



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC

19th September 2022

Item No. 5

UPDATE REPORT ON DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CULTURE COMPANY

About Dublin City Council Culture Company

Dublin City Council Culture Company runs historic and cultural buildings and initiatives 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.

Dublin City Council Culture Company was established in March 2018, wholly owned by Dublin City Council. It was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and has a Board of Directors of 7 persons.

Find out more at dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie

The Culture Company provides a six-monthly report to the Culture SPC

Key achievements and developments since our last SPC report:

General update since our last report

Activities snapshot six-monthly overview in numbers:

- We led **271** creative workshops with **28** artists and makers.
- We made cultural projects with **2619** people.
- We commissioned **16** speakers or contributors for our online and in-person events.
- We ran **16** cultural events, involving **2488** audience members.
- **16,869** people attended guided tours of 14 Henrietta Street.
- **1,095** people attended outdoor guided tours.
- We led introductions to culture across **109** events with **1,643** new audiences.
- We made projects happen within **32** partnerships with cultural, community and other organisations.
- In Europe, with our 8 partner cities, we attended **26** meetings.
- We had a digital reach of approximately **630,175**
- We had **148,239** visitors to our websites
- We have **40,504** social media followers across our platforms

Strategy and policy

- The impact Study on participation in culture & active citizenship within DCC programmes and sections is complete and case studies are being prepared for dissemination. The SPC members requested that continued access to participation in culture should play a vital role in the Culture sections within the City Development Plan and the next DCC Cultural Strategy.
- Following the success of the recent Christmas Fair, Dublin City Council Culture Company and South Dublin City Partnership have joined with Kilmainham Inchicore Network to deliver regular seasonal Fairs in Richmond Barracks to promote creative industries and social enterprise. There will be 4 annual themed Fairs: 1) Spring Fair focusing on women in local and sustainable businesses. 2) Summer Fair about

Sustainability, recycle & reuse; 3) Harvest, greening and food; 4) Christmas craft and art.

Alongside sustaining, growing and delivering our own programmes in 2022 we will continue to support the development and delivery of Dublin City Council programmes, projects and buildings, working closely with a number of sections throughout the council. We will continue to support the following council programmes as well as new opportunities for collaboration that may arise in 2022:

- Participation in the governance working group for Newcomen Bank and Kilmainham Mills.
- Partner with Smart Dublin to deliver the Smart Tourism programme.
- Maintain the Audit of Cultural infrastructure and networks on GIS in line with the DCC Cultural Strategy.
- Assist Dublin City Libraries with the programming and delivery of the Dublin Festival of History and the Historians in Residence programme.
- Provide Inchicore Library with a temporary home in Richmond Barracks.
- Members of the Creative Ireland Dublin team
- Part of the working group which created the new Dublin City Council Collections Management Policy which will be published later this year
- In 2022 and beyond we will continue to work to sustain and grow our work throughout the cultural initiatives, tours and offerings in the Dublin City Council-owned buildings we operate.
- Our work receives regular media coverage in Dublinlive, Dublin People, RTE Culture online, Irish Times, RTE radio, Irish Independent, Dublin Gazette. A full press book is available.
- We continue to work on Culture Club & The National Neighborhood with our partners, including Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Dublin City Libraries, The Lab at Dublin City Arts Office and our national cultural institutions, aimed at audience development and increasing visitors and participation and involvement in culture.

Information relevant to SPC

DCC Historians-in-Residence



- With DCL, we created [a film](#) on the DCC Historians-in-Residence programme featuring interviews with all five historians, with Deputy City Librarian Brendan Teeling, Head of Creative Engagement at Dublin City Council Culture Company Linda Devlin,

Councillor Mícheál Mac Donncha of the Dublin City Council Commemorations and Naming Committee as well as contributions from those who have participated in the Historians-in-Residence events and activities, speaking to the value of the programme. [Watch online here.](#)

- The Historians-in-Residence will be contributing to an ongoing article series on RTE Culture, one of the most visited websites in Ireland. Their first article was about [Dublin Historian Éamonn Mac Thomáis](#). Future articles include collaborations with Harp Ireland on Lá na Crúite for October 15.
- We have launched a history trail map for Children with DCL and our Historian-in-Residence for Children.



Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map

- We will continue to update and review the existing data sets to keep that data live and accurate. Data will be reviewed annually with each section of Dublin City Council. The cultural data is growing, updated live and daily both online and in the GIS data set.
- Clear Channel has added DCC's cultural Audit to the data available through their information points across the city.
- We encourage the use of the data for more Dublin City Council strategic planning work and cultural projects or a new DCC Cultural Strategy and can assist departments interested in accessing and analysing the data.
- Our map team is also available to present information about the map and Culture Near You to DCC departments interested in finding out more about how they can use and access the data, and also to other public groups and organisations interested in using the public-facing website to find local cultural services etc.

Creative residency @ Kings Inns



- We have created a video toolkit how the creative residency created new partnerships and new ways of working together between the Culture Company, King's Inns and the artist. [Watch online here.](#)

Accessibility & Public consultation

- The company has completed AsIAm training as part of our aim for Autism Friendly Accreditation alongside Plain English by NALA and more work on our Universal Accessibility checklist to always improve what we offer
- Public consultation data - *Tea & Chats* is an ongoing programme of informal and open conversations over a cup of tea with people about what matters to them. This consultation process offers valuable insights into behaviours and attitudes to cultural participation and city life, as well as demonstrating the impact of the council's and the Culture Company's work. The Culture Company can make available our learnings from this consultation process to Dublin City Council sections on request.

14 Henrietta Street

- Five Star reviews continue to roll in for the Tour Guides, through TripAdvisor, Google Reviews, Facebook and other ratings. Gillian Byrne recently scored her 250th Five Star review and is well on her way to reaching 300.
- The recent TripAdvisor announcement that 14 Henrietta Street was awarded the No. 1 [Traveller's Choice Best of the Best 2022 Award](#) as the top attraction in Ireland to visit generated new media interest. The top 10 list included Kilmainham Gaol, The Book of Kells and Old Library Exhibition and the Cliffs of Moher.
- The Oral History collections at 14 Henrietta Street were comprehensively featured in the [Irish Museums Association Journal for 2021](#).



Richmond Barracks

A bespoke guided tour and venue hire package has been put together for the tour operator Grand Circle who have booked 100 dates for 2022 with Richmond Barracks

International

- We are preparing a Dublin City Council bid for hosting the UCLG Summit Conference in 2023
Dublin City Council has been named the winner of the International Award UCLG - Culture 21 for the Culture Company for its work in the promotion of cultural rights and the promotion of culture as an important part of citizen wellbeing. (United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is an umbrella organisation for cities, local and regional governments, and municipal associations)



DUBLIN (IRELAND)

"AWE" - Cultural Engagement through Accessibility, Wellbeing and Evidence" was initiated by Dublin City Council Culture Company in April 2020 as a sustainable response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. 'AWE' was envisioned as a strategy to protect the cultural rights of Dublin's citizens, and to actively engage with them and respond culturally to their needs, through 3 main strands: (a) Accessibility, (b) Wellbeing, (c) Evidence. The Culture Company, established in 2018 with the mission to engage with people and communities through conversation and culture, increasing cultural participation and practice throughout the city's neighbourhood, continued their engagement work with community groups, youth leaders, artists, partners from the local authority, residential care homes, businesses and national cultural institutions. Through listening, responsive actions to improve accessibility, inclusion and create more ways into culture during the pandemic were created. 'AWE' has actively demonstrated the success, transferability and adaptability of an original methodology that not only ensured the cultural rights of citizens during the pandemic and beyond, but also undertook extensive research that could be considered as a benchmark for other cities.

See the summary of Dublin's initiative "AWE" - Cultural engagement through accessibility wellbeing and evidence". More information soon.

