



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC

20TH September 2021

Item No. 8

Young People's Access to the Arts in Dublin City

Dublin City Council has 75,170 Children & Young People living across the five administrative areas of the city. This includes:

- 184 Primary Schools
- 62 Post-Primary Schools
- **80 Deis Schools**

There are significant gaps and barriers in how children and young people access arts and culture, specific to age, gender, ability, socio economic background and cultural tradition.

These barriers and gaps are clearly described in the following :-

Arts and cultural participation among children and young people – Insights from the Growing Up in Ireland study, ESRI/Arts Council 2016

<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Publications/All/Arts-and-cultural-participation-among-children-and-young-people-%E2%80%93-Insights-from-the-Growing-Up-in-Ireland-study/>

Arts and cultural participation among 17-year-olds, ESRI/Arts Council 2020

http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Publications/Research_reports/Arts_and_Cultural_Participation_2020.pdf

At national level, in response to the evidential need, Creative Ireland has set out an ambitious vision for how Ireland begin to may increase access for children and young people to cultural participation through its *Creative Youth Plan*.

<https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-youth/>

Current Arts Office Support

The Arts Office recognises the specialist nature of artistic practice that responds appropriately and effectively to how children and young people access the arts in Dublin City. We are currently undertaking a Strategic Review of our work and practice with children and young people. The review reflects on the Arts Office *Arts, Education and Learning Policy*, passed by Dublin City Council in 2016. The Review will articulate the role and unique contribution of the Arts Office to this field of arts practice within the city's tapestry of provision and highlight the principles underpinning its programmes with key stakeholders. It will inform the pending Arts Plan and also other strategic planning processes ongoing in Dublin City Council, such as Dublin City Development Plan, Dublin City Play Strategy and Inclusion and Integration Strategy.

The following programmes are administered by the Arts Office to enable young people in the city access to the arts through programming, funding and partnership with key stakeholders.

1. Revenue Arts Grants

Annual funding for arts organisations with a dedicated focus on programming for/with children and young people in Dublin City. Examples of 2021 Revenue Grant recipients include The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, Dublin Youth Theatre, Dublin Fringe Festival, Common Ground, axis Arts Centre, Coiscéim Dance Company, Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, Gallery of Photography.

2. Neighbourhood / Project Arts Grants

Annual funding available for neighbourhoods and artist-led projects that include dedicated focus on programmes for children and young people. Examples of 2021 Neighbourhood and Project Grant recipients include:- MaSamba School of Social Economy, Irish Film Institute, Helium Arts, access Cinema, Ceol Connected, Dublin Circus Project, Ballyfermot Youth Service, Harold's Cross Educate Together, Poetry Ireland, Dublin Youth Dance Company, School Completion Programme Dublin 1 & 7 CLG, Theatre Lovett, Irish Film Institute, Complex Arts Centre, Dance House, Dublin Choral Foundation.

3. Artists' Bursaries

In 2021, Dublin City Arts Office opened a multidisciplinary category in order to target artists developing their practice with children and young people and/or with other specialist groups. This award is to support artists' pursuit of training, mentoring, research and capacity building.

4. Children's Art in Libraries Programme

Children's Art in Libraries (CAL) is a city-wide programme for children age 0-12 and is managed by City Arts Office and delivered in collaboration with Dublin City Public Libraries. Since 2010 CAL engaged over 5000 children in its free programme, through commissioned and programmed performances, exhibitions, workshops and short residencies.

5. Creative Hubs in Ballyfermot, Cabra and Coolock

Creative Hubs seek to sustain high quality arts experiences for children, schools and families to access in their Library and locality, through the development of enhanced educational, community and cultural partnership. Dublin City Public Libraries and City Arts Office have agreed to work in partnership to pursue a phased expansion of this Creative Hub initiative 2019 -2022. The goal is to develop strong partnerships at local and city level that can support hubs in five administrative areas.

