



Dublin City

# Social Enterprise

Awards 2021



**Awardees Brochure**

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‘We have seen the number and work of social enterprises grow across our city. They provide for and support community needs in an innovative and sustainable manner. Getting a social enterprise off the ground is not always financially easy and these awards recognise the need to support great ideas in a very tangible way’.

Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland

## 1 Foreword

At this year’s Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards, we are celebrating eight local social enterprises that are extensively working to address important issues in our city including actively supporting marginalised and vulnerable people. These important issues include: Biodiversity, Sustainability, Unemployment, Low Education Attainment, Diversity, Inclusion, Health, Mental Health, Homelessness, Accessibility and Ex-Offender Reintegration.

Unfortunately, many of these issues have become even more acute on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated health restrictions. Furthermore, it has typically been the most vulnerable people in our society and city who have been most negatively impacted. These social enterprises and the work they do is, therefore, all the more important and timely as we continue to respond to and recover from the pandemic. By their nature, social enterprises work to address inadequacies, contradictions and underlying issues where they are based. They also work with and seek to practically help those who are most disadvantaged and those who are particularly far from the labour market or inclusion in local communities.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, the awardees have continued or enhanced their delivery of services and supports for individuals and communities. The funding they receive as part of the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards will enable them to expand their services and supports and bring the benefits of their social enterprise to many more people and communities in Dublin.

As each of these social enterprises uses the award funding and supports to develop in the future, I greatly look forward to hearing about them growing and increasing their impact. Congratulations and thank you to all involved in the awardee social enterprises.

Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland



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## 2 Introduction

Social enterprises work to address important issues and achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profits for owners or shareholders. They seek to realise this impact through trading products and / or services on an ongoing basis and are governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner. Profits or surpluses that are generated via trading activities are directly reinvested back into social enterprises to further enhance their impact<sup>1</sup>.

Through their activities, social enterprises bring about a diverse range of economic, community and policy benefits in the communities and areas where they are based. These benefits include shared prosperity, inclusive growth, social inclusion, active citizenship, and training and job creation often for marginalised people. Furthermore, social enterprises typically embrace and embed: collaboration, solidarity, pluralism and sustainability which leads to integrated economic and community development in their respective setting or concerning their goal.

In order to support the creation and development of social enterprises in Dublin City, the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards (DCSEA) were established in 2015 by Dublin City Council (DCC), Inner City Enterprise (ICE) and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Dublin City. These partner organisations recognised that there was a need for specific funding and support to help social enterprises start and grow in the city. The awards programme aims to help social enterprises develop in Dublin City, promote social enterprises and increase awareness of the important contribution that they make to local communities and economies.

Each year, typically a fund of €50,000 is distributed among the social enterprise awardees. The funding is provided by Dublin City Council along with the Department of Rural and Community Development which deserves particular thanks for its continued and generous support. The awards programme is managed by ICE who provide ongoing support for awardees and who also deserve particular thanks for the many ways that they help applicants and awardees to develop.

<sup>1</sup> National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022



As part of the programme, awardees receive funding and supports to enhance their development and impact. The benefits of receiving an award include:

- Award Funding (Typically €5,000- €10,000 per social enterprise)
- Publicity & Recognition (Featured in press releases, news etc.)
- Promotional Video
- Mentoring (Specialist ongoing mentoring support)
- Profile on [www.BuySocial.ie](http://www.BuySocial.ie) 
- Other Supports (Conference tickets, training, profiling etc.)

The programme is overseen by the Dublin City Social Enterprise Committee which is comprised of key stakeholder representatives. As committee chairperson, I wish to sincerely thank each member for extensively contributing to creating, developing and improving the awards programme and to many other social enterprise supports.

**Dublin City Social Enterprise Committee – Members:**

Mary Mac Sweeney, <a href="#">DCC</a> (Chair)	Evanne Kilmurray, <a href="#">Inner City Enterprise</a>
Chris MM Gordon, <a href="#">ISEN</a> / <a href="#">BuySocial.ie</a>	Bernie Walsh, <a href="#">Sunflower Recycling</a>
Emma McEvoy, <a href="#">ISEN</a>	Jim Hargis, <a href="#">St. Andrews Resource Centre</a>
Paul Rogers, <a href="#">Northside Partnership</a>	Diarmaid Ó Corrbuí, <a href="#">Carmichael Ireland</a>
Dr. Deiric O’Broin, <a href="#">DCU</a> / NorDubCo	

The awards programme was established in 2015 and is now in its seventh year. Each year it has been enhanced in various ways. This year, I am delighted that we could enhance it by producing this brochure to highlight the awardees, their activities, products and / or services and the issues or social causes that they seek to address. Enjoy learning about the awardees and please contact them directly if you or your organisation could collaborate with, support and / or purchase from them.

