



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann  
Local Government Ireland



# Culture & Creativity Strategy

**2023–2027**



**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown**

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## Forewords

We are delighted to have the opportunity to plan five more years of supported creative endeavour in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown through the Creative Ireland Programme. Our vision in the first Culture and Creativity Strategy (2018-2022) was to enable creativity in all its guises and forms, to flourish and grow as an intrinsic part of the life of the people and the place. This new Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 builds on the work already done.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is a unique and culturally vibrant area where creativity is valued as a distinct asset. We are home to a creative community including many writers, artists, performers and people who are active in arts and culture in their communities. There is also a diverse range of much-loved community-based cultural activity in local youth groups, amateur dramatic and musical societies, choirs, active retirement groups, and other organisations throughout the county.

Cultural provision in dlr is well-developed. Creating new ways for the public to engage with cultural provision and creativity and exploring experiential learning contributes to our vision of a smart vibrant county which is attractive, inclusive, and accessible, and a Council which shapes a better future for our county and all its communities.

We are committing to supporting the wealth of talent already based in the area and to discovering and encouraging the creators of tomorrow. Participation in all forms of creative and cultural activity contributes to the health and wellbeing of our citizens. There is a rich cultural infrastructure in the county to work with, including the dlr Lexicon, the Pavilion and Mill theatres, the James Joyce Museum, the National Maritime Museum, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre, IADT and UCD, and the newly developed dlr Baths. As part of the work of our Culture and Creativity Team, we aspire to ensure that every citizen is aware of these resources and takes part in and experiences the value and

importance of creativity in their lives.

The dlr Corporate Plan 2020-2024 includes goals to provide quality community, recreational, sporting, and cultural opportunities for all who live, work, and visit the county. The delivery of this goal includes supporting the development of sustainable, inclusive, and empowered communities that facilitate the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of our citizens. Connecting and empowering adults, young people, and children through the continuous development of a library, arts, and cultural service, inspires ideas and supports community potential.

Our activated approach to collaboration, communication, community participation, inclusivity, and empowerment was timely, and became central to how we, as a community, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Adaptability and agility were key to the workings of the cross-departmental Culture and Creativity Team. The value of creativity in supporting resilience in communities gained a new understanding, and the local treasures of our parks, villages and public realm gained new users. Creating interesting spaces and events ensures an attractive place for people to live in and attracts visitors to the county.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council recognises the value of creativity as part of our cultural services provision. Through Creative Ireland and other programmes we aim to build partnerships and work in innovative ways. The success of our work in cultural services relies on a partnership development approach with those communities, artists, creatives and local and national agencies and stakeholders. This methodology has been enhanced by our work to date with Creative Ireland and is a cornerstone moving forward.

We welcome the opportunity that the Creative Ireland Programme presents and intend to enrich the work already achieved strategically through interdepartmental working. It is our intention to



The Oratory, Dún Laoghaire. Launch of *Divine Illumination* book and exhibition.  
**Photograph:** Peter Cavanagh

build upon individual plans such as those for arts, climate, economic development, libraries, heritage, and parks combining forces to create additional engagement, creative development, creative enterprise, and resilient communities. Beimid ag diriú freisin ar imeachtaí trí mheán na gaeilge atá le cloisteáil ar fud an chontae.

Through this Culture and Creativity Strategy, we aim to enrich the lives of the people of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and forge a bright creative future as we continue to develop a vibrant county that is attractive, inclusive, and accessible.

**Frank Curran**  
Chief Executive

**Cllr Mary Hanafin**  
An Cathaoirleach



# 1 Creative Ireland 2023–2027

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland’s culture and creativity. Within the broad range of available definitions, creativity is considered as a set of innate abilities and learned skills; the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and by drawing on imagination to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.

The vision of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023–2027 is to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, in our personal lives and in our institutions, we can realise our full creative potential thereby promoting individual, community and national wellbeing.

The Creative Ireland Programme will deliver through collaboration and partnership promoting understanding and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms — whether through the arts, culture, heritage, or technology.

## The Creative Ireland Programme will prioritise its work around five aspects for the period 2023–2027:

1. Creative Youth
2. Creative Communities
3. Creative Industries
4. Creative Health and Wellbeing
5. Creative Climate Action and Sustainability

Through the Creative Ireland Programme, *Creative Communities* supports the partnership between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Ireland’s local authorities. This partnership enables citizens and communities to explore their culture and creativity at local level and, where appropriate, leverage that creativity to strengthen wellbeing, advance social cohesion and support economic development.

*Creative Communities* is also innovative in deploying creativity to achieve greater integration across targeted policy priorities. This has delivered new creative engagement initiatives in relation to for example children and young people, older persons, climate action, and local economies. Individuals’ and communities’ perception about the role and value of culture and creativity as central to our wellbeing in its broadest sense is being enhanced.

The opportunity embraced within the DLR Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027 is to support people’s participation, inclusion and expression within communities, and further strengthen local creative economies.



Ronnie Drew mural by Shane Sutton. Part of *Dún Laoghaire Anseo 2022*. **Photograph:** Daniel Geeson



Projection onto dlr LexIcon, part of *Light Up Dún Laoghaire*, October 2019. **Photograph:** Peter Cavanagh

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### Culture and Creativity in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County is located between the outer suburbs of Dublin City and the Dublin mountains; with 17km of coastline, harbour, attractive towns and villages, alongside communities where residents and visitors enjoy some of the best natural amenities in Ireland. They benefit from access to public transport, employment opportunities, leisure facilities, education, and an attractive public realm. It is a smart, vibrant county, attractive, inclusive, and accessible. The county's vibrant community is focused across a necklace of villages, each with its own strong identity, such as Dalkey, Foxrock, Monkstown, Rathfarnham, Shankill, Sandyford and Steppaside.

With our highly educated and skilled labour force, the county enjoys a thriving and growing economy. Major employers include international IT and pharmaceutical companies, as well as financial and service industries. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has excellent access to educational facilities and is home to UCD at Belfield, Ireland's largest university, which together with IADT in Dún Laoghaire, provides third level education to some 32,000 students per year.

Alongside educational and economic opportunity, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is a unique and culturally rich part of the country, and home to a vibrant creative community. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has a strong track record of strategic investment in the area's cultural capital, and down the years the Council has commissioned and produced an array of festivals, exhibitions, residencies, school projects, and public art programmes that have grown and sustained local arts and cultural development, through the Arts Department, the Libraries network, and events committee.

The Creative Ireland Programme has become

an important element and underpinning of this provision. To date Creative Ireland, funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, have jointly invested to enable the implementation of the Culture and Creativity Strategy. In Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown over €1.2 million has been received in funding to implement the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022. The ability to respond to circumstances in a bespoke way was a particular strength of the programme. The value of this agile national-local partnership was further evidenced during the COVID-19 response when Creative Communities mobilised creative initiatives to form an important part of Local Authority and national community response.

Additional investment was provided to support community health and wellbeing through public participation in artistic, cultural, and creative activities. This response enabled us to fund projects targeting specific groups or demographics, such as providing work opportunities for creative facilitators, supporting musical performances in care settings, and a range of online programming for children and young people.

One of the ambitions of the existing strategy was to strengthen and develop community-led creative and cultural initiatives to ensure greater ownership and access. Community organisations are a strong partner for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and feedback is testament to the impact that Creative Ireland investment had on their group, their community or their locale. Supported voluntary and community organisations provided diverse options for citizens to participate in their local communities, on issues that were of concern. Most recently pertinent, climate action continues to be high on the agenda, with ambitious goals to continue to address climate change, adapt to its impacts, and protect our environment for the future.

The dlr Creative Ireland Programme to date has delivered a broad range of programmes, events and activities that can be set against the Local Authority's ambitions, as meeting needs and delivering impact. Over the next five years the Creative Ireland Programme in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown will continue to align with the strategic imperatives and goals across the local authority. Key within that are the ambitions of Dún Laoghaire 2040 (A Spatial and Economic Study for Dún Laoghaire Town), County Development Plan 2022-2028, dlr Corporate Plan 2020-2024, Arts Development Plan 2016-2022, dlr Age-Friendly Strategy 2022-2026, dlr Children and Young Person's Plan 2020-2023, dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Irish Language Scheme 2022-2026, dlr County Heritage Plan 2021-2025, the soon to be published Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028, and others.

Supporting the development of sustainable, inclusive, and empowered communities, in turn, facilitates the social, cultural, and economic wellbeing of our citizens. Connecting and empowering adults, young people, and children, inspires ideas and supports community potential, alongside the provision of high-quality open spaces and recreation facilities for all interests, that are clean, safe, accessible, and socially inclusive. We also strive to promote a healthy county by providing opportunities for citizens and communities to achieve good physical health and positive mental health and wellbeing through access to leisure and recreational facilities, and high-quality clean beaches.

These ambitions don't just grow empowered communities – they also promote the Irish language, encourage multiculturalism, and are socially inclusive. They also support tourism in the county by supporting events that enhance quality of life in the county and ensure our activities and initiatives protect and conserve our built and natural heritage. They protect and grow the county's strong identity - 'From the Mountains to the Sea'.

According to the most recent census the county experienced significant population growth, with established areas seeing growth of 8.7% while Glencullen/Sandyford saw a 49% rise in population.

A continued growth in the proportion of older people is evident, so Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown will continue to develop as an age-friendly county where our older people are supported through accessible programmes and thoughtful and relevant design and planning. By ensuring social inclusion, equality and accessibility is at the core of our services, activities and events will continue to support our vibrant economy and strong community, for people of all ages.

This work is already seeing positive outcomes. The TILDA report from Trinity College in November 2021 found that older adults reported the highest levels of involvement in creative activities, the highest quality of life, and scored lowest on loneliness, depression, worry and stress measurements. We are mindful that researchers also found that lower levels of participation were visible among older people in lower educational and income groups, and in those with poor health. To that end, our commitment in the dlr Age-Friendly Strategy 2022-2026 is to "work together to ensure that as we grow older, people may connect, engage, and participate in the economic, social and cultural life of their communities in an age friendly, welcoming, inclusive and accessible environment".

The social inclusion benefits of the participation of young people receives focus in the dlr Children & Young Person's Plan 2020-2023, which includes ambitions to "develop outreach learning, cultural and creative activities to engage young people in identified areas of need". Despite the continued pandemic, Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creative activities for children and young people has been celebrated each year. The event took place in a variety of settings including Fernhill Park, online and hybrid, and this year at the Lexlcon and the Samuel Beckett Centre at Ballyogan.

The most recent ESRI 'Growing Up in Ireland' study by Emer Smyth in November 2020 noted that arts and cultural participation among children and young people has been given increasing policy attention through initiatives like the Arts in Education Charter and the Creative Ireland Programme. We must ensure that all children and young people, regardless of their gender and social background, access arts and cultural activities.





Naturama Scéal Trail Cabinteely Park.  
**Photograph:** Peter Cavanagh

This is important in order to provide all children and young people with a variety of developmental and learning experiences.

As a county, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is committed to a Climate First approach to decision making. A key goal of this strategy is to create resilient, smart and sustainable communities and places. This includes climate resilience. Since the publication of the Climate Change Action Plan in 2019, the Council continues to focus its efforts on the implementation and monitoring of the Plan, in the context of enhancing efforts across the areas of climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and the circular economy.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown also continues to mainstream its efforts and collaborate across departments, staff and elected members, to achieve energy efficiency and emission reductions across its own buildings, facilities, travel, functions and services, and influence climate action in the

wider community. The ongoing implementation and monitoring of the Council's Corporate Plan, together with that of the other Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown local authorities, in partnership with Codema – Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Energy Agency and the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), provides for a clear roadmap and coordinated approach to address the national climate objective as set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, the ambitions of the Climate Action Plan 2021, and the shared energy and climate targets to 2030 and 2050. In 2023, the Council will prepare a new Climate Action Plan, in accordance with the provisions of the 2021 Climate Act and guidelines from the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

The interim review of the Creative Ireland Programme determined that Creative Communities substantially enhanced the reach of Local

Authorities, increasing impact and visibility and creating thousands of opportunities for communities which would not be supported by other funding streams. The review also recognised the need for greater awareness of the positive outcomes of creative engagement in local development, working innovatively across key policies such as climate action, heritage, youth, urban, rural and community development, economic development, and community health and wellbeing. Raising awareness is an action that we are bringing forward to this strategy, as while good work has been achieved, there remains the potential for more proactive communication both within and beyond the Culture and Creativity Team in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

We have continually expanded the members of the Culture and Creativity Team in line with the expansion of the remit of the Creative Ireland vision, embedding it throughout the local authority. The dlr team reflects the broadest cross-departmental areas of interest and responsibility, and we have responded to our evolving communities of interest by developing, delivering and promoting a broad programme of activities.

In the first five years, we used the Creative Ireland funding to deliver an annual action plan which responded to the needs of the local community. The locally driven nature of the funding allowed us to support initiatives and provide work opportunities for creatives, to enable projects to be trialed and then embedded, and to encourage cross-sectional working. Some of the projects have been larger in scale and budget than others, some more immediate, and others with a legacy component. Over the lifetime of the previous strategy, some stand out projects include;

- 'Framing the Senses', a year-long interagency dementia-inclusive programme of arts and creative activities, formed in consultation with people living with dementia and family carers, and supported by local support services and national dementia advocacy groups. Creativity in Older Age funding allowed greater time to consult and try different approaches and methods for engaging with people living with

dementia using multisensory based approaches.

- 'Cúairt agus Cultúr' is a cultural programme based in residential care settings for older people in dlr. This programme moved online in 2020 with a total of 42 'live' online workshops and events taking place featuring dancing, storytelling, singing, and art workshops. Going forward, it will be a combination of online and in-person programming and has also been extended to all care settings in the county.
- The 'Walking Trail' in Fitzsimon's Wood in Sandyford increased local residents and visitors' awareness of the local environment, encouraging them to learn about and experience nature in stimulating ways, and provided the opportunity and information to explore this local amenity, as well as fostering a greater appreciation for this unusual example of natural forest in a suburban setting, and the wildlife this woodland supports.
- Architectural Farm, a design focused architectural firm based in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown worked with young people attending the youth services of Loughlinstown Community Rooms to design an outdoor meeting space which can be used by all centre users. Co-creating their own space was an important learning and social experience for those who participated.
- 'Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Scéal Trail' supported authors and illustrators and responded to the closure of library buildings during the lockdowns. The Scéal Trail is an outside story walk that everyone can enjoy! Later iterations of Scéal Trails have featured in dlr parks, library gardens, and childcare settings. The Scéal Trail encouraged reading in an outdoor setting, as well as intergenerational engagement as parents, children, friends and siblings engaged together with a book as they walked.
- Other projects supported creatives to work in the community and encouraged visitors



to the county, such as Dún Laoghaire Anseo 2022, which added to the existing collection of street art pieces in Dún Laoghaire, expanding the open-air gallery in the town. As one of the most accessible ways of bringing art to the community, this project brought bold and bright artworks to a wide audience, created by a mix of established and up-and-coming local artists.

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Arts Office created Artworks Home, a project to reach out to those who were cocooning at home as a result of COVID-19. Twenty-one local creatives were employed to provide access to culture and, in return, an audience and a focus for their work. The visual artists were commissioned to create work which was delivered to people cocooning via dlr Library Services Book Drop. These special works were free to keep, frame and treasure.
- Work was also commissioned from a variety of facilitators and musicians to deliver Covid Care Concerts, Festival in a Van events, quiz nights and an immense variety of Winter Warmer events to encourage people to switch off and keep creative. This pandemic response was innovative and spread joy and a sense of connection to all sectors of the community.
- ‘The Glass Room: Misinformation Edition’ was an exhibition that explored how social media and the web have changed the way we read information and react to it. The Media Literacy Creative Ireland project enabled us to provide an exciting series of webinars, workshops, and videos to promote the exhibition and engage with secondary schools on some of its themes, sparking lively and creative discussions on the increasing reliance on digital mediums in all our lives.

Inclusion and accessibility have also been drivers of our projects and we have worked to deliver autism friendly spaces and family days, depicting diversity projects and contemplative work that allows spaces for silence and for pondering like a Dreamer’s Space, a trail that children could follow

inside and outside dlr Lexlcon in Dún Laoghaire. It included space for collaboration with a theatrical frame, a place to find your voice, vinyls on the windows reflecting our seabirds and starlings, a self-esteem selfie board and more. A fold-out trail was printed for children and ink stamps used for ‘good ideas’. This was a gentle project to do with ideas, inspiration, and stillness. It was a lovely temporary installation in the Lexlcon which delighted and then disappeared.

In 2010 Cherrywood was designated a Strategic Development Zone. Dún Laoghaire -Rathdown drafted and agreed a Planning Scheme including approaches to conserving the heritage of the area, integrating it into the new town’s open spaces and presenting it to new residents. Over the next ten years, Cherrywood will grow to a modern new town of 30,000 people. As a Creative Ireland action, two illustrators were commissioned to creatively bring to life the timeline of Cherrywood from ancient times right up to the present, with a peek into the future, via a series of historically accurate and visually accessible time lapse illustrations. They took inspiration from the extensive archaeological research and the remaining built and natural heritage touchpoints as well as the story of the planning, architecture, and landscape architecture of a brand-new town.

Creative Ireland values collaboration, communication, community participation, inclusivity and empowerment. We have met many of our original goals in creative placemaking, creativity and innovation, partnership and collaboration, and improving quality of life and wellbeing. But there is more to do.

Through local business growth and development, we aim to further encourage a vibrant and resilient economy, by providing creative facilitators access to opportunities to develop their creative practices into a sustainable practice and foster further creative developments.

In this way we will meet and exceed the ambition for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to enable creativity in all its guises and forms to flourish and grow as an intrinsic part of life of the people, the place and the partnerships that lie at the heart of this programme.



Harry Potter Coding Workshop,  
Cruinniú na nÓg 2022.  
**Photograph:** Maura Hickey

Areas for development include a greater emphasis on creativity and innovation alongside creative enterprises which have been supported by bursaries to date. Equality of opportunity and access are key ambitions, to further develop this ambition is to embed diversity, inclusion and a sense of belonging to the community as outputs of all project work.

An on-going action has been the community and cultural mapping of the county to provide vital data to hand, which will give dlr Creative Ireland a

much-needed mandate and plan to proceed with purpose and intent into the lifetime of the new strategy. Vital work has been completed in this area and the intention is to road-test this data with community needs assessments to see how best to continue to deliver and progress the plan.

As we adjust now to the permacrisis, the resilience of communities becomes ever more important and the need to engage with them to showcase what is available locally.

### 3 The Creative Ireland Vision for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Our Vision for Creative Ireland Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown over the next five years is that we deliver progress, vibrant programming and events that are attractive, inclusive and accessible to our communities, enabling them to connect with one another, collaborate and create, and realise their full creative potential.

By implementing the strategic ambitions laid out in this strategy, cross-referenced with relevant parallel strategies, awareness of Creative Ireland will be more fully embedded into the internal strategic workings of the Local Authority, but also community awareness will be strengthened. The work of Creative Ireland and the Culture and Creativity Team within the county will support economic development, combating social isolation, as well as health and wellbeing – three of the key pillars of particular focus for Creative Ireland.

We want to see creativity in all its forms as a continued integral component of policy-making, addressing the challenges of our times while retaining the nimbleness to respond swiftly to the local needs of our communities of users, and communities of interest.

Locally the Creative Ireland Programme engages in on-going evaluation and consultation to ensure that the users and beneficiaries of our Creative Ireland funding see their aspirations amplified in the work of the Culture and Creativity Team and its on-going commitment to the practitioners and audiences of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

The vision of Creative Ireland is that every person living in Ireland will have the opportunity to fully realise his or her creative potential. To deliver this vision our focus will be on supporting the development of resilient, smart, and sustainable communities and places, enhancing access, participation, and engagement, embedding strong foundations for collaborative projects which enable strong and healthy communities and a sense of place, and enhancing quality of life and wellbeing.

### 4 How The Creative Ireland Programme Works Principles and Values of Creative Communities

Creative Communities will continue to support local authorities as a wellbeing strategy through:

- **Policy** — Working in partnership across government supporting local authorities to deliver relevant local, regional, and national policies and priorities;
- **Practice** — Flexible, cross-cutting Culture and Creativity Teams providing an agile and adaptable approach central to the delivery of *Creative Communities* as it addresses locally-relevant priorities;
- **Participation** — Providing more opportunities for people to engage with and enjoy culture and creativity at local level in ways that underpin equality of access; and
- **Partnership** — Between central and local government, and DLR County Council and our local culture and creative sectors.

This approach is based on addressing a shared, strategic agenda while delivering on the challenges and opportunities unique to each local authority area.

The *Creative Communities* partnership will be delivered in line with the following principles and values:

- i. Broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally.
- ii. Use culture and creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development.
- iii. Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to integrate culture and creativity across place-making, regeneration, renewal, and the development of more vibrant, creative, and sustainable places.
- iv. Investing in culture and creativity to support environmental, social, and economic returns that help deliver local authority agendas — from local and regional, to national and international.
- v. Build on the agility and integrated approach of Culture and Creativity Teams to sustain further delivery of targeted collaborative programmes.



## 5 The Strategic Priorities for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

### Strategic Priority 1

#### Create resilient, smart, and sustainable communities and places across the county.

- Work to develop an infrastructure across the county that supports and develops cultural and creative industries. [County Development Plan 2022-2028, 6.4.2.2 Policy Objective E3]
- Develop and promote STEM, Young Social Innovators, digital literacy, and coding skills in dlr. [dlr Children & Young Person's Plan 2020-2023]
- Create a climate resilient county, by promoting best practice in climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and the circular economy. [dlr Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024].
- Promote urban greening, and champion Community Woodland Schemes, which support the health and wellbeing of the living and working population, building resilience to climate change while ensuring healthy placemaking. [County Development Plan 2022-2028, 3.4.4.1 Policy Objective CA18 and 3.4.4.2 Policy Objective CA19]
- Enable artists and creatives to develop inspiring projects responding to the theme of the climate emergency.

### Strategic Priority 2

#### Enhance access, participation and engagement to promote the enjoyment of culture and creativity across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's diverse and evolving communities.

