



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC

27th February 2023

Item No. 9

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:

In this period:

- We led **271** creative workshops with **28** artists and makers.
- We made cultural making 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.
- **59,907** people attended guided tours of **14 Henrietta Street**.
- **2,256** people attended outdoor guided tours, talks or other events at **14 Henrietta Street**
- The DCC **Historians in Residence** ran 165 events attended by over 4197 people
- We led introductions to culture across **109** events with **1,643** new audiences in **Culture Club**
- Over **3,000** people attended the Harvest Fair at **Richmond Barracks**, and **4,000** attended the Christmas Fair.
- **1,083** Secondary School pupils & **1,173** Primary School pupils attended tours in this period in 14 Henrietta Street
- **13,200** Audience members availed of events in person (**5240**) and online (**360 live**) in branch libraries, through events hosted by partners (**2800**) and at our online (**4,800**) and in person main events of the Dublin Festival of History and our social media accounts all had an increase in followers, reach and users.
- We made projects happen within **32** partnerships with cultural, community and other organisations.
- 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

Alongside sustaining, growing and delivering our own programmes in 2023 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 2023

- Participation in the governance working group for Newcomen Bank and Kilmainham Mills.
- Partner with Smart Dublin and CRES to deliver the Tourism Unit.
- Maintain the Audit of Cultural infrastructure and networks on GIS in line with the DCC Cultural Strategy.
- Work with CRES on the delivery of the UCLG Culture Summit
- 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
- In 2023 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.

Information relevant to SPC including updates on activity from last 6 months and planned activities for the next 6 months

1, Participation and practice

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.
- 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. A new Open call for participants will take place in the next 6 months.

DCC Historians-in-Residence

- We continue to assist DCL in the 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.
- For the year ahead all of the historians are working with a new coordinator to grow this programme with the historians
- We will do an open call in June 2023 for the 2024 Historians in Residence.

Culture Club

- The attendance levels remain at 100% with waiting lists for many events. We are reviewing all parts of the Culture Club programme - to strengthen audience reach for

the programme's original objective to remove the barriers of access to the cultural institutions of the city. We will have to expand this programme in 2023 to meet the needs of those looking to become involved with it

2. Culture & creativity

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.

Irish Language activities including Seachtain na Gaeilge,

- We have monthly Irish Languages tours both in 14 Henrietta Street (14 Henrietta Street award winning guided tours Turas Treoraithe den Teach as Gaeilge: including February 18th; March 4th; March 11th April 8th) and in Richmond Barracks.
- Irish Language Events
 - Dedicated Irish language events, which will have a bilingual element but are primarily as gaeilge. On March 14th we have renowned storytellers Órla McGovern and Máirín Mhic Lochlainn, telling stories for adults and children in 'Scealta faoi thalamh agus uisce/ Stories of the land and water" Tuesday 14 March at 5pm
Bígí linn le haghaidh uair an chloig de scéalta draíochtúla faoin nádúr, faoin talamh agus faoin uisce. Á n-insint i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla ag na scéalaithe clúiteacha Órla McGovern agus Máirín Mhic Lochlainn. Is imeacht speisialta é seo chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh, atá oiriúnach do dhaoine fásta agus do pháistí de gach aois. Fan timpeall le haghaidh cupán tae agus comhrá ina dhiaidh!
 - We are incorporating and encouraging the use of Irish language in ongoing groups and workshops which are currently run exclusively in English. For example, our weekly 'Sing for Fun' group will learn Irish language songs and we will host a chat afterwards with tea & coffee and a chance for participants to practise their 'cúpla focal'.
 - Some of our team has been going to the informal conversation events in Craobh Inse Chór and languages classes.
 - Our Hidden Histories self-guided trail for families is currently being translated into Irish. Devised by our Historian in Residence for Children and co-created with children, the Irish language version will be available from June 2023 in Dublin City public libraries and online on our websites.
 - With DCL we will publish an Irish language edition of the popular History on Your Doorstep series. This is in early editorial stages at present and will be launched in the later half of the year.

Richmond Barracks / Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks.

- We are doing well in cultural audience development at Richmond Barracks while at the same time increasing overall usage of the building as a local asset and amenity
- We 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; with local vendors, food from social enterprises and lots of fun engaging in workshops run by our various artists in residence.
- We continue to offer weekly workshops (all free) including Eco Gardening Workshops, Children's History Workshops, Early Years Programme, community singing choir, dance workshops, creative making groups, Book clubs and craft & chat sessions, history talks and workshops on how to research your own local history.

- Summer season brochure will be launched at the end of February 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 continue to facilitate the operation of the Inchicore library from the building.
- We would like to invite you to our Summer Fair May 27 and 28 at Richmond Barracks from 11 to 5pm. The fair will have a focus on upcycling, recycling and reusing. An open call for vendors is now live

3. Social, economic and tourism

14 Henrietta Street

- We have been accepted on the MSPI (Museum Standards Programme for Ireland) by the Heritage Council of Ireland.
- We have established a documented weekly and monthly walkthrough in both Richmond Barracks and 14 Henrietta Street. We continue to regularly update Dublin City Council on arising issues with the building, which require their maintenance and attention.
- As part of the Accessibility plan for 14 Henrietta Street we commenced training for a member of the Irish Deaf society to be able to provide an ISL tour of 14 Henrietta Street in the New Year.
- Our free online resources for primary and post primary school teachers have been designed to be flexible and adaptable for all levels and age groups. They can be used in the classroom or at home, and as an extra learning resource before or after a school visit to 14 Henrietta Street. The resources provide an integrated exploration of the curriculum, using history as a starting point. Visit 14henriettastreet.ie/schools/

International

- Dublin will host the 5th UCLG Culture Summit in 2023. The summit is the most important global event of cities on the place of culture in sustainability and development. The Summit is a collaborative platform for local and national governments, civil society organisations and international organisations to discuss the current position of culture in global agendas.

Dublin City Council Tourism Strategy 2023-2028

- The Dublin City Tourism Unit has undertaken work to provide a new tourism strategy for Dublin City. The new strategy will support the tourism vision of the new City Development Plan 2023-2028. The content and delivery of the strategy is focused on six strategic pillars which are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:
 - People
 - Places and Spaces
 - Culture
 - Climate Action and Sustainability
 - Innovation
 - Data and Insights
- The strategy draft document is due to be completed in Q1 2023 ahead of its presentation at the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC on the 25th of April 2023. The draft strategy will be made available to you directly in the coming weeks.
- Tourism Unit Update DCC Launch Dublin Discovery Trails App: On January 11th in the CHQ, Dublin City Council launched Dublin Discovery Trails – ‘Doors into Docklands’, the first in a series of mobile application (App) based immersive discovery trails with innovative Augmented Reality. The App, which has been co-funded by Dublin City Council and Fáilte Ireland through its Destination Town Investment Scheme will help to further unlock the tourism potential of the Docklands by bringing the area and its story to life for visitors in a new and immersive way.

Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map

- Good data being collected now as to how many users externally to DCC,

- 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.
- 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
- We will continue to present Dublin's cultural mapping process to other cities, national and international, interested in replicating our model.

**Iseult Dunne,
CEO,
27th February 2023**