For example, in 2016, in **Coolock**, early years programming was identified as a priority complementary to the library's reading initiatives. As a consequence of a library-based phase of this initiative (which targeted both a public families audience and local early years settings), the newly generated local partnerships later successfully supported artists residencies, and training and development for community childcare settings in the North Central Area. In **Ballyfermot**, initial consultation with local schools indicated a dearth in experience of opportunity to see professional arts work (performances/exhibitions), particularly those that could also offer extended opportunities for children to respond, explore and create. Most recently children engaged in a programme, in partnership with CDETB Music Centre Kylemore College, where they experienced live dance performances in their local library and then 80

children participated in a 3 month process of contemporary dance exploration, to create their own original short performance work. An Advisory Group, with representation from education, community and cultural sectors, supports the development of the emerging Ballyfermot Creative Hub. In **Cabra**, recent programming has explored early years' music development with local crèches, a visual artist in studio residence and a short inclusive programme for children with autism and their families.

6. Cruinniú na nÓg

Dublin City Council's *Cruinniú na nÓg* is a day of creativity for children and young people. It involves Dublin City Council's creative and cultural teams working together develop, present and promote creative activities and events for children in libraries, cultural venues, council facilities, and community spaces, spread throughout the five administrative areas.

7. Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) at The LAB Gallery / North East Inner City & Erasmus+

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is a strategic, visual arts in education programme at the LAB Gallery for children from the north east inner city. It is a longitudinal programme targeting children the LAB Gallery's immediate locale, neighbours, schools and constituents. With VTS at the LAB Gallery, the child's eye, the child's thoughts, the child's voice is key. Strategic Partnership with The Central Model Senior School, supports a series of alignments with third party bodies, such as the NCCA - National Council for Curriculum & Assessment, the OPW – Office of Public Works, The Hugh Lane Gallery, and the European Commission through its Erasmus Programme. The programme has achieved two successful Erasmus+ projects, achieving legitimacy and visibility at local, municipal and international level.

8. Music Generation / Dublin City

Dublin City Local Education Music Education Partnership targets music education through voice and choral programming with schools, after schools clubs, instrument clubs and community hubs.

9. Exploring and Thinking / Early Childhood Arts in Dublin Region

The four Dublin Local Authorities – South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council, and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council have a collaborative framework for supporting early childhood arts in the Dublin region. The partnership offers Exploring & Thinking Bursary supports individual professional artists to develop their artistic practice working with and/or producing work for early childhood arts. Early childhood arts includes a wide range of different arts practices and creative experiences with / for children aged 0 –5 years in different contexts.

10. Ealaín na nÓg led by members of Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg

Ealaín na nÓg is a youth-led *Peer to Peer Club* at The LAB that supports young people to share artistic practice & ideas, network & build new skills. It is co-ordinated by Dublin City Council – Comhairle na nÓg and Arts Office. A youth-led steering group is recruited from Dublin City Comhairle na nÓg who devise a monthly programme of workshops at The LAB.

11. Creative Places Programme / Darndale

In 2021, a successful application to The Arts Council Creative Places Research and Development Award targets arts investment in Darndale and its large neighbouring areas of Priorswood, Clonshaugh, Ferrycarrig, Belcamp and Moatview.

The project will leverage the arts as a community development methodology, given its proven ability to bring groups together, enhance community esteem and its positive contribution in areas such as school completion, and interrogating and addressing complex social issues. As part of the project plan, a project Coordinator will be appointed to support the first-phase of creative exploration and visibility, to actively listen to local concerns and interests, to celebrate local creativity and resources, to increase engagement with cultural resources in the city, and build collaboration between neighbouring areas.

12. Faoin Spéir / Rockfield Park, Coolock, Dublin 5

In 2021, a successful application to The Arts Council Invitation Council Invitation to Collaboration Award for an artistic programme of work with residents of Rockfield Park, Coolock, Dublin 5.

13. Public Art Programme

The second Dublin City Public Art Programme offers opportunities to create interconnections between public, art and the city.

14. International Literature Festival Dublin

The annual International Literature Festival Dublin programmes a dedicated festival strand for families, children and young people called *StoryMachine* focusing on friendship and kindness, and hands-on activities.

15. Musictown

The annual city-wide music festival Musictown programmes a dedicated festival strand for children and young people.

16. Dublin City Culture Night

Dublin City Culture Night programmes family friendly events as part of the city-wide programme.

Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer
20th September 2021