- Improve access to community meeting spaces to meet our customers' needs, such as through expanded opening hours. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 1: Connecting with our Communities]

- Continue to support and develop creative programmes targeted at and created with local and national services to combat social isolation, increase wellbeing and support older people living at home, attending day services and living in residential care settings. [Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2026; Priority 3, dlr Corporate Plan 2020-24; Corporate Goal 4, Arts Development Plan 2016-22; Goal 1]
- Develop a comprehensive series of programmes and events attracting a broader demographic audience base. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 2: Collaborating with our Partners]
- Develop outreach learning, cultural and creative activities to engage young people in identified areas of need. [dlr Children & Young Person's Plan 2020-2023]
- Continue to create opportunities in partnership with dlr CYPSC and other agencies for and with early years children, children and young people in the county, with emphasis on social inclusion, equality and accessibility outcomes for children and young people living in the county. [Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures: the national policy framework for children and young people 2014-2020, dlr CYPSC Plan]
- Prioritise the inclusion of marginalised and minority groups, and the celebration of multicultural events and programmes, including Africa Day, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Eid, India Fest, Traveller Pride, LGBTQIA+ Pride events, Ukrainian culture, etc. Work with broader groups supporting inclusion, such as the Migrant Women's Network and their cultural programmes.
- Work with local business stakeholders to build on and expand the range of cultural and creative activities available across the county,

and to encourage the further development of an inclusive night-time economy providing cultural and creative opportunities. This forms part of the work programme of the current Economic Development and Enterprise SPC and will inform the forthcoming Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028.

- Develop programming to invite broad participation acknowledging the role of heritage in belonging and community.
- Develop initiatives to platform untold stories recognising the multiplicity of heritages and perspectives in dlr.
- Identify suitable ways and locations across the county to celebrate dlr as an enduring place of arrival and departure, including the significant maritime and transport heritage of Dún Laoghaire Harbour.
- Incorporate the range of spoken languages within dlr into heritage initiatives, acknowledging the breadth of linguistic heritage diversity in the county.

### Strategic Priority 3

#### Embed strong foundations of existing strategy in collaborative projects which enable strong and healthy communities to further develop their sense of place.

- Continue to support urban animation initiatives, in collaboration with all stakeholders, to create spaces where culture, creativity and the social activity of towns and villages can flourish.
- Continue to empower a Creative Community across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown to ensure greater access to the Irish language by celebrating and strengthening some of the existing community-led initiatives across

the county - Ciorcail Comhrá, Book Clubs, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann, Gaelscoileanna, etc.

- Continue to foster a strong identity and sense of place by providing opportunities for creative initiatives for the public to enjoy and engage with.
- Enhance the visibility of the Irish language in the public sphere to transform the vitality and quality of place through a programme of activities in public spaces and open areas across the county. Collaborate to further develop creative opportunities for animating and enlivening the public spaces around the county (such as the dlr Anseo project, electric box art, artist bursaries for Irish language projects, music groups performing in public parks during the summer season, etc.)
- Progress a coordinated and participative approach to sharing the evolving story of people and place.
- Implement the Communication/Engagement Plan for Carrickmines Castle and the Pale Ditch.
- Explore opportunities to pilot creative heritage encounters by repurposing buildings and spaces, including the repurposing of Williamstown Martello Tower as a cultural space.
- Support contemporary writers to create new connections between word and place and celebrate existing literary associations within the county.
- Promote creative engagement with DLR placenames, folklore and place lore.
- Facilitate the learning/sharing of traditional skills in relation to built, maritime and natural heritage.



- Enable community-led inventories and mapping of heritage features in the streetscape and landscape. Support co-creation of creative local discovery maps and digital StoryMaps.

#### Strategic Priority 4

##### Align this Culture and Creativity Strategy with other social infrastructure workplans within dlr to enhance quality of life and wellbeing.

- Ensure the forthcoming Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 reflects dlr's commitment to the development of culture and creativity in the county.
- Continue our participation in national programmes and campaigns focusing on literacy and cultural activities. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 1: Connecting with our Communities]
- Support our communities to access and participate in lifelong learning opportunities. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 3: Developing, reading, learning, creative and cultural opportunities for all]
- Continue the delivery of national programming and initiatives on literacy, business, and health and wellbeing in collaboration with key stakeholders through Right to Read, Healthy Ireland at Your Library and Work Matters programmes. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 2: Collaborating with our Partners]
- Work with our partners and key stakeholders to build cultural equity across the county.
- Through targeted arts programmes and creative initiatives, work to combat social isolation and encourage positive social inclusion, equality and accessibility outcomes for participants identified under the Public Sector Duty. [dlr Corporate Plan 2020-24; Corporate Goal 7, Arts Development Plan 2016-2022, Goal 1]

- Enhance voluntary and community groups, grow cultural Irish language resources, and develop their creative potential in a socially inclusive way that caters to everyone. Encourage initiatives that provide greater links through Irish across the county and strengthen a unified identity for the Irish language by holding events and initiatives through new and existing programmes such as Open House, Culture Night, Heritage Week, Cruinniú na nÓg, IMRAM na nÓg, and the dlr Festival of Inclusion.

- Expand the number of participatory initiatives in dlr to build active involvement with heritage.

#### Strategic Priority 5

##### Broad collaboration and partnerships across the county for the benefit of all.

- Work to strengthen existing relationships with educational institutions in the county with the aim of enabling graduates and other creative individuals and companies to stay working within the county. [County Development Plan 2022-2028, 3.1.2.4 Policy E4; 78; Dún Laoghaire 2040, A Spatial and Economic Study for Dún Laoghaire Town]
- Continue to identify initiatives and partnerships which will further help to embed and strengthen creative industry in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. [current Local Economic and Community Plan, Objective 9 – new plan forthcoming]
- Build on existing partnerships and explore new directions to create value for our communities. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 2: Collaborating with our Partners]
- Continue to build on the strong relationship between the dlr's Arts Office / Economic Development Unit and IADT to support the development and growth of cultural and creative industries in the county [County Development Plan 2022-2028 4.2.2 Policy Objective E3: Cultural and Creative Industries]

- Continue to work with our colleagues in DLR and local agencies, businesses and groups to facilitate greater engagement with marginalised communities. [dlr Library Development Plan 2021-2025, Goal 2: Collaborating with our Partners]
- Continue to collaborate with artists, creatives, practitioners, cultural organisations and national resource organisations to facilitate and support opportunities for engagement with the arts. [Arts Development Plan 2016-22, Goals 2 & 3; Corporate Plan 2020-2024; Corporate Goal 4]
- Encourage greater cross-collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office, dlr Sports Partnership Office, dlr Arts Office, dlr Partnership Office, and Music Generation to nurture and develop the creative potential of people through different programmes. Also, to harness local strengths in creative industries and digital enterprise to maximise their contribution to social and economic development and to enhance the realm of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and improve all residents' quality of life and wellbeing by allowing ample opportunity for all to engage with such projects.
- Support creativity and innovation and enter collaborative partnerships of mutual benefit with higher level institutes across the county to engage in collaborative research and new learning opportunities and providing bursaries for second/third level students who wish to study the Irish language.
- Include creative/design practitioners in heritage projects to support positive culture change in creative and engaging ways.
- Grow existing partnerships and build new partnerships with academic institutions and engage in collaborative and action research.

#### Strategic Priority 6

##### Raising awareness and enhancing communication to ensure we reach all our communities.

- Further embed culture and creativity within the organization. Regular updates from the dlr Culture and Creativity Team to be posted on the Staff Intranet, with Town Hall presentations to staff, senior management, and elected members to be scheduled to share progress of specific projects and initiatives.
- Carry out an Irish language awareness campaign during Seachtain na Gaeilge through embracing creative, innovative and collaborative approaches around the area and online.
- Actively develop and progress communication methods which are accessible and consider the needs and requirements of our varied public and audiences.
- Work with partners to support research and development of new creative initiatives to identify gaps in service provision to efficiently target funding.
- Embed monitoring and evaluation into programme strands.



# 6

## Implementation by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Culture and Creativity Team

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council has a Culture and Creativity Team in place to guide and oversee implementation of this Strategy.

The Culture and Creativity Teams are the cornerstone of Creative Communities across all 31 local authorities in Ireland. These teams bring together a significant range and level of expertise and, in many cases, include professionals from architecture, archives, the arts, climate action, community, enterprise and environmental development, heritage, information and communication technologies, Irish language, libraries, spatial planning, tourism and more. This depth of technical expertise affords each local authority a level of insight, resources, and delivery experience which few other public or private sector organisations can match.

