



DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CULTURE COMPANY

General update since our last report - The Culture Company provides a six-monthly report to the Culture SPC

Activities snapshot six-monthly overview in numbers In this 6 month period:

- We led **266** creative workshops with **55** artists and makers as part of Culture Connects at **Richmond Barracks** and through our **Creative Residency** Programmes.
- We made cultural making projects with **4,616** people.
- We commissioned **18** speakers or contributors for our online and in-person events.
- We ran **164** cultural events, involving **4087** audience members.
- **21,004** people attended guided tours of **14 Henrietta Street**.
- **2234** people attended outdoor guided tours, talks or other events at **14 Henrietta Street**
- The DCC **Historians in Residence** ran 165 events attended by over **4,197** people
- We led introductions to culture across **93** events with **1,268** new audiences in **Culture Club**
- Over **2,700** people attended the Spring Fair, **2,300** attended the Summer Fair and **1,765** people attended the Harvest Fair at **Richmond Barracks**.
- **1,083** Secondary School pupils and **1,173** Primary School pupils attended tours in this period in **14 Henrietta Street**
- **517** tickets were booked for three pop up events in the run-up to the **Dublin Festival of History**.
- We made projects happen within **70** partnerships with cultural, community and other organisations.
- We had an aggregate digital reach of approximately **1.25M** across websites and social accounts
- We had **245,097** visitors to our websites
- We have **49,124** social media followers across our platforms

Key achievements and developments since our last SPC report (February 2023):

Strategy and policy

Alongside sustaining, growing and delivering our own programmes in 2023 we continue to support the development and delivery of Dublin City Council programmes, projects and buildings, working closely with a number of sections throughout the council.

- Participation in the DCC governance working group for Newcomen Bank & Kilmainham Mills
- Supporting the research programme for Kilmainham Mills
- Partnering with Smart Dublin and CRES to deliver the Tourism Unit.
- Partnering with Dublin Sports and Wellbeing Partnership on The Creative Residency in Art and Sport, with 5 artists in residency programmes
- Maintaining the Audit of Cultural infrastructure and networks on GIS for CRES.
- Partnering with Hugh Lane Gallery on audience development and engagement programmes and cultural participation projects
- Linking with DCC on possible future links at St Werburgh's and Harry Clarke Museum
- Working with CRES on the delivery of the UCLG Culture Summit for DCC.

- Working with CRES on the engagement & research for a new Cultural Strategy for the city
- Working with Dublin City Libraries, programming and delivery of the Dublin Festival of History
- Working with Dublin City Libraries with the engagement programme, coordination and scheduling of the Historians in Residence programme.
- Providing Inchicore Library with a temporary home in Richmond Barracks.
- Work to sustain and grow our work throughout the cultural initiatives, tours and offerings in the Dublin City Council owned buildings we operate.

Information relevant to SPC including updates on activity from last 6 months and planned activities for the next 6 months

1, Participation and practice

Accessibility & Public consultation

- Our Company Inclusion and Accessibility Working Group with representation from all departments across the company meets monthly to further the progression of Accessibility and Inclusion within the company and to learn and discuss resources across a range of Accessibility and Inclusion themes. Including Plain English training from NALA, Unconscious Bias Awareness training, LGBTQ+ Awareness and Ally Training with Shoutout and Visitor Experience team attended a session on deafness and the history of ISL and received an overview of some basic ISL ahead of the ISL tours of 14 Henrietta Street starting. We plan to engage in AsIAM Autism Accreditation with AsIAM, including Autism Awareness Training over the coming year and more work on our Universal Accessibility checklist to always improve what we offer.
- Public consultation data - Tea & Chats is an ongoing programme of informal and open conversations over a cup of tea with people about what matters to them. This consultation process offers valuable insights into behaviours and attitudes to cultural participation and city life, as well as demonstrating the impact of the council's and the Culture Company's work. As community groups re-establish themselves, our engagement team is monitoring the new changing patterns of behaviour in how people come together in the period January to July 2023. The Culture Company can make available our learnings from this consultation process to Dublin City Council sections on request.
- Culture Company Advisory Group - Our citizen advisory group 2021 - 2023 is made up of over 150 people representing a diverse and broad cross section of Dublin life. The group includes people who have participated in our projects, community advocates, artists, singers, dancers, researchers, academics, makers, digital storytellers, publishers, social innovators, historians, and more. The group have met on a number of occasions to speak about access and inclusion, diversity and how to create greater access to culture across the City.

DCC Historians-in-Residence

- We continue to assist DCL in the delivery of the Historian in Residence programme of Dublin City Council, part of the Decade of Commemorations programme, including the Historian-in-Residence for Children.
- This year, the historians have been working with a new coordinator and digital communications coordinator to grow this programme.
- Between January and July this year the historians have run over 200 events, attended by over 4,800 participants. Our Historian in Residence for Children has held 22 workshops with primary schools, exploring local history.

- The highly popular History on Your Doorstep continues this year with Volume 6, due to be launched in September as part of the Dublin Festival of History.
- An Open call started in September 2023 for the 2024 Historians in Residence.

Culture Club

- Culture Club is a series of hosted talks, tours and activities to introduce and open up new ways for people to access cultural activity more easily and confidently in order to develop and expand their cultural habits. We organise this with 16 cultural institutions in the City. Working closely with our partners,
- The programme continues to develop with the addition of two new partners - the National Print Museum and Tailte Éireann to the programme. There was also a very successful pilot with Crash Ensemble and the New Music Dublin festival.
- A review of increasing access to participation was undertaken with 11 of the partner organisations over the January to March period and this is now being implemented to ensure new people are continuously welcomed into the programme.

Dublin Festival of History

- The Dublin Festival of History is one of the biggest yet, with 200 events taking place over 3 weeks from September 25 to October 15.
- Over 200 event submissions from 58 partners, in addition to library branches, feature in this year's programme. New partners include the Custom House Visitor Centre, Old Liffey Ferry, National Botanic Gardens, Tailte Éireann, Alliance Francaise and the Embassy of Latvia.
- The printed brochure, running to 156 pages, features over 150 events available from Dublin City Libraries, festival partners, and community/cultural spaces across the city.
- The festival's Irish language programme (Clár trí Ghaeilge) has been significantly developed this year and has its own section in the printed programme, featuring nine events as Gaeilge.
- A number of events in the Festival will be ISL interpreted. Others will be streamed online.
- History On Your Doorstep Volume 6, compiled by the Dublin City Historians in Residence will be launched at the Festival

2. Culture & creativity

Creative Residency

- The Creative Residency in Art and Sport, a partnership with the Dublin Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, has contracted 5 artists to work with different sportspeople and clubs across the city, including swimming, GAA, boxing, and rhythmic gymnastics. Three exhibitions of work from this project were presented during this period.
- Counterpunch (26 May - 5 June 2023), an exhibition made with women boxers and their coaches from Corinthians Boxing Club, by visual artist Sharon Kelly, was launched by Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Darcy Lonergan, and Minister of State for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne TD at the National Stadium Gym, Dublin 8. "A profound insight into the sacrifices made in order to be great at something. This art has increased my respect for boxing." - visitor, Counterpunch.
- Over the course of six weeks in May and June, Karen Aguir worked with a group of children local to Richmond Barracks in exploring movement, art creation and rhythmic gymnastics. Karen collaborated with the children, Ryan McCann, music producer, and Simon Fitzpatrick, videographer, to create a visually-striking short film based on these workshops. This was screened as part of a family-friendly event in the Barracks on the 5th September.
- Mami Wata: Mmiri niile (24-28 June 2023) was an exhibition made with African women from across Dublin about barriers to swimming, by artist Chinedum Muotto at the Sean

McDermott Street Swimming Pool, Dublin 1. The project aimed to address some of the racial, ethnic and cultural barriers faced by many people when it comes to accessing Dublin's public swimming pools. "I am so impressed @ the bravery of these women and the doors that sport can open. It was awesome, so thought provoking and enjoyable." - visitor, Mami Wata. We are in discussions to further display the project at the National Aquatics Centre in early 2024.

- Artist Timmy Creed has been collaborating with Kevin's GAA in Dublin's south inner city and is working towards a community event in November with a light sculpture.

