

**To the Chairperson and Members of the
South East Area Committee**

Report on the National Cultural Institutions and Neighbourhoods Project

The National Neighbourhood

This project is a collaboration between Dublin City Council and the National Cultural Institutions based in Dublin. The objective is to form partnerships with each other and local neighbourhoods in such a way that a high quality cultural initiative would result. This initiative would seek to connect the local, national and international cultural ambition of Dublin as a Capital City while ensuring the development of local cultural capacity. The National Cultural Institutions involved in the project are the Irish Museum of Modern Art, The Abbey Theatre, The National Museum, The Chester Beatty Library, The National Concert Hall, The National Gallery, The National Library and they are working in each of the 5 City Areas in close partnership with the Area Offices, Libraries, the Arts Office and the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery.

An Advisory Group has now been formed in each City Area, which consists of The Area Community Development Team, The Arts Office, City Libraries, and a National Cultural Institution(s). The projects are being developed through a process of consultation and collaboration. Local consultations such are ongoing in each City Area to aid project development. Many of the community groups are in place, artists are currently being matched to the themes that have emerged from the communities, and significant progress in implementation will occur during the rest of 2016.

The criteria agreed for the projects being developed are:

- Contains Meaningful Participation and active engagement by residents of the Area
- Is Impactful – Personally, Locally, Nationally and Internationally
- Is Inclusive & Accessible (intellectually, physically & virtually)
- Is Ambitious & Challenging, Innovative & of high quality
- Is relevant (to the community, the area, the institution and to Dublin City Council)
- Is Feasible and Realistic

Project Descriptions - update 22nd August 2016

National Neighbourhood - Central Area

FOOD JOURNEYS: This project will connect with communities old and new across Dublin's historic central area. Working with the National Library of Ireland, communities will leave their mark by weaving their own stories into this valuable living resource, drawing on and enriching its collection. Through consultations with the community of the central area, emerging themes of mothering, belonging, words and work will be explored and connected through mapping the story, role and journey of food in the city from the docks to the markets and from the streets to the table. Artists will work with groups such as Dockworkers Preservation Society, Just ASK homework group, the Macro Community Resource Centre women's' group, Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC) and others to explore the central

place of food in our culture, connecting to memory, culture and place. The collaborating artists are currently being selected for these projects.

National Neighbourhood - South Central Area

SHARING STORIES: Through a series of workshops across the area, three community-based projects will unfold, promoting cross-cultural interaction and cohesion. Centred on a theme of storytelling and working in mixed art forms, the South Central area programme aims to connect neighbouring community groups to create an impact of building relationships, with each community telling another's story. 3 separate projects are being developed in the communities of Crumlin/Drimnagh, Rialto/Liberties and Ballyfermot working with a variety of artists and musicians with the Chester Beatty Library and the National Concert Hall. This community led programme will culminate in performances both in the National Cultural Institutions and in the community. Some of the community groups so far confirmed are Bosco Youth Centre, Filipinos community group, women's' groups from Labre Park Travellers' Action Project and from the Islamic Foundation of Ireland. The collaborating artists are currently being selected for these projects.

National Neighbourhood - North Central Area

PLACE-MAKING & ENVIRONMENT: The project involves a developmental series of cultural engagements with potentially ten community groups including Men's Sheds in Donaghmede, Priorswood, Artane, Ayrfield; Raheny Age Friendly Group and St. Benedict's Photography Group. The vision for the project is for participants to make meaningful cultural connections especially in relation to 'a sense of local identity'. Further communities of Belmayne/Clongriffin via Safer Belmayne and Clongriffin Forum and Belmayne Youth Group and the community of Coolock (via Communiversity) will work with artists to explore the concept of 'village & place making' and how it relates to their specific neighbourhood area. Artists will work with participants to develop a relevant connection to and engagement with, the partnered National Cultural Institution, Irish Museum of Modern Art. The collaborating artists for this project are currently being chosen through a tender process.

National Neighbourhood - South East Area

CONNECTIONS: This project will involve the communities of Ringsend, Irishtown and Sandymount. Themes that have emerged through community feedback have centred on the idea of disconnection/connection - with the sea, other neighbouring Dublin villages, green spaces and other people. Other thematic strands include boredom, space for reflection, looking at familiar spaces in a new way and through different sensory experiences, navigating the city, day-dreaming, art and citizenship, green spaces, city squares; the canal, river and the sea; migration and movement. The No. 1 bus which winds its way from Parnell Square to Sandymount links the participating institutions (National Gallery of Ireland & Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery), participating neighbourhoods and the sea; and offers opportunities for practical participation with the public through project events / interventions along the route. Various community groups, including Riccy's Youth Cafe, Irishtown; The Sandymount Dodder Sea Scouts, Sandymount; The Sandymount Tidy Towns, Sandymount; The Spellman Centre, Irishtown; and Andrew's Resource Centre, Ringsend will be working with an Artists around the themes outlined. The collaborating artists for this project are currently being chosen through a tender process.

National Neighbourhood - North West Area

PRESS PLAY: This September the North West Area is going to PRESS PLAY on its creativity and see what happens over the next six months. Inspired by the theme of PLAY, the communities of Finglas, Cabra, Whitehall and Ballymun will come together for a unique, ambitious, collaborative and cross community cultural 'intervention' of sorts. Various community groups, including New Cross School, Deaf Village and Cabra Community Centre, will be working with artists around the theme of play. An outdoors play date will be organised to showcase the local Irish talent. The project will work with a variety of artists in partnership

with the Abbey Theatre and the National Museum of Ireland. Whether its Playing Out Your Identity, Playing With Word, Playing Up, Playing Out, Horse Play or Objects Of Play - This is going to be one giant public Play (Date) with the Community.

Ray Yeates
City Arts Officer