The role of this team is to:

- Provide a collective forum for the ambition of culture and creativity within the local authority,
- Focus on diversity and inclusivity and enable harder to reach communities to participate in cultural and creative activities,
- Build on existing in-house expertise and strategies across areas of wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development to leverage culture and creativity to deliver on targeted local authority agendas,
- Enable a shift in how the cultural and creative sector is valued within and across local authorities and ensure that culture and creativity is embedded across local authority plans, policies and project teams,

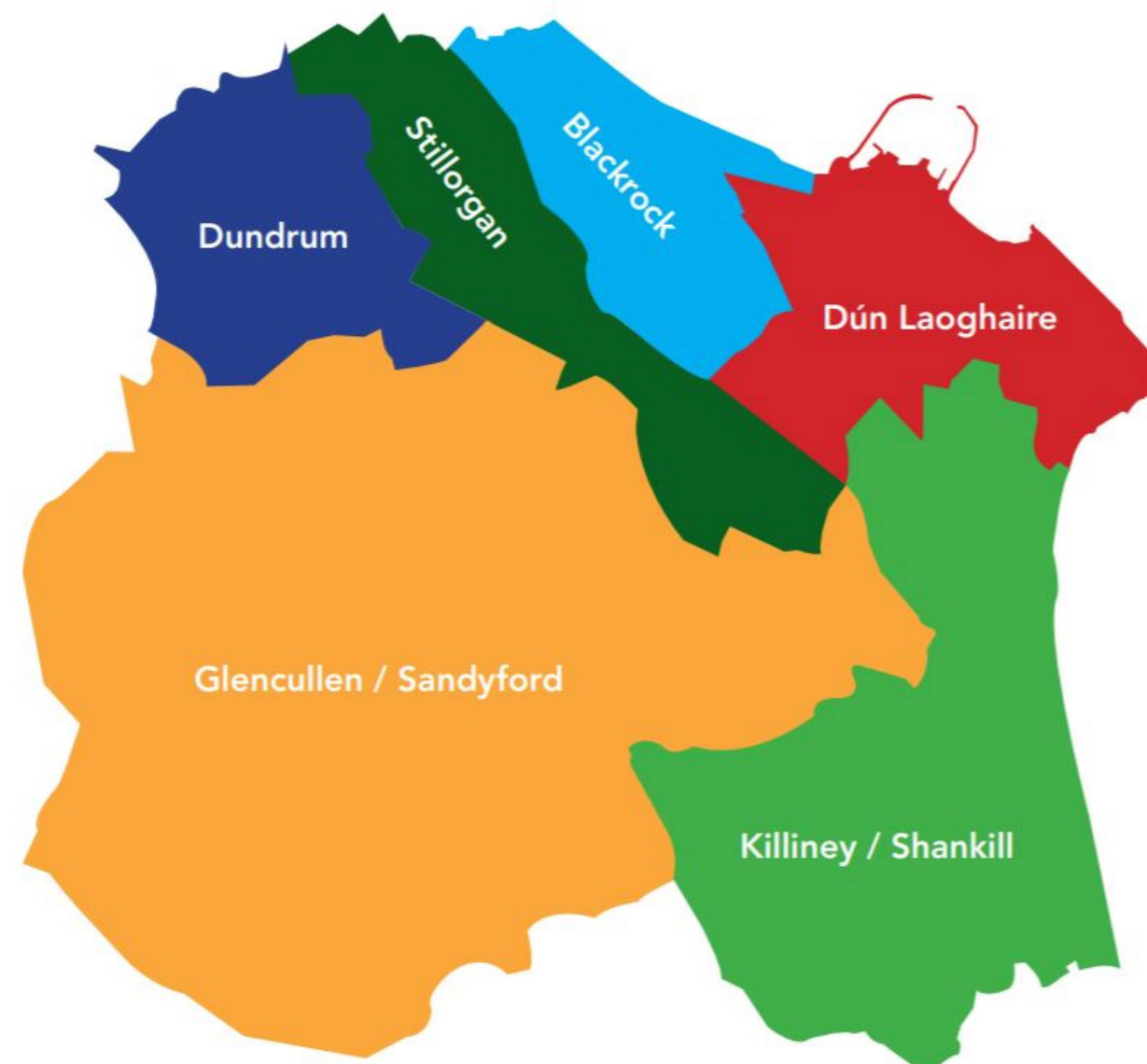
- Drive cross-collaborative actions that support change and positive outcomes locally, and potentially between local authorities at regional level, and

- Be innovative and take risks – try new projects and new ways of working.

The delivery of the Strategy is led by the Director of Services for Community & Cultural Development and the members of the Culture and Creativity Team for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council include the County Librarian, Arts Officer, Heritage Officer, Senior Executive Librarian (Collection & Reader Development, Senior Executive Librarian (dlr LexIcon), Irish Language Development Officer (Communications Office), Senior Staff Officer (Economic Development), Executive Architect, Area Community Officer (Community Development/ Social Inclusion), Climate Action Officer (Environment & Climate Change), Senior Staff Officer (Community Development/Social Inclusion) and Senior Parks Superintendent.

These structures and processes are a critical success factor that will enable Creative Communities to deliver on strategic priorities for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Council


## Map of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Municipal Districts 2022







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