

## Towards an Arts Centre in the North Central Area.

As indicated at the November 2024 Meeting of the NCAC, the City Arts Office is responding to the Motion proposed by Cllr Lyons and approved by the Committee that this Administrative Area should begin the process of establishing an Arts Centre at a suitable location to enhance and develop the Arts and Cultural experience and opportunity for this Area of the City. This work builds on the initiatives taken by the Area Office and the Arts Office in projects such as Creative Places Darndale and its legacy programme, Faoin Spéir and the new Artists Studios at Artane Place.

In order to begin this process a Working Group will need to be formed with Elected Members, Community Reps and City Officials that would work to the following Agenda.

1. Secure a development Budget to commission a Feasibility Study

A comprehensive Feasibility Study for a new Arts Centre should contain several critical components:

### 2. Project Description

- Objectives of the Arts Centre.
- Proposed location and site analysis.
- Proposed facilities and services (e.g., galleries, performance spaces, classrooms).

### 3. Market Analysis

- Demographic analysis of the local population.
- Assessment of existing arts and cultural facilities in the area.
- Identification of target audiences and potential user groups.
- Trends in arts participation and community interest. (Much of this work is completed)

### 4. Financial Analysis

- Initial capital costs (construction, equipment, etc.).
- Operating costs (staff, maintenance, utilities).
- Revenue projections (ticket sales, memberships, grants, sponsorships).
- Funding options (government grants, private donations, fundraising).

### 5. Site Analysis

- Evaluation of the proposed location's accessibility (public transport, parking).
- Environmental impact assessment, including sustainability considerations.
- Zoning and regulatory requirements.

Options for different sites and their advantages/disadvantages

The suitability of using the 5% Creative Cultural Community requirement on sites in Development or adjacent to these sites.

## 6. Operational Plan

- Staffing requirements and organizational structure.
- Programming and scheduling of events and activities.
- Marketing and outreach strategies to engage the community.

## 7. Risk Assessment

- Identification of potential challenges and barriers to success.
- Strategies for risk mitigation.

## 8. Sustainability Considerations

- Environmental sustainability measures (energy efficiency, waste management).
- Long-term financial sustainability strategies.
- Community engagement and support mechanisms.

## 9. Stakeholder Engagement

- Identification of key stakeholders (local government, community organizations, artists).
- Summary of consultation processes and feedback.

## 10. Conclusion and Recommendations

- Summary of findings and viability assessment.
- Recommendations for next steps, including potential timelines and action plans.

The Working Group in consultation with the Area Office and the Arts Office would seek to appoint a Project Manager for the Feasibility Stage and Procurement could begin as budget is being established. AT least €150K is estimated as the Feasibility phase budget and this work will require

12-18 months. Use of temporary spaces and support for future users for such a Centre should be investigated also by this Working Group.

In order to form this Working Group the Elected Members could be nominated at this Meeting and recent Public Meetings on participation in the Arts in the North Central Area could help identify other community members willing to serve.

The function of the Working Group is Advisory and in its Terms of Reference it could invite submissions and seek reports to support its objectives.

Ray Yeates

City Arts Officer.