



Report to accompany the research study “Feeling more part of Dublin - Evidencing the impact of participation in cultural projects led by Dublin City Council” May 2022

A presentation on this research study was already provided to the Culture SPC.

We had promised the below as a follow-up which is a) the report (abridged) and b) some key next actions and conclusions which could be considered.

Call to action/recommendations on cultural participation programmes of Dublin City Council - It is recommended that

1. An ongoing invitation for people/community groups/neighbourhoods to participate in cultural projects is included in the upcoming City Development Plan.
2. A working group is established to record and measure outcomes from projects, develop a toolkit together, share learnings and promote the work of the Council representing different sections and neighbourhoods in the area of cultural participation.
3. The Council continue to record, evaluate, promote participation in culture as an effective mechanism of active citizenship and delivery of the Council's work so Dublin is recognised as an example of best practice of this working methodology

Report Conclusions

Projects with cultural engagement as their focus can contribute towards the achievement of Dublin City Council's overarching goals.

Most of the projects in this study contributed to multiple goals such as:

- The projects resulted in shifts in attitude and behaviour change.
- They were particularly effective in stimulating active citizenship, promoting social inclusion, enhancing liveability and developing and sustaining complex stakeholder partnerships.

Key factors for success included:

- Projects that are rooted in an in-depth understanding of the needs and concerns of each specific community based on listening and responding
- They clearly define the desired outcomes from the start but keep outputs and processes flexible so they can respond to community needs and concerns
- They empower participants by sharing ownership of the project
- They are developed and delivered in partnership and within a strategic context that ensures a legacy.

Possible next steps

1. There may be scope for the City Development Plan to harness the specific potential of projects that focus on participation in culture in its widest sense to achieve its overarching goals in a strategic way
2. The impact of such projects would be maximised if the Development Plan actively encouraged and facilitated cross-section strategic collaboration and encouraged

investment of resources, particularly staff time, by all sections in community-centred cultural participation projects

3. These strategic collaborations would enable projects to build in legacy mechanisms to ensure the attitude shifts and active citizenship developed by individual projects is sustained and further developed and the momentum extended to other projects
4. There is a need for a cross-section working group to develop a toolkit that will enable projects that contribute to the achievement of Dublin City Council's overarching qualitative goals to be evaluated effectively.

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23rd May 2022**