



## DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CULTURE COMPANY

### 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](http://dublincitycouncilculturecompany.ie)

### The Culture Company provides a six-monthly report to the Culture SPC. This is a general update since our last report

#### An overview of Activities snapshot for the year 2023

- We led **720** creative workshops with **216** artists and makers
- We made cultural projects with **10,834** people
- We commissioned **98** speakers or contributors for our in-person events.
- We ran **504** cultural events in person, involving **29,860** audience members.
- **38,546** people attended guided tours of 14 Henrietta Street.
- **3,523** people attended outdoor guided tours.
- **117** people participated in our advisory working groups
- In partnership with DCL we delivered the Dublin Festival of History from 25 September to 15 October, with **203 events** in libraries and partner venues, with an audience of **9,750 people**.
- We led introductions to culture across **167** events with **2277** new cultural audiences.
- We made projects happen within **250** partnerships with cultural, community and other organisations.
- We organised **4** Fairs at Richmond Barracks, highlighting the work of over **120** local vendors and creatives which were attended by **10,239** people
- We facilitated a global Culture Summit for UCLG and Dublin City Council with **496 registered delegates** from city administrations, representative international organisations and cultural institutions representing **57 countries**.
- We had an aggregate digital reach of approximately **2.1 million** for the year, with **441,810** websites visitors & over **40,000 social** media followers across our platforms
- We recorded **82** features or items of coverage of our programmes and buildings in the press across print, radio and digital media, including local, national and international press

### Strategy and policy

Alongside sustaining, growing and delivering our own cultural participation programmes we will continue in 2024 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 engagement and 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.
- Maintaining and growing the data set of the Audit of Cultural infrastructure and networks on GIS for CRES. The Cultural Audit & Map also collaborates with the Council's Open Data Unit for the provision of increased cultural open data available and will support the Arts Office in its provision of a Development and Guidance Toolkit as outlined in the City Development Plan.
- Partnering with Hugh Lane Gallery on audience development and engagement programmes and cultural participation projects
- Working with Dublin City Council on a possible future cultural venue at St Werburgh's
- Chairing a Dublin City Council working group on the development opportunity of a Harry Clarke Museum in Parnell Square.
- 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.

**Key achievements and developments since our last SPC report: 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**

- The company has completed AsIAM training as part of our aim for Autism Friendly Accreditation alongside Plain English by NALA and more work on our Universal Accessibility checklist to always improve what we offer. ASIAM have also run an Accessibility and experience audit for neurodiverse audiences in 14 Henrietta Street and Richmond Barracks.
- 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. 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 nearly 100 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 will support the creation of ideas and connections for Culture in the City. A new Open call for participants will take place in the next 6 months.

**DCC Historians-in-Residence**

- We continue to assist DCL in the delivery of the Historian-in-Residence programme of Dublin City Council, including the Historian-in-Residence for Children.
- Following an open call process, five historians have been newly contracted (one per administrative area) for twelve months from Jan-Dec 2024. The five historians are;

Katie Blackwood (Dublin North Central), Elizabeth Kehoe (Dublin Central), Cormac Moore (Dublin South East), Mary Muldowney (Dublin North West) and Cathy Scuffil (Dublin South Central).

- For 2024 we will focus on increasing public awareness of the programme, more widespread engagement and reaching new audiences.

### **Culture Club**

- We have developed new audiences to Culture Club through our ongoing engagement with individuals and community groups. By working closely with partners, and engaging new partners, we continue to remove the barriers to access while also expanding the Culture Club offer, providing a greater variety of experiences and reaching more people.

### **Culture Company Strategy 2025 - 2030**

- In 2024, the Culture Company will prepare its 2nd company strategy through an evaluation of its Company Strategy 2019-2024, a series of workshops with key stakeholders throughout the year, including communities from across the city, DCC sections, cultural partners, artists, and participants. The Company will also invite a new Advisory Group through Open Call in Spring 2024 with the membership feeding into the strategy development process. Having followed the work of the Company over the last 5 years, SPC members will be invited to participate in this process.

## **2. Culture & Creativity**

### **Creative Residency**

- The Creative Residency in Art and Sport is our partnership with the Dublin Sports and Wellbeing Partnership, which paired five artists with five different forms of sports and sportspeople and clubs across the city, including swimming, boxing, GAA, and gymnastics. This culminated in three public exhibitions during the last seven months, with one further output expected in April before the programme concludes.

### **Irish Language activities including Seachtain na Gaeilge,**

- We have monthly Irish Languages tours both in 14 Henrietta Street (14 Henrietta Street award winning guided tours, Turas Treoraithe den Teach as Gaeilge ar an Satharn deireannach de gach mí.) and ó Dhún Richmond, gach mí ar an gcéad Satharn ag 11 am agus 1 pm
- Dedicated Irish language events, which have a bilingual element but are primarily as gaeilge. On Wednesday 6 March at 7 pm we have **Céilí Mór Dún Richmond**. Bígí linn le haghaidh oíche ceoil, rince agus spraoi chun Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh. We invite you to join us for a night of music, dance and fun to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- We are incorporating and encouraging the use of Irish language in ongoing groups and workshops which are currently run exclusively in English. For example, our weekly 'Sing for Fun' group will learn Irish language songs and we will host a chat afterwards with tea & coffee and a chance for participants to practise their 'cúpla focal'.
- Some of our team has been going to the informal conversation events in Craobh Inse Chór and language classes.
- Our Hidden Histories self-guided trail for families has been translated into Irish. Devised by our Historian in Residence for Children and co-created with children, the Irish language version is available in Dublin City public libraries and online on our websites.

