme Music Generation Dublin City works in partnership with schools, youth and community groups to give access to inclusive vocal and instrumental tuition. Music Generation Dublin City provides these weekly programmes to schools at a subsidized cost, reducing the overall fee to schools. MGDC has prioritised the North Central and North West areas of the city for programme roll-out in its first operational year. It is currently operating in 10 schools, with 28 participating classes. The programme will expand in the autumn in these areas and also extend to other parts of the city. The first programme is delivered in primary schools, however there is a planned progression for programmes in secondary, youthreach and youth-work settings, as well as early years' provision. MGDC is funded nationally by U2, The Ireland Funds and the Department of Education. At a local level, Music Generation Dublin City is funded and by Dublin City Council, the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETb), the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), the National Concert Hall (NCH) and The Ark.

Turley and Thrive Research and Development in North Central Area

As part of the Research and Development project under the Partnership Framework Agreement with the Arts Council and Dublin City Council, Turley and Thrive began their programme of research in the North Central Area. The current stages involve both agencies doing desk research on hard and soft infrastructure for the arts in North Central Area and working with the Arts Office and the wider projects to develop a communications plan. The first survey for public participation is has been published and is now open to the North Central Area community. The aim is to reach as wide a cohort as possible and Turley are generating a communications list for the North Central Area as the survey is disseminated. The survey is online and the link is as follows: <https://www.dublinnorthcentral.ie/>

Networking meeting

On January 20th a meeting for all involved in the projects above took place on Zoom to make introductions between the project leads and also prepare for a public facing zoom to disseminate information on the projects. On the 27th of January a public zoom took place and each of the above projects presented on their work. The public zoom saw 105 people register interest with over 60 people attending the virtual event on the night. The presentations and breakout discussion were facilitated by Jennie Place Ryan, Learning and Development Manager at Moli and former Youth Development officer at Sphere 17 Darndale. This online event has spurred networking opportunities for each of the projects with synergies formed between Creative Places and Faoin Spéir and providing a solid foundation for the R&D work from Turley and Thrive. The event has also instigated the initial stages of a communications plan to maximise the reach into the North Central Area community. It is proposed that there will be a public event to build on this and present some completed work late in 2022.

I want to thank the Elected Members and Area Officials for their support and leadership.

Ray Yeates

City Arts Officer