

Laoise Laois

Straitéis Chultúir agus
Chruthaitheachta 2018–2022

Culture and Creativity
Strategy 2018–2022



Taibhíonn Ensemble Damhsa
Laoise ag Ionad Ealaíon Dhún
Másc le haghaídh Chruinniú
na Cásca
*Laois Dance Ensemble perform
at the Dunamais Arts Centre
for Cruinniú na Cásca
(photo by Denis Byrne)*

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AN CHÉAD EAGRÁN, PROFA AMHÁIN | FIRST EDITION, PROOF VERSION ONLY



1 Réamhrá Foreword

TRÍ ÉIRE ILDÁNACH Laoise cuirtear deis ar fáil do chách sa chontae le bheith páirteach i gcruthaitheacht agus i gcultúr. Cuireann Contae Laoise fáilte roimh an deis le bheith ina chuid den chlár náisiúnta seo. Agus muid inár gcuid de chlár ar fud na tíre tugtar guth comhchoiteann dúinn. Tríd an straitéis seo de rannpháirtíocht agus de chaidreamh gníomhach ar fud na bpobal, tá Laois ag súil leis na cláir a sholáthar de réir mar atá sonraithe sa Phlean Straitéise um Chultúr agus Cruthaitheacht chúig bliana seo.

Is é Braistint Áite an téama atá roghnaithe againn dár bPlean Éire Ildánach Laoise do 2018-2022. Tá forbairt an phobail ina gné rithabhachtach don chlár ilbhliantúil seo. Is í an fhís d'Éire Ildánach i Laois ná contae ina n-aithnítear cultúr agus cruthaitheacht mar ghnéithe dílse don saol.

Tá oidhreacht agus tírdhreach Laoise saibhir agus éagsúil, agus d'oibrigh Comhairle Contae Laoise le gníomhaireachtaí stáit, grúpaí pobail agus úinéirí príobháideacha le blianta anuas chun suíomhanna oidhreachta agus sócmhainní an chontae a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn ar mhaithe le pobail áitiúla agus cuairteoirí araon. Déantar suíomhanna faoi úinéireacht an Stáit amhail Carraig Dhún Másc, Cúirt Ioma, Gairdíní Heywood, Eaglais Rómhánúil Chill Uisean agus Cloigtheach Thigh Mochua a bhainistiú ar dhóigh ina ndéantar a luach oidhreachta a fheabhsú agus ina ndéantar na sár-iarrachtaí pobail agus deonacha a chomhlánú arna ndéanamh ag Teach na mBocht ag Domhnach Mór, Mainistir Achadh Bhó, Teach Oidhreachta Mhainistir Laoise, Iarsmalann Mhóinteach Milic agus iarsmalann Flaidireachta Áth Tanaí. Aibhsítear níos mó ná fiche áit spéise do chuairteoirí le Rian Oidhreachta Laoise agus Rian Mainistreach Laoise ina bhfuil siad in ann scéal an chontae a fhiosrú. Tá eolaithe fuaime ar na suíomhanna sin ar fáil i raon de theangacha, in aip fóin chliste Rianta Oidhreachta Laoise, a

CREATIVE IRELAND LAOIS provides an opportunity for everyone in the county to become involved in creativity and culture. Laois welcomes the opportunity to be part of this national programme. Being part of a countrywide programme gives us a collective voice. Through this strategy of participation and engagement across the communities, Laois looks forward to delivering the programmes as outlined in this five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy Plan.

A Sense of Place is the theme chosen for our Creative Ireland Laois Plan for 2018-2022. The development of community is of vital importance for this multi-annual programme. The vision for Creative Ireland in Laois is a county where culture and creativity are recognised as integral to life.

The heritage and landscape of Laois is rich and varied, and Laois County Council has worked with state agencies, community groups and private owners in recent years to develop and promote the heritage sites and assets of the county for the benefit of both local communities and visitors. State-owned sites such as the Rock of Dunamase, Emo Court, Heywood Gardens, Killeslin Romanesque Church and the Timahoe Round Tower are managed in a way that enhances their heritage value and complements the tremendous community and voluntary efforts made at Donaghmore Workhouse, Aghaboe Abbey, Abbeyleix Heritage House, Mountmellick Museum and the Attanagh Fly-fishing museum. The Laois Heritage Trail and Laois Monastic Trail highlight over twenty places of interest for visitors to explore the story of the county. Audio guides to these sites are available in a range of languages, in the Laois Heritage Trails smart phone app, created in 2016 with support from Fáilte Ireland. The sod was recently turned on the Slieve Bloom Mountain

cruthaíodh in 2016 le tacaíocht ó Fáilte Éireann. Casadh an fód le déanaí ar Rian Rothaíochta Sléibhe Shliabh Bladhma a thrasnaíonn Laois agus Uíbh Fháilí agus déanfar a lán níos mó cuairteoirí a tharraingt leis agus é críochnaithe. Go luath in 2018, d'éirigh le Comhairle Contae Laoise maoiniú a fháil ón gComhairle Oidhreachta agus ón Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta faoin Tionscnamh nua um Bailte Stairiúla. Tríd an tionscadal arna mhaoiniú déanfar Dún an Chosantóra agus Plás Mhic Mhuiris ag croí stairiúil an bhaile a thrasfhoirmiú, thar roinnt céimeanna. Tá Laois ina cuid dhílis de réigiún Sheanoirthear na hÉireann agus táimid ag obair go dlúth le Fáilte Éireann chun suíomhanna oidhreachta an chontae a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn do chuairteoirí ó Éirinn agus thar lear.

D'fhorbair Contae Laoise tionscnaimh chultúrtha a raih bh tionchar láidir acu go háitiúil sna fiche bliain atá caite. Oibrímid i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gComhairle Ealaíon agus ba mhór an tairbhe dúinn as an gcomhoibriú sin. D'fhorbair Comhairle Contae Laoise ár mbonneagar ealaíon agus leabharlann ar ardchaighdeán. San áireamh leo siúd tá Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc a osclaíodh i (1999) agus Teach Ealaíne Laoise (in 2011). Is ionann Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc agus ionad ealaíon ildisciplíneach agus an príomh-áit taibhithe sa chontae; chomh maith leis sin tá spásanna ann do cheardlanna, mar aon le saoráidí cineama dhigitigh agus spás taispeántais. I dTeach Ealaíne Laoise cuirtear stiúideonna agus cóiríocht ar fáil d'ealaíontóirí, chomh maith le dánlann bheag, áith, spás gairdín agus deiseanna d'ealaíontóirí. Tá creat-doiciméad á réadtiomnú ag Comhairle Contae Laoise faoi láthair leis an gComhairle Ealaíon agus tá plean ealaíon nua á réadtiomnú freisin lena ndéanfar clár Éire Ildánach Laoise a chomhlánú agus a mhalairt go cruinn.

Bike Trail which straddles Laois and Offaly and will attract many more visitors to the area once it is completed. In early 2018, Laois County Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Heritage Council and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the new Historic Towns Initiative. The project funded will see the transformation of Fort Protector and Fitzmaurice Place at the historic core of the town, over several phases. Laois is an integral part of the Ireland's Ancient East region and we are working closely with Fáilte Ireland to develop and promote the heritage sites of the county for visitors from across Ireland and overseas.

County Laois has developed cultural initiatives which have impacted strongly locally in the last twenty years. We work in partnership with the Arts Council and have benefited greatly from the collaboration. Laois County Council has built our arts and library infrastructure to a high standard. These include the Dunamase Arts Centre which opened in (1999) and the Laois Arthouse (2011). The Dunamase Arts Centre is a multi-disciplinary arts centre and the primary performance space in the county; it also has workshops spaces, digital cinema facilities and an exhibition space. The Laois Arthouse offers artists' studios and living accommodation, a small gallery, a kiln, a garden space and opportunities for artists. Laois County Council are devising a framework document with the Arts Council at present as well as devising a new arts plan which will complement the Creative Ireland Laois programme and vice versa.

Laois School of Music and Music Generation Laois are led by Laois County Council and supported locally by Laois Offaly ETB and Laois Partnership. In 2017, over 4,500 young people accessed weekly music

Tá Ceolscoil Laoise agus Music Generation Laoise faoi cheannas Chomhairle Contae Laoise agus cuirtear tacaíocht ar fáil dóibh go háitiúil ag BOO (Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna) Laoise & Uíbh Fhailí agus ag Comhpháirtíocht Laoise. In 2017, bhí rochtain ag níos mó ná 4,500 daoine óga ar chlár cheoil sheachtainiúla, agus ghlac a lán níos mó páirt i gclár agus i dtaibhithe gearrthearma.

