

Report to Arts, Culture and Recreation SPC 16th January 2017

Item No. 3

COMMEMORATIONS PROGRAMME 2017

Building on the success of 1916 commemorations, the aim of the 2017 commemorations programme is to keep Dubliners connected to their own stories and their role in shaping the Ireland of 2017 and coming years up to 2022 when the Decade of Centenaries officially concludes. To that end we have drafted a proposed list of projects and programmes for 2017 based on the funding approved by City Council. Discussions on the allocation of the additional monies of €217,500 voted by councillors are underway.

Dublin City Council - Commemorations Programme 2017 - proposed projects		
Support for community groups to mark their continuing engagement with Decade of Commemorations events and to support local initiatives	€	75,000
Commemorative Plaques Scheme - Delivery of plaque location mapping mechanism and database and consideration of further plaques consistent with DCC naming policy	€	25,000
Historian-in-residence (*6) - one in each DCC Area and one in Dublin City Library & Archive Pearse Street - to work with communities, connections and collections looking ahead to the end of WW1 and War of Independence	€	160,000
Festival - Development and delivery of annual free Living History Day for families at Richmond Barracks a part of the Dublin Festival of History	€	35,000
Exhibition - Women and World War I , including the universal suffrage movement	€	25,000
Exhibition - Continuing the Artist as Witness programme at Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane	€	50,000
Digitization and online publication of photographs from Jacob's Archives – Continuing the work commenced in 2016 on this significant Archive which charts the social and economic history of many Dubliners.	€	30,000
Exhibition - Jonathan Swift 350th anniversary - offers further potential collaborations with Liberties area	€	25,000

The 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution - research into and promotion of the records of the Communist Party of Ireland, held by Dublin City Archives. Digitization and online publication of Dublin City historic photographic		25,000
collections - continuing ongoing work TOTAL	€	480,000

Annual Programming

In addition to the above items, the Library & Archive Service will deliver commemorations-related actions through its regular programming, including:

- The 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution: this anniversary will be a major theme in the 2017 Dublin Festival of History;
- The 100th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution: this anniversary will be the theme
 of the City Hall autumn lecture series.

Dublin Remembers 1916-2016: Is Cuimhin Linn - a unique project for a historical year

One hundred years after the 1916 Rising, Dublin City Council's *Dublin Remembers* 1916/2016 programme provided citizens and visitors to the city with a unique opportunity to engage with the history of the Rising, a pivotal event in Irish history. The *Dublin Remembers* programme dovetailed with the State's national commemorations programme, directed by the Ireland 2016 office, with its focus on reflection, remembrance and reimagining.

A series of public consultation meetings held in the five DCC areas in early 2015 provided opportunities for all to inform the programme. Designed to engage as wide an audience as possible, *Dublin Remembers1916/2016* encompassed many strands which ran throughout the year:

- Public events programme: programmed series of events in DCC venues (talks, exhibitions, film, creative activities, Irish language events etc.) The programme contained 135 activities, including 17 exhibitions, 2 festivals, and 5 publications. 4,000 people attended library-based events.
- Public history day on Easter Monday 2016. Dublin City Council libraries, Dublin Fire Brigade, and DCC Events participated the "RTÉ Reflecting the Rising" event which attracted c.750,000 people.
- **Promotion and marketing:** to ensure maximum engagement with the programme various advertising channels were used: City buses, train stations, Adshel poster sites and JCDecaux poster sites.
- **Dressing the City:** building banners/fencing banners erected along the route of the Easter Sunday parade ensuring excellent visual impact for a worldwide audience. 441 branded lamp post banners hung throughout the city for Easter 2016 including new sites in outlying areas (Ballymun and Cork Street).

- Citywide community engagement: over 200 community groups and schools awarded grants totalling c.€160,000 to hold 1916 Rising commemorative events in their local area. Activities ranged from publications to drama, from history open days to public art murals by schoolchildren. Historian Donal Fallon worked with transition year students in the Central Area to research their area in 1916 and publish the research.
- **Commemorative plaques:** 1916 Rising plaques were unveiled at garrison sites and other sites around the city.
- Access to historical sources: primary documents are the heart beat of history and new digitised collections for 2016 included W&R Jacob's biscuit factory archive, photographs and letters from 1916 era, and blog articles on the history of the Rising.
- **Historian-in-residence** based in Dublin City Library & Archive the historian-in-residence provided expert mediated access to collections and exhibitions.
- Permanent Reminders: restoration and re-opening of Richmond Barracks as part of the State's seven permanent reminder capital projects; naming of the Tom Clarke Bridge.

The entire programme delivered unprecedented citizen engagement with history in an accessible, free and family-friendly way.

A short film captures the highlights of the *Dublin Remembers* programme - https://vimeo.com/190581216

The success of Dublin Remembers 1916-2016: *Is Cuimhin Linn* was recognised in the winning by the Council of a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award.

http://www.dublincity.ie/decadeofcommemorations

Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian