



Cork City Council Arts & Culture Strategy 2022 - 2026

Implementation Report No. 1
June 2022 - 2024



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council
Arts Ealaíona



Tools of the Trade Exhibition 2024
Photo: Clare Keogh

Introduction

The five-year Cork City Council Arts and Culture Strategy was formally adopted and launched in June 2022.

The strategy sets out our mission to “enable and champion the artistic and cultural ambitions of Cork city and its people through investment, advocacy, connection and animation” and outlines the goals, objectives and target outcomes that will guide our work for the period of the plan.

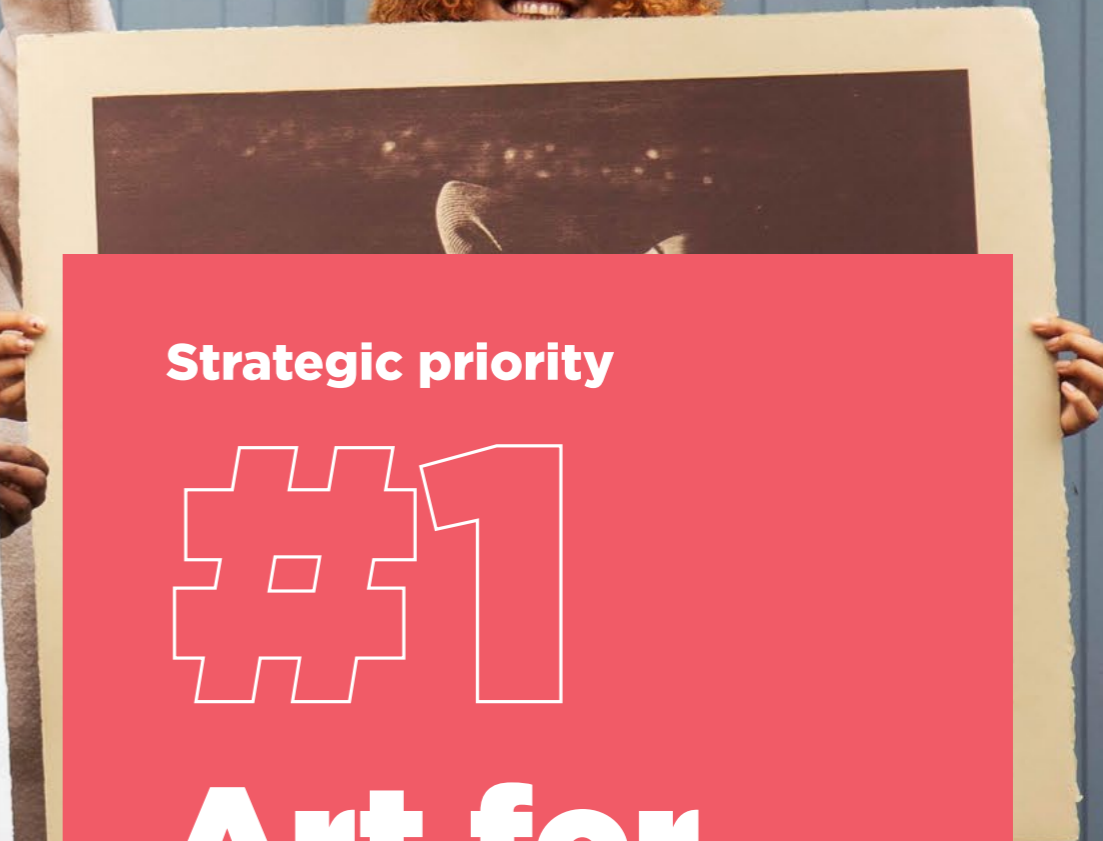
We have made significant progress towards the achievement of the plan’s objectives over the course of the first two-years of implementation and this report outlines progress to date. Across each of the strategic priorities, actions undertaken in the two years since June 2022 are detailed, grouped under the relevant target outcome.

