Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly

Straitéis Chultúir agus Chruthaitheachta 2018–2022

Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018–2022

creative.ireland.ie

‘Earth and Sky’ Alfio Bonanno, Lough Boora Discovery Park, Boora, Uíbh Fhailí, (creidiúint: Kevin O’Dwyer)

‘Earth and Sky’ Alfio Bonanno, Lough Boora Discovery Park, Boora, Offaly (credit: Kevin O’Dwyer)

Ábhar
Contents

1 Réamhrá ón gCathaoirleach agus ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach
Foreword by Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive

2 Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht in Uíbh Fhailí
Culture and Creativity in Offaly

3 Fís Éire Ildánach i gcomhair Uíbh Fhailí
The Creative Ireland Vision for Offaly

4 Luachanna Éire Ildánach in Uíbh Fhailí
The Creative Ireland Values in Offaly

5 Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha i gcomhair Uíbh Fhailí
Strategic Priorities for Offaly

6 Feidhmiú
Implementation

7 Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí
The Offaly Culture Team

1 Réamhrá
Foreword

IS CÚIS MHÓR áthais dúinn fáilte a chur roimh an straitéis cúig bliana seo a chuireann comhoibriú pobail chun tosaigh chun Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht a sheachadadh in Uíbh Fhailí. Tá tionscadail shuntasacha chomhoibríocha curtha i gcrích ag na hOifigí Ailtireachta, Ealaíon, Leabharlainne agus Oidhreachta i gComhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí le deich mbliana anuas, is é sin le rá, bhí trí bliana suntasach de thionscadail Téigh i nGleic le hAiltireacht agus Rúin Uíbh Fhailí ina dhiaidh sin. Bhí an maoiniú treallach, áfach, agus am-íditheach ó thaobh é a fhoinsiú. Ach, mar thoradh ar mhaoiniú Éire Ildánach a bheith curtha ar fáil, is féidir obair a dhéanamh anois sa réimse comhoibríoch seo, a bhfuil dlúthbhaint aige leis an bpobal.

Chothaigh na treoirthionscadail in 2017 misneach, is é sin le rá: Sonic Pollinators le Karen Power ag sárú teorainneacha maidir le Plean Uile-Éireann um Pailneoirí a chur chun cinn; rinne an t-ealaíontóir Caroline Conway Mary Ward's Amazing World of Wonder, inar ceiliúradh eolaí an naoú haois déag agus fiadhúlra na bportach ardaithe a fhorbairt i gcomhar leis an ngrianghrafadóir Tina Claffey; saothar Rachel Champion sa Torán, is é sin, Place of Holes inar scrúdaíodh carbón agus tailte portaigh i gcomhar le Grúpa Forbartha Phollaigh; agus an chomhpháirtíocht idir Cumann Staire Uíbh Fhailí agus Club Ceamara Thulach Mhór i dtionscadal na ngrianghraf faisnéise dar teideal Rahan Looks Forward.

Léiríodh an tacaíocht do choincheap Éire Ildánach leis an tinreamh mór ag Gloster House le haghaidh an chomhairliúcháin phoiblí ar an 12 Meán Fómhair 2017, nuair a tugadh cuireadh dóibh siúd a bhfuil suim acu sa chruthaitheacht in Uíbh Fhailí teacht le chéile agus na smaointe is féidir a réadú thar an tréimhse cúig bliana a phlé.

WE ARE DELIGHTED to welcome this five-year strategy which places community collaboration centre stage for the delivery of Culture and Creativity in Offaly. The Architecture, Arts, Library and Heritage Offices in Offaly County Council have had significant collaborative projects over the past decade with three notable years of Engage with Architecture followed by the Secrets of Offaly projects. However, funding was sporadic and sourcing it, time consuming. The allocation of Creative Ireland funding now invites work in this joint space, embedded in the community.

The pilot projects in 2017 were very encouraging with Karen Power's Sonic Pollinators pushing the boundaries on promoting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan; Mary Ward's Amazing World of Wonder celebrating the nineteenth century scientist and the wildlife of the raised bogs was developed by artist Caroline Conway with photographer Tina Claffey; Rachel Champion's work at Turraun with Place of Holes exploring carbon and peatlands with Pullough Development Group and the partnership between Offaly Historical Society and Tullamore Camera Club in the Rahan Looks Forward photo documentary project.

The interest in the concept of Creative Ireland was endorsed by the large attendance at Gloster House for the public consultation on the 12th September 2017, where those interested in creativity in Offaly were invited to meet and discuss the ideas that could be delivered over the five-year period.

Is féidir an cultúr a shainmhíniú, sa chiall is leithne, mar an méid a mhúnlaíonn muid. Táimid ag tnúth le raon agus scóip na dtionscadal a thagann chun cinn i rith thréimhse an phlean seo a fheiceáil.

Fáiltítear roimh an mbuiséad atá ar fáil do na húdaráis áitiúla mar cuireann sé deis ar fáil chun pleanáil a dhéanamh agus cuireann sé am ar fáil chun teacht ar rannpháirtithe, rud a chinnteoidh tionscadail spreagthacha chomhoibríocha.

Liam Quinn
Cathaoirleach

Anna Marie Delaney
Príomhfheidhmeannach

Culture in its broadest sense can be defined as what shapes us. We look forward to seeing the range and scope of projects that emerge during the period of this plan.

The budget made available to the local authorities is most welcome as it allows space to plan, time to reach out, ensuring motivating, collaborative projects.

