An Longfort
Longford

Straitéis Chultúir agus Chruthaitheachta 2018–2022

Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018–2022

creative.ireland.ie

Cruinniú na nÓg 2018: 'A day with the fairies' in the woodlands of Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre, Ardagh, County Longford. Pictured: Áine Usher.

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AN LONGFORT
Comhairle Chontae An Longfoirt
Longford County Council
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1 Réamhrá ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach agus ón gCathaoirleach
Foreword by Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach

TÁ RÍMÉAD AR CHOMHAIRLE contae an Longfoirt forbairt an chéad phlean cúig bliana Chultúir & Chruthaitheachta don Chontae a stiúradh. Tá cultúr ag croílár fhéiniúlacht an Longfoirt agus ag croílár chaighdeán na beatha sa Longfort, agus tá ról tábhachtach aige maidir le contae bríomhar a chruthú ina bhféadfadh daoine cónaí, oibriú agus gnó a dhéanamh. Chomh maith leis sin, is cultúr a mheallann turasóirí anseo, go háirithe ár nDiaspóra a thagann ar ais go minic chun ceangal a chothú lena n-áit dúchais. Ar go leor bealaí, mar a leagtar amach inár bPlean Corparáideach, is é an Longfort "An Áit le Bheith": tá tírdhreach álainn aige, chomh maith le spiorad pobail iontach agus saol cultúrtha inar féidir le cruthaitheacht fás agus a bheith faoi bhláth.

Is é rialtas áitiúil príomhuirlis na rannpháirtíochta cultúir agus pobail. Mar údarás áitiúil, a infheistíonn a lán in infreastruchtúr agus soláthar cultúir agus oidhreachta, tá ríméad ar Chomhairle Contae an Longfoirt oibriú le Éire Ildánach chun an straitéis cúig bliana seo a chur in iúl, straitéis a bhfuil sé mar aidhm aici cultúr agus cruthaitheacht a chur ag croílár ár saoil. Aithníonn rialtas áitiúil agus náisiúnta araon na tairbhí sochaíocha a bhaineann le cultúr agus cruthaitheacht agus an ról atá ag cultúr maidir le pobail inbhuanaithe, chomhghreamaitheacha agus tiomanta a thógáil. Tá Comhairle Contae an Longfoirt thar a bheith bródúil as an obair a dhéanaimid chun oidhreacht, leabharlanna, na healaíona agus cruthaitheacht a chur chun cinn, agus tugann an tionscnamh seo deis dúinn ár n-obair a ailíniú le beartas náisiúnta agus leis na cúig cholún a bhfuil tús áite acu in Éire Ildánach.

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL is delighted to lead in the development of the county's first five year Culture & Creativity Plan. Culture is at the heart of Longford's identity and quality of life, and is central to making it a vibrant county to live, work and do business in. It is also what makes the county an attractive destination for visitors and, in particular our Diaspora who regularly return to connect with their roots. In many ways, Longford, as outlined in our Corporate Plan is "The Place To Be" with the perfect combination of an unspoiled pastoral landscape, partnered with a great community spirit and thriving cultural scene, in which creativity can grow and thrive.

Local government is the primary instrument of community and cultural engagement. As a local authority, strongly invested in cultural and heritage infrastructure and provision, Longford County Council is delighted to work with Creative Ireland to present this five-year strategy which aims to place culture and creativity front and centre of our lives. The societal benefits from expenditure on culture and creativity and the role that culture plays in building committed, cohesive and sustainable communities is recognized by both national and local government. Longford County Council prides itself on its work in promoting heritage, libraries, arts, and creativity and this initiative allows us to overtly align our practice to national policy and the five pillars prioritised by Creative Ireland.

Inár nÚdarás Áitiúil, trasna a lán ranna agus seirbhísí cosúil le Fiontar, Pleanáil, Leabharlanna, Oidhreacht, Pobal agus na hEalaíona, tá dáimh ag ár bhfoireann le fís agus spiorad an chláir Éire Ildánach. Léiríonn roinnt tionscnamh go bhfuilimid tiomanta do thodhchaí chultúrtha an Longfoirt. Áirítear leis na tionscnaimh seo céad Chruinniú an Longfoirt, a d'éirigh thar barr leis, conairí cosúil le Conair Litríochta an Longfoirt agus Conair Reibiliúnach an Longfoirt, an Leabharlann Phobail nua i Meathas Troim, an fhorbairt atá beartaithe chun Mol Cruthaitheachta agus Nuálaíochta do Sholáthróirí a thógáil, an fhís atá ann do Loch Rí agus Réigiún na Sionainne Láir, agus an chéad fhéile gearrscannáin sa chontae. An bhliain seo, tá rún againn ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an gcéad Chruinniú do dhaoine óga agus béim mhór a leagan ar dheis a thabhairt dár bpáistí agus daoine óga páirt a ghlacadh i gcineálacha difriúla gníomhaíochta cruthaitheachta, ó chódúchán go dtí scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach, ceol agus damhsa. Tá sé beartaithe againn chomh maith ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar ócáidí cosúil le breith Maria Edgeworth, bean atá ar dhuine de na scríbhneoirí is fearr a bhí againn sa Longfort, agus ar dheireadh an Chéad Chogaidh Dhomhanda agus ar fhir agus mná cróga an Longfoirt a ghlac páirt sa chogadh.

Ceapaimid go bhfuilimid réidh anois leas a bhaint as na deiseanna a chruthaíonn Éire Ildánach agus d'éirigh go maith linn go dtí seo agus muid ag comhoibriú leis an bpobal cruthaitheach sa chontae. Tarraingeoidh Center Parcs Longford Forest agus tionscadail eile turasóireachta cultúir a lán cuairteoirí chuig ár gcontae agus soláthróidh siad deis iontach na gnéithe is fearr ár gcultúir agus cruthaitheachta a chur in iúl do phobail áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.

In our Local Authority, across many departments and services Enterprise, Planning, Libraries, Heritage, Community and Arts, our staff connect to the vision and spirit of Creative Ireland. Initiatives such as the first Longford Cruinniú, which was a huge success in this county, trails such as the Longford Literary Trail, the Longford Rebel Trail, the new Edgeworthstown Community Library, the planned development of the Providers Creative and Innovation Hub, the vision for Lough Ree and Mid Shannon region and the first short film festival in the county, clearly demonstrate our commitment to the cultural future of Longford. This year we intend to celebrate our first young people's Cruinniú and to put a strong focus on giving our children and young people an opportunity to engage with different forms of creative activity from coding to creative writing, music and dance. We also plan to celebrate events such the birth of one of Longford's greatest writers Maria Edgeworth and to commemorate the ending of the First World War and the many brave Longford men and women who took part in it.

We feel that we are now well placed to fully engage with the opportunities created through Creative Ireland and already have a good track record of collaborating successfully with our creative community in the county. Center Parcs Longford Forest and other exciting cultural tourism oriented projects will bring many visitors to our county and provide a great opportunity to showcase the best of our culture and creativity to a local, national and international audience.

Tá lánmhuinín againn as cumas ár bhfoirne cultúir Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt chun an Plean seo a chur chun cinn in imeacht na gcúig bliana atá amach romhainn. Tríd an bhfoireann seo, agus go deimhin gach ball dár bhfoireann, a oibreoidh i gcomhpháirtíocht lenár bpobal cruthaitheach sa chontae, táimid réidh tabhairt faoin dúshlán seo in imeacht na gcúig bliana seo amach romhainn agus cuirfimid fáilte roimh gach duine cultúr agus oidhreacht, samhlaíocht agus cruthaitheacht a chur ag croílár shaol an Longfoirt faoi 2022 inár dteannta.

Paddy Mahon
Príomhfheidhmeannach

Martin Mulleady
Cathaoirleach

We have the utmost confidence in the ability of our Creative Ireland Longford Culture team to drive this Plan over the next 5 years. Through this team and indeed all of our staff, in partnership with our creative community in the county, we are ready to take on this challenge over the next five years and invite everyone to join with us in positioning culture and heritage, imagination and creativity at the heart of life in Longford by 2022.

Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive

Martin Mulleady
Cathaoirleach

The tranquil waters of the Royal Canal at Brannigan Harbour, County Longford. Photo: Tommy Reynolds

2 Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht sa Longfort
Culture and Creativity in Longford

IS É AN LONGFORT an ceathrú contae is lú sa tír a bhfuil daonra 43,000 aige (Daonáireamh 2016). Tá daonra an Longfoirt óg agus tá sé ag fás: tá 12,528 leanbh agus duine óg ina gcónaí sa chontae. Anuas air sin, tá ceann de na rátaí breithe is airde sa tír ag an Longfort, chomh maith leis an céatadán is mó leanaí ón lucht siúil agus leanaí de bhunadh tíortha eile sa tír.

Tá láidreacht chultúr Chontae an Longfoirt ag croílár fhéiniúlacht an chontae. Is cuid dár gcultúr iad teanga, áit, oidhreacht (nádúrtha, cultúrtha agus tógtha), traidisiúin, ealaín, spórt, pobal, tíreolaíocht, gnásanna sóisialta, luachanna, dearadh, stair, tírdhreach, bithéagsúlacht, scannánaíocht, grianghrafadóireacht, ceol, litríocht, damhsa, scéalaíocht, na tionscail chruthaitheacha agus ilchineálacht chultúrtha. Tugann flúirse agus éagsúlacht an chultúir agus na hoidhreachta sa Longfort féiniúlacht agus nádúr ar leith don chontae. Spreagtar ár gcultúr agus cruthaitheacht ag oidhreacht chultúrtha agus tírdhreach an chontae, agus tá cultúr agus cruthaitheacht le feiceáil ann chomh maith. Ar an taobh eile den scéal, tá tionchar ag ár gcultúr agus tírdhreach ar fhéiniúlacht, braistint áite agus nádúr an chontae.

Tá an Longfort an-bhródúil as a chultúr. San am a caitheadh, bhí cónaí ar scríbhneoirí cosúil le Oliver Goldsmith, Maria Edgeworth, John Keegan 'Leo' Casey, Padraic Colum sa Longfort agus, le déanaí, Belinda McKeon, John Connell agus Dani Gill chomh maith le go leor eile. Tá traidisiún an-láidir drámaíochta ag an Longfort go fóill, idir phroifisiúnta agus amaitéarach. Tá ceann de na scoileanna damhsa is mó tionchar agus is mó a bhfuil meas air san Eoraip suite anseo chomh maith - Shawbrook. Is scoil í sin as ar tháinig damhsóirí agus cóiréagrafaithe a bhfuil clú idirnáisiúnta orthu, Marguerite Donlon, is as baile an Longfoirt í ó dhúchas, san áireamh. Tá a lán inspioráide faighte ag an gcóiréagrafaí Michael Keegan-Dolan, agus a chomhlacht damhsa Teac Damsa (roimhe seo the *Fabulous Beast Dance Company*) ón Longfort, a áit dhúchais, dá obair.

Tá ceol i gcroílár fhéiniúlacht chultúrtha Chontae an Longfoirt, ó thaibheoirí a bhí ann cosúil leis an bhfidléir agus cumadóir Thomas "Blind" Kiernan go dtí an saol bríomhar agus eicléictiúil ceoil atá ann inniu, saol a thrasnaíonn na hearnálacha proifisiúnta, amaitéaracha, deonacha agus poiblí ceoil. Tá pobal láidir ealaíon sa chontae, ó ealaíontóirí cosúil le Bernard Canavan go dtí grianghrafadóirí agus dealbhóirí cáiliúla a úsáideann dair phortaigh cosúil le Michael Casey agus Brendan Colum.

Tá soláthar cultúir sa chontae seo á fhorbairt an t-am ar fad, agus tá roinnt cur chuige iontach nuálaíoch agus comhoibríoch á dtógáil. Oibríonn an Chomhairle i gcomhpháirtíocht le grúpaí ealaíon, oidhreachta agus pobail, gnólachtaí áitiúla, daoine aonair agus an earnáil dheonach chun caighdeán na beatha níos fearr do chách a chinntiú. Le tamall fada anuas, thacaigh Comhairle Contae an Longfoirt le go leor féilte, taispeántas, cónaitheachtaí, tionscadal scoile agus clár ealaíon poiblí a chothaíonn agus a choinníonn forbairt na n-ealaíon áitiúil. Déanaimid ár seacht ndícheall nasc a chothú lenár bpobail trínár seirbhís leabharlainne, agus líonra ealaíne agus oidhreachta. Léiríonn tionscnaimh cosúil le Seachtain Oidhreachta, Oíche Chultúir, Féile Ealaíne Cruthú, Féile Ealaíne Aisling do Leanaí, Féile Eolaíochta Lár na Tíre agus Féile Litríochta Mhí Dheireadh Fómhair do Leanaí na gnéithe maithe d'earnáil an chultúir agus na cruthaitheachta sa Longfort.

LONGFORD IS THE fourth-smallest county in the country, with a population of 43,000, (Census 2016). It has a young and growing population with a total of 12,528 children and young people living in the county. In addition, it has one of the highest birth rates, as well as the highest proportion of Traveller and non-national children in the country.

Central to the identity of County Longford is the strength of its culture, comprising: language, place, heritage (natural, cultural and built), traditions, art, sport, community, geography, social customs, values, design, history, landscape, biodiversity, film, photography, music, literature, dance, story, creative industries and cultural diversity. It is this wealth and diversity of culture and heritage in Longford that gives the county its unique identity and character. Our culture and creativity is inspired by, and reflected in, the cultural heritage and landscape of the county. Conversely, our culture and landscape helps to define our county's identity, sense of place and character. Longford is very proud of its culture. In the past it was home to writers such as Oliver Goldsmith, Maria Edgeworth, John Keegan 'Leo' Casey, Padraic Colum and more recently Belinda McKeon, John Connell, Dani Gill among many others. Longford also maintains a very strong drama tradition, both professional and amateur. It is also the location of one of Europe's most influential and prestigious dance schools – Shawbrook, which has produced dancers and choreographers of international renown, including Marguerite Donlon, a native of Longford town. Award-winning choreographer, Michael Keegan-Dolan and his dance company, Teac Damsa (formerly the Fabulous Beast Dance Company), has drawn great inspiration for his work from his Longford roots.

Music is central to the cultural identity of County Longford, from historical performers such as fiddle-player and composer Thomas "Blind" Kiernan to today's eclectic and vibrant music scene that crosses professional, amateur, voluntary and community music sectors. The county is home to a strong art community, from painters such as Bernard Canavan to photographers and famous bog-oak sculptors such as Michael Casey and Brendan Colum.

Cultural provision in this county is continually developing, with some exciting innovative and collaborative approaches being undertaken. The Council works in partnership with arts, heritage and community groups, local businesses, individuals and the voluntary sector to ensure a better quality of life for all. Longford County Council has long-supported many festivals, exhibitions, residencies, school projects and public art programmes that nurture and sustain local arts development. We endeavour to engage our communities through our library service, and arts and heritage networks. Initiatives such as Heritage Week, Bealtaine, Culture Night, the Cruthú Arts Festival, the Aisling Children's Arts Festival, the Midlands Science Festival and The October Children's Book Festival, illustrate all that is good in the creative and cultural sector in Longford.

Tarraingíonn príomháiseanna an chontae, cosúil leis an Ionad Ealaíon & Amharclann Backstage, chomh maith leis an bhforbairt atá beartaithe chun Mol Cruthaitheachta agus Nuálaíochta do Sholáthróirí a thógáil agus an Leabharlann Phobail nua i Meathas Troim, aird ar ár dtiomantas d'infheistiú a dhéanamh in infreastruchtúr cultúir agus cruthaitheachta an chontae. Áirítear le háiseanna eile atá stiúrtha ag an bpobal Ionad Oidhreachta & Cruthaitheachta Ardach, an Chonair Litríochta Edgeworth, an Haggard, an Amharclann Bog Lane agus an Ionad Normannach nua ag an móta agus bábhún i nGránard. Tá an Longfort réidh tairbhe a bhaint as na deiseanna a chuireann Éire Ildánach ar fáil chun a infreastruchtúr cruthaitheachta a fhorbairt. Tá roinnt tionscnamh nua tagtha chun cinn tríd an gclár cheana féin, lena n-áirítear an Fhéile Ghearrscannán *Still Voices*, an Cruinniú Pádraic Colum agus an chéad fhéile eolaíochta i Meathas Troim.

Áiteanna ina dtarlaíonn 'Cultúr'

Tá cultúr faoi bhláth agus déantar é a roinnt sa Longfort sna háiteanna ina gcruinníonn daoine le chéile: amharclanna, leabharlanna, scoileanna, ionaid phobail, ionad acmhainní teaghlaigh, Seideanna na bhFear, clubanna, ionaid spóirt, tithe tábhairne agus féilte. Ceiliúrann an iliomad féilte atá againn oidhreacht, cultúr agus cruthaitheacht. Is gnéithe tábhachtacha de thionscal na turasóireachta sa Longfort iad agus téimid i dteagmháil lenár nDiaspóra tríothu. Taispeánann an éagsúlacht seo beocht mhuintir an chontae agus conas a ghlacann muintir an chontae páirt sna gnéithe difriúla a gcultúir.

The county's flagship facilities such as the Backstage Theatre & Centre for the Arts, and the planned new innovative Providers Creative and Innovation Hub and the new Edgeworthstown Community Library highlight our commitment to investing in the creative and cultural infrastructure of the county. Other community-led cultural facilities include the Ardagh Creativity & Heritage Centre, the Edgeworth Literary Trail, the Haggard, the Bog Lane Theatre and the new Granard Motte-and-Bailey Norman Centre. Longford is well-placed to avail of the opportunities presented through Creative Ireland to develop its creative infrastructure. Already, a number of new initiatives have emerged through the programme, including the Still Voices Short Film Festival, the Pádraic Colum Gathering and the first Science festival in Edgeworthstown.

Where 'Culture' happens

Culture flourishes and is shared in Longford where people gather: theatres, libraries, schools, community centres, family resource centres, Mens' Sheds, clubs, sports venues, pubs, and festivals. Our many festivals celebrate heritage, culture and creativity. They are an important component of the tourism industry in Longford and are a means of connecting with our Diaspora. This diversity demonstrates the vibrancy of and engagement the people of the county have with different aspects of their culture.

Earnáil Chultúir & Chruthaitheachta

Tá an earnáil chultúir agus chruthaitheachta sa Longfort faoi bhláth, agus tá líon na ndaoine a oibríonn i dtionscail chruthaitheacha ag dul i méid. I measc na dtionscal seo tá ealaíontóirí, ceoltóirí, damhsóirí, grianghrafadóirí, cleachtóirí amharclainne, ailtirí, dearthóirí grafaice, dearthóirí cluichí, lucht déanta scannán, fuaim & craoltóireacht, agus comhlachtaí meán digiteach. Oibríonn na daoine seo go maith le raon leathan daoine a chuireann eagraíochtaí proifisiúnta cultúir chun cinn, chomh maith le grúpaí pobail a eagraíonn agus a ghlacann páirt in imeachtaí, féilte, drámaíocht amaitéarach, grúpaí córúil, grúpaí scríbhneoirí, grúpaí ealaíne agus ceoil srl.

Comhpháirtíocht i leith Uilechuimsitheachta

Tá éiteas láidir comhpháirtíochta ag Comhairle Contae an Longfoirt, mar a leagtar amach inár bPlean Corparáideach, Plean Forbartha Contae agus Plean Áitiúil Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail, a dtacaíonn na Pleananna Oidhreachta, Ealaíne agus Leabharlainne leo. Tá comhoibriú idir-rannach mar bhonn faoi seo, lena n-áirítear: pobal, na healaíona, leabharlann, oidhreacht, pleanáil, spórt, timpeallacht, an Ghaeilge, turasóireacht, fiontar & infheistíocht agus ár dtrí Cheantar Bardasach, Gránard, Baile Uí Mhatháin agus an Longfort.

Cultural & Creative Sector

There is a growing and thriving cultural and creative sector in County Longford, with increasing numbers working in the creative industries, including: visual artists / musicians / dancers / photographers / theatre practitioners / architects / graphic designers / game designers / film-makers / sound & broadcasting / digital media companies. They are complemented by the broad range of people who drive professional cultural organisations, and community groups who organize and participate in events, festivals, amateur drama, choral groups, writers groups, Art and music groups etc.

Partnership for Inclusion

Longford County Council has a strong partnership ethos, as set out in our Corporate Plan, County Development Plan and Local Economic Community Plan which are supported by our Library, Arts and Heritage Plans. This is underpinned by ongoing inter-departmental collaboration, including: community, arts, library, heritage, planning, sport, environment, Irish language, tourism, enterprise & investment and our three Municipal Districts Granard, Ballymahon and Longford.

Muintir & Pobal

Tá clú ar mhuintir an Longfoirt as a gcairdiúlacht, as an mbród atá acu ar a n-áit dúchais agus as a spiorad pobail láidir. Bhí an spiorad sin soiléir tar éis don tine uafásach a tharla ag Ardeaglais Naomh Mel i 2009. Thacaigh an pobal áitiúil agus ár nDiaspóra go láidir le hathchóiriú na hardeaglaise agus d'oscail sí arís laistigh de chúig bliana. Tacaíonn muintir an chontae go láidir le agus glacann siad páirt in ócáidí cultúir agus tionscadail, ó imeachtaí spóirt go dtí féilte ealaíne, mar a léirítear ag líon, caighdeán agus éagsúlacht na bhféilte agus na n-imeachtaí atá á reáchtáil sa chontae. Chuireamar an chéad '*Longford 2017–What's On Guide*' le chéile anuraidh, eolaí a chuir os cionn 90 ócáid agus féile ar fud an chontae i láthair.

Tá an tírdhreach cultúrtha sa Longfort ag athrú agus ag forbairt go síoraí, go háirithe mar gheall ar na pobail nua atá tar éis teacht isteach ar imirce. Rinne na pobail seo an tírdhreach cultúrtha a shaibhriú agus thóg siad taithí, ceol, spórt agus scileanna nua isteach leo. Ba é ár n-ócáid deiridh den bhliain 2017 léiriúchán speisialta de thionscadal pobail darbh ainm *Welcoming the Stranger*. Ghlac inimircigh ónár nIonad Soláthar Díreach agus muintir an phobail áitiúil, ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht le grúpa damhsóirí agus ceoltóirí áitiúla, páirt sa léiriúchán ag an Amharclann Backstage.

Diaspóra

Caomhnaíonn an Longfort naisc dhearfacha lena Dhiaspóra ar bhonn leanúnach trí Chumainn an Longfoirt ar fud an domhain, cleamhnais le bailte, cruinnithe teaghlaigh agus ócáidí gnó. Chuir na meáin shóisialta, chomh maith lenár suíomhanna gréasáin, an tairseach www.longford.ie san áireamh, ar ár gcumas dul i dteagmháil lenár nDiaspóra agus pobail nua ar fud an domhain, agus ar a gcumas nasc a chothú leis an Longfort arís. Tharraing an chéad Chruinniú Padraic Colum (Colum Cruinniú 2017), ar thacaigh Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt leis, daoine den teaghlach ó áiteanna i bhfad i gcéin cosúil leis an Astráil. Cheiliúir go leor dár nDiaspóra comóradh céad bliain ar Éirí Amach na Cásca inár dteannta i 2016.

I 2017 bronnadh Gradam Seirbhíse Dearscna an Uachtaráin do Ghaeil Thar Lear ar dhuine dár nDiaspóra, an ealaíontóir Bernard Canavan ar as do Mheathas Troim dó ó dhúchas agus a bhfuil cónaí air sa Bhreatain anois, áit a n-oibríonn sé leis "na hÉireannaigh caillte", ag an Uachtarán Mícheál D Ó hUiginn as an méid a rinne sé ar son na hEalaíne agus an Chultúir.

An todhchaí

Tá an cuma ar an scéal go bhfuil todhchaí mhaith i ndán d'Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt; tá ar Meitheal Cultúir ag obair go straitéiseach agus i gcomhar le pobail agus an earnáil chruthaitheachta chun na gnéithe is fearr dár gcontae a chur chun cinn. Le chéile, leanfaimid orainn de thacaíocht a thabhairt do dhaoine a bhfuil smaointe inspioráideacha acu maidir le caidreamh a bhunú leis na hearnálacha cultúir agus an pobal i gcoitinne. Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis na deiseanna nua a bheidh ann mar gheall ar fhorbairtí iontacha nua, cosúil le *Center Parcs Longford Forest* agus an Mol Cruthaitheachta agus Nuálaíochta do Sholáthróirí.

People & Community

Longford people are renowned for their warmth, pride of place and strong community spirit which was particularly evident after the devastating fire that took place in St. Mel's Cathedral in 2009, when there was a groundswell of support from the local community and our Diaspora for its restoration and reopening within five years. Support for and participation in cultural gatherings and projects from sporting events to arts festivals is very strong within the county as evidenced by the number, quality and diversity of the festivals and events running in the county. Last year we produced our first '*Longford 2017–What's On Guide*' which showcased over 90 events and festivals across the county.

The cultural landscape in Longford is continually changing and evolving, in particular through inward migration of new communities who have enriched the cultural landscape, bringing new experiences, music, sport and skills. Our closing event of 2017 was a memorable production of a community project called Welcoming the Stranger which involved immigrants from our Direct Provision Centre, members of the local community working in partnership with a group of professional dancers and musicians performing together in Backstage Theatre.

Diaspora

Longford maintains positive connections with its Diaspora on an ongoing basis, through the Longford Associations around the globe, town-twinning, clan gatherings, and business events. Social media, and our dedicated websites, including the www.longford.ie portal, has allowed us to engage with the Diaspora and new audiences around the world, and for them to reconnect with their Longford roots. The inaugural Padraic Colum Gathering (Colum Cruinniú 2017), supported by Creative Ireland Longford, attracted Colum family members from as far away as Australia. Many of our Diaspora joined with us in 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the Easter Rising.

In 2017 a member of our Diaspora, artist Bernard Canavan originally from Edgeworthstown and living and working with the "lost Irish" in Britain was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad for his contribution to Arts and Culture by President Michael D Higgins.

The future

The future looks bright for Creative Longford, with our Culture Team working strategically and collaboratively with communities and the creative sector to promote the best of what our county has to offer. Together, we will continue to offer and develop supports for inspirational engagement with our creative and cultural sectors and the wider community. We look forward to the new opportunities exciting new Developments, such as Center Parcs Longford Forest and the Providers Creative and Innovation Hub will bring.

Céard a chiallaíonn an Longfort domsa ag John Connell, scríbhneoir sárdhíola as an Longfort a scríobh _The Cow Book_

Is é an Longfort m'áit dúchais, mar fheirmeoir agus mar scríbhneoir. Is é foinse mo chruthaitheachta é. Baineann mo leabhair, mo chuid scríbhinní, mo smaointe leis an áit seo. Tá aithne agam ar an áit seo ón lá ar rugadh mé agus is é an áit seo a dhéanann mo shaibhreas.

Chaith mé na blianta thar lear tar éis dom dul ar imirce, ach thóg mé píosa den áit seo liom a fhad is a bhí mé ag taisteal. Bhí an áit seo ann i mo chuimhní cinn ar mo theaghlach agus mo chairde, i mboladh na bpáirceanna timpeall ár dtí sa Sorn, Béal Átha na Lao, nó sa smaoineamh faoi na hoícheanta fada a chaith mé ag iascaireacht in aice leis an gCamlinn nó ag snámh i Loch Gamhna.

Bhí an Longfort ina phailéad dom mar scríbhneoir agus déantóir clár faisnéise. D'éist liom le agus bhailigh mé stair na háite seo ó dhaoine sna bailte fearainn agus tá an stair seo le feiceáil i mo chuid oibre. Tá carachtair na háite scaipthe i mo ghearrscéalta, mo chuid ficsin agus i mo chuimhní cinn. Ní fiú dada mé gan an contae seo toisc gur thug sé gach rud a mbainim leas as i mo chuid oibre dom.

Is rún é an contae seo ina bhfuil cónaí orainn, mar níl cur amach ar iontas agus áilleacht ár gceantair dhúchais ach ag líon beag daoine ón taobh amuigh. Ó na sráideanna litríochta i mBaile Uí Mhatháin ina raibh sealgairí leon agus filí a raibh ardmheas orthu, go dtí iarrachtaí eolaíochta agus litríochta an teaghlaigh Edgeworth, go dtí reibiliúnaigh an cholúin reatha sa Longfort Thuaidh. Ba é an contae seo tearmann an choncais le linn Ré Eilíse agus bhí ról tábhachtach ag an gcontae i go leor iarrachtaí a rinneadh ar son shaoirse na hÉireann. Tá na rudaí seo go léir ionam, déanann siad mo shaibhreas. Tá na cúlbhóithre i mBéal Átha na Muc siúlta agam i gcuimhne na bhfear a throid i 1798, agus tá na fir sin chomh tábhachtach domsa is atá fothrach na Gréige, mar tá ár ndúchas féin iontu.

Mar fheirmeoir is onóir dom bheith i mo chónaí ar thailte na Tána, an scéal tábhachtach sin i stair mhuintir na tíre seo. Feicim lorg ár seanchultúir inár gcleachtais feirmeoireachta, agus sa chaoi a n-oibríonn an oiread sin grúpaí agus daoine aonair d'fhonn an seanbhealach sin a chaomhnú. Tá Carn Clainne Aodha ar cheann d'iontais lár na tíre agus tá sé suite ar chúl mo thí - is muidne a bhfuil cónaí orainn faoi. Is áit álainn é ar cheart dúinn lánsult a bhaint as.

An t-uisce is ea snáithe mór ár gcontae agus tá iontas soiléir an dúlra agus Dé feicthe agam i measc an iliomad lochanna áille atá againn. Tá ealtaí druideanna agus siúl na bhfianna móra feicthe agam sa choill sa Longfort Theas.

Tá an oiread sin faighte agam, mar scríbhneoir, ón Longfort, ach is iad na daoine an bua is mó atá ag an gcontae. Tar éis dom filleadh ar m'áit dúchais, tá cumhacht, filíocht agus iontas ghnáthmhuintir na tuaithe feicthe agam, agus dá bharr feicim ar an gcontae seo mar mo bhaile agus mo bheatha.

Longford to me by John Connell Longford bestselling author of _The Cow Book_

As a farmer and writer Longford is my home. It is the place from which I draw the wellspring of my creativity. My books, my writings, my thoughts are of this place. I have known it all my life and it is the thing which enriches me.

I lived for many years as an emigrant overseas but I carried with me a piece of Longford on all those journeys. It was in the memory of family and friends, the smell of the fields round our home in Soran, Ballinalee or the thought of long summer nights of fishing by the Camlin or swimming by Lough Gowna.

Longford has been my palette as a writer and documentary maker. From its townlands, I have listened and gathered the history of this place all of which have been infused into my work. Its characters have seeped into my short stories, my fiction and my memoir. Without this county I am nothing as an artist for it has given me everything from which to draw upon.

We live in a secret county for few outsiders know of the greatness and beauty of our home. From the literary streets of Ballymahon which knew lion hunters and revered poets, to the scientific and literary endeavours of the Edgeworth family to the rebellious history of our flying column of North Longford. It was this county which was the outpost of the Elizabethan conquest and this county which was the centre piece of many bids for Irish freedom. All of these things infuse me, enrich me. I have walked the back roads of Ballinamuck in thought of the men of 1798 and they are to me as sacred as the Greek ruins for they hold in them our own native history.

As a farmer I am honoured to live upon the Táin, the saga which is our foundation as a people. I see in our farming practices a taint of our older culture and how so many groups and individuals work in order to preserve that old way. To the back of my home sits Cairn Hill a wonder of the midlands and we are the people who live beneath it. It is a beautiful place that should be treasured.

Water is the great thread of our county and dotted amongst its many beautiful lakes I have seen the clear wonder of nature and God. In the summer murmurations of starlings or the mighty stride of deer in the woods of South Longford.

Longford has given so much to me as a writer but it is its people which are its greatest gift for in returning to make my home here I have seen the power, poetry and wonder of the ordinary rural people that make this county what it is: my baile and beatha.

3 Fhís Éire Ildánach don Longfort
The Creative Ireland Vision for Longford

IS É FÍS ÉIRE Ildánach go mbeidh deis ag gach duine in Éirinn a n-acmhainneacht ildánach iomlán a bhaint amach. Déantar an fhís a bhaint amach trí na Cúig Cholún de 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 Infreastruchtúr na Cruthaitheachta & an Chultúir

Colún 4
Na Tionscail Chruthaitheacha: Éire mar Lárionad Barr Feabhais maidir le Léiriúchán na Meán Cruthaitheachta

Colún 5
Clú na hÉireann ar fud an Domhain a thabhairt le chéile

Tá rannpháirtíocht agus rochtain ag croílár ár bhfíse. Ceaptar go bhfuil sé ríthábhachtach ealaíontóirí agus cumadóirí eile a cheangal le pobail d'fhonn an fhís a bhaint amach'

Leagann Comhairle Contae an Longfoirt béim mhór ar iarrachtaí cruthaitheacha, ealaíonta agus cultúrtha, chomh maith lenár n-oidhreacht agus stair fhada. Tuigimid go gcabhraíonn sé feabhas a chur ar chaighdeán na beatha atá ag muintir an chontae, trí fholláine na ndaoine aonair agus na bpobal a fheabhsú, má thugaimid aird do chultúr ina iliomad gnéithe. Tá sé seo ar aon dul leis an ráiteas misin inár bplean corparáideach. Is é sin *"folláine agus caighdeán beatha mhuintir agus phobail an chontae a chur chun cinn agus feabhas a chur ar tharraingteacht an chontae mar áit le bheith ag cónaí, ag obair, ag teacht ar cuairt ann, le hinfheistíocht a dhéanamh ann agus le sult a bhaint as"*. Leanfaimid orainn d'infheistíocht in earnáil na cruthaitheachta agus an chultúir a mhéadú.

THE VISION OF Creative Ireland is that every person living in Ireland will have the opportunity to fully realise his or her creative potential. This 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

Participation and access are central to our vision. Connecting artists and other creators to communities is also regarded as essential to realising the vision.

Longford County Council places a high value on creative, artistic and cultural endeavours as well as on our rich history and heritage. We understand that engaging with culture, in its many facets, helps improve the quality of life of our citizens by contributing to the wellbeing of individuals and communities. This is in line with the mission statement of our corporate plan which is *"to promote the well-being and quality of life of our citizens and communities in Longford and to enhance the attractiveness of the County as a place in which to live, work, visit, invest in and enjoy"*. We will continue to increase investment in the culture and creativity sector.

4 Luachanna Éire Ildánach sa Longfort
The Creative Ireland Values in Longford

GLACANN COMHAIRLE CONTAE an Longfoirt go hiomlán le haidhmeanna agus uaillmhianta an Chláir náisiúnta Éire Ildánach. Tá a luachanna Comhoibriú, Cumarsáid, Pobal, Rannpháirtíocht, Uilechuimsitheacht agus Cumhachtú ar aon dul lenár luachanna Dínit, Neamhspleáchas, Daonlathas, Uilechuimsitheacht agus Cóir Shóisialta. Tá an Chomhairle, trína Meitheal Cultúir, tiomanta do bheith i gceannas, d'fhorbairt a dhéanamh, agus d'oibriú lenár saoránaigh d'fhonn deiseanna do gach duine páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí cuimsitheacha cultúir a chruthú, agus tiomanta do thacú leo páirt a ghlacadh.

Tá an clár Éire Ildánach ar aon dul le hobair na Comhairle trasna a cuid freagrachtaí maidir le forbairt shóisialta, eacnamaíochta, phobail agus chultúir sa chontae. Tá eolas tugtha don obair ag comhairliúcháin phobail a rinneadh an fhoireann Éire Ildánach agus Comhairle Contae an Longfoirt leis an bpobal. Cuimsíonn an fhoireann baill ó raon leathan réimsí lena n-áirítear na healaíona, leabharlanna, oidhreacht, cartlann, uilechuimsitheacht sóisialta agus pobail, pleanáil, turasóireacht, oideachas agus fiontraíocht áitiúil. Agus an straitéis seo á chur i bhfeidhm, oibreoidh an Chomhairle le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara chun soláthar cultúir sa chontae a chothú agus a fhás. Forbróidh an straitéis seo an sineirge atá ag teastáil chun deiseanna le dul i mbun oibre cultúir agus cruthaitheachta sa chontae a fheabhsú. Le chéile, forbróimid cláir chuimsitheacha do dhaoine de gach aois agus cúlra chun a gcruthaitheacht a fhorbairt agus a bhfolláine a fheabhsú.

D'fhonn forbairt a dhéanamh ar rath ár bPlean Gníomhaíochta Éire Ildánach 2017, agus an scéim dheontas Éire Ildánach ar chuireamar tús léi an bhliain seo caite, tá sé mar aidhm againn contae cruthaitheach agus bríomhar a chruthú, contae atá tarraingteach, cuimsitheach agus a bhfuil rochtain ag gach duine air.

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL fully embraces the aims and ambitions of the national Creative Ireland Programme. Its values of Collaboration, Communication, Community, Participation, Inclusivity and Empowerment are in line with our values, of Dignity, Autonomy, Democracy, Inclusion and Social Justice. The Council, through its Culture Team, is committed to leading, developing and working with our citizens to create and support opportunities for all to engage in inclusive cultural experiences.

The Creative Ireland programme is very much in line with the work of the Council, across its responsibilities for social, economic, community and cultural development in the county. It has been informed by community consultations carried out by the Creative Ireland team and Longford County Council with the wider community. The team embraces members working across a number of areas including arts, libraries, heritage, archives, community and social inclusion, planning, tourism, education and local enterprise. The implementation of this strategy will see the Council work with key stakeholders to sustain and grow cultural provision within the county. The strategy will develop the synergy required to enhance opportunities for engagement with culture and creativity in the county. Together, we will develop inclusive programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds to develop their creativity and enhance their wellbeing.

Building on the success of our Creative Ireland Action Plan 2017, and the Creative Ireland grants scheme which we initiated last year our aim is to shape a creative and vibrant county which is attractive, inclusive and accessible for all.

5 Na Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha don Longfort
The Strategic Priorities for Longford

Is í príomhbhéim na straitéise seo rannpháirtíocht mhuintir an Longfoirt i gcultúr a mhéadú, agus ar an dóigh sin cruthaitheacht agus samhlaíocht a chothú. Tiocfaidh aidhmeanna na straitéise le cuspóirí agus gníomhartha ar a ndéantar cur síos sa Phlean Forbartha Contae, Plean Áitiúil Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail agus pleananna aonair do na hEalaíona, Leabharlanna agus Oidhreacht.

Ceann de na príomhchuspóirí atá ag Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt is ea naisc agus líonraí a chruthú tríd an méid seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Cur chuige níos comhordaithe a ghlacadh chun aird a tharraingt ar imeachtaí agus tionscadail atá ar siúl sa chontae
- Ealaíontóirí agus gach ball den phobal cruthaitheach a cheangal le chéile agus leis an bpobal i gcoitinne
- Eolas faoi áiseanna agus acmhainní cultúir a scaipeadh
- Bearnaí i soláthar a aithint chomh maith le straitéis chun dul i ngleic leo
- Feasacht ar stair agus oidhreacht shaibhir an chontae a chothú agus bealaí chun tairbhe a bhaint astu a aithint, m.sh. cláir oideachais, conairí oidhreachta, siúlóidí, léiriúcháin agus léachtaí, ionaid chuairteora, srl.
- Braistint féiniúlachta agus bród as an áit a chothú i measc an phobail, go háirithe ár leanaí agus daoine óga
- Cartlann chultúrtha a chruthú trí thaighde agus digitiú
- Naisc láidre lenár nDiaspóra a chothú agus baint leis an gcontae a spreagadh
- Ár dtáirgí turasóireachta cultúir agus comhshaoil a fhorbairt

The main focus of this strategy is to expand the engagement by citizens of Longford with culture, thus fostering creativity and imagination. The aims of the strategy will dovetail with the objectives and actions articulated in the County Development Plan, the Local Economic & Community Plan and individual plans for Arts, Libraries and Heritage.

One of the key purposes of Creative Ireland Longford is to create connections and networks by:

- Adopting a more coordinated approach to highlighting the ongoing events and projects within the county
- Connecting artists, and all members of the creative community with each other and the wider community
- Disseminating information about cultural facilities and resources
- Identifying gaps in provision and a strategy for addressing these
- Creating awareness of the county's rich history and heritage and identifying ways of engaging with it, education programmes, heritage trails, walks, exhibitions and lectures, visitor centres, etc.
- Instilling a pride of place and sense of identity in our citizens, in particular our children and young people
- Creating a cultural archive through research and digitisation
- Building strong links with our Diaspora and encouraging engagement with the county
- Developing our cultural and environmental tourism products

Colún 1: Scód a ligean le Cumas na Cruthaitheachta i ngach Leanbh

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 1: Cruthaitheacht Luathbhlianta

Tá bailiúchán suntasach taighde ann maidir le tábhacht na cruthaitheachta sna luathbhlianta (0–12 bhliain d'aois). Léiríonn leanaí a dtugtar spreagadh dóibh smaoineamh ar bhealach cruthaitheach leibhéil níos airde spreagtha, diongbháilteachta, féinmheasa, muiníne agus nuálaíochta. Is príomhcholún den chlár Éire Ildánach é go mbeidh teacht ag gach leanbh ar theagasc agus rannpháirtíocht in ealaín, ceol, códú agus drámaíocht faoi 2022.

1.1 Leibhéal rochtana ar agus rannpháirtíochta i gcultúr agus cruthaitheacht i measc daoine óga a mhéadú trí líonraí, eagraíochtaí agus infreastruchtúr atá ann: scoileanna, naíonraí, grúpaí máithreacha & lapadán, cumainn tuismitheoirí, srl.

1.2 Tús áite a thabhairt do Chlár Oideachais Ghlúin an Cheoil a fháil do Chontae an Longfoirt.

1.3 A chinntiú trí chomhpháirtíocht, m.sh. an Líonra Cúraim Leanaí, agus tacaíochtaí straitéiseacha go bhfuil leanaí ábalta teacht ar dheiseanna cruthaitheacha le linn na luathbhlianta.

1.4 Oibriú le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara chun cumhacht agus tionchar gach tionscnamh a mhéadú.

1.5 Blaiseadh d'aoibhneas na léitheoireachta agus scríbhneoireachta ar mhaithe le pléisiúr a thabhairt do leanaí trí thionscnaimh cosúil leis an gclár *Right to Read*, *Summer Stars*, na Féilte Leabhar do Leanaí agus clubanna scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí.

Pillar 1: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Strategic Priority 1: Early years Creativity

A significant body of research exists in relation to the importance of creativity in early years, (0–12 years). Children who are encouraged to think creatively exhibit higher levels of motivation, tenacity, self-esteem, confidence and innovation. A key pillar of the Creative Ireland programme is that every child will have access to tuition and participation in art, music, coding and drama by 2022.

1.1 Increase the level of access and engagement with culture and creativity for young children through existing networks, organisations and infrastructure: schools, play schools, mother & toddler groups, parents associations, etc.

1.2 Prioritize the securing of the Music Generation Education Programme for County Longford.

1.3 Ensure, through partnership – e.g. the County Childcare Network – and strategic supports, that creative opportunities are accessible during early years.

1.4 Engage with key stakeholders to expand the reach and impact of all initiatives.

1.5 Introduce children to the joys of reading and writing for pleasure, through initiatives such as the Right to Read programme, Summer Stars, the Children's Book Festivals and creative writing clubs.

1.6 Straitéis cumarsáide a fhorbairt i gcomhpháirtíocht le scoileanna áitiúla agus an Plean um Scoileanna Cruthaitheacha a sheolfar go luath chun rannpháirtíocht teaghlach i litríocht agus sna healaíona a chothú.
1.7 Úsáid na n-áiseanna ealaíona agus oidhreachta cultúir atá ann do scoileanna a chur chun cinn, an scéim *Oidhreacht i Scoileanna* agus an scéim Scríbhneoirí i Scoileanna de chuid Éigse Éireann san áireamh.

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 2: Rannpháirtíocht Chruthaitheachta do dhéagóirí agus daoine óga.
D'fhéadfadh rannpháirtíocht i rud éigin cruthaitheach, ó na healaíona taibhiúcháin (déanamh scannán, damhsa, ceol, drámaíocht) go dtí gníomhaíochtaí níos aonaraí (scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach, na hamharc-ealaíona, meáin nua) dul chun tairbhe déagóirí agus iad ag athrú go suntasach agus ag forbairt go pearsanta. Ceann de na gnéithe is tábhachtaí de ghníomhaíocht chruthaitheach is ea go bhféadfadh sí cuidiú le féiniúlacht phearsanta a fhorbairt, agus ar an dóigh sin do ghuth féin, do smaointe agus mothúcháin a chur in iúl.

Tá gníomhaíocht chruthaitheach, taobh amuigh d'oideachas príomhshrutha, thar a bheith tábhachtach do dhéagóirí. Tá sé ar cheann de na bhealaí atá ar fáil dóibh spéis a chur i rudaí nua agus iad féin a léiriú ar bhealach nua, laistigh de thimpeallacht shábháilte.
Is modh iad cláir ealaíon óige cumhacht a thabhairt do dhaoine óga fás agus forbairt, agus tabharfaidh siad deis dóibh scileanna nua a fhoghlaim, a bpiarghrúpa a leathnú agus muinín a fhorbairt. Oibreoidh líon mór daoine a ghlacann páirt i gcláir ealaíon óige sna healaíona cruthaitheacha agus tionscail cruthaitheacha agus iad níos sine.

1.6 Develop a communications strategy, in partnership with local schools and the soon to be launched Creative Schools Plan for engaging with families on literacy and the arts.
1.7 Promote the use of existing cultural heritage and arts amenities for schools, including the Heritage in Schools Scheme and Poetry Ireland Writers in Schools.

Strategic Priority 2: Creative engagement for teenagers and young people.
Being involved in something creative, from performing arts (film-making, dance, music, drama) to more solitary activities (creative writing, visual arts, new media) can benefit teenagers at a time of enormous change and personal development. One of the most important aspects of creative activity is that it can help to develop a sense of personal identity: expressing one's own voice, thoughts and feelings.

Creative activity, outside of mainstream education, is particularly important for teenagers. It is one of the ways they can develop new interests, experiences and self-expression in a safe environment. Youth arts programmes are a means of empowering young people to grow and develop, and will allow them to learn new skills, expand their peer group and gain confidence. Many who engage with youth arts programmes go on to work professionally in the creative arts and creative industries.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha:
2.1 Rochtain níos fearr ar acmhainní agus saineolas a spreagadh trí chomhpháirtíocht straitéiseach le heagraíochtaí, cosúil le Comhairle na nÓg, Foróige, Seirbhísí Óige an Longfoirt, Oifigeach Críochnaithe Scoile agus infreastruchtúr agus eagraíochtaí ealaíon atá ann cosúil leis an Amharclann Óige Backstage, School of Rock sa Longfort agus Attic Café don Óige.
2.2 Más féidir, rochtain ar ghníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheacha de gach cineál taobh amuigh den scoil sa phobal áitiúil a leathnú, trí leabharlanna agus ionaid spóirt, chultúrtha agus phobail.
2.3 Tacú le hacmhainní atá ann, cosúil leis an Amharclann Óige Backstage, School of Rock sa Longfort, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.
2.4 Oibriú i gcomhar leis an mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí chun a chinntiú go ndéanfar an clár Ghlúin an Cheoil, a bheidh á leathnú ar fud na tíre, a leathadh amach in imeacht na gceithre bliana atá romhainn.

Colún 2: Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal

Is cuid lárnach dár bplean cumhacht a thabhairt d'údaráis áitiúla a bheith chun tosaigh agus obair á déanamh maidir le rannpháirtíocht saoránach in ealaíona agus cultúr.

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 3: Leabharlanna áitiúla, ionaid ealaíon, ionad acmhainní teaghlaigh, clubanna, scoileanna agus ionaid phobail a chur chun cinn mar láithreacha tábhachtacha cultúir agus cruthaitheachta. Bearnaí i soláthar a aithint agus iniúchadh maidir le léarscáiliú cultúir a dhéanamh.

Strategic Objectives:
2.1 Encourage better access to resources and expertise through strategic engagement with organisations, such as Comhairle na nÓg, Foróige, Longford Youth Services, Schools Completion Officer and existing arts infrastructure and organisations including Backstage Youth Theatre, Longford School of Rock and the Attic Youth Café.
2.2 Where possible extend access to creative engagement of all kinds outside of school at community and local level through libraries, sports, cultural and community venues.
2.3 Support existing resources such as Backstage Youth Theatre, Longford School of Rock, Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann.
2.4 Work in partnership with Longford-Westmeath Education & Training Board to ensure the Music Generation programme, which is to be extended nationwide, is rolled out in this county over the next four years.

Pillar 2: Enabling Creativity in Every Community

The empowerment of local authorities to lead the engagement of our citizens with arts and culture is a key part of the plan.

Strategic Priority 3: Promote local libraries, arts centres, family resource centres, clubs, schools and community centres as key cultural and creativity hubs. Identify gaps in provision and undertake a cultural mapping audit.

Beidh cumarsáid agus comhordú eolais faoi na hearnálacha cultúir agus cruthaitheachta ina chuid thábhachtach d'obair Fhoireann Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt thar thréimhse na straitéise seo. Maidir le rath agus inbhuanaitheacht na n-earnálacha seo, beidh sé ríthábhachtach feasacht a chruthú agus lucht spéise d'imeachtaí, tionscadail agus cláir a mhéadú. Tá clú náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta bainte amach ag ár scríbhneoirí, ealaíontóirí, ceoltóirí, damhsóirí, srl. agus tá sé tábhachtach go gcuirfimid a gcuid oibre chun cinn agus go dtaispeánfaimid a gcuid oibre. Tá sé mar aidhm ag an straitéis seo mol bríomhar tábhachtach i Lár na Tíre a dhéanamh den Longfort.

Tugtar treoir do Chomhairle Contae an Longfoirt ag prionsabail na huilechuimsitheachta sóisialta agus le linn na bliana 2017 d'éirigh leis an gComhairle comhroinnt acmhainní idir ionaid, agus pobail, agus trasna earnálacha agus disciplíní a spreagadh. Áirítear leis na samplaí thar barr:

- Lá na Samhlaíochta Pushkin do bhunscoileanna i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Ionad Oideachais Chora Droma Rúisc agus an Iontaobhas Pushkin.
- Tionscadal feasachta ar ghabhláin ghaoithe: comhpháirtíocht idir saorálaithe áitiúla, Oifig Oidhreachta an Longfoirt, Oifig Timpeallachta an Longfoirt, Caomhantas Gabhlán Gaoithe Éireann agus pobail agus eagraíochtaí áitiúla.
- Fáilte a chur roimh an Strainséir: tionscadal damhsa a fhaigheann inspioráid ó scéalta imirceach agus dídeanaithe, i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Amharclann Backstage.

Trí leanúint de chomhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha a bheith againn, agus trí chláreagrú (idir chultúrtha agus thíreolaíoch) d'áiseanna cultúir agus oidhreachta, éascóidh Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt comhoibriú agus piarthacaíocht níos mó do ghrúpaí ealaíona agus ceoil, rud ar tarraingíodh aird air san aiseolas a fuarthas le linn an phróisis chomhairliúcháin.

The communication and coordination of information about the cultural and creative sectors will be a major part of the work of the Creative Ireland Longford Team over the period of this strategy. Creating awareness and building audiences for events, projects and programmes will be critical to their success and sustainability. Our writers, artists, actors, musicians, dancers, etc. have achieved national and international fame and it is important that we promote and showcase their work. The aim of the strategy is to make Longford a vibrant creative hub in the Midlands.

Longford County Council is guided by the principles of social inclusion and throughout 2017 they have successfully incentivised the sharing of resources between venues, and communities, and across sectors and disciplines. Some excellent examples include:

- The Pushkin Day of the Imagination for primary schools in partnership with Carrick on Shannon Education centre and the Pushkin trust.
- Swift Awareness Project: a partnership between local volunteers, Longford Heritage Office, Longford Environment Office, Swift Conservation Ireland and local communities and organisations.
- Welcoming the Stranger: a dance project inspired by the stories of migrants and refugees in partnership with Backstage Theatre.

Through continuing strategic partnerships, and programming (both artistic and geographic) for culture and heritage facilities, Creative Ireland Longford will facilitate greater cooperation and peer support for artists and art and music groups which was highlighted in the feedback from the Consultation process.

Art installation of concrete and tar core samples, by County Longford visual artist, Gary Robinson. Title: "I am... You are..."

Cruinniú 2017: Traditional music session at The Haggard, Moyne, County Longford. This event formed part of a day-long tour which highlighted cultural aspects of the county.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha:

3.1 Eolas a thabhairt do phobail faoi acmhainní atá ann chun cruthaitheacht a roinnt.

3.2 Leanúint de scéim bhliantúil dheontas de chuid Éire Ildánach a chur chun cinn.

3.3 Tabhairt faoi phróiseas léarscáilíochta cultúrtha don Longfort.

3.4 Trí infreastruchtúr atá ann, leanúint de chláir chónaitheachta agus cheardlainne a chur chun cinn, cláir atá curtha in oiriúint d'éileamh áitiúil (in oidhreacht / scannánaíocht / scríbhneoireacht chruthaitheach / ceol / amharc-ealaíona / drámaíocht / damhsa / na healaíona traidisiúnta / códú / róbataic / ceird, srl).

3.5 Leanúint de "What's on Guide" a chomhordú agus a dhéanamh maidir le himeachtaí / cláir cultúrtha sa chontae.

3.6 A chinntiú go gcuimsíonn gach tionscadail agus tionscnaimh a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó Éire Ildánach an pobal i gcoitinne, saoránaigh nua san áireamh.

3.7 Tacú le soláthar leathnaithe do phobail nach bhfuil sé éasca freastal orthu, trí infreastruchtúr atá ann.

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 4: Daonlathú cultúir a chur chun cinn trí eagraíochtaí oidhreachta, ealaíon agus cultúir a oibríonn le pobail

Leagann an tosaíocht seo béim láidir ar dheiseanna a chur ar fáil chun cruthaitheacht a chur os comhair an phobail, a cheiliúradh agus a fheiceáil. Áirítear leis seo grúpaí ceardaíochta, drámaíocht amaitéarach, cóir phobail, grúpaí oidhreachta áitiúla, agus grúpaí scríbhneoireachta.

Strategic Objectives:

3.1 Provide information to communities about the existing resources available for sharing creativity.

3.2 Continue to promote a Creative Ireland annual grants scheme.

3.3 Undertake a Longford cultural mapping process.

3.4 Through existing infrastructure, continue to promote residency / workshop programmes, tailored to local demand (in heritage / film-making / creative writing / music / visual art / drama / dance / traditional arts / coding / robotics / craft, etc).

3.5 Continue to coordinate and produce a "Whats on Guide" to all cultural events / programmes in the county.

3.6 Ensure all Creative Ireland supported projects and initiatives are inclusive of the whole community including new citizens.

3.7 Through existing infrastructure, support expanded provision for hard to reach communities.

Strategic Priority 4: Promote democratisation of culture through heritage, arts and cultural organisations working with communities

This priority has a strong emphasis on the provision of opportunities to show-case, celebrate and experience community-lead creativity. It includes craft groups, amateur drama, community choirs, local heritage groups, and writing groups.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha:

4.1 Soláthar spáis agus deiseanna do ghrúpaí ealaíon áitiúil a spreagadh ionas go mbeidh siad ábalta a gcuid oibre a chur os comhair an phobail trí leabharlanna agus féilte áitiúla.

4.2 Comhroinnt eolais agus scileanna idir grúpaí ealaíon, ceardaíochta agus oidhreachta a spreagadh, lena n-áirítear cuairt a thabhairt ar shaineolaithe agus speisialtóirí.

4.3 Comhroinnt scileanna a spreagadh, lena n-áirítear scileanna traidisiúnta, i bpobail agus idir glúnta trí úsáid a bhaint as féilte cosúil le Bealtaine agus Seachtain na hOidhreachta agus trí líonraí cosúil le Comhairle Aoisbhá an Longfoirt.

4.4 Leanúint de chinntiú go bhfreastalaítear ar spriocghrúpaí tábhachtacha sa Longfort, lena n-áirítear daoine faoi mhíchumas, daoine níos sine, grúpaí idirchultúrtha agus grúpaí imeallaithe trí líonraí atá ann cosúil le Grúpa Oibre Idirchultúrtha an Longfoirt, Gluaiseacht an Lucht Siúil sa Longfort agus Nasc Ban an Longfoirt.

4.5 Pobail áitiúla agus an earnáil dheonach a chur san áireamh i dtionscnaimh forbartha áirithe, m.sh. an Leabharlann Phobail nua i Meathas Troim agus an Mol Cruthaitheachta agus Nuálaíochta do Sholáthróirí.

4.6 Clár Bhliain na Gaeilge a eagrú chun an Ghaeilge agus cultúr na hÉireann a chur chun cinn i gcomhpháirtíocht leis na heagraíochtaí cultúir náisiúnta ábhartha.

4.7 Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán a chur chun cinn a leagfaidh béim ar imeachtaí agus daoine tábhachtacha áitiúla.

Strategic Objectives:

4.1 Encourage the provision of space and opportunities for local arts and heritage groups to show-case their work through local libraries and festivals.

4.2 Encourage sharing of knowledge and skills between local arts, crafts and heritage groups, including visiting experts and specialists.

4.3 Encourage skills-sharing including traditional skills in communities and between generations using festivals like Bealtaine and Heritage Week and through networks like Longford Age Friendly Council.

4.4 Continue to ensure that key target groups are provided for within Longford, including people with disabilities, older people, intercultural groups and marginalized groups through existing networks such as Longford Intercultural Working Group, Longford Traveller Movement and Longford Women's Link.

4.5 Include local communities and the voluntary sector in specific developmental initiatives, e.g. the new Edgeworthstown Community Library and the Providers Creative and Innovation Hub.

4.6 Organize a Blian na Gaeilge programme promoting Irish language and culture in partnership with relevant national cultural institutions.

4.7 Promote the Decade of Commemorations with a focus on important local events and people.

4.8 Bliain Eorpach na hOidhreachta Cultúir agus ár gcomóradh céad bliain ar cheart vótála na mban a cheiliúradh i 2018.

4.9 Dul i dteagmháil le Diaspóra an Longfoirt atá ar fud an domhain ar bhealaí nuálaíocha trínár n-acmhainní cultúir agus oidhreachta. D'fhéadfadh cuid mhór de na hábhair a bhaineann le stair an Longfoirt, nach féidir rochtain a fháil orthu ach i Rannóg na Cartlainne agus Staidéar Áitiúil de chuid Leabharlann an Longfoirt agus i nuachtáin áitiúla, grianghraif, léarscáileanna, leabhair mhiontuairiscí, dialanna agus litreacha, a dhigitiú agus a chur ar fáil ar www.longford.ie. Tá rún againn leanúint de www.longfordatwar.ie a fhorbairt.

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 5: Meas a léiriú do agus tacú le healaíontóirí, ceardaithe agus an pobal cruthaitheach an Longfoirt.

Ní mór meas a léiriú d'ealaíontóirí, ceardaithe, dearthóirí, scríbhneoirí, scannánóirí agus daoine cruthaitheacha eile a bhfuil cónaí orthu sa Longfort, a oibríonn anseo agus a chuireann íomhá an-dearfach den Longfort os comhair an domhain, agus spreagadh a thabhairt dóibh leanúint de bheith ina gcónaí anseo. Cuireann siad taca faoin ngeilleagar cruthaitheach sa chontae agus, anuas ar a gcleachtas féin, oibríonn siad i scoileanna, i láithreacha cúraim agus le pobail éagsúla, agus roinneann siad a scileanna agus taithí. Soláthraíonn siad taispeántais iontacha, ceadail áille, léamha inspioráideacha, smaointe bunathraitheacha agus cuireann siad leis an gcontae trí bhlas difriúil, samhlaíocht agus beogacht a sholáthar.

4.8 Celebrate European year of Cultural Heritage and our Centenary of Women's Suffrage in 2018.

4.9 Reach out to the worldwide Longford Diaspora in innovative ways through our cultural and heritage resources. Many of the treasure of Longford's history and past are currently only accessible in the Longford Library Local Studies and Archives Department and local newspapers, photographs, maps, minute books, diaries and letters could be digitised and made available through www.longford.ie. We also intend to continue to develop www.longfordatwar.ie.

Strategic Priority 5: Value and support our artists, craftspeople and the Longford creative community.

Artists, craftspeople, designers, writers, filmmakers, musicians and other creative people who live and work here and showcase a very positive image of Longford to the world need to be valued and encouraged to continue living here. They underpin the creative economy within the county and in addition to their own practice, they work in schools, in care settings and with diverse communities, sharing their skills and expertise. They provide wonderful exhibitions, beautiful recitals, inspiring readings, transformative ideas and add colour, imagination and vitality to the life of the county.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha:

4.1 Trí infreastruchtúr atá ann, deiseanna a chur ar fáil do dhaoine cruthaitheacha teacht le chéile, líonrú, a gcuid scileanna a roinnt agus tacú le chéile.

4.2 Spásanna agus deiseanna a sholáthar dóibh chun a gcuid oibre a chur os comhair an phobail sa Longfort agus ag imeachtaí mór le rá náisiúnta, i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil agus gníomhaireachtaí tábhachtacha eile.

4.3 Luach ár n-ealaíontóirí a léiriú trí iad a cheangal le pobail áitiúla agus trí dheiseanna a thabhairt dóibh oibriú leis an gClár Éire Ildánach.

4.4 Na hearnálacha oidhreachta, cruthaitheachta agus cultúir a chur chun cinn ar an idirlíon, ar na meáin shóisialta, chomh maith le gach ardán a bheidh ar fáil trí Éire Ildánach go náisiúnta a úsáid.

4.5 Bunachar d'ealaíontóirí an Longfoirt, chomh maith le daoine cruthaitheacha ó gach disciplín, a chur le chéile d'fhonn an líon ealaíontóirí sa chontae atá ag fás a chur chun cinn agus chun ardán a chur ar fáil dóibh a n-eolas / bportfóiliónna a roinnt, srl.

Tosaíocht Straitéiseach 6: Cruthaitheacht sa Longfort a fhorbairt, rannpháirtíocht, nuálaíocht agus réiteach fadhbanna a spreagadh, agus béim láidir a leagan ar dhaoine óga

Tá deiseanna ollmhóra ann chun earnáil chruthaitheachta a fhorbairt sa chontae seo, contae ina bhfuil pobal cruthaitheachta rathúil, ina léirítear meas d'oidhreacht agus ina ndéantar ceiliúradh ar oidhreacht. Tar éis do spásanna do chomhoibriú idirdhisciplíneach idir na healaíona, na hearnálacha turasóireachta agus oidhreachta, agus an tionscal i gcoitinne a bheith cruthaithe, beidh tionscail chruthaitheachta agus chultúir fheabhsaithe ann agus neartófar turasóireacht chultúrtha sa chontae. Tá tionscnaimh ar bun cheana féin a chuireann cruthaitheacht ag croílár na hoibre chun scileanna seiftiúla agus fiontraíocha a fhorbairt ionas go mbeidh daoine óga in ann déileáil go solúbtha le dúshláin eacnamaíochta atá le teacht, m.sh. Clár Fiontraithe Óga an Longfoirt agus Comórtas na nEolaithe Óga.

Aithnítear go forleathan go bhfuil an acmhainneacht ag oideachas ardchaighdeáin ealaíon agus cultúir aird, smaointeoireacht iltreoch, smaointeoireacht neamhbhriathartha, suim i dtaiscéalaíocht, samhlaíocht agus úrnuacht i measc foghlaimeoirí a fheabhsú. Is é aidhm na tosaíochta straitéisí seo na scileanna sin sa Longfort a uasmhéadú.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha:

6.1 Féiniúlacht an Longfoirt mar chontae cruthaitheach a mhéadú trí spásanna do leanaí agus teaghlaigh a fhorbairt inar féidir leo a gcruthaitheacht a úsáid ar bhealach taitneamhach agus tarraingteach, m.sh. an Mol Cruthaitheachta agus Nuálaíochta do Sholáthróirí, an Mol Digiteach i Meathas Troim, an tIonad Normannach nua ag an móta agus bábhún i nGránard agus an tIonad Oidhreachta & Cruthaitheachta Ardach.

6.2 Nuálaíocht, smaointe nua, agus ceiliúradh cruthaitheachta aonair agus comhchoitinne a chur chun cinn.

6.3 Tacú le agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar sholáthar atá ann cosúil le Seachtain na hEolaíochta, Seachtain na hOidhreachta, Cruinniú agus Oíche Chultúir.

Strategic Objectives:

5.1 Through existing infrastructure provide opportunities for creative people to meet, network, skill-share and support each other.

5.2 In partnership with the Local Enterprise Office and other key agencies provide spaces and opportunities for them to show-case their work in Longford and at prestigious national events.

5.3 Communicate the value of our artists by connecting them to local communities and by offering them opportunities to work through the Creative Ireland Programme.

5.4 Promote the cultural, creative and heritage sectors on the internet, on social media as well as using all the platforms that will become available through Creative Ireland nationally.

5.5 Develop a database of Longford artists, and creative people of all disciplines, to promote the growing number of artists in the county and provide a platform for them to share their information / portfolios, etc.

Strategic Priority 6: Develop creativity in Longford, encouraging participation, innovation and problem solving, with a strong focus on our young people

In a county with a thriving creative community, where heritage is respected and celebrated, there are huge opportunities for developing the creative sector. The creation of spaces for inter-disciplinary co-operation between artists, tourism and heritage sectors and broader industry will lead to enhanced Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI's) and strengthen cultural tourism in the county. There are already initiatives which place creativity at the heart of developing resourceful and entrepreneurial skills to equip young people to deal flexibly with future economic challenges e.g. Longford Young Entrepreneurs programme and Young Scientist competition.

It is generally acknowledged that quality art and cultural education has the potential to improve concentration, divergent thinking, non-verbal thinking, interest in exploration, imagination and originality in learners. The aim of this strategic priority will be to maximise these skills in Longford.

Strategic Objectives:

6.1 Augment Longford's identity as a creative county by developing spaces for children and families to explore their creativity in enjoyable and engaging ways, e.g. Providers Creative and Innovation Hub, Edgeworthstown Digital Hub, Granard Motte and Bailey Norman Centre and Ardagh Creativity & Heritage Centre.

6.2 Promote innovation, new ideas and the celebration of individual and collective creativity.

6.3 Support and grow existing provision such as Science week, Heritage Week, Crunniú and Culture Night.

6.4 Deiseanna a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga smaointe a chumadh, agus smaointeoireacht chruthaitheach agus réiteach fadhbanna a dhéanamh trí cheardlanna arna n-eagrú i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gclár Fiontraithe Óga.

6.5 Maidir le spásanna poiblí, úsáid chomhairliúcháin chruthaithigh leis na pobail ábhartha a chur chun cinn.

6.6 Oibriú le contaetha eile sa réigiún chun deiseanna comhoibrithe a phlé, m.sh. Glúin an Cheoil, an fhís chomhroinnte maidir leis an réigiún Loch Rí agus na Sionainne Láir, an iris 'Cultúr agus Ealaíona Lár na Tíre', na tionscnaimh chun Gormbhealaí agus Glasbhealaí a thógáil, agus chun infheistíocht i gcruthaitheacht a uasmhéadú.

6.4 Provide opportunities for young people to engage with ideas generation, creative thinking and problem solving through creative workshops organized in partnership with the Enterprise Young Entrepreneur programme.

6.5 Promote the use of creative consultation for relevant communities, in relation to public spaces.

6.6 Work with other counties in the region to explore opportunities for collaboration e.g. Music Generation, the shared vision for Lough Ree and the Mid-Shannon region, the Midlands Arts and Culture magazine, Blueway and Greenway initiatives and maximise investment in creativity.

Padraic Colum Gathering 2017: Pupils from Aughnacliffe NS performing the Padraic Colum poem, 'An Old Woman of the Roads', at the inaugural Padraic Colum Gathering concert held at Backstage Theatre, Longford. This annual weekend celebrates the life and work of Longford writer, Padraic Colum.

6 Cur i bhfeidhm in 2018
Implementation in 2018

BEIDH FREAGRACHT FHORIOMLÁN as Plean Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt 2018–2022 a chur i bhfeidhm ar Mheitheal Cultúir Chontae an Longfoirt.

Comhordóidh Mary Carleton Reynolds, duine de 31 comhordaitheoir náisiúnta a oibríonn mar fhoireann náisiúnta chun an Clár Éire Ildánach a sholáthar, an fhoireann a bheidh i gceannas ar an gClár Éire Ildánach sa Longfort.

Meitheal Cultúir Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt sa Longfort:

An Comhairleoir Paraic Brady – Ceantar Bardasach Ghránaird
An Comhairleoir Mark Casey – Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Uí Mhatháin
An Comhairleoir Peggy Nolan – Ceantar Bardasach an Longfoirt
An Comhairleoir Mae Sexton – Ceantar Bardasach an Longfoirt
Barbara Heslin – Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí
Mary Carleton Reynolds – Comhordaitheoir Contae
Dónal Mac An Bheatha – Pleanálaí Sinsearach
Michael Nevin – Ceann na hOifige Fiontair Áitiúil
Martin Morris – Cartlannaí Contae
Máiréad Ní Chonghaile – Oifigeach Oidhreachta
Frank Horne – Oifigeach Forbartha Pobail
Majella Reid – Riarthóir agus Bainisteoir Meán Sóisialta
Mona Considine – Amharclann Backstage
Shane Crossan – Comhordaitheoir Chlár Críochnaithe Scoile an Longfoirt
Eamonn Brennan – Oideachas Oidhreachta agus Oifigeach Cultúrtha, CLCG an Longfoirt

Mar chuid de Longfort Ildánach, tá comhpháirtíocht láidir ann lenár bpobal áitiúil agus baineadh an caidreamh sin amach trí fhorbairt a dhéanamh ar roinnt uirlisí tábhachtacha cumarsáide. Is iad na huirlisí sin:

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR the Implementation of the Creative Ireland Longford Plan 2018-2022 will lie with the County Longford Culture Team.

The team leading the Creative Ireland Programme in Longford will be coordinated by Mary Carleton Reynolds, one of 31 national coordinators who work as a national team to deliver the Creative Ireland Programme.

Creative Ireland Culture Team in Longford in Longford:

Cllr Paraic Brady – Grandard Municipal District
Cllr Mark Casey – Ballymahon Municipal District
Cllr Peggy Nolan – Longford Municipal District
Cllr Mae Sexton – Longford Municipal District
Barbara Heslin – Director of Services
Mary Carleton Reynolds – County Coordinator
Dónal Mac An Bheatha – Senior Planner
Michael Nevin – Head of Local Enterprise Office
Martin Morris – County Archivist
Máiréad Ní Chonghaile – Heritage Officer
Frank Horne – Community Development Officer
Majella Reid – Administrator & Social Media Manager
Mona Considine – Backstage Theatre
Shane Crossan – Longford Schools Completion Programme Coordinator
Eamonn Brennan – Heritage Education and Oifigeach Cultúrtha, Longford GAA

Within Creative Longford, we have a strong partnership with our local community and this relationship has been achieved through the development of a number of key communications tools. These tools are:

- Tá liosta seoltaí cruthaithe againn a bhaineann go sonrach le heagraíochtaí pobail agus le daoine aonair atá rannpháirteach i gClár Éire Ildánach i gContae an Longfoirt.
- Tá láithreacht láidir mheán sóisialta forbartha againn. Tá ár leathanach Facebook (**www.facebook.com/creativelongfordIreland**) agus ár gcuntas Twitter (**@CreativeLongfd**) ag croílár na láithreachta sin, agus tá lucht leanúna á thiomsú againn ar an dá ardán sin. Ina theannta sin, tá leas á bhaint againn as Vimeo Leabharlann an Longfoirt, as YouTube agus as Flickr. Scrúdóimid ardáin nua de réir mar a thagann siad chun cinn. Tá Longfort Ildánach á chrosphoibliú freisin trí chuntais mheán sóisialta Chomhairle an Longfoirt (**www.longfordcoco.ie**), Leabharlann an Longfoirt (**www.longfordlibrary.ie**), agus suíomhanna gréasáin turasóireachta agus ghnó an Longfoirt.

Eagrú an chláir oibre

- Aontófar tarmligean dualgas do chláir áirithe laistigh den Phlean i measc bhaill na Meithle Cultúir.
- Déanfar an Scéim Dheontais, ar éirigh go maith léi anuraidh nuair a tugadh deontas d'os cionn 50 tionscadal, níos éifeachtaí ar aon dul leis na cuspóirí straitéiseacha sa Phlean.
- Fógrófar na tionscadail a bhfaighidh maoiniú mar chuid de Scéim Dheontais Mheitheal Cultúir Éire Ildánach i mí Eanáir an bhliain seo chugainn.

- We have created a mailing list specific to community organisations and individuals who are engaged with the Creative Ireland Programme in County Longford.
- We have developed a strong social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The core of this is our Facebook page (**www.facebook.com/creativeirelandlongford**) and Twitter Account (**@CreativeLongfd**), and we are building audiences across all three platforms. We are also utilising the Longford Library Vimeo, YouTube and Flickr accounts. We will explore emerging platforms as they come on-stream. Creative Longford is also being cross-promoted through Longford County Council (**www.longfordcoco.ie**) and Longford Library (**www.longfordlibrary.ie**), and Longford tourism and business websites.

Organization of work programme

- Delegation of duties for specific programmes within the Plan to be agreed among the Culture Team members.
- The Grant scheme, which was run successfully last year with over 50 projects benefitting from it, is to be streamlined in line with the strategic objectives in the Plan. Funding of projects to be agreed by Creative Ireland Culture Team.
- Grant Scheme will be announced in January of each year.

Cumarsáid

- Beidh an Comhordaitheoir Contae ina príomhphointe teagmhála don chlár Éire Ildánach.
- Bainfear úsáid as gach acmhainn inmheánach poiblíochta laistigh de Chomhairle contae an Longfoirt, lena n-áirítear na meáin shóisialta agus Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí, chun eolas ar gach gné den chlár Éire Ildánach, deontais agus tionscnaimh nua a chur in iúl.
- Eagrófar seisiún Eolais / Comhairliúcháin Phoiblí leis an bpobal Cruthaitheachta gach bliain chun eolas agus samplaí dea-chleachtais a roinnt agus chun líonrú a dhéanamh.
- Cuirfear seisiúin bhreise líonraithe ar bun ar mhaithe le cleachtóirí áirithe ealaíon, m.sh. ceol, na healaíona, scríbhneoirí agus ceardaíocht.
- Ní mór gach imeacht a eagraíonn Éire Ildánach agus gach cáipéis atá ginte a bhrandáil leis na brandaí atá ag Comhairle contae an Longfoirt agus Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt.
- Déanfar an t-eolaí *Cad atá ar siúl (What's On Guide)* don chontae i gcomhpháirtíocht le Turasóireacht an Longfoirt.

Gníomhaíocht Leantach agus Meastóireacht

- Freastalóidh baill den mheitheal cultúir ar agus glacfaidh siad páirt sa líon is mó is féidir tionscnamh / tionscadal a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó Éire Ildánach.
- Tabharfaidh eagraithe tionscadail an t-eolas is déanaí maidir lena dtionscadail agus cláir don mheitheal cultúir.
- Déanfar gach poiblíocht a dhéanann eagraithe ar na meáin shóisialta a roinnt le hÉire Ildánach.

Communication

- County Coordinator to be the main point of contact for Creative Ireland programme.
- All internal publicity resources within Longford County Council including social media and Public Participation Network, to be used to communicate information on all aspects of the Creative Ireland programme, grants and new initiatives.
- One Public Consultation / Information session to be held each year for the Creative community to share information, examples of best practice and to network.
- Additional networking sessions to be set up for specific arts practitioners, e.g. music, art, writers, and crafts.
- All Creative Ireland run events and all documentation generated must be branded with Longford County Council and Creative Ireland Longford brands.
- A What's on Guide to the County will be produced in partnership with Longford Tourism.

Follow-up and Evaluation

- Culture team members will attend and engage with as many Creative Ireland supported initiatives / projects as possible.
- Project organisers will update the Culture team on the progress of their projects and programmes.
- All social media promotion by organizers will be shared with Creative Ireland.

- Cuirfear tuairiscí aiseolais i scríbhinn, grianghraif agus an líon daoine a d'fhreastail san áireamh, ar fáil i gcás go bhfuil deontas á fháil.
- Beidh an Mheitheal Cultúir freagrach as an bpróiseas athbhreithniúcháin leanúnaigh ar an gclár Éire Ildánach sa Longfort.

- Written feedback reports including photographs and numbers attending will be provided when grants are being drawn down.
- An ongoing review process of the Creative Ireland Longford programme will be the responsibility of the Culture Team

Dance students attending Shawbrook Dance, Legan, County Longford. Photo: Jym Daly.

7 Príomhthascanna do chlár oibre Éire Ildánach an Longfoirt 2018
Key tasks for Creative Ireland Longford work programme 2018

SHAINAITHIN ÉIRE ILDÁNACH an Longfoirt príomhthosaíochtaí agus príomhghníomhaíochtaí bunaithe ar aiseolas ó chomhairliúchán poiblí, ar aighneachtaí a fuarthas agus ar an eolas agus ar an taithí atá ag foireann Éire Ildánach sa chontae. D'fhonn cur chuige straitéiseach, céim ar chéim a ghlacadh i leith na gcuspóirí a leagadh amach, is iad seo a leanas na gníomhaíochtaí atá beartaithe do 2018.

- *Plean Cruthaitheachta agus Cultúir Chontae an Longfoirt* 2018–2022 (Mí Aibreáin 2018)
- *What's on Guide* i gContae an Longfoirt (Mí Aibreáin 2018)
- Forlíonadh maidir le Cultúr an Longfoirt *Irish Independent* (Mí Aibreáin 2018)
- Comóradh 250 bliain bhreith Maria Edgeworth, atá ar cheann de na scríbhneoirí is fearr a bhí againn sa Longfort (Mí na Bealtaine agus Mí na Samhna 2018)
- Comóradh Céad Bliain Cheart Vótála na mBan: taispeántas agus léacht ar Mhná an Longfoirt sa Pholaitíocht le céad bliain anuas. (Mí na Bealtaine 2018)
- Ceardlanna códúcháin do pháistí i nGránard, i mBaile Uí Mhatháin, sa Longfort, i nDroim Lis agus i mBéal Átha Liag. (Mí Eanáir-Mí an Mheithimh 2018)
- Clubanna Scríbhneoireachta do Dhéagóirí a chur ar bun sa Longfort agus i mBaile Uí Mhatháin
- *Cruinniú Náisiúnta do Leanaí: Lá Samhlaíochta, an 23 Meitheamh*
- *Clár Bhliain na Gaeilge: Ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar ár dteanga agus ar ár gcultúr dúchais* 17ú–22ú Meitheamh

CREATIVE IRELAND LONGFORD has identified key strategies and actions based on feedback from public consultation, submissions received and the knowledge and experience of the Creative Ireland team in the county. In order to take a strategic, incremental approach to the objectives outlined the following are some of the actions planned for 2018.

- *County Longford Culture and Creativity Plan* 2018–2022 (April 2018)
- *What's on Guide* in County Longford (April 2018)
- Culture Longford Supplement *Irish Independent* (April 2018)
- Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Maria Edgeworth one of Longford's greatest writers (May and November 2018)
- Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Exhibition and Lecture on Longford Women in Politics over the past 100 years.(May 2018)
- Coding workshops for children in Granard, Ballymahon, Longford, Drumlish, Granard and Lanesboro. (January-June 2018)
- Establishment of Teen Writing clubs in Longford and Ballymahon
- *National Cruinniú for Children: Day of the Imagination June 23rd*
- *Blian na Gaeilge Programme: Celebrating our native language and culture* 17th–22nd June

- Bliain Eorpach na hOidhreachta Cultúir: Clár chun comóradh a dhéanamh ar dheireadh an Chéad Chogaidh Dhomhanda agus fir agus mná cróga an Longfoirt a ghlac páirt sa chogadh. (Mí Lúnasa 2018)
- Féile Cruite Ghránaird a chur ar bun arís, an Féile Cruite is sine in Éirinn
- Clár Scríbhneora Cónaithe a chur ar bun. (Mí Mheán Fómhair 2018)
- Straitéis digithe do thaifid stairiúla a fhorbairt.

- European Year of Cultural Heritage: Programme to commemorate the ending of the First World War and the Longford men and women who fought in it. (August 2018)
- Revival of the Granard Harp Festival, the Oldest Harp Festival in Ireland
- Establishment of Writer in Residence programme. (September 2018)
- Development of a digitization strategy for historical records.

The illumination of the Abbeyshrule Cistercian Abbey (1200 AD). This event formed part of the Cruinniú 2017 day in County Longford.

Sleachta

“Tá stair fhada agus oidhreacht shaibhir ag an Longfort chomh maith le daoine cairdiúla, láidre, fáilteacha…spreagann áilleacht an cheantair máguaird cruthaitheacht. Tá gach uile rud ag an Longfort, ach ní thuigtear go bhfuil.”
Ann Gerety Smith & Annette Corkery, Ardach Ildánach

“[Is é bua mór an Longfoirt…] na daoine a thagann chun tosaigh leis na smaointe. I ndeireadh na dála, níl cruthaitheacht ar bith gan na daoine sin.”
Phil Atkinson, Ealaíontóir.

“[Is é bua mór an Longfoirt…] an réimse éagsúlachta cultúir – na healaíona, damhsa, litríocht agus oidhreacht.”
Camilla Kelly, Féile Litríochta Mheathas Troim

“Ba mhaith linn an réimse aoisghrúpaí agus éagsúlacht uirlisí a thagann chuig ár seisiúin mhíosúla a mhéadú. Ba mhaith linn chomh maith bannaí céilí agus grúpaí ceoil a chur le chéile do roinnt aoisghrúpaí, bannaí agus grúpaí a d’fhéadfadh cur isteach ar na Fleánna.”
Brainse John Dungan, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

“Grúpaí pobail a cheangal le chéile go straitéiseach, grúpaí atá scartha i gceantair áirithe faoi láthair…”
Rosie O’Hara, Engage Longford

“Is é an bua is mó atá ag an Longfort ná na daoine. Tá siad oscailte, an-umhal agus an-ghnaíúil ó thaobh obair dheonach, cúram a thabhairt do dhaoine eile agus téarnamh a dhíriú tríd an gcoláiste de.”
Alice McDonnell, Transformative College, An Longfort.

“Tá muintir an Longfoirt díograiseach, cumasach agus tugtha don mhaith phoiblí [...sin é bua is mó an Longfoirt.]”
Eileen Moynihan, Grúpa Scríbhneoirí an Longfoirt.

Quotations

“Longford has a wealth of history and heritage along with friendly, welcoming, resilient people… the beauty of its surrounds lends itself to creativity. Longford has it all, it just doesn’t know it has.”
Ann Gerety Smith & Annette Corkery, Creative Ardagh

“[Longford’s greatest asset is…] the people who come forward with the ideas. At the end of the day, without them, there is no creativity.”
Phil Atkinson, Artist.

“[Longford’s greatest asset is…] the breadth of cultural diversity – arts, dance, literature and heritage.”
Camilla Kelly, Edgeworthstown Literary Festival.

“We would like to grow the range of age groups and variety of instruments that come to our monthly sessions. We would also hope to arrange Ceilí bands and Grupaí Cheoils of numerous age groups that could enter the Fleadhannas.”
John Dungan CCE Branch of Comhaltas

“Strategic linkage of community groups, currently segregated and fragmented in some areas…”
Rosie O’Hara, Engage Longford

“Longford’s greatest assets are its people who are open, very humble and giving of their time in volunteering, caring for others and directing recovery through the college.”
Alice McDonnell, Transformative College, Longford.

“The enthusiasm, talents and community-mindedness of the Longford people [...are its greatest assets.]”
Eileen Moynihan, Longford Writers Group.

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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland Programme
2017–2022