- We featured 10 Irish Language events in the Dublin Festival of History in September -October 2023, including 'Pádraig Mac Piarais, Fear Eagair an Chlaidheamh', 'Dúshlán na hAthbheochana sna Stáit Nua', agus 'Cuairt ar Teach an Ard-Mhéara'.
- Work on an Irish language edition of the popular History on Your Doorstep publication series will be a key deliverable of the 2024 Historians in Residence programme.

### **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
- We deliver regular seasonal Fairs in Richmond Barracks to promote creative industries and social enterprise. There will be 4 annual themed Fairs: 1) Spring Fair focusing on women in local and sustainable businesses, held February 3 and 4. 2) Summer Fair about sustainability, upcycling, recycling & reuse, May 25 and 26; 3) Harvest, greening and food, September 21 and 22; 4) Christmas craft and art, November 30 and December 1 with local vendors, food from social enterprises and lots of fun engaging in workshops run by our various artists in residence.
- Our January to April brochure has been launched with cultural offerings at the building including historical walking tours, talks, classes and workshops.
- Our weekly workshops (all free) include comic book-making, circus skills, dance, eco-gardening, art, music, how to research your own local history, community singing choir, creative making groups, book clubs and craft & chat sessions.
- We would like to invite you to our Summer Fair May 25 and 26 at Richmond Barracks from 11 to 5pm. The fair will have a focus on upcycling, recycling and reusing. An open call for vendors is now live

### **The National Neighbourhood**

- As part of our National Neighbourhood placemaking programme, we produced 'The Archive Within Us' exhibition from 7 - 21 October in Charleville Mall Library. Made by 12 participants from across the city, working with two artists, over 450 people visited the exhibition.

## **3. Social, economic and tourism**

### **14 Henrietta Street**

- We have been accepted on the MSPI (Museum Standards Programme for Ireland) by the Heritage Council of Ireland.
- We have established a documented weekly and monthly walkthrough in both Richmond Barracks and 14 Henrietta Street. We continue to regularly update Dublin City Council on arising issues with the building, which require their maintenance and attention.
- As part of the Accessibility plan for 14 Henrietta Street we commenced ISL tours of 14 Henrietta Street, delivered by Alvean Jones, on the first Saturday of every month. SPC members, their families and friends are warmly invited to join us for a tour. Please email [comms@14henriettastreet.ie](mailto:comms@14henriettastreet.ie)
- Our free online resources for primary and post-primary school teachers have been designed to be flexible and adaptable for all levels and age groups. They can be used in the classroom or at home, and as an extra learning resource before or after a school visit to 14 Henrietta Street. The resources provide an integrated exploration of the curriculum, using history as a starting point. Visit [14henriettastreet.ie/schools/](http://14henriettastreet.ie/schools/)

### **International**

- UCLG and Dublin City Council hosted the 5th Culture Summit in Dublin from 27th November to 1 December 2023. The focus of the Summit was the campaign for the

inclusion of Culture as the 18th Sustainable Development Goal, cultural rights, climate action, and gender equality. Dublin City Council and city representatives participated in sessions on the role of culture and climate action, tourism, health & wellbeing, participation, gender equality, cultural rights and participation.

- The Culture Company facilitated the organisation of the Culture Summit on behalf of the Council, with 496 registered delegates from 76 countries including 16 sessions with panel contributions and discussion.
- UCLG, speakers and delegates were very pleased with the success of the Summit, the range of discussion and the hospitality of the City of Dublin. Delegates were hosted on Tuesday 28th November at the Mansion House for an evening of music, spoken word and song showcasing a range of local, community, emerging and established community culture makers and artists.
- A cultural programme with 15 cultural partners was organised for delegates to experience the City's culture at first hand on Wednesday 29th November including a visit to Andy Warhol at the Hugh Lane Gallery, a performance of 'The Quare Fellow' by Brendan Behan at the Abbey, a visit to Croke Park and the GAA Museum, an exhibition opening at IMMA and a tour of the GPO museum.
- UCLG also used the Summit to highlight the work of the Culture Company through their Leading Cities programme. On Monday 27th November, the Culture Company hosted 15 delegates from different cities and organisations to share our engagement methodology and how we work with people in the places where they are to support cultural participation and creativity.

#### **Dublin City Tourism Unit:**

- In December of 2023 the Dublin City Council Tourism Strategy 2023-2028 was officially launched at the UCLG Global Culture Summit in Dublin.
- The new Tourism Strategy has been distributed to members of the SPC and is also available online on the Dublin City Council website.
- Dublin has formally begun its designation as the European Capital of Smart Tourism 2024. The designation was launched on the 5th of December with the lighting of the Samuel Beckett Bridge with the European flag.
- The Dublin City Tourism unit represented its partners at the Sustainable Travel Ireland conference in Galway, the Dublin Airport Partners meeting in Dublin airport this month and the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation Meeting in Dublin city.

#### **Dublin City Cultural Audit and Map**

- Good data is being collected now as to how many users externally to DCC,
- We will continue 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.
- 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 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.

#### **Iseult Dunne, February 2024**