The National Neighbourhood

- The National Neighbourhood is a cultural programme that connects communities, artists and villages with libraries, museums and creative places across Dublin City. The National Neighbourhood is made by Dublin City Council Culture Company in partnership with Dublin City Council (Dublin City Libraries, local area offices, Arts Office, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane) and the Abbey Theatre, Chester Beatty, Irish Museum of Modern Art, National Archives, National Concert Hall, National Gallery of Ireland, and National Library of Ireland.
- During this period, two projects have been active - one with a group of service users from Suaimhneas Clubhouse in Raheny who have recently finished a long and fruitful process of workshops which involved trust building and exploring dramatic techniques in order to develop a vision and plot for a documentary film about their experiences of building positive approaches to mental health.
- The other project active during this period is 'The Archive Within Us', an exhibition of objects, stories and poems, made by people from across Dublin with artists Claire Halpin and Colm Keegan. The group came together online during the pandemic and participated in a number of taster sessions with our cultural partners. Through this deep dive into culture, a shared interest in history emerged and the group began to look at how the national historic records intertwine with our own personal histories. The resulting exhibition will go on display at Charleville Mall Library from 7 - 18th October as part of the Dublin Festival of History.
- We would like to invite you to attend the exhibition launch on Friday 6 October at 4.30pm in Charleville Mall Library. This event will feature a panel discussion exploring the background to the project and how the national historic records intertwine with our own personal histories.

Irish Language activities

- We have monthly Irish Languages tours both in 14 Henrietta Street - Turas Treoraithe den Teach as Gaeilge - and in Richmond Barracks - Turas Reilig an Droichid Órga.
- We continue to work closely with Baile Átha Cliath le Gaeilge (BÁC le Gaeilge) in how we will improve both awareness of and quality of our Irish language activities.
- Our Hidden Histories self-guided trail for families - Tóraíocht na Staire Ceilte - is now available online and is distributed via Dublin City Library branches, An Siopa Leabhar and engagement with local Gaeilscoileanna.
- Many of our leaflets are now being translated into Gaeilge and distributed via Conradh na Gaeilge and other groups.
- The Irish language version of History On Your Doorstep will be launched by the end of the year.

Richmond Barracks / Culture Connects @ Richmond Barracks.

- We are doing well in cultural audience development at Richmond Barracks while at the same time increasing overall usage of the building as a local asset and amenity. The community garden is being regularly used as a resource by local community groups

and schools and we are working in partnership with local groups to run events such as play readings and community picnics.

- We deliver regular seasonal Fairs in Richmond Barracks to promote creative industries and social enterprise. There are 4 annual themed Fairs taking place: 1) Spring Fair focusing on women in local and sustainable businesses. 2) Summer Fair about Sustainability, recycle & reuse; 3) Harvest, greening and food; 4) Christmas craft and art; with local vendors, food from social enterprises and lots of fun engaging in workshops run by our various artists in residence.
- We continue to offer weekly workshops (all free) including children's history workshops, workshops for parents and young children, workshops about nature and eco gardening, singing and dance workshops, creative making groups, book clubs and craft & chat sessions, history talks and workshops on how to research your own family history.
- We continue to facilitate the operation of the Inchicore library from the building.
- We would like to invite you all to our Christmas Fair in Richmond Barracks on 2nd and 3rd December 2023.

3. Social, economic and tourism

14 Henrietta Street

- We celebrated 5 years of being open as a museum with tours for the public on September 10. We invited friends and neighbours to the house for music, tea and some birthday cake.
- We continue on the MSPI (Museum Standards Programme for Ireland) journey.
- As part of the Accessibility plan for 14 Henrietta Street we commenced training and also delivery of a regular ISL tour of 14 Henrietta Street which is going very well.
- We also secured funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to run late night events in 14 Henrietta Street. We will provide tours, live drawing, music from all eras of the house's life, a journey through the city's poetry and tenement plays.

UCLG Culture Summit 2023

- Dublin City Council will host the 5th UCLG Culture Summit from 28 November to 1 December 2023. The Summit is the most important global event of cities on the place of culture in sustainability and development. The Summit is a collaborative platform for local and national governments, civil society organisations and international organisations to discuss the current position of culture in global agendas. The focus for the 4 days of discussion are cultural rights, culture and health, gender equality, climate action and culture and the SDGs through a series of plenary sessions, interaction discussions and experiences from policy makers and cultural groups across the globe.
- The Culture Company is working closely with UCLG and Dublin City Council to host the Culture Summit. The UCLG Culture Summit will be an important platform for the continuing campaign for the inclusion of cultures as the 18th SDG and the fourth pillar of Sustainable Development.
- The contract signed between UCLG and Dublin City Council in December 2022 set out the Council's obligations for the delivery of the Summit in 2023. The Culture Company was asked by the Council to work with the relevant DCC staff and UCLG team to organise the Summit in line with these obligations.

Dublin City Council Cultural Strategy 2023-2028

- CRES is working to provide a new cultural strategy for the City to support the provision and vision for culture of the City Development Plan 2023-2028. The Strategy will work

across six strategic areas to create impact in the area of culture: People, Participants and Audience; Artists and Makers; Programme; Cultural Infrastructure - places and spaces; Policy; Advocacy for cultural rights, inclusion and access

- To inform the Strategy, the Culture Company facilitated a series of workshops with CRES to examine these six areas, the collective vision, goals and objectives. The workshops included representatives from sport, night-time economy, artists and makers, education, cultural organisations, national policy, cultural advocacy, health & wellbeing, community and heritage sectors.
- The Culture Company also included the voices of people through 7 years of Tea&Chat, our year round of conversations with communities and people across Dublin listening to what is important to them and learning how they participate in culture in their daily lives.
- A culture specific Your Dublin Your Voice survey was undertaken in March 2023, the first examination of culture provision since 2018 as part of the development of a new cultural strategy. Over 900 Dubliners participated in the survey placing culture as one of the key areas of importance for the City, citing public and green spaces, libraries and cultural infrastructure as vital for their cultural life in the City.

Dublin City Council Tourism Strategy 2023-2028

- The Dublin City Tourism Unit has undertaken work to provide a new tourism strategy for Dublin City. The new strategy will support the tourism vision of the new City Development Plan 2023-2028. The content and delivery of the strategy is focused on six strategic pillars People; Places and Spaces; Culture; Climate Action and Sustainability; Innovation; Data and Insights
- The strategy document has been approved by DCC senior management ahead of its presentation at the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC in September 2023.
- In order to inform the development of the strategy the Tourism Unit published a Your Dublin Your Voice survey of over 1100 Dubliners on the topic of attitudes towards tourism in Dublin. The results of the survey are now being developed into an interactive webpage.
- The Unit has also led the initiative for Dublin City Council to become Ireland's first ever signatory of the UN Glasgow Declaration on Sustainable Tourism. The agreement was signed by DCC in May 2023.
- The Unit will also be launching a new addition to the Dublin Discovery Trails App next month. DiscovAR Dublin is an augmented reality map of Dublin that will allow users to launch an interactive map of the city anywhere in the world.

Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map

- We are continuing to update and review the existing data sets to keep that data live and accurate. Data will be reviewed annually with each section of Dublin City Council. The cultural data is growing, updated live and daily both online and in the GIS data set.
- We encourage the use of the data for more Dublin City Council strategic planning work and cultural projects or a new DCC Cultural Strategy and can assist departments interested in accessing and analysing the data.
- We are working with DCC to make subsets of the Cultural Audit data accessible as open data.
- Our map team is also available to present information about the map and Culture Near You to DCC departments interested in finding out more about how they can use and access the Cultural Audit data, and also to other public groups and organisations interested in using the public facing website to find local cultural services etc
- We will continue to present Dublin's cultural mapping process to other cities, national and international, interested in replicating our model.

About Dublin City Council Culture Company

Dublin City Council Culture Company runs historic and cultural buildings and initiatives across the city with, and for, the people of Dublin. We collaborate with people, communities, cultural organisations, businesses, and Dublin City Council to embed **cultural experiences** and **increase cultural participation** throughout Dublin. Dublin City Council Culture Company was established in March 2018, wholly owned by Dublin City Council. It was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and has a Board of Directors of 7 persons. Find out more at dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie

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