**Mary Mac Sweeney**, Deputy Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Dublin City Council / Chairperson, Dublin City Social Enterprise Committee

‘Each of the eight social enterprise awardees are actively working with and supporting individuals and communities across Dublin City. They are providing tangible services, innovations and opportunities that are much needed’.

Mary Mac Sweeney, Dublin City Council / LEO Dublin City







‘As a Social Enterprise that has received and benefited in 2018 from these awards, we were honoured to be asked to make the trophies for such a special event. We would like to wish good luck to all awardees in 2021’.

Patricia Byrne Smith, PACE

### 3 Award Trophies






As part of the awards programme and event, local social enterprises are commissioned to supply services and products wherever possible. This year, PACE a local social enterprise and previous recipient of a Dublin City Social Enterprise Award in 2018 was commissioned to design and produce the award trophies. The trophies were produced using sustainable and recycled materials and were handmade by programme participants in the PACE workshop in Santry.

PACE is a community based voluntary agency that provides prevention, accommodation, training and social enterprise services for people with an offending background / criminal conviction. It focuses on developing the individual’s capacity to lead a stable, crime-free life which is part of a wrap-around inclusive service that encourages positive change, reduces further offending and helps to prevent further harm in the community. PACE has developed a social enterprise as part of its operations, in which clients receive training, gain work experience and / or employment opportunities. This is especially important as clients of PACE typically struggle to gain work experience and employment opportunities because of their criminal records.

In regard to their social enterprise, Patricia Byrne Smith from PACE explained:

Social Enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact. The core objective of PACE Social Enterprise is to create jobs for people who have experienced prison or probation and find it difficult to secure employment. Like other businesses, we trade in goods and services on an ongoing basis, any surplus we make though, is re-invested to create more jobs. Our goal is to prepare people for progressing into mainstream employment and to positively help change the attitudes of potential employers and communities towards former prisoners, who want and are trying to turn their lives around.



 [www.paceorganisation.ie](http://www.paceorganisation.ie)  
 Blanchardstown, D15 HNT2  
 [headoffice@paceorganisation.ie](mailto:headoffice@paceorganisation.ie)  
 01 823 1000  
 @PACE\_IRL



Introducing the 2021

**Awardees**







‘Receiving the Dublin City Social Enterprise Award for doing something we love in a place we love, with animals we love is a real honour!’

Austin Campbell, Bee8

#### 4.1 Bee8

Bee8 is an environmentally and socially sustainable social enterprise based in Dublin 8. It seeks to enhance biodiversity, increase green space and provide education and employment opportunities for local people. This is especially important as within the areas that Bee8 works, green space allocation, education attainment and employment levels are particularly low.

The various activities that Bee8 is involved in include managing beehives in a number of locations across Dublin 8, delivering beekeeping classes and working with local schools and other organisations on projects that enhance the local natural environment. Through the training programmes and events that Bee8 provides, local people connect with each other while enhancing and learning about their community environment. The honey harvested by the trained, local beekeepers is sold locally, with all revenue reinvested to further develop the social enterprise.


The primary social causes that Bee8 seeks to address are:

- Environment
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Disadvantaged Men / Women
- Young People
- Education

Bee8 will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:  
Bee Hives, Bee Populations, Beekeeping Courses, Plants.

Watch the Bee8 - DCSEA 2021 Video here 



 [www.bee8.ie/](http://www.bee8.ie/)  
 REDCP, Usher St, D08 T202  
 [austin@recdp.ie](mailto:austin@recdp.ie)  
 01 670 8880  
 [@InnerCityBee8](https://twitter.com/InnerCityBee8)





‘Clean Slate has been discussed as a potential expansion of The Bridge Project for some time, so it is very exciting to be finally at the start-up phase. To be awarded a Dublin City Social Enterprise Award has been the cherry on top. It has given us a real boost of confidence, it will assist with our start-up costs and allow us to fulfil our social mission’.

Maeve Hartnett, Clean Slate C/O The Bridge Project

## 4.2 Clean Slate

Clean Slate Property Services provides comprehensive property clearance, cleaning and maintenance services in a safe and environmentally responsible way. It trains and employs people who have obtained criminal convictions and are thus typically marginalised from employment opportunities. Clients of Clean Slate include local authorities, housing associations, community organisations, charities and private sector property managers in the Dublin area.