Cuirtear spás cultúrtha inrochtana agus fáilteach ar fáil le leabharlanna arna n-athchóiriú le déanaí i Mainistir Laoise, Móinteach Mílic, Maighean Rátha, Darú, Cúil an tSúdaire agus sa tSráidbhaile. Tá leabharlann chontae nua á forbairt faoi láthair do Phort Laoise don bhliain seo chugainn. Beidh an Leabharlann Chontae Nua suite i lár an bhaile ar an bPríomhshráid agus beidh sé ina croílár cultúrtha agus stairiúil don chontae freisin. Déanfar freastal leis an leabharlann nua ar riachtanais an daonra atá ag méadú agus ag athrú agus soláthrófar limistéir phoiblí mhéadaithe d'imeachtaí cultúrtha, ginealas, staidéar áitiúil do shaoiránaigh uile agus do chuairoteoirí freisin chuig an mbaile agus a phurláin.

programmes, and many more participated in short term programmes and performances.

Newly refurbished libraries in Abbeyleix, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Durrow, Portarlinton and Stradbally provide a welcoming accessible cultural space. A new county library is being developed for Portlaoise in the next year. The New County Library will be situated in the town centre on Main Street and also the cultural and historical core of the county. The new library will cater to the needs of an increased and changing population providing increased public areas for cultural events, genealogy, local studies for all citizens and also visitors to the town and environs.

Bliain tionscnaimh a bhí in 2017 den phlean um Éire Ildánach. Bhain plean Laoise leas as go leor comhoibrithe lenar áiríodh lá Chruinniú na Cásca ag Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc, an coimisiún ceoil le Ian Wilson lena ndearnadh téama an phailnithe a fhiosrú, Coimisiún Ghlúin Cheoil Laoise do Cheolfhoireann na gCláirseach le Michael Rooney, cónaitheacht an Fhocail Labhartha le Stephen James Smith, tionscnamh scannáin *Walking Back to My Heart*, raon de chlárreagrú sna réimsí Eolaíochta, Teicneolaíochta, Innealtóireachta, Matamaitice agus Ealaíon arna gcur chun feidhme sna leabharlanna brainse agus an scéim deontais phobail a raibh roinnt tionscnamh ard-suntasach mar thoradh uirthi.

Tríd an Meitheal Cultúir dár gcuid i gComhairle Contae Laoise, lena léirítear saineolas sna healaíona agus i réimse na leabharlann, oidhreacht agus pobail, tá Comhairle Contae Laoise ag tnúth le bheith i gceannas ar Chlár Éire Ildánach 2018-2022 agus le rannpháirtíocht ann.

2017 was the inaugural year of the Creative Ireland plan. The Laois plan drew on many collaborations including Cruinniú na Cásca day at the Dunamais Arts Centre, the music commission by Ian Wilson which explored the theme of pollination, the Music Generation Laois Commission for Harp Orchestra by Michael Rooney, a Spoken Word residency led by Stephen James Smith, a film project *Walking Back to My Heart*, a range of programming in the Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths areas carried out in the branch libraries and the community grant scheme which yielded some highly significant projects.

Through our Culture Team in Laois County Council, representing expertise in the arts, library, heritage and community, Laois County Council looks forward to leading and engaging with the Creative Ireland Programme 2018-2022.

Pádraig Fleming

Cathaoirleach Laois County Council

John Mulholland

Chief Executive Laois County Council

Pádraig Fleming

Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Contae Laoise

John Mulholland

Príomhfheidhmeannach Chomhairle Contae Laoise

Caroline Conway, ag obair di le daoine óga ag an bhFleá Pailneoirí i bPáirc Phort Laoise le linn na Seachtaine Oidhreacht

Caroline Conway working with young people at the Pollinator Party in Portlaoise Park during Heritage Week



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chéad fhíric a d'fhoghlaim mé faoi Laois ná gurb é an t-aon chontae amháin in Éirinn a bhfuil contaetha ar gach taobh de nach dteagmhaíonn leis an bhfarraige. Shílfeá a shamhlú nach gcuirfí in iúl leis sin ach oileánachas agus iargúlacht mar thoradh ar theorainneacha, ach ba é m'eispéireas mar ealaíontóir Laoise, áfach, nach raibh ann ach cóngas gan teorainn. Le linn mo chuid ama anseo tugadh go leor cuirí dom chun páirt a ghlacadh agus teagmháil a dhéanamh i saol ealaíonta agus cultúrtha saibhir an limistéir. Ghlac mé le buíochas le deiseanna chun na nithe a leanas a dhéanamh: mo chuid pictiúr agus priontaí a thaispeáint; mo chuid saothar a bheith ar taispeántas go buan i Halla an Chontae; taispeántas 'Taisceadh Oscailte' a roghnú ag Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc; caint a dhéanamh ag 'Polaitíocht agus an Siompóisiam' i gcéad laethanta 'Phróiseas na Síochána' (agus – deacair a shamhlú anois – nuair a dhiúltaigh polaiteoir de thuairim áirithe amháin dul isteach san ionad go dtí go raibh polaiteoir de thuairim eile fágtha); bailiúchán draíochtach de dhéantáin a léiriú lena dtaispeánadh go soiléir tionchar duine de laochra is mó an chontae, James Fintan Lalor, maidir le himeachtaí Sheachtain na Cásca 1916; agus seasamh ar bhosca gallúnaí iarbhir agus labhairt le lucht éisteachta faoi mo chuid ábhar imní mar ealaíontóir na haimsire seo.

Ba é an buaicphointe domsa ná an coimisiún chun taispeántas de shaothair a léiriú lena soláthraíodh an lárphointe amhairc do Scoil James Fintan Lalor 2014 agus a chuaigh go dtí an Astráil dhá bhliain ina dhiaidh sin áit a ndearna mé ár gcontae a ionadú le bród ar an ardán domhanda i gClár Comóradh Céad Bliain 2016 Chultúr Éireann.

Ba bhlianta beoga agus sásúla mo chuid blianta mar ealaíontóir Laoise. Rinne ár nOifigh Ealaíon agus Oidhreacht sármhaithe

and engage with the rich artistic and cultural life of the area. I have gratefully embraced opportunities to: exhibit my paintings and prints; have my work on permanent display in County Hall; select an 'Open Submission' exhibition at the Dunamais Arts Centre; speak at the 'Politics and the Symposium' in the early days of the 'Peace Process' (when – hard to imagine now – a politician from one persuasion refused to enter the venue until another speaker from a different persuasion had left); curate a fascinating collection of artifacts inextricably demonstrating the influence of the county's greatest hero, James Fintan Lalor, on the events of Easter 1916; and stand on an actual soap-box and speak to an audience about my concerns as a contemporary artist. My highlight was a commission to produce an exhibition of work which provided the visual centre-point for the James Fintan Lalor School 2014 and which two years later travelled to Australia where I proudly represented our county on the world stage in the Culture Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme.

My years as a Laois artist have been colourful and rewarding. Most of these activities were initiated by our wonderful Arts and Heritage Officers – they were all generously and enthusiastically supported by them and involved collaboration across the community.

Currently I am working on two new exciting projects. In a mid-career re-focusing of my practice I have been observing the landscape through a lens. I am editing photographs I have taken at home and abroad over the last decade which explore the epic stillness in landscapes and certain cityscapes which seem frozen in time, immune to the dramatic and violent changes in the world around them. These images present a visual liberation from the endless torrent of chaos that invades our lives and I will be applying to show them publicly

an chuid is mó de na gníomhaíochtaí sin a thionscnamh – thug siad tacaíocht dóibh uile go léir le flaithiúlacht agus le díograis agus bhí comhoibriú ar fud an phobail i gceist leo.

Faoi láthair tá mé ag obair ar dhá thionscadal chorrathacha nua. I lár mo ghairmréime agus fócas á dhéanamh agam ar mo chleachtas, bhí mé ag breathnú ar an tírdhreach trí lionsa. Tá mé ag déanamh eagarthóireachta ar ghrianghraif a bhí glactha agam sa bhaile agus thar lear thar na deich mbliana seo caite lena ndéantar mórchiúnas sna tírdhreacha agus i ndreacha cathracha áirithe a fhiosrú agus an cuma orthu go bhfuil siad reoite in am, agus iad imdhíonach do na hathruithe drámata agus foréigneacha sa domhan timpeall orthu. Léirítear leis na híomhánna sin saoradh amhairc ón gcaise anoir gan deireadh a bhriseann isteach ar ár saolta agus déanfaidh mé iarratas iad a thaispeáint go poiblí go luath amach anseo. Baineann an tionscadal eile le taispeántas draíochtach d'earraí bunaidh a léiriú lena ndéantar ceiliúradh den éacht ré-shainitheach de chuid Colonel James Fitzmaurice, ar spreagadh é trína luathbhlianta i bPort Laoise chun bheith ina chomhphíolóta ar an gcéad eitilt thrasatlantach soir-siar.