Liam Quinn
Cathaoirleach

Anna Marie Delaney
Chief Executive

Ceardlanna cruthaitheacha do leanaí i Seirbhís Leabharlainne Uíbh Fhailí
Children's creative workshops in Offaly Library Service

2 Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht in Uíbh Fhailí
Culture and Creativity in Offaly

Tá réimse leathan i gceist le Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht in Uíbh Fhailí, ina n-áorítear luathshnoíodóireacht chloiche inár bhfoirgnimh mheánaoiseacha, geataí iarainn ghaibhnithe, scríbhneoireacht Poet Egan, micreafótagrafaíocht Tina Claffey. Tá fréamhacha doimhne ag Uíbh Fhailí sna healaíona, san eolaíocht, sa stair agus san oidhreacht agus leis na céadta bliain anuas tá cuid de na saothair chruthaitheachta is seasmhaí in Éirinn ann mar thoradh air sin.

Tá breis is fiche lonnaíocht mhainistreach Luath-Chríostaí in Uíbh Fhailí, lena n-áirítear Cluain Mhic Nóis, Darú agus Saighir Chiaráin; cnoic dhroimneacha Shliabh Bhladhma; na dealbha agus an fiadhúlra in fhairsinge leathan an phortaigh réitithe athghiniúna ag Páirc Thaiscéalaíochta Loch na Buaraí; agus céard faoi Chaisleán Bhiorra, a bhfuil aithne an-mhaith air mar gheall ar 'Leiviatan Bhaile an Pharsúin' (Leviathan of Parsonstown), an teileascóp is mó ar domhan tráth agus ónár breathnaíodh réaltraí bíseacha den chéad uair, agus anois, sa bhliain 2017, mar thoradh ar an nasc le I-LOFAR tosaíonn scéal iomlán nua.

Áirítear na daoine seo a leanas i measc na bhfisithe cruthaitheacha arb as an gcontae iad: stiúrthóir de chuid Hollywood, Rex Ingram, as Cionn Éitigh; eolaí tábhachtach de chuid an naoú haois déag, Mary Ward as Baile Uí Laighin, gar don Fhéar Bán; an t-innealtóir agus agus t-aireagóir, Bindon Blood Stoney, as Biorra, a dhear, i measc nithe eile, Port agus Duganna Bhaile Átha Cliath; agus comhbhunaitheoir Ailtirí cáiliúla Grafton (coimeádaithe mór le rá de Biennale na Veinéise 2018), Yvonne Farrell as Tulach Mhór agus an drámadóir Marina Carr a bhfuil gradaim buaite aici agus a d'fhás aníos in Uíbh Fhailí.

Culture and creativity in Offaly ranges from the early stone carvings of our medieval buildings, to forged iron gates, to the writings of Poet Egan to the microphotography of Tina Claffey. Offaly has deep roots in arts, science, history and heritage and for centuries has given rise to some of the most enduring works of creativity emanated from Ireland.

Offaly is home to over twenty early Christian monastic settlements including Clonmacnoise, Durrow and Seir Kieran; the gentle rolling hills of the Slieve Bloom Mountains; the sculptures and wildlife in the open expanses of the regenerating cut over peatlands at Lough Boora Discovery Park; and, to Birr Castle, best known for its 'Leviathan of Parsonstown', once the largest telescope in the world and the first from which spiral galaxies were observed, and now in 2017 with the connection to I-LOFAR a whole new chapter begins.

Creative visionaries hailing from the county include Hollywood director Rex Ingram from Kinnitty; noted nineteenth century scientist Mary Ward from Ballylin near Ferbane; engineer and inventor Bindon Blood Stoney from Birr, designer of, among other things, Dublin Port and docks; and co-founder of the renowned Grafton Architects (prestigious curators of the 2018 Venice Biennale), Yvonne Farrell from Tullamore to award winning playwright Marina Carr who grew up in Offaly.

Guthanna Cruthaitheacha

John Feehan, Biorra – Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht: is é an tírdhreach an bhunchloch

Tá tionchar áite fite fuaite i mbunchloch dhomhain na hinspioráide cruthaithí: tionchar na háite ar leith ina maireann agus ina n-oibríonn an t-ealaíontóir. Agus ciallaíonn 'ealaíontóir' sa chomhthéacs seo ní hamháin muidne a dhíríonn ar chruthú 'saothair' ar leith ealaíne, ach gach duine againn atá ag déanamh iarrachta inár ngnáthshaol freagairt don tírdhreach díreach timpeall orainn, an t-aon tírdhreach lena bhfuil dlúthbhaint dháiríre againn agus ina bhfuilimid in ann a bheith cruthaitheach i ndáiríre, mar fheirmeoirí nó mar thógálaithe, mar fhilí, mar mhic léinn nó mar rúnaithe.

Is comhshaothar ealaíne neamh-chomhfhiosach é an tírdhreach a fhaighimid ó oidhreacht, is cruthúchán na nglúnta go léir a bhí ann romhainn é, glúnta a raibh tuiscint níos fearr ná mar atá againne ar na háiteanna áirithe ina raibh siad lonnathe: glúnta a d'fhás na barraí agus a thacaigh leis na hainmhithe a bheathaigh iad, a líon na tobair ónar ól siad, a chuir adhmad agus cloch ar fáil ónar thóg siad, aois i ndiaidh aoise, creatlach cultúrtha an tírdhreacha arb í an oidhreacht is luachmhaire í dá bhfuil againn. Is fiú díriú ar gach sonra den oidhreacht luachmhar sin. Éilíonn sí feasacht uainn ar a suíomh sa phátrún foriomlán ina bhfuil an dúlra agus an cultúr fite fuaite ina chéile: páirceanna agus ballaí agus tithe cónaithe agus reiligí, coillearnach agus foraois agus na bláthanna gach áit: ós rud é gurb amhlaidh, más iad sonraí cultúrtha na seandálaíochta agus na hailtireachta is inneach don phátrún tírdhreacha, