



Date: 12 June 2022

**To: The chairperson and members of  
North Central Area Committee**

Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

Item No. 3H

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**ARTS OFFICER UPDATE FOR THE  
JUNE MEETING OF THE NORTH CENTRAL AREA COMMITTEE**

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Following on from Report on Arts Initiatives in North Central Area Presented to Area Committee March 2022.

**Creative Places:**

**Made in Darndale Festival - 11 June – 18 June 2022**

<https://creativeplacesdarndale.ie/events/>

**Creative Places:**

With support from the Arts Office, the Area Office and local organisations with Elected Members, Sphere 17 secured 150k per year for three years from the Arts Council to build a programme of Arts Practice and Participation in Darndale. A Working Group and Steering Group has been supporting the direction of the project under Artistic Director Muirne Bloomer and creative producer Muireann O'Sullivan. The end of the first year of the project will be marked by the festival *Made in Darndale* taking place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of June with the headline cabaret performance *Dare to be Darndale* happening on the Saturday and Sunday dates. This festival is a culmination of the first year programme that has engaged the local community, provided multiple opportunities for participation and supported professional artists in the area. The year has been built on creative community consultation and the programme has been consistently informed by the feedback from these consultations. Some examples of events are stilt walking workshops with local schools and youth groups, theatre visits with locals, a collaboration of professional street artists and young people as part of the national Cruinniú na nOg programme, local poet and story teller Chrissy Donoghue Ward presenting an event for Irish Literature Festival Dublin and much more. The calibre of the first year was reflected in the front page publicity for *Dare to be Darndale* in *The Irish Times* on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. The festival aims to celebrate and showcase the first year of activity and springboard from this into year two of the Creative Places programme, providing further opportunities for creative participation and artistic projects. A link to the programme of events is provided above

## **Faoin Spéir – Rockfield Park – 18 June 2022**

The Residents Associations of Rockfield Park with the support of Elected Members and the Area Office along with local professional Artists and curators secured €88K in 2021 from The Arts Council to build a community Arts fete in 2022. This fete, the Faoin Spéir project, has been in development since October 2021 by curators Louise Osborne and Gary Keegan who have been working with local community groups to develop creative projects that will be celebrated on 18<sup>th</sup> June in Rockfield Park. Local groups showcasing their work on the day include - Parkwide yarnbomb installation; 'Flags of Hope' 4 large scale banners designed by Sean Hanrahan in collaboration with four local primary schools. Coiscéim Broadreach dance project and workshop with older people and Olwyn Lyons. Promenade drama performances with Hugh Brown and students from Coláiste Dhúlaigh; mural painting project with local visual artist Dayana Bautista and local primary school children; film premier of Donnycarney Youth Project new film with theatre maker Dave Kelly; Artane band performance; local trad bands & rock bands; storytelling; family friendly yoga classes; sports and Activities from Dublin City Sports Partnership; Choir Performance with Artane Community Choir and Darndale Choir performing a new composition by Conor Mitchell.

### **Artane Place (formerly Butterly Park)**

Artane Place opened a second round of open call for artists for ten further workspaces in the complex. Almost twenty artists applied for these spaces that range in size from 11sqm to 30sqm approx. A panel was formed and following a shortlisting process 17 artists were interviewed. Of the 17 interviewed 13 were offered spaces, 9 individual artists to 9 units and one collective of four that applied to share one of the larger spaces. The arts form vary with 7 visual artists, two textile artists/costume designers, one theatre artist, a writer/ playwright, a children's author/illustrator and a puppeteer. On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June all the artists had an opportunity to view their proposed units. DCC arts office is now negotiating the final particulars of lease/licensing with Xestra who manage the complex. It is proposed that the Arts Office will host a facilitation day for the artists to develop a working structure for the day to day running of the units as a whole while Xestra renovate the space for use. The aim is that the artists will be moving into the space early autumn 2022. The two units that were advertised in the first open call in December 2021 are now fully renovated and ready for artists to move in. These two units are substantially larger, each measuring approximately 84sqm each. Two local artists Alan Mongey (Visual Artist) and Ella Clarke (Dance Artist) are proposed to move into the spaces at the end of June 2022.

### **Coolock Library Creative Hub and “The Ark Early Years Partnership”**

Creative Hubs are an initiative of Dublin City Arts Office and City Libraries. They 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. There are currently three Creative Hubs: Coolock, Cabra and Ballyfermot. We developed an early year's partnership with The Ark over the past two years, developing programme for families and early year's settings and offering continuous professional development opportunities to early years educators. The Coolock Spring programme explored Drama and Storytelling, Theatre, Dance and Visual Arts. The programme worked with the following early years groups:

Bonnybrook Early Education Centre  
Darndale Childcare Centre  
Little Footprints  
Doras Bui  
Beaumont Playgroup

Preparing for Life Early Education Group Northside Partnership  
Moatview Childcare

### **Music Generation**

Music Generation Dublin City is managed by Dublin City Music Education Partnership, led by City of Dublin Education and Training Board in partnership with Dublin City Council. As a long-term performance music education programme Music Generation Dublin City works in partnership with schools, youth and community groups to give access to inclusive vocal and instrumental tuition. Music Generation Dublin City provides these weekly programmes to schools at a subsidized cost, reducing the overall fee to schools. MGDC has prioritised the North Central and North West areas of the city for programme roll-out in its first operational year. The programme also includes visits to bespoke workshops with our partners Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM), the National Concert Hall (NCH) and The Ark.

The following North Central Primary Schools are taking part in Music Generation programmes

St .Francis SNS & JNS Priorswood  
Our Lady Immaculate SNS & JNS Darndale  
St. Joseph's NS Bonnybrook  
Scoil Nais Ide Girls NS Kilmore West

#### Post primary

Coláiste Dhúlaigh

#### Youthreach

Coolock Youth reach, Priorswood

### **Turley and Thrive Research and Development in North Central Area:**

A research project, commissioned by Dublin City Council's Arts Office and the Arts Council, was carried out in the North Central area of Dublin to find out more about artists, arts and culture organisations and audiences' perceptions, experiences and thoughts around arts provision in their locality. The research was delivered in two parts:

1. A quantitative survey, designed and distributed by Turley.
2. A series of in-person and online focus groups, designed and facilitated by thrive.

An Executive Summary of this research is attached to this report.

### **Autumn 2022**

#### **Networking meeting**

An open meeting for all involved in the projects that took place in 2022 will take place on zoom to reflect on and share learnings.

#### **Arts Grants**

Annual Arts Grants will be promoted to groups in the North Central Area.

We want to thank the Elected Members and Area Officials for their support and leadership.

**Ray Yeates**  
City Arts Officer

**Kelly Hickey**  
Assistant Arts Officer

**Liz Coman**  
Assistant Arts Officer