Spreagtha ag fisithe a bhfuil clú an domhain orthu a raibh mothúcháin láidre acu do Laois mar 'Braistint Áite', amhail Lalor a dhiúltaigh le bheith slabhrathach agus Fitzmaurice a dhiúltaigh le bheith talmhaithe; cúpláilte le cur chun feidhme Straitéis an Chontae um Chultúr agus Cruthaitheacht 2018-2022, 'níl aon teorainn ar ealaín' d'ealaíontóir Laoise.

Brendon Deacy

soon. The other project involves the curation of a spell-binding exhibition of original items which celebrate the era-defining achievement of Colonel James Fitzmaurice, whose formative years in Portlaoise lit the flame which eventually motivated him to co-pilot the first ever east-to-west trans-Atlantic flight.

Inspired by world-renowned visionaries who had strong feelings for Laois as 'A Sense of Place', like Lalor who refused to be fettered and Fitzpatrick who refused to be grounded; coupled with the implementation of the County Culture and Creative Strategy 2018 - 2022, 'art has no boundaries' for a Laois artist.

Brendon Deacy

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Bealach na scríbhneoireachta

Nuair a bhí mé ag fás suas i Laois bhí baint agam i gcónaí leis na healaíona, go príomha trí Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc. Chonaic mé níos mó léiriúchán amharclainne, scannán agus taispeántas ansin ná mar is féidir liom a chomhaireamh (agus creid nó ná creid, d'fhéach mé!), bhí mé thuas ar an ardán mé féin, agus le blianta beaga anuas d'oibrigh mé ansin san fháilteachas. Thar na blianta bhí mé gnóthach i mbeagnach gach ról féideartha san ionad; mar thaibheoir, ball foirne, ball an lucht féachana, óltóir caife, brabhsálaí na seilfeanna leabhar, rannpháirtí i gceardlanna, agus gnáthóir amharclainne.

In éineacht leis sin, bhí mé i mo bhall d'Amharclann Óige Laoise le haghaidh cúig bliana, agus trí sin bhí seans agam páirt a ghlacadh i gceardlanna seachtainiúla, chomh maith leis an deis le bheith rannpháirteach i roinnt clár le hAmharclann Óige na hÉireann, líonra náisiúnta na n-amharclann óige, agus tá baint agam fós leo inniu. Cinnte, bhí ról mór ag m'eispéireas le hAmharclann Óige maidir leis an áit ina bhfuil mé inniu; agus mise ag scríobh seo, i roinnt bheag seachtainí críochnóidh mé céim sa Drámaíocht agus Béarla ag Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath, agus bhí mé ag obair mar léirmheastóir agus cleachtóir le blianta beaga anuas. Tá mé ag tnúth le féachaint an méid a thagann an Plean Éire Ildánach chuig pobal ealaíon Laoise atá beoga cheana féin.

Labhair mé agus scríobh mé ar roinnt ócáidí faoi thábhacht na rannpháirtíochta sna healaíona do chách agus faoi thábhacht na rochtana orthu do chách freisin, agus tá súil agam go méadófar leibhéil na rannpháirtíochta agus na rochtana do phobal ealaíon Laoise trí phlean Éire Ildánach. Murach é go raibh rochtain agam ar Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc

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Write path

Growing up in Laois I was always involved in the arts, predominantly through the Dunamase Arts Centre. I have seen more theatre productions, films and exhibitions there than I can count (believe me, I've tried!), have been known to tread the boards myself, and for the past number of years have worked there in front of house. Over the years I've occupied just about every possible spot in the venue; as performer, staff member, audience member, coffee-drinker, bookshelf browser, workshop enjoyer, and overall theatre lover. Alongside this, I was a member of Laois Youth Theatre for five years, through which I got to take part in weekly workshops and yearly productions, as well as getting the opportunity to get involved with a number of programmes with Youth Theatre Ireland, the national network of Youth Theatres, who I am still involved with today. My experience of Youth Theatre certainly played a large part in bringing me to where I am today; as I write this, I am just a few short weeks away from finishing a degree in Drama and English at Trinity College Dublin, and have been working as a theatre critic and practitioner for the past few years. I'm excited to see what the Creative Ireland Plan brings to Laois' already vibrant arts community. I have spoken and written on several occasions about the importance of participation in and access to the arts for everyone, and I hope that the Creative Ireland plan will bring even greater levels of that to the arts community in Laois. Had I not had ready access to the Dunamase Arts Centre and Laois Youth Theatre, I may not have made the leap to decide to study theatre in university and would probably be poring over notes for a physics exam right now (which would be no bad thing, but is certainly not my current vocation!). The Creative Ireland values

agus ar Amharclann Óige Laoise, tá seans ann nár spreagadh mise an cinneadh a dhéanamh staidéar a dhéanamh ar amharclannaíocht san ollscoil agus seans níos mó ann go mbeinn ag scrúdú nótaí do scrúdú fisice faoin am seo (rud nach mbeadh ró-olc, ach ní hé sin mo ghairm reatha!). Bhí luachanna Éire Ildánach de chomhoibriú, pobal, cumarsáid, rannpháirtíocht, uileghabhálacht agus cumhachtú an-tábhachtach dom i gcónaí i m'eispéireas agus i mo chleachtas araon sna healaíona, agus tá mé ag tnúth le féachaint conas a fhabhraítear iad anseo i Laois.

Saoirse Anton

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M'eispéireas ceoil

Nuair a bhí mé ag smaoineamh faoin ábhar chun staidéar a dhéanamh air sa choláiste, tugadh comhairle dom chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar an rud is paisean domsa – agus ba chinneadh éasca é sin dom. Is é an ceol mo phaisean, agus ó bhog mé go Laois ó Loch Garman in 2010 cothaíodh agus forbraíodh an paisean sin trí m'eispéireas anseo.

Tá an ceol traidisiúnta láidir i Laois – rinneadh forbairt le blianta anuas ar an obair a rinne na seacht mbrainse de Chomhaltas chun ceol traidisiúnta a chur chun cinn trí Ghlúin Cheoil Laoise, chuig an bpointe go bhfuil aird á tarraingt ar Laois ó fud fad na tíre mar gheall ar cháiliúocht na gceoltóirí óga atá á bhforbairt. Bhí baint agamsa féin le Comhaltas Spink agus le Music Generation Laoise. Tá an-ghné an phobail ag baint le Spink, agus béim láidir ar ghné shóisialta an cheoil chomh maith leis na fréamhacha traidisiúnta a bhaineann leis, agus trí Ghlúin Cheoil cuireadh mé i dteagmháil le raon de cheoltóirí gairmiúla agus le smaoineachas nuálach maidir le conas an ceol a chur i láthair.

of collaboration, community, communication, participation, inclusivity and empowerment have always been very important to me in both my experience and practice in the arts, and I look forward to seeing how they evolve here in Laois.

Saoirse Anton

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My Music Experience

When I was thinking about what to study in college, I was advised to do what I am passionate about - for me this was a simple decision. I'm passionate about music, and my experience in Laois since I moved here in 2010 from Wexford has nurtured and developed this passion.

Traditional Irish music in Laois is strong - the work that the seven Comhaltas branches have done in promoting traditional music has been built upon in recent years with Music Generation Laois, to the point that Laois is now attracting attention nationally for the quality of young musicians being developed. I myself have been involved with Spink Comhaltas and Music Generation Laois. There is a real community element to Spink, with a strong emphasis on the social aspect of music as well as its traditional roots, while Music Generation has introduced me to a range of professional musicians and innovative thinking in looking at how to present music.

Classical Music is also strong in Laois, and for this we have the Laois School of Music to thank. It provides tuition for a wide range of instruments. I studied piano with Tatyana Vykhodtseva there, who is an inspiring teacher. For a short time, I was also involved in the Laois School of Music Orchestra and the importance of this orchestra in the county can't be overstated - it is orchestras such as these that

Tá an ceol clasaiceach láidir i Laois freisin, a bhuí le Ceolscoil Laoise as sin. Cuireann sí teagasc ar fáil maidir le raon leathan d'uirlisí. Rinne mé staidéar ar an bpianó le Tatyana Vykhodseva ansin, duine atá ina múinteoir spreagthach. Le tamall gairid, bhí mé rannpháirteach i gCeolfhoireann Cheoilscoil Laoise agus ní féidir róbhéim a chur ar thábhacht na ceolfhoirne sin sa chontae – trí cheolfhoirne mar sin tugtar deis do cheoltóirí óga répertoire ceolfhoirne a fhiosrú agus déantar iad a ullmhú le haghaidh ceolfhoirne náisiúnta amhail Ceolfhoireann Náisiúnta Óige na hÉireann agus Ceolfhoireann Shiansach Náisiúnta RTÉ.