Updates on planned activities for the next 4 months

Culture & creativity

Creative Residencies

- Our newest Creative Residency, the Creative Residency in Art, Sport and Wellbeing, a partnership with the Dublin Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, has contracted 5 artists to work across different forms of sports and sportspeople and clubs across the city, including swimming, GAA, boxing, rugby and athletics.
- We will assist DCL in the continued delivery of the Historian-in-Residence programme of Dublin City Council, part of the Decade of Commemorations programme, including the Historian-in-Residence for Children.

Richmond Barracks / Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks.

- **We would like to invite you to: Turas Siúil ó Dún Richmond go Chill Mhaighneann on Sat 1st October at 11am. Meet at Richmond Barracks**
- Winter season brochure will be launched mid September with cultural offerings at the building including historical walking tours, talks, classes and workshops including creative writing, dance, gardening, art, genealogy, singing and more.
- **We would like to invite you to our Harvest Fair, 24th and 25th September at Richmond Barracks from 11 to 5pm.** Presenting things to do, buy and eat, on the theme of Harvest with creatives, makers, artists and traders in the local area. Including crafts, food producers, artists, vintage and sustainable goods and more. Our previous Spring on themes of sustainability, greening and recycling was a great success. These will be presented in partnership with the South Dublin City Partnership and Kilmainham Inchicore Network.
- We continue to facilitate the operation of the Inchicore library from the building.



Participation and practice

14 Henrietta Street

- For the 4th Birthday of 14 Henrietta street opening to the public, we will host a special neighbours day with Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and local residents and businesses and friends of the museum. You will have been sent the invitation for this
- We will again host citywide memory-sharing events in neighbourhoods across the city as part of the Your Tenement Memories oral histories project later in the year.

Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map

- We will continue to present Dublin's cultural mapping process to other cities, national and international, interested in replicating our model.
- Currently, we are in conversation with Fingal CoCo about adding their data to our public-facing information site

ACCESS Culture For All network (Urbact)

- We continue to represent Dublin as part of this Urbact project, a network of eight European capital cities - Amsterdam, Dublin, Lisbon, London, Sofia, Riga, Tallinn, Vilnius. Working together we are sharing ideas and experiences to create new policies for cultural inclusion.
- A final meeting took place in Amsterdam in June and we will attend the World Cities Culture Forum in Finland in October to present on Dublin's work.
- We have formed a local citizen's advisory group as part of the project and we will be working with them to implement and pilot local cultural activations which aim to address access to culture for consideration in DCC's Cultural Strategy going forward

Culture Company Advisory Group

- Our citizen advisory group 2021 - 2023 is made up of nearly 100 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 Culture in the City.
- **We would like to invite you to the next Advisory Group meeting on 20th September in Richmond Barracks from 5.30 to 7pm. The group will discuss the company's creative engagement programme and activities.**

Social, economic and tourism

14 Henrietta Street

- Our tour capacities are strong (back to pre-covid occupancy of over 80% of capacity)
- We will continue to work towards achieving accreditation for 14 Henrietta Street to the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI)
- **We would like to invite you to a special event as part of the Dublin Festival of History schedule: [Your Tenement Memories: Remembering 14 Henrietta Street](#) on Thursday 13th October, from 18:00 - 19.00 in 14 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1. In this public interview, Peter Brannigan, a former resident of 14 Henrietta Street, joins guide Gillian Ryan in discussion.**

Dublin Festival of History

- The Dublin Festival of History programme has been launched by Lord Mayor Caroline Conroy and we expect to attract a large number of visitors to the events, talks and sessions online and in person over the three weeks of the festival from 26th September to 16th October.
- **We would like to invite you to book your place for any of the 130 free events over 3 weeks as recently launched. Bookings at www.dublinfoestivalofhistory.ie**
- Key events include A talk about Kathleen Clarke on October 3 in Dublin Council Chamber, City Hall, Dublin 2 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of Kathleen Clarke, the first female Lord Mayor of the city. Helen Litton will examine her life and works as a leading figure in Cumann na mBan, a member of the Executive of Sinn Féin during the War of Independence and through her accounts of this revolutionary period

**Iseult Byrne,
CEO
Dublin City Culture Company**

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