Clean Slate is a social enterprise that operates as part of The Bridge Project, which is a community based organisation that has been working to reduce recidivism rates of adult male offenders in the Dublin region since 1991. The Bridge Project set up the social enterprise as it believes that providing meaningful employment opportunities to those with criminal convictions allows them to make positive and sustainable changes and become active citizens. This, in turn can assist in creating safer communities and reducing the number of victims.

The primary social causes that Clean Slate seeks to address are:





- Prisoners / Ex-offenders
- Unemployment

Clean Slate will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:

Tools, Equipment, Insurance, Training

Watch the Clean Slate - DCSEA 2021 Video here:



 [www.cleanslateservices.ie](http://www.cleanslateservices.ie)  
 131-133 Frances St, D08 EW44  
 01 473 46 44  
 [@BridgeDublin](https://twitter.com/BridgeDublin)



‘Receiving this award for such a young not for profit enterprise means so much. It will help increase our profile, enhance confidence in our enterprise for future clients and build awareness of what we are trying to achieve and the services we offer. Ultimately it will greatly help us to achieve our mission to support and connect the wider disability community through the arts.

Miriam Spollen, Connections Arts Centre

#### 4.3 Connections Arts Centre

People with disabilities often struggle to physically attend classes and programmes due to access, transport issues, lack of appropriate facilities and a lack of inclusive programmes designed to suit their needs. This can then lead to further isolation and loneliness. Connections Arts Centre seeks to empower members of the disability community to develop their skills and share their experiences with others. Its mission is to support and connect the disability community through the arts.

Through providing various accessible, online arts and lifestyle programmes, classes and events, it enables participants to learn, grow and interact. The programmes and classes are uniquely designed, led and developed based on the needs of participants and can be provided for adults, young people, school and pre-school children. To date, programmes provided include arts and crafts, watercolour, murals, comic books, yoga, music, aromatherapy and drama. It also champions and supports artists with disabilities through promoting and featuring their work in the Connections Arts Centre online [Art Gallery and Shop](#).

The primary social causes that Connections Arts Centre seeks to address are:

- Disability
- Mental Illness
- Diversity
- Disadvantaged Men / Women / Children
- Education
- Family Support

It will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:

Website Development, Marketing, Programme Development

Watch the Connections Arts Centre - DCSEA 2021 Video here:



**Connections  
Arts Centre**

 [www.connectionsartscentre.ie](http://www.connectionsartscentre.ie)  
 [Hello@connectionsartscentre.ie](mailto:Hello@connectionsartscentre.ie)  
 [@connectionsartscentre](https://www.facebook.com/connectionsartscentre)  
 [connectionsartscentre](https://www.instagram.com/connectionsartscentre)





'Dignity Partnership is so pleased to be awarded a Dublin City Social Enterprise Award. These awards will create more opportunities for our members and support us in expanding our revenue stream. We are thankful for the awards!'

Rosemary Kunene, Dignity Partnership

#### 4.4 Dignity Partnership

Dignity Partnership (DiP) is a social enterprise that promotes integration for refugees and people seeking international protection through personal development, self-employment and entrepreneurship programmes. It seeks to integrate migrants\* into the business community so that they can meaningfully use their passions, talents and interests.

The vision of DiP is of a country where refugees have the opportunity to develop their skills and talents with a sense of autonomy and better mental wellbeing. In order to realise this vision, it provides various supports for self-employment and training that focus on developing a proactive and entrepreneurial mindset among participants. The various supports provided are tailored to the needs of members.

(\*'Migrants' is intended to include people with refugee status, subsidiary protection, leave to remain and international protection applicants.)

The primary social causes that Dignity Partnership seeks to address are:

- Diversity
- Disadvantaged Men / Women
- Education
- Migrants, Refugees, Asylum

It will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:


Events, Materials, Website, Marketing, Operating Costs

Watch the Dignity Partnership - DCSEA 2021 Video here



 [www.dignitypartners.company](http://www.dignitypartners.company)

 [info@dignitypartners.company](mailto:info@dignitypartners.company)

 089 254 6155

 [@DignityPartner1](https://twitter.com/DignityPartner1)





‘We do this because we love sport, healthy interaction, raising money for charities and projects, and experiencing the positive effect it has on people. Every week we touch the lives of and mentally and physically support over 800 men in our leagues’.

Emmet Switzer, Inter7s

#### 4.5 Inter7s

Established in 2007, Inter7s organises and manages 7-a-side football leagues in Dublin and 5/6/7-a-side football tournaments nationally. It provides integrated physical, mental and social activity in order to encourage inclusion, diversity and positive mental health among participants. In addition, it collaborates with and supports specific mental health projects and community projects. All profits generated are distributed to local area projects or charities.

In the future, Inter7s will focus on supporting various men’s mental health projects and promoting mental health and suicide awareness to participants in an accessible, relevant and proactive way. It will further develop its activities to support participants to access information and speak about personal issues in a safe environment.

The primary social causes that Inter7s seeks to address are:


- Diversity
- Disadvantaged Men
- Mental Illness

It will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:  
Introducing Additional Leagues in Dublin, Materials, Tournament Events


Watch the Inter7s - DCSEA 2021 Video here:



 [www.inter7s.com](http://www.inter7s.com)

 Reuben House, D08 Y2Y3

 [info@inter7s.com](mailto:info@inter7s.com)

 01 906 0008

 [Inter7s](https://www.facebook.com/Inter7s)





‘All the staff and workshop participants are delighted to receive a Dublin City Social Enterprise Award. Receiving the award validates our work and will give us a platform to promote what we do, the products we make and the people we help. We look forward to the growth of our social enterprise, and ultimately providing more employment to those experiencing homelessness’.

Kate Fitzsimons, Mendicity Workshop

#### 4.6 Mendicity Workshop

Founded in 1818, the Mendicity Institution was established to relieve poverty and hunger in Dublin. Mendicity’s founders sought to provide an alternative to the houses of industry at the time, by offering food, training and employment for those who were homeless, poor or marginalised. For over 200 years, it has continued to provide support in this way. Currently, it is primarily a food and support service for homeless migrants that sleep on the streets and have no income.

In response to the needs of long term homeless migrants with no income or employment prospects, addiction struggles and low levels of English proficiency, it established the Mendicity Workshop. The Workshop aims to: provide a way out of homelessness for EU/EEA migrants who have no social welfare entitlements; provide an individualised strategy to enable participants to access the workforce; and assist those who are long term homeless towards independent living. The Workshop provides employment, treatment support, training and integration programmes. Participants make various products including flower boxes, stools, shelves, cooper art, cards, soaps, candles and keyrings which are sold at Mendicity or [online](#).

The primary social causes that the Mendicity Workshop seeks to address are:

- Homelessness
- Disadvantaged Men / Women
- Addiction
- Migrants, Refugees, Asylum
- Unemployment
- Prisoners / Ex-Offenders
- Education

It will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:

Staffing Costs, Materials, Programmes

Watch the Mendicity Workshop - DCSEA 2021 Video here



[www.mendicity.org](http://www.mendicity.org)



9 Island Street, D08 KW8H



[workshop@mendicity.org](mailto:workshop@mendicity.org)



01 677 3308



[@Mendicity1818](https://twitter.com/Mendicity1818)





'Receiving a Dublin City Social Enterprise Award is game changing for parkHIIT. The funding will allow us to implement the parkHIIT Community Leader Programme and reach other communities. The recognition and association with Dublin City Council will strengthen the brand of parkHIIT in the parks and communities of Dublin City that we serve'.

Brian Crooke, parkHIIT

#### 4.7 parkHIIT

The vision of parkHIIT is to advance physical, mental and social wellbeing across Ireland for people of all ages and backgrounds by promoting the importance of and facilitating individuals to participate in resistance exercise in community based public spaces. To achieve this vision, parkHIIT provides a range of programmes focused on resistance exercise in welcoming, community-based settings while removing financial and accessibility barriers. It currently operates regular sessions in 5 parks across Dublin which are volunteer-led and free to attend.

Through the programmes and activities, parkHIIT educates participants on exercising, builds community, removes barriers and helps people to engage in their local environment / parks which also discourages anti-social behaviour. The promotion of mental wellbeing and social connections are central to the exercise sessions. Participants enjoy porridge and coffee together after exercising in which connections and friendships are made.

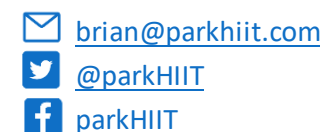
The primary social causes that parkHIIT seeks to address are:

- Diversity
- Health

parkHIIT will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:

Training, Website Development, Marketing and Advertising

Watch the parkHIIT - DCSEA 2021 Video here:







‘Thank you. We are delighted to receive this award. It will help to grow our social enterprise into the nature-based solution we know it can be for the challenging times ahead. It is wonderful to have the financial support of the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards and to be able to tap into a wealth of experience in DCC and ICE on social enterprise development’.

Ashe Conrad-Jones & Catherine Cleary, Pocket Forests

#### 4.8 Pocket Forests

Pocket Forests is a response to the climate and biodiversity crisis to make the city more liveable and also a response to the COVID-19 pandemic to create more urban, green outdoor spaces. It aims to create compact, richly biodiverse green spaces in urban areas. In the green spaces or forests that are created, diverse species are planted which enable biodiverse ecosystems to develop in urban areas where they are often most lacking.

Pocket Forests collaborates with local communities to regenerate soil, plant small native forests and create resilient ecosystems by using locally sourced recycled waste materials. The methods that are used produce fast-growing multi-layered forests which enable the people and communities that plant them to enjoy results quickly. The urban forests become sources of awareness, well-being and habitats where they are created. They also inspire those involved to implement similar ideas in their own gardens or in other communities. Pocket Forests can be commissioned to design, prepare and rejuvenate sites of approximately 6 metre<sup>2</sup> to 200 metre<sup>2</sup>. To date, they have worked with communities, residents, schools and individuals.

The primary social causes that Pocket Forests seeks to address are:

- Environment
- Disadvantaged Men / Women
- Young People
- Prisoners / Ex-Offenders
- Education

It will use the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 funding towards:

Equipment, Website Development, Marketing

Watch the Pocket Forests - DCSEA 2021 Video here:



[www.pocketforests.ie](http://www.pocketforests.ie)



[Catherine@pocketforests.ie](mailto:Catherine@pocketforests.ie)



[Ashe@pocketforests.ie](mailto:Ashe@pocketforests.ie)



[@pocketforests](https://twitter.com/pocketforests)



Awards Photo

# Gallery

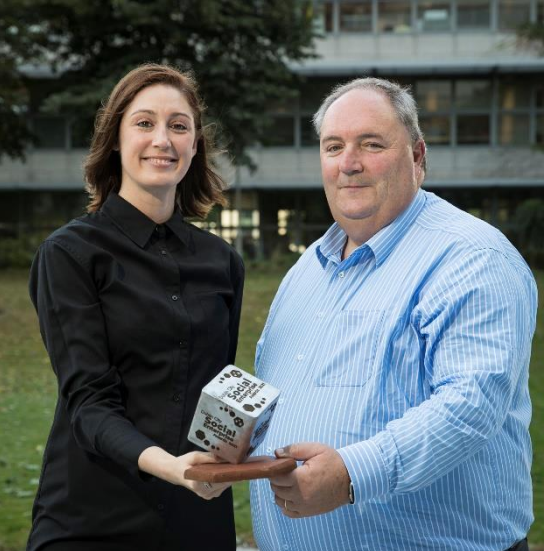






L-R: Catherine Cleary, Pocket Forests; Ashe Conrad-Jones, Pocket Forests; Austin Campbell, Bee8; Miriam Spollen, Connections Art Centre; Emmet Switzer, Inter7s; Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland; Sharon Mpofu, Dignity Partnership; Brian Cooke, parkHIIT; Maeve Hartnett, Clean Slate; Pat O'Sullivan, Clean Slate





Maeve Hartnett & Pat O'Sullivan,  
Clean Slate



Catherine Cleary & Ashe Conrad-Jones,  
Pocket Forests



Miriam Spollen,  
Connections Art Centre



Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland &  
Emmet Switzer, Inter7s



Sharon Mpofu,  
Dignity Partnership



Austin Campbell,  
Bee8



Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland &  
Brian Cooke, parkHIIT



Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards  
2021 Trophy





L-R: Clodagh O'Reilly, Social Enterprise Solutions; Chris Gordon, Irish Social Enterprise Network (ISEN); Mary MacSweeney, Dublin City Council; Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland; Dr. Andrew Forde, Department of Rural & Community Development; Maggie Clune, PACE





Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021





MC Mary Mac Sweeney, Dublin City Council



Welcome Address:  
Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland



Keynote Address:  
Clodagh O'Reilly, [Social Enterprise Solutions](#)



Address:  
Dr. Andrew Forde, Department of Rural & Community Development



Address:  
Maggie Clune, PACE



Closing Address:  
Chris MM Gordon, Irish Social Enterprise Network (ISEN)





Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2021 –Awardees Panel Discussion