Is ionann an ceol agus níos mó ná ionstraim a fhoghlaim – is ionann é agus taibhiú go poiblí agus taitneamh a bhaint as sin – beag beann ar cé chomh maith agus atá an caighdeán atá agat. Tá aithne agam ar dhaoine fásta a bhfuil staidéar déanta acu ar gach grád den phianó, ach nach bhfuil taibhiú déanta acu ach roimh scrúdaitheoir, agus ansin stad siad nuair a chríochnaigh siad an grád deireanach sin. Bhí an t-ádh dearg orm gur tugadh an deis dom de thoradh ar m'eispéireas agus na tionchair thar ghrúpaí uile an cheoil i Laois chun uirlisí iolracha a fhoghlaim, chun taisteal ar fud na hÉireann, na RA agus na Gearmáine ag seinm ceoil, an ceol a scríobh agus a chóiriú, seinm i m'aonair agus mar chuid de ghrúpaí agus de cheolfhoirne iomlána, teagmháil a dhéanamh le raon de dhaoine agus de pheirspictíochtaí suimiúla agus éagsúla, agus chun léargas a fháil ar chultúr agus ar stair an cheoil. Go tábhachtach, rinne mé cairdeas lena lán daoine nua.

give young musicians an opportunity to explore orchestral repertoire and prepares them for national orchestras such as the National Youth Orchestra and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra.

Music is more than learning an instrument - it is performing in public and enjoying it - regardless of how good your standard is. I know adults who have studied all the piano grades, but only ever performed for an examiner, and then stopped when they completed the last grade. I have been very fortunate that my experience and influences across all the music groups in Laois has opened up the opportunity for me to learn multiple instruments, travel across Ireland, the UK and Germany playing music, write and arrange music, play solo and as part of groups and full orchestras, get introduced to a range of interesting and different people and perspectives, and to get some insight into the culture and history that is associated with music. More importantly, I have made a lot of friends.

I believe that music is incredibly important to society - for people's mental health, as a pastime for our young people and to preserve our traditional culture. It also develops life skills such as self-confidence, teamwork, innovation, and entire new opportunities to explore performance and creativity. Not everyone will go on to study music, but everyone has music in them. I am grateful for my experience in Laois to date, and how it has helped to develop the music in me.

David Vesey, Abbeylax, Co. Laois

Creidim go bhfuil an ceol an-tábhachtach don tsochaí – do mheabhairshláinte daoine, mar chaitheamh aimsire dár ndaoine óga agus d'fhonn ár gcultúr traidisiúnta a chaomhnú. Forbraíonn sé scileanna don saol amhail féinmhuinín, obair bhuíne, nuáil agus deiseanna nua iomlána chun taibhiú agus cruthaitheacht a fhiosrú. Ní rachaidh gach duine ar aghaidh chun staidéar a dhéanamh ar cheol, ach tá an ceol i ngach duine. Tá mé buíoch as m'eispéireas i Laois chuige seo, agus as an dóigh a gcuidigh sé liom an ceol atá ionam a fhorbairt.

David Vesey, Abbeylax, Co. Laois

Teach Chúirt Ioma agus a Gairdíní grianghraf le K Photography le caoinchead ó Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Emo Court House and Gardens
photo by K Photography by kind permission of the OPW



An tInneall (The Engine)

le Pat Boran

(Aistriúchán ón mBéarla)

Le heochair cheatharthaobhach alúmanaim
agus lámh amháin teanntaithe timpeall ar na
rothaí
chun iad a choinneáil socair, m'anáil á coinneáil
istigh
agus casaim inneall na traenach bige léithe.

Tá mé cúig nó sé bliana d'aois agus casaim
le haghaidh dhioscán bog an lingéin,
le haghaidh tharraingt na gceithre roth bheaga seo
amhail cuisle croí neach bheo.

Níos déanaí nuair a snoím m'ainm in adhmaid
nó níos déanaí fós nuair a múchaim toitíní
is é an ghluaisne chéanna a bheidh ann, ach anois
casaim le bheith anseo, i m'aonair liom féin,

agus leis an gcasadh deiridh, an casadh
incheadaithe is féidir
chun an phing fhoirfe aonair a scaoileadh
agus chun amharc ansin mar a théann an traein
amach leis an nuacht,
rud i bhfad uaim, rud ag canadh.

(ó 'A Man Is Only As Good': A Pocket Selected
Poems, Orange Crate Books, 2017)

Rugadh Pat Boran i bPort Laoise i 1963. Tá
níos mó ná dosaen leabhar filíochta agus próis
foilsithe aige, agus 'A Man Is Only As Good': A
Pocket Selected Poems (2017) san áireamh leo.
Tá sé ina chomhalta de Aosdána.

The Engine

by Pat Boran

With a four-sided aluminium key
and one hand clamped around the wheels
to hold them still, I hold my breath
and wind the engine of the small grey train.

I am five or six years old and I wind
for the soft creaking of the spring,
for the pull of these four small wheels
like the heart-throb of some living thing.

Later when I carve my name in wood
or later again stub out cigarettes
it will be with this same motion, but for now
I wind to be here, beside myself,

and with the last possible, last permissible turn
to release the perfect single ping
then watch as the engine heads out with the news,
a thing beyond me, a thing singing.

(from 'A Man Is Only As Good': A Pocket
Selected Poems, Orange Crate Books, 2017)

Pat Boran was born in Portlaoise in 1963. He has
published more than a dozen books of poetry
and prose, including A Man Is Only As Good: A
Pocket Selected Poems (2017). He is a member
of Aosdána.



Éirí na gréine
ag Dún Másc
(grianghraf le Ray Harte)
Sunrise at the Rock
of Dunamaise
(photo by Ray Harte)

3

Fís Éire Ildánach Do Chontae Laoise The Creative Ireland Vision for County Laois

IS IONANN FÍS Éire Ildánach agus go mbeidh an deis ag gach duine atá ina chónaí in Éirinn a poitéinseal/phoitéinseal féin a réadú go hiomlán. Coinnítear leis an bhfís trí Chúig Cholún Chlár Éire Ildánach:

Colún 1

Scód a ligean le Cumas na Cruthaitheachta i ngach Leanbh

Colún 2

Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal

Colún 3

Infheistíocht in Infreasturctúr na Cruthaitheachta agus an Chultúir

Colún 4

Na Tionscail Chruthaitheacha: Éire mar Lárionad Barr Feabhais maidir le Léiriúchán na Meán Cruthaitheachtaí

Colún 5

Clú na hÉireann ar fud an Domhain a thabhairt le chéile

Soláthróidh Comhairle Contae Laoise na nithe faoi Cholún 2 den Chlár: Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal.

Tugann an Rialtas aitheantas agus tacaíocht do ról na nÚdarás Áitiúil maidir le soláthar an chlár ar leibhéal áitiúil.

Tá oifig chomhordaithe náisiúnta an chlár suite laistigh den Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta i mBaile Átha Cliath.

An Fhís do Éire Ildánach i Laois
Contae ina n-aithnítear cultúr agus cruthaitheacht mar chuid dhílis den saol

THE VISION OF Creative Ireland is that every person living in Ireland will have the opportunity to fully realise his or her creative potential. The vision is pursued through the Five-Pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme:

Pillar 1

Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Pillar 2

Enabling Creativity in Every Community

Pillar 3

Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure

Pillar 4

The Creative Industries: Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production

Pillar 5

Unifying our Global Reputation

Laois County Council will deliver under **Pillar 2** of the Programme: Enabling Creativity in Every Community.

The role of Local Authorities in the delivery of the programme at local level is acknowledged and supported by Government.

The national co-ordinating office for the programme is located within the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Dublin.

The Vision for Creative Ireland in Laois
A county where culture and creativity are recognised as integral to life

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Luachanna Éire Ildánach i gContae Laoise The Creative Ireland Values in County Laois

LÉIRÍTEAR LUACHANNA ÉIRE Ildánach de Chomhoibriú, Cumarsáid, Pobal, Rannpháirtíocht, Ulleghabhálacht agus Cumhachtú i dtosaíochtaí straitéiseacha Straitéis um Chultúr agus Cruthaitheacht Chontae Laoise.

Tríd an gclár sin déanfar timpeallacht atá fabhrach do chomhoibriú, do nuáil agus do chruthaitheacht do phobal Laoise a chothú.

THE CREATIVE IRELAND values of Collaboration, Communication, Community, Participation, Inclusivity and Empowerment are reflected in the strategic priorities of the County Laois Culture and Creativity Strategy.

Through this programme an environment conducive to collaboration, innovation and creativity for community of Laois will be fostered.



"An scoil thart don Samhradh" le Giniúint Ceoil Laoise ag an Heritage Hotel, Coill an Aird
Music Generation Laois "Schools out for Summer" at the Heritage Hotel, Killenard

5

Na Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha do Chontae Laoise

The Strategic Priorities for County Laois

ROGHNAÍODH BRAISTINT ÁITE mar théama foriomlán, agus pobal, cruthaitheacht agus folláine á bhforbairt. Déanfar na téamaí agus na tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha a threorú leis sin le haghaidh na cúig bliana le teacht.

Cuspóir

Timpeallacht a chothú atá fabhrach do chomhoibriú, do nuáil agus do chruthaitheacht, ionas gur féidir le pobal Laoise a phoitéinseal cruthaitheach iomlán a réadú.

Sprioc

Go mbeidh Laois ina ceannaire maidir le saol cultúrtha na hÉireann.

Fís

Contae ina n-aithnítear cultúr agus cruthaitheacht mar chuid dhílis den saol

Cuspóirí / Luachanna

- Dícheall a dhéanamh le haghaidh barr feabhais i réimsí cultúrtha agus cruthaitheachta uile
- Muinín Laoise a fhorbairt chun bheith ina ceannaire sa réimse cultúrtha
- Cruthaitheacht a úsáid chun cáilíocht na beatha a fheabhsú i Laois
- Cultúr an chomhoibrithe a leabú laistigh den údarás áitiúil agus den phobal i gcoitinne

Comhairliúchán Poiblí

Rinneadh Luachanna Éire Ildánach Laoise a threorú trí Chomhairliúchán Poiblí. Chuathas i gcomhairle i mí Aibreáin 2017 i bhfoirm cruinniú fócais poiblí san Óstán Killeshin, Port Laoise, nuair a bhí 80 ball den phobal i láthair.

Shocraigh an PPN (Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí) cruinniú comhairliúcháin phoiblí an 17 Eanáir 2018 san Óstán Killeshin, Port Laoise.

A SENSE OF PLACE, has been chosen as an over-arching theme, developing community, creativity and well-being. This will inform the themes and strategic priorities for the next five years.

Purpose

To foster an environment conducive to collaboration, innovation and creativity, so that the people of Laois can realise their full creative potential.

Goal

That Laois is the leader in the cultural life of Ireland.

Vision

A county where culture and creativity are recognised as integral to life.

Objectives / Values

- To strive for excellence in all areas of cultural and creativity
- To build the confidence of Laois to take its place as a leader in the cultural arena
- To use creativity to improve quality of life in Laois
- To embed a culture of collaboration within the local authority and the wider community

Public Consultation

The Creative Ireland Laois values have been informed through Public Consultation. Consultation took place in April 2017 in the form of a public focus meeting in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, on 3rd April attended by 80 members of the public.

On January 17th 2018 a public consultation meeting was arranged by the PPN in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. Opinions received

Rinneadh na tuairimí a fuarthas ag an gcruinniú a chumas leis na tuairimí a glacadh i suirbhé ar líne, agus le léirithe spéise i scríbhinn a fuarthas freisin. Bhí 80 daoine i láthair ag an imeacht.

Téamaí Tosaíochta Straitéisí

Téama A hAON

Poitéinseal Cruthaitheach gach Linbh & Duine Óig a Chumasú

Cuspóir – Chun an deis a thabhairt do gach leanbh agus duine óg i gContae Laoise a bpoitéinseal cruthaitheach a fhorbairt go hiomlán

Príomhspríocanna

- Rannpháirtíocht iomlán in Music Generation Laoise, Ceolscoil Laoise, Amharclann Óige Laoise agus Ensemble Damhsa Laoise
- Rannpháirtíocht iomlán do scoileanna uile sna cláir reatha amháil an tionscnamh Scoileanna Cruthaitheacha, Ealaíontóirí i Scoileanna agus Oidhreacht i Scoileanna.
- Oideachas agus for-rochtain a fhorbairt a thuilleadh ag Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc, Teach Ealaíne Laoise agus ag leabharlanna an chontae.

Téama A DÓ

Cruthaitheacht a Chumasú i ngach Pobal

Cuspóir – Pobail a chumhachtú chun cruthaitheacht, folláine agus braistint áite a chothú

Príomhspríocanna

- Cláir a fhorbairt agus a thacú d'fhonn muinín a fhorbairt agus cáilíocht na beatha a mhéadú trí rannpháirtíocht chruthaitheach le braistint áite

at the meeting were merged with the opinions expressed in an online survey, as well as written expressions of interest received. 80 people attended the event.

Strategic Priority Themes

Theme ONE

Enabling the Creative Potential of every Child & Young Person

Objective – To give every child and young person in County Laois the opportunity to fully develop their creative potential

Key Goals

- Full participation in Music Generation Laois, Laois School of Music, Laois Youth Theatre and Laois Dance Ensemble.
- Full participation for all schools in existing programmes such as Creative Schools initiative, Artists in Schools and Heritage in Schools.
- Further development of education and outreach at the Dunamais Arts Centre, Laois Arthouse and libraries of the county.

Theme TWO

Enabling Creativity in every Community

Objective – Empower communities to foster creativity, well-being and sense of place

Key Goals

- Develop and support programmes to build confidence and increase quality of life through creative engagement with sense of place.
- Support internationally recognised projects which will nurture pride in sense of place in the county, through showcasing at international level. Examples include

- Tacaíocht a thabhairt do thionscadail a bhfuil aitheantas domhanda orthu lena ndéanfar mórtas a chothú i mbraistint áite sa chontae, trí shárthaispeántais ar leibhéal idirnáisiúnta. San áireamh le samplaí tá “Freemarket” ag Biennale na Veinése 2018 agus an ceiliúradh sa Ghearmáin den chéad eilt thrasatlantach ón Eoraip go dtí Meiriceá Thuaidh.
- Tionscadail phobail atá ann a thacú agus a fhorbairt (m.sh. Portach Mhainistir Laoise, Féile Coigealach Dharú, Féile Siúlóidí Laoise, Féile Scéalaíochta Shléibhte Bladhma, ‘YarnBombing’ Mhóinteach Mílíc, Rianta ‘High Nelly’, caomhnú Dhún an Chosantóra, tionscadail scannán neamhspleách áitiúla).
- Cónaitheachtaí a fhorbairt le fócas ar ‘Pobal’ agus ‘Braistint Áite’ i limistéir áirithe ar fud an chontae.

Téama A TRÍ Infheistíocht inár mBonneagar Cruthaitheach

Cuspóir – Tús áite a thabhairt d’fhorbairt an bhonneagair chultúrtha thógtha agus ag an am céanna forbairt atá ann á léarscáiliú, á chaomhnú agus á fheabhsú

Príomhspricanna

- Léarscáil a fhorbairt de bhonneagar cultúrtha uile Laoise, agus clár a chur i bhfeidhm chun an bonneagar seo a chaomhnú, a fhorbairt agus a fheabhsú.
- Obair a dhéanamh i dtreo an bonneagar a fheabhsú do na taibh-ealaíona don óige agus do dhaoine óga i Laois (Ceolscoil Laoise, Music Generation agus Amharclann Óige Laoise).
- Stocaireacht a dhéanamh le haghaidh maoiniú inbhuanaithe d’úinéirí na hoidhreacht tógtha agus cultúrtha.

“Freemarket” at the Venice Biennale 2018 and celebration in Germany of the first transatlantic flight from Europe to North America.

- Support and build on existing community projects (e.g. Abbeyleix Bog, Durrow Scarecrow Festival, Laois Walks Festival, Slieve Blooms Storytelling Festival, Mountmellick YarnBombing, High Nelly Trails, Fort Protector conservation, local independent film projects).
- Develop residencies focusing on ‘Community’ and ‘Sense of Place’ in particular areas around the county.

Theme THREE Investing in our Creative and Infrastructure

Objective – Prioritise the development of built cultural infrastructure whilst mapping, conserving and enhancing existing development

Key Goals

- Develop a map of all cultural infrastructure of Laois, and put in place programmes to conserve, develop and enhance this infrastructure.
- Work towards enhancing the infrastructure for youth and young people’s performing arts in Laois (Laois School of Music, Music Generation and Laois Youth Theatre).
- Advocate for sustainable funding for owners of built and cultural heritage.

