



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Miontuairiscí Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Pobal & Cultúr

Minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Special Meeting

Dé Luain 11ú Nollaig 2023 11:00 am

Monday, 11th December 2023 at 11:00 am

Venue; Boardroom, Centrepont, Liosban

Members in attendance:

Cllr. Dermot Connolly (Chairperson)	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Galway County Council
Helena McElmeel	Business Representative
Máirtín Davy	PPN Representative
Cllr. Padraig Mac an Iomaire	Galway County Council

Staff in attendance:

Kieran Coyne for Alan Farrell D.O.S	Senior Executive Officer
Valerie Kelly	Creative Ireland Engagement Officer
Claire Connolly	Assistant Staff Officer
Sharon O'Grady	Arts Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Galway County Council
Megan Flynn Dixon	PPN Representative
Mary McGann	Administrative Officer
Jo Vahey County Librarian	A/Senior Executive Librarian
Una Kelly	A/Senior Executive Librarian
Helen Melia	Senior Staff Officer
Cllr. Ivan Canning	Galway County Council

Cllr. Connolly welcomed everyone to the third meeting of SPC Community and Culture 2023 and thanked everyone for their attendance in person and noted the apologies received.

1. Minutes of Community and Culture meeting 11 th December 2023

Cllr. Connolly asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting of the Community & Culture SPC. On the proposal of Cllr. Peter Keaveney seconded by Ms. Helena McElmeel the minutes were agreed and adopted.

2. Update on Arts Programme 2023

Ms. O' Grady, Arts Officer gave a presentation on Arts Programme 2023 with key points as follows:

Arts Programme Budget 2023

Partnership Funding/ Arts Council 2023: €193,600

plus €16,000 (Culture Night Late)

Community Support Scheme 2023: € 60,000

Support for Áras Éanna, Festivals, Screenwest

UNESCO City of Film, Music Generation: €125,850

4 key areas.

Supporting Artists- Artist Support Scheme, Artist in Residence Schemes, Artist Development Supports

Arts Participation – Arts and Disability, Arts and Older People

Reaching Communities- Festivals, Touring, Participatory Events, Culture Night

Arts and Children / Young People- Book It, Children's Book Festival, Artists in Schools Scheme, Strategic Partnerships with Older Children.

Supporting Artists-

- Artist Support Scheme 2023. The maximum award offered is €3,000 and awards are often made for smaller amounts. The total fund available for 2023 is €22,000.
- Visual Artists' Ireland Lifelong Learning Programme Galway in partnership with Galway Culture Company, Galway City Arts Office
- Residencies: Arás Éanna, Interface, Cultural Irlandais and Air on the Edge (International)
- Dance Artist in Residence: Magdalena Hylak
- Galway Theatre Festival: Speed dating for county theatre Makers
- Creative Schools Bridging Workshops for artists
- Ardán – Short Documentary Bursary Award

Reaching Communities

- North East Galway Fit up Festival
- Creative Places Tuam Seed Funding
- West Awake Festival Weekend
- Poetry Day Gort
- Cúirt Direct Provision – Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Misleór Film Award
- Something in the Water Festival Headford

Arts and Children / Young People

- Book it Children's Book Festival
- Artists in Schools – 5 Schools - Scoil Naisiunta Na Bhforbacha, St. Brendan's National School Portumna, St. Patrick's National School Ballinasloe, Claregalway Educate Together National School and Scoil Naisiunta Inis Meain.
- Macnas at School: Coláiste an Eachreidh
- School Mobile Library Van Project: Artist Chris Judge
- Galway Community Circus Tuam Youth Community Circus
- Sparkcatchers – Teen Project Tuam
- Sea Week - Youth Arts Gathering Letterfrack

Culture Night 2023 Overview

Extremely successful this year.

- 40 events in 5 Municipal Districts
- 8 Artforms in 18 Locations
- 8000 Audiences

Culture Night Late

Galway County Council Arts Office in partnership with Macnas and Athenry Arts & Heritage Centre presented **Take a Walk with Crom** a Culture Night late event with funding from the Arts Council, Dept, of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media and Galway County Council.

- 64 Artists & Performers
- 43 Community Volunteers along with Galway County Council staff and crew
- 5000 of an audience lined the streets of Athenry.

A spectacular event for Culture Night late.

3. Update on Creative Ireland Programme 2023

Ms. Kelly gave some details about her background and then gave a presentation on Creative Ireland 2023 with key point as follows:

- Creative Ireland as a legacy Programme from 2016.
- Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- We support Creative Projects throughout County Galway through the Culture & Creativity Team as well as Open Calls
- We manage Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Creativity for children
- “We are committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential”

2023 Funding Summary- 4 streams

- Cruinniú na nÓg – funding €30,000.00 with 39 events, 1415 participants with highlights from events.
- Creative Bursaries – funding €58,150.00 with 13 events, over 4500 participants with highlights from bursaries
- Older Years- funding €35,000.00 with 3 events, 1026 participants with highlights from events
- Creative Team - funding €70,757.00 with 9 events over 550 participants to date with highlights from events.

2024 Goals

- Increase engagement with Cruinniú na nÓg amongst island communities.
- Continue to work collaboratively across different sections of the County Council.
- Deliver on the goals of the Galway CoCo Culture & Creativity Strategy.

2024 Plans

- Carry out youth engagement sessions to determine what children and young people want from Cruinniú na nÓg 2024
- Increase engagement in Gaeltacht areas and island communities
- Increase engagement with creativity across age groups
- Increase engagement from harder to reach communities and less heard voices

4. Update on Public Art Programme

Public Art Management Group held two meetings in 2023.

- OPW Flood Relief Schemes: RFQ was published for services to project manage two flood relief Percent for Art Schemes on behalf of Galway County Council and the OPW Provision of Services for Public Art Project Co-ordinator on schemes: 1) Dunkellin River / Aggard Stream (Craughwell) and 2) Claregalway.
- Craughwell scheme: Artist brief created, 1st and 2nd stage selection completed. Awarding of commission subject to planning and permissions required.
- Claregalway Scheme: Exploratory meetings have taken place while looking at suitable sites along with putting local team together will be part of next steps in 2024.

PW/ DSP Mural Tuam

- The Office of Public Works and Galway County Council unite to brighten the streets with art inspired by local youths and designed by Shane O'Malley.
- A new mural, developed by artist Shane O'Malley and inspired by young people involved in the local Youthreach programme, is being installed on the wall of the newly developed Department of Social Protection (DSP) Centre at the Old Library on Shop Street in Tuam with date of completion December 2023. Shane O'Malley is also to complete some workshops with Youthreach in 2024.

Cllr. Connolly thanked both Ms. O' Grady and Ms. Kelly for comprehensive reports. Ms. O'Grady mentioned that new policy strands are currently being looked at and increased. It is also coming to the point where it will be necessary to employ a person on a three year contract.

Mr. Coyne was interested in the makeup of expertise of the local group in Craughwell as it would be a helpful for possibilities in Claregalway.

Ms. O' Grady outlined the makeup of Craughwell group and also the physical situation in Claregalway, have few possibilities for physical structure. It was also pointed out that it doesn't have to be a physical object , it can be music, dance, workshops.

Cllr. Connolly mentioned the importance of having expertise to maximise funding. He said that whatever the piece of public art, it is important it tells a story. He referenced an effective structure in a small town in Germany which consists of a few benches surrounding a water fountain and noted it was a focal area where community met. It was nice to see older people use the benches and younger children playing in the area. A beautiful project, a place of public realm.

Cllr. Keaveney mentioned that since covid older people in the community are not going out and it is important to get them involved in the community. He is delighted with the continued great work in the Arts office with programmes for older people in the community.

Mr. Davy mentioned that in his area older people are very involved with the physical work of hand crafts. He mentioned that people are travelling from all parts of the county to their courses.

5. A.O.B

No matters arose.

6. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that next meeting will take place in February 2024. Date to be confirmed.

Cllr. Connolly wished everyone a happy & healthy Christmas and he hopes everyone enjoys the break and comes back ready for 2024.