Partnership is the principal enabler of the body of work achieved to date, and indeed the work that remains to be done over the coming years. We acknowledge the contribution of all the collaborators working with us to put arts and culture at the centre of a vibrant, just and progressive city – artists; arts organisations; communities; other sections within Cork City Council; national agencies; and Government.

We look forward to advancing on our ambitions for the arts and culture in Cork city as we build on the body of work outlined in this report in the next three years.

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Strategic priority

#1

Art for everyone

#1 Art for everyone

Goal Encourage and enable more people across all our communities to access and enjoy art.

Outcome 1.1 A rich mix of arts and cultural events and experiences are driving strong public engagement.

Action > **€1,900,000 to arts bodies in Cork City**



Dispersed just under 1.9 million euros in core funding to the professional and voluntary bodies that make up the arts sector in Cork city. In 2023, €894,600 was dispersed to 76 organisations and groups and in 2024 €1,000,550 has been committed to 81 organisations.

Collectively these organisations provide a high-quality, diverse programme for citizens from across the city whilst also establishing Cork’s cultural reputation on a national and international stage.

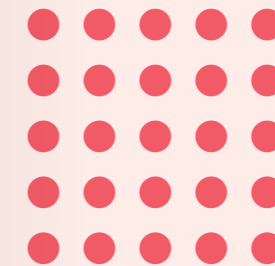


Outcome 1.2 A broader diversity of people in a greater variety of contexts are experiencing art in their lives.

Action > Developed new 5 year creative communities plan for embedding creativity in communities across the city. Supported under the national Creative Ireland Programme.

Under this plan we have:

25



Introduced new **Creative Communities Grant Scheme**. Since 2023, 25 community-led creative projects have been supported.

30



Supported a further **30 projects championed** by members of the cross-directorate culture and creativity team. These include projects such as the Ardú Street Art Initiative, the Kinship creative climate action project in Tramore Valley Park; Cork’s One City One Book etc.

Action > New post of Creative Communities Engagement Officer appointed to Cork City Council Arts Office

Action > Secured Arts Council of Ireland R&D funding to pilot ‘Creative Knocknaheeny’ as a model for place-based arts development in Cork city.

Action > Partnered with Arts and Disability Ireland to pilot the Island City contemporary sculpture trail as an accessible public art trail. Measures rolling out in Autumn 2024..

Outcome 1.3 Constituent groups in our city are engaged in arts and cultural experiences that are by, of and for them.

Action > Delivered by 2 x iterations of Cruinniú na nÓg Cork City, the national day of children's creativity in June 2022 and 2023.



- Action > Funded 10 projects through the 'Arts-in-Context' Scheme, where professional artists work with communities of interest.
- Action > Delivered a continuous professional development programme for social-engaged artists in collaboration with Leitrim County Council Arts Office.
- Action > Supported and steered BEAG Early Years programme, bringing quality early years arts programmes to childcare settings. With partners Cork County Arts Office, HSE and delivery partners, Graffiti Theatre.
- Action > Supported 2 x iterations of arts in school's programmes: Tools of the Trade (primary schools collaborative art project); The Unfinished Book of Poetry (Transition year poetry project)
- Action > Developed and published 'What Next?' Arts and Ageing resources and toolkit with Creative Enquiry partners.
- Action > Provided funding support for the Crawford Supported Studios.

Outcome 1.4 The people who make, produce and govern arts and culture in Cork reflect the city demographic

Action > Pilot Visibility Bursary for artists who experience barriers to developing their professional practice on the grounds of their status. Underway June 2024





Strategic priority

#2

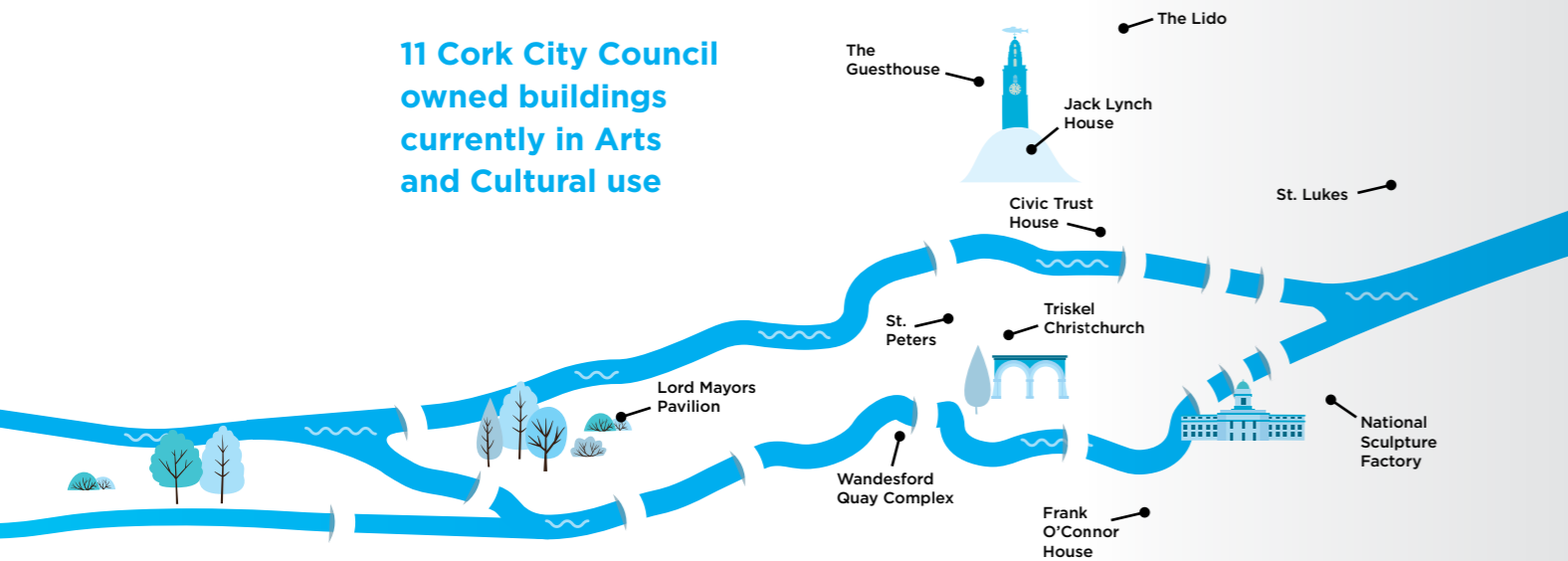
Space
for art

#2 Space for art

Goal Optimise and extend places and spaces for art in the city

Outcome 2.2 Cork City Council's arts and cultural infrastructure is safeguarded as a sustainable, effective resource into the future.

11 Cork City Council owned buildings currently in Arts and Cultural use



- Action > Ongoing programme of works, maintenance and conservation.
- Action > Direct management of St. Lukes Crypt as multifunctional, no cost hire by professional arts organisations.

Outcome 2.3 There is increased availability and a diversity of spaces to meet identified needs

Action >



Photo: Jed Niezgoda

Enhancement of Elizabeth Fort as an outdoor arts and cultural events amenity. The facility was launched on 1st March 2023.

Action >

Construction of the Kinship Eco Lab at Tramore Valley Park, outdoor hub for ecological creative activities, launched 31st May 2024.



Photo: OSM Photography

Outcome 2.4 Plans for a flagship arts creation facility in Cork City have been approved for development.

Action >

Towards realisation of this outcome, strategic assessment phase of infrastructure planning process complete: Arts and Cultural Infrastructure Needs Assessment (Nov 2023) and Capital Project Definition Report (May 2024).



Strategic priority

#3

**Art in the
public
realm**

*TEMPUS FUTURUM,
live public artwork by Brian Kenny.
Photo: Clare Keogh*

#3 Art in the public realm

Goal Animate our city centre and our neighbourhoods with art that reflects and celebrates who we are.

Outcome 3.1 Perceptions of public art have been transformed through the quality, inventiveness and range of Cork City's commissioned projects.

Action > Commissioned and produced Island City - Cork's Urban Sculpture Trail, a trail of five contemporary sculptures in the city centre island. The largest single investment in public art in Cork city to date. Funded by Fáilte Ireland under Urban Animation Scheme. Launched December 2023.