Téama A CEATHAIR Laois mar Ionad Barr Feabhais i Léiriú Meán

Cuspóir – Laois a chur chun cinn mar ionad do scannánaíocht agus do léiriú meán eile

Príomhspricanna

- “Film Laois” a bhunú, tairseach chun scannánaíocht a chur chun cinn i Laois agus Laois a chur chun cinn mar láthair agus ceann scríbe scannánaíochta. Tá tírdhreach álainn agus éagsúil i Laois agus tá sé oscailte le haghaidh gnó do chuideachtaí scannánaíochta náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.
- Láithreán gréasáin a fhorbairt chun Laois a thaispeáint mar láthair do scannáin; scannánóirí a éascú atá ar lorg láithreacha agus saineolais eile.
- Obair a dhéanamh le scannánóirí atá lonnaithe i Laois cheana féin d’fhonn tionscadail chomhoibritheacha a fhorbairt chun an contae a chur chun cinn.

Téama A CÚIG – Muinín Laoise a fhorbairt chun bheith ina Ceannaire sa Saol Cultúrtha

Cuspóir – Clú Laoise mar cheannaire cultúrtha a chur chun cinn, in Éirinn agus thar lear araon

Príomhspricanna

- Ceiliúradh ealaíontóirí idirnáisiúnta le naisc le Laois a chur chun cinn m.sh. Francis Bacon, Cecil Day-Lewis.
- Tacaíocht a thabhairt d’fhonn cónaitheachtaí idirnáisiúnta a fhorbairt le healaíontóirí comhaimseartha.
- Tacaíocht a thabhairt chun cruthaitheacht Laoise a chur chun cinn thar lear.
- Glac le cuspóirí Bhliain Eorpach na hOidhreacht Cultúrtha agus le tionscnaimh idirnáisiúnta ghaolmhara

Theme FOUR Laois as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production

Objective – Promote Laois as a venue for film and other media production

Key Goals

- Establish “Film Laois”, a portal to promote film in Laois and Laois as a film location and destination. County Laois has a stunning and varied landscape and is open for business for film companies nationally and internationally.
- Develop website to showcase Laois as a location for films; facilitate filmmakers looking for locations and other expertise.
- Work with existing Laois-based filmmakers to develop co-operative projects to promote the county.

Theme FIVE Building the Confidence of Laois to take its Place as a Leader in Cultural Life

Objective – Drive the reputation of Laois as a cultural leader, both within Ireland and overseas

Key Goals

- Drive the celebration of international artists with Laois connections e.g., Francis Bacon, Cecil Day-Lewis.
- Support the development of international residencies with contemporary artists.
- Support the promotion of Laois creativity abroad.
- Embrace the objectives of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and related international initiatives.
- Celebrate and commemorate important Laois people and events e.g., Col James Fitzmaurice, James Dargan, Bartholomew Mosse, Helen M. Roe, James Fintan Lalor.

- Daoine agus imeachtaí tábhachtacha Laoise a cheiliúradh agus a chomóradh m.sh. An Cor. James Fitzmaurice, James Dargan, Bartholomew Mosse, Helen M. Roe, James Fintan Lalor.

Téama A SÉ Oidhreacht Chontae Laoise a Cheiliúradh agus a Chothú

Cuspóir – Feasacht agus léirtheiscint a chur chun cinn ar stair, oidhreacht, cultúr, agus timpeallacht nádúrtha agus thógtha an chontae atá saibhir lena n-áirítear ár dteanga agus ár gceol agus damhsa traidisiúnta

Príomhspríocanna

- Oidhreacht thógtha, nádúrtha agus chultúrtha an chontae a chur chun cinn agus a fhorbairt.
- Tionscadail a fhorbairt lena ndéantar ár n-oidhreacht a fhiosrú agus a cheiliúradh trí obair chomhoibritheach le healaíontóirí ó gach disciplín
- Clár um Chartlann Dhigiteach a chruthú de phíosáí agus de thaifid oidhreacht trínár Seirbhís Leabharlann.
- Tacaíocht a thabhairt chun an grá don Ghaeilge agus úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn i ngach glúin.
- Úsáid a bhaint as rannpháirtíocht i dtionscnaimh amhail Oíche Chultúrtha, Seachtain na hOidhreacht chun mórtas a fhorbairt i gcultúr agus in oidhreacht an chontae ó cheann ceann na bliana.
- Tacaíocht a thabhairt don ghrá do cheol traidisiúnta, damhsa agus ceardaíocht na hÉireann agus do léirtheiscint orthu

Theme SIX Celebrating and Cherishing the Heritage of County Laois

Objective – Promote awareness and appreciation of the county's rich history, heritage, culture, natural and built environment including our language and traditional music and dance

Key Goals

- Promote and develop the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county.
- Develop projects that investigate and celebrate our heritage through working collaboratively with artists of all disciplines.
- Create a Digital Archive Programme of heritage pieces and records through our Library Service.
- Support the promotion of a love for and use of the Irish language across all generations.
- Use participation in initiatives such as Culture Night, Heritage Week to develop pride in the culture and heritage of the county all year round.
- Support love and appreciation of the traditional music, dance and crafts of Ireland.

Mo Lusanna Míonla (Forget-me-nots) le Ann Egan (Aistriúchán ón mBéarla)

An bhfeiceann tú na lusanna míonla sin
ag fás gar don chloch ghlanta,
díreach taobh amuigh dem' dhoras.

Bhuel, fanann na bláthanna sin
nuair a imíonn gach rud eile,
ciorcal bachelóg thart ar a lorgaí,

súile buí fillte i ngorm,
seans nach n-osclófar iad,
ach fásann siad fós ansin.

Bláthaíonn na cinn ar barr,
duilleoga chomh géar le sleánna
chun tabhairt faoi lá eile.

Chomh tréan le harm,
le guairí araíonachta,
ní thitfidh siad as a chéile,

tá siad nasctha le cloch.
Fiú míne poircealláin
na mbláthanna gorma sin,

is cumhacht a leochaileachta,
ní dhéanfar scealpa di.
Coimeádaithe m'fhairé

chomh iontaofa le conradh
scríofa i ndúch anama,
iadsan mórleabhar mo chuimhne,

Ceapann siad bristeacha mo shaoil,
tras-scríobhaithe chloch mo theallaigh,
buíonta lusanna míonla.

(ó Telling Time arna fhoilsiú ag
Bradshaw Books 2012)

My Forget-Me-Nots by Ann Egan

You see those forget-me-nots
growing by the cleaning stone,
just outside my doorway.

Well, those flowers stay
when all else is gone,
their stems circled in buds,

yellow eyes enfolded in blue,
they may never open,
still they grow there.

The top ones bloom,
leaves sharpen to spears
to tackle another day.

Sturdy as an army,
bristling with discipline,
they won't crumble,

they're bonded in stone.
Even the china delicacy
of those blue flowers,

so powerfully fragile,
won't be splintered.
Guardians of my watch,

as reliable as a treaty
written in soul's ink,
they're my memory ledger,

they stem my past's defeats,
transcribers of my hearthstone,
platoon of forget-me-nots.

(from Telling Time published
by Bradshaw Books 2012)

Rugadh Ann Egan i gCúlach, Cill Chaomháin, Contae Laoise i 1948. Tar éis gairme sa mhúinteoireacht, thiomnaigh sí í féin don scríbhneoireacht ar bhonn lánaimseartha. Foilsíodh go forleathan í, agus scríobh sí ceithre leabhar, chuir sí fiche leabhar in eagar, agus bhuaigh duais na Filíochta ag Seachtain Scríbhneoirí Lios Tuathail an oiread uair.

Ann Egan was born in Coolagh, Kilcavan, County Laois in 1948. After a career in teaching, she devoted herself to writing full time. Widely published, she has written four books, edited twenty books, and has won Listowel Writers' Week Poetry prize many times.



Scoil samhraidh Plein Air le Jock Nichol, ealaíontóir (grianghraf le Lisa Fingeleton)

Plein Air summer school with artist Jock Nichol
Photo by Lisa Fingeleton

6

Aguisíní Appendices

Aguisín I Foireann Éire Ildánach i Laois

Próifílí bhaill Fhoireann Chultúrtha an Chontae:

Donal Brennan, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí

Is Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí Donal i gComhairle Contae Laoise. San áireamh lena chuid freagrachtaí tá ról maoirseachta aige maidir le Seirbhísí Corparáideacha, Cultúr, Ealaíona, Spórt agus Seirbhísí Leabharlann i gContae Laoise.

Georgina Ireland, Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach Gníomhach, Pobal, Ealaíona & Spórt

D'oibrigh Georgina i réimse an Phobail agus an Chultúir ó 2009. Bhí ról dísle aici i bhforbairt roinnt struchtúr agus beartas i Laois, lena áiríodh Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí Laoise, Coiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Laoise agus Plean Eacnamaíoch agus Pobail Áitiúil Laoise 2016-2021.

Muireann Ní Chonaill,
Oifigeach Ealaíon & Comhordaitheoir Contae
Tá Muireann ina hOifigeach Ealaíon i gComhairle Contae Laoise ó 1991. Is céimí í i Riarachán na nEalaíon ó COBÁC agus sa chlár MA i gCleachtais na nAmharc-ealaíon ó IADT. Tá sí ina Comhordaitheoir Contae do Laois Ildánach.

Appendix I The Creative Ireland Team in Laois

Profiles of members of the County Culture Team:

Donal Brennan, Director of Service

Donal is Director of Services in Laois County Council. His responsibilities include an oversight role for Corporate Services, Culture, Arts, Sports and Library Services in County Laois.

Georgina Ireland, Acting Senior Executive Officer, Community, Arts & Sport

Georgina has worked in the Community and Culture area since 2009. She was an integral part of the development of a number of structures and policies in Laois, including Laois Public Participation Network, Laois Local Community Development Committee and the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021.

Muireann Ní Chonaill,
Arts Officer & County Coordinator
Muireann is Arts Officer in Laois County Council since 1991. She is a graduate of Arts Administration from UCD and the MA programme in Visual Arts Practices from IADT. She is the County Coordinator for Creative Laois.

Catherine Casey, Oifigeach Oidhreachta

Tá Catherine ina hOifigeach Oidhreachta do Laois ó 2003. Oibríonn sí le Fóram Oidhreachta Laoise, grúpa comhairliúcháin atá comhdhéanta de raon de ghníomhaireachtaí agus d'ionadaithe an phobail a bhfuil spéis acu in oidhreacht thógtha, nádúrtha agus chultúrtha an chontae, chun gníomhaíochtaí Phlean Oidhreachta Laoise a sholáthar. Tá obair idir lámha ag an bhfóram faoi láthair d'fhonn an tríú Plean Oidhreachta do Laois a sholáthar, le tacaíocht ón gComhairle Oidhreachta.

Bernie Foran, Leabharlannaí Contae Gníomhach

Is Leabharlannaí Contae Gníomhach í Bernie Foran i gComhairle Contae Laoise ó 2011 agus freagracht aici as seirbhísí leabharlann agus Cartlann a bhainistiú agus a fhorbairt. Rinne Bernie maoirseacht ar fhorbairt chaipitil na leabharlann brainse sa chontae, agus gníomhaíochtaí “Deiseanna do Chách”, straitéis um leabharlanna poiblí na hÉireann 2013-2017, á gcur chun feidhme aici.

Rosa Flannery, Comhordaitheoir, Music Generation Laoise

Ceapadh Rosa Flannery ina Comhordaitheoir ar Ghluin Cheoil Laoise in 2012. As Contae Dhún na nGall ó dhúchas, is céimí Rosa den MA i mBeartas agus Cleachtas Ealaíon in OÉ, Gaillimh. Áirítear le ról roimhe seo obair le Comhpháirtíocht Oideachais Ceoil Dhún na nGall, Compántas Amharclannaíochta Nomad, Féile Tulca na nAmharc-ealaíon, Ionad Ealaíon an Droichid agus Féile Ealaíon na Gaillimhe.

Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer

Catherine has been Heritage Officer for Laois since 2003. She works with the Laois Heritage Forum, a consultative group made up of a range of agencies and community representatives with an interest in the built, natural and cultural heritage of the county, to deliver the actions of the Laois Heritage Plan. The Forum is currently working to deliver the third Heritage Plan for Laois, with the support of the Heritage Council.

Bernie Foran, Acting County Librarian

Bernie Foran is Acting County Librarian in Laois County Council since 2011 with responsibility for the management and development of library services and Archives. Bernie has overseen the capital development of branch libraries in the county, implementing the actions of “Opportunities for All”, the public library strategy of Ireland 2013-2017 in County Laois.

Rosa Flannery, Coordinator, Music Generation Laois

Rosa Flannery was appointed Co-ordinator of Music Generation Laois in 2012. A native of Co. Donegal, Rosa is a graduate of the MA in Arts Policy and Practice in NUI Galway. Previous roles include working with the Donegal Music Education Partnership, Nomad Theatre Company, Tulca Festival of Visual Arts, Droichead Arts Centre and Galway Arts Festival.

Bridie Keenan, Oifigeach Ealaíon Cúnta

D'oibrigh Bridie Keenan in Oifig Ealaíon Laoise ó 1999. Ceapadh í mar Oifigeach Ealaíon Cúnta in 2001, agus baineann a ról le cúnaimh a thabhairt chun clár ealaíon cuimsitheach agus éagsúil a sholáthar agus a fhorbairt sa chontae.

Patricia O'Rourke, Oifigeach Cléireachais agus Rúnaí Choiste Laois Ildánach

D'oibrigh Patricia roimhe seo mar Chomhairleoir Airgeadais Cáilithe le Cumann Foirgníochta Forleiththeadach na hÉireann, Permanent TSB, Comhar Creidmheasa Phort Laoise agus Banc na hÉireann. Chuaigh sí le Comhairle Contae Laoise in 2016 mar chuid d'fhoireann na hOifige Ealaíon.

Michelle de Forge, Stiúrthóir Ionad Ealaíon Dhún Másc

Ceapadh Michelle in 2012 agus tá sí freagrach as clár éagsúil, bliantúil de thaibh-ealaíona agus amharc-ealaíona lena ndéantar níos mó ná 25,000 daoine de gach aois a tharraingt in aghaidh na bliana. Trí chomhoibriú le healaíontóirí, coimeádaithe, compántais amharclannaíochta agus ceoltóirí áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta, léiríonn Dún Másc eispéiris lena bhfeabhsaítear an saol don lucht féachana/éisteachta i ngach foirm de na healaíona.

Bridie Keenan, Assistant Arts Officer

Bridie Keenan has worked in the Laois Arts Office since 1999. Appointed Assistant Arts Officer in 2001, her role is to assist in the delivery and development of a comprehensive and varied arts programme in the county.

Patricia O'Rourke, Clerical Officer and Creative Laois Committee Secretary

Patricia previously worked as Qualified Financial Advisor with Irish Nationwide Building Society, Permanent TSB, Portlaoise Credit Union and Bank of Ireland. She joined Laois County Council in 2016 as part of the Arts Office team.

Michelle de Forge Director of Dunamais Arts Centre

Appointed in 2012, Michelle is responsible for a year round, diverse programme of performing and visual arts which attracts over 25,000 people of all ages per annum. Collaborating with local, national and international artists, curators, theatre companies and musicians, Dunamais presents life-enhancing audience experiences in all art forms.

Buíochas le:

Déantar an straitéis a threorú ag Foireann Éire Ildánach Laoise de chuid Chomhairle Contae Laoise, comhairliúchán poiblí, fócasghrúpaí eanála agus pobail agus ag daoine aonair. Ár mbuíochas le gach duine a thug a chuid ama lena n-áirítear Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí Laoise a d'eagraigh an cruinniú poiblí in 2018.

Buíochas le hOifig Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach as treoir, tacaíocht agus stiúradh.

Ár mbuíochas le Brendon Deacy, Michael Parsons, Saoirse Anton agus David Vesey as a rannchuidiú. Buíochas le Pat Boran agus Ann Egan freisin as a gcuid filíochta.

Straitéis arna comhthiomsú ag Muireann Ní Chonaill, Oifigeach Ealaíon/Comhordaitheoir Éire Ildánach agus Catherine Casey, Oifigeach Oidhreacht.

Buíochas leis an mBainistíocht Shinsearach ag Comhairle Contae Laoise, agus le Coiste um Beartas Straitéiseach a dhéanann maoirseacht ar Phobal, Sóisialta, Oidhreacht Chultúrtha.

Thanks to:

The strategy is informed by Laois County Council's Creative Ireland Laois Team, public consultation, sector and community focus groups and individuals. Thanks to all who gave of their time including the Laois Public Partnership Network who arranged the 2018 public meeting.

Thanks to the National Creative Ireland Office for guidance, support and direction.

Thanks to Brendon Deacy, Michael Parsons, Saoirse Anton and David Vesey for their contributions. Thanks also to Pat Boran and Ann Egan for their poetry.

Strategy compiled by Muireann Ní Chonaill, Arts Officer/Creative Ireland Coordinator and Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer.

Thanks to the Senior Management at Laois County Council, and the Strategic Policy Committee overseeing Community, Social, Cultural Heritage.

Aguisín II Éire Ildánach Laoise: Cur Chun Feidhme in 2018

Seo a leanas na príomhthionscadail atá ar siúl maidir le hÉire Ildánach i Laois le haghaidh 2018:

Sparánachtaí Pobail

Cruthófar roinnt sparánachtaí chun pobail a éascú a mbraistint áite féin a fhiosrú trí na healaíona agus trí oidhreacht.

Bliain na Gaeilge

Déanfar sraith imeachtaí Gaeilge agus dátheangacha dírithe ar dhaoine óga agus ar dhaoine fásta a shocrú mar chuid de Bhliain na Gaeilge agus áireofar leo:

Tamagotchá as Gaeilge

Taibh-shuiteáil le Manchán Magan. Tugtar cuireadh do bhaill den phobal focal Gaeilge i mbaol a uchtú agus teacht chun bheith ina gcaomhnóirí i leith na Gaeilge. Casann na rannpháirtithe trí lúba de 30m de línéadach amh chun focal Gaeilge i mbaol a fháil ón ealaíontóir, agus glacann siad mar chúram orthu é a chothú agus bheith ina gcaomhnóirí air. Beidh sé seo ar siúl i spás poiblí i bPort Laoise.

Ceardlanna scríbhneoireachta

Déanfar ceardlanna scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí as Gaeilge a óstáil le linn cónaitheachta sa Chontae.

Tionscadal Amhránaíochta Traidisiúnta Laoise

Cónaitheacht amhránaíochta traidisiúnta Gaeilge, chun oibriú le hamhránaithe ó chlár Amhránaíochta Ghlúin Cheoil Laoise

Appendix II Creative Ireland Laois: Implementation in 2018

The key projects underway for Creative Ireland in Laois for 2018 are:

Community Bursaries

A number of bursaries will be created to facilitate communities in exploring their own local sense of place through the arts and heritage.

Bliain na Gaeilge

A series of Irish language and bilingual events targeting young people and adults will be arranged as part of Bliain na Gaeilge and will include:

Gaeilge Tamagotchá

A performance installation by Manchán Magan. Members of the public are invited to adopt an endangered Irish word and become a guardian of Gaeilge. Participants wind through a labyrinth of 30m of raw Irish linen to receive an endangered Irish word from the artist, which they agree to nurture, nourish and take guardianship of. This will take place in a public space in Portlaoise.

Ceardlann scríofa

Creative writing workshops in Irish will be hosted during a residency in the County.

Laois Traditional Singing Project

An Irish language traditional singing residency, to work with singers from the Music Generation Laois Singing

agus grúpaí pobail, agus forbairt á déanamh ar rath ár dtionscadail roimhe seo ‘Amhráin Gaeilge Foghlamtha Ar Scoil’ le John Spillane.

Tionscadal Elaíon Óige Shean-reilig Pheadair
Forbrófar tionscadal i gcomhpháirtíocht le meánscoil áitiúil chun múrphictiúr a dhearadh agus a shuiteáil ag Sean-reilig Pheadair i bPort Laoise, mar chuid de thionscadal seandálaíochta pobail ag an láithreán.

Tionscadal ealaíne d’Ionad Elaíona Dhún Másc & Teach Ealaíne Laoise
Clár cónaitheachta le haghaidh rannpháirtíocht áitiúil níos doimhne a fhorbairt le healaíontóirí trí thionscadail in Ionad Elaíon Dhún Másc agus i dTeach Ealaíne Laoise.

Music Generation Laoise
Coimisiún Nua
D’fhonn saothar il-ionstraime nua a chruthú le ceoltóirí óga ó chlár Scoileanna Music Generation Laoise.

Scoileanna saibhir le ceol
Leanfaidh Music Generation Laoise le scoileanna saibhir le ceol a fhorbairt i roinnt bunscoileanna ainmnithe i Laois agus an ardaidhm ann faoi 2020, go mbeadh deis ag gach leanbh sna scoileanna sin páirt a ghlacadh i gclár de chuid Ghlúin Cheoil Laoise.

Cruinniú na nÓg
Tionólfar imeacht ealaíon do theaghlaigh Dé Sathairn 23 Meitheamh i bPort Laoise i bpáirtíocht le Féile an tSeán-Dúin, d’fhonn Cruinniú na nÓg a cheiliúradh.

programme and community groups, building on the success of our previous ‘Irish Songs We Learned at School’ project with John Spillane.

Old St Peter’s Graveyard Youth Arts Project
A project will be developed in partnership with a local secondary school to design and install a mural at Old Saint Peter’s Graveyard in Portlaoise, as part of a community archaeological project at the site.

Art project for the Dunamais Arts Centre & Laois Arthouse
A residency programme for the development of deeper local engagement with artists through projects in the Dunamais and Laois Arthouse.

Music Generation Laois
New commission
To create a multi-instrumental new work with young musicians from the Music Generation Laois Schools programmes.

Music-rich schools
Music Generation Laois will continue to develop music-rich schools in a number of designated primary schools in Laois, with the aspiration that by 2020, every child in those schools will have had the opportunity to participate in a Music Generation Laois programme

Cruinniú na nÓg
A family arts event will be held on Saturday 23rd June in Portlaoise in conjunction with the Old Fort Festival, to celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg.

Bliain Eorpach na hOidhreacht Cultúrtha
Le haghaidh Bhliain Eorpach na hOidhreacht Cultúrtha, tá dhá thionscadal thrasnáisiúnta i gceist:

An Cor. Fitzmaurice & An Chéad Eitilt
Bhí an Coirnéal James Fitzmaurice ó Phort Laoise ina loingseoir ar an chéad eitilt eitleáin trasna an Atlantaigh ón Eoraip go Meiriceá Thuaidh, i 1928. Déanfar an t-imeacht agus an comóradh bliana a cheiliúradh i Laois le linn 2018, le sraith imeachtaí agus ceardlann, agus le taispeántas ag Ionad Elaíon Dhún Másc i nDeireadh Fómhair.

“Free Market” ag Biennale Ailtireachta na Veinése 2018
Déanfaidh foireann d’ailtirí Éireannacha cultúr na mbailte margaidh in Éirinn a fhiosrú agus a fhorbairt ag an mórhaispeántas idirnáisiúnta seo. Is é ceann de na bailte atá roghnaithe ná Móinteach Mílíc. Déanfar camchuart leis an taispeántas chuig na bailte is gnéithe an taispeántais agus Móinteach Mílíc san áireamh tar éis Biennale na Veinése.

European Year of Cultural Heritage
For the European Year of Cultural Heritage, there are two trans-national projects:

Col Fitzmaurice & First Flight
Portlaoise man Col James Fitzmaurice was navigator on the first plane flight across the Atlantic from Europe to North America, in 1928. The event and the anniversary will be celebrated in Laois throughout 2018, with a series of events and workshops, and an exhibition at the Dunamais Arts Centre in October.

“Free Market” at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018
A team of Irish architects will explore and develop the culture of Irish market towns at this major international exhibition. One of the towns selected is Mountmellick. The exhibition will tour to the featured towns including Mountmellick following the Venice Biennale.

Tionscadail Leabharlainne**Cartlann**

I gcartlann Chontae Laoise tá bailiúcháin de thaifid phoiblí agus phríobháideacha araon a bhaineann le Laois. Teastaíonn ardán ar líne anois uathu siúd d'fhonn rochtain leathan a chinntiú ar thaifid do thaighdeoirí agus do staraithe. Déanfaidh an tionscadal Cartlainne na bogearraí iomchuí a thaighde agus a chur i bhfeidhm le haghaidh cartlann dhigitithe Chontae Laoise a scanadh, a stóráil, a thaispeáint agus a aisghabháil.

Scribhneoir sa Phobal

Déanfaidh an tSeirbhís Leabharlann léitheoir/scribhneoir a ghabháil a bheadh in ann páistí agus déagóirí a chumasú scileanna scéalaíochta agus scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí a fhorbairt.

Cainteanna staire d'aosaigh

Beidh na cainteanna seo ar siúl i Leabharlann Phort Laoise chun Bliain Eorpach na hOidhreachta Cultúrtha a cheiliúradh agus beidh siad ar siúl le linn Bhealtaine 2018 agus i rith Sheachtain na hOidhreachta 2018.

Deich mBliana Comórtha

Tionscadal staire pobail chun tionscadail a thaighde agus a fhorbairt d'fhonn imeachtaí stairiúla a chomórath tríd an gcuid atá fágtha de Dheich mBliana Comórtha.

Library Projects**Archives**

The Laois County archives hold collections of both public and private records pertaining to Laois. These now need an online platform to ensure wide access to the records for researchers and historians. The Archive project will research and put in place the appropriate software for the scanning, storage, display and retrieval of the digitised archives of County Laois.

Writer in the community

The Library Service will engage a reader/writer who would enable children and teenagers to develop storytelling and creative writing skills.

Adult history talks

These talks will take place in Portlaoise Library to celebrate the European Year of Cultural Heritage running throughout May 2018 and during Heritage Week 2018.

Decade of Commemorations

A community history project to research and develop projects to commemorate historical events through the remainder of the Decade of Commemorations.

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