Urban Mirror by plattenbaustudio on Cornmarket Street. Photo: Clare Keogh

Action > Programme of refurbishment of existing public sculpture underway. Saurian by Jim Buckley in Lee Fields completed. Services for refurbishment of Reedpod by Ellis O'Connell, Lapps Quay have been procured, scheduled for September 2024.



Outcome 3.2 All eligible Cork City Council capital development projects include public art commissions.

Action > New role of Public Art Manager appointed to resource expanded programme of public art in the city.

Outcome 3.2 Cork's arts and culture sector is producing arts activities of impact and imagination in public spaces that engender a sense of pride and belonging as well as contribute to the city's distinct appeal.

Action > Delivered Planning for Outdoor Performance (POP) programme in national collaboration with 7 other Local Authorities. Programme included training webinars for event producers.

Action > Supported and Steered the KinShip Creative Climate Action Public Art Project at Tramore Valley Park

Action > Partnered with Cork Midsummer Festival, National Sculpture Factory and The Everyman to bring Venice Biennale Golden Lion award-winning Opera-performance, 'Sun & Sea' to Millenium Hall, June 2023.

Outcome 3.4 The public experience of Cork City's signature events is enhanced, and investment is leveraged for the benefit of the city and its arts and cultural communities.

Action > Expanded the St. Patricks Day offering in 2024 to become a weekend festival of events.

Action > Introduced Community Artist in Residence in 2023 to support the artistic quality of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Action > Re-launched Cork Christmas Festival as Corkmas and commissioned SOLAS, a festive interactive immersive light experience in the public realm.





Strategic priority

#4

**A city for
artists**

#4 A city for artists

Goal Advance the culture and conditions that make Cork a city for artists.

Outcome 4.1 Artists are supported to develop and make work of quality, scale, ambition and criticality.

Action >

62



Number of grants allocated in artist's bursaries and project scheme awards to directly support artists to develop their practice and make new work

Outcome 4.2 Artists and arts professionals have the knowledge, skills and professional relationships that increase their capacity to build sustainable careers.

Action > Partnered with Dance Cork Firkin Crane to appoint Luke Murphy as Cork City Dance Artist in Residence 2024 - 2026



Photo: Courtesy of Luke Murphy

Action > Worked closely with the Arts Council of Ireland to support and encourage the establishment of a new Theatre Development Centre under Cork Theatre Collective.

Outcome 4.5 We have a framework to advance the potential of Cork's creative industries to expand and diversify arts and cultural production and employment opportunities.

Action > Partnered with Cork City Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Immersive Ireland on Purple XR, a learning and development programme in Immersive Tech for creative industries.



Strategic priority

#5

**Capacity
and
influence**

#5 Capacity and influence

Goal The City Council and the arts sector have the knowledge, skills and capacity to achieve our shared ambitions for arts and culture in Cork

Outcome 5.2 The staff complement, knowledge and skill base is assuring the effective delivery of the strategy.

Action > 3 additional specialist roles have been resourced to effectively delivery on the strategic priorities, including Cork City Council's first dedicated Public Art Manager

Outcome 5.5 Evidence is informing our priorities and decision-making to advance arts and culture in Cork City

Action > Arts and Culture Infrastructure Needs Assessment conducted 2023. This report will inform our work to develop arts and cultural infrastructure in the coming years.

Outcome 5.6 Investment has enhanced our capacity to influence arts practice in the areas of youth, community, health and climate action in particular

Action > Successfully leveraged funding under Creative Ireland national programme schemes including Creativity in Older Age, Creative Climate Action and Creativity in Health & Wellbeing to develop targeted collaborative programmes. Projects include music in residential settings with Music in the Community; the ongoing annual programme of ecological arts activity in Tramore Valley Park, under the Kinship project; and a new collaboration with the Irish Hospice Foundation on an intergenerational project using creativity to address loss and grief in community settings, post-Covid.




Photo: © Lara Keogh



Photo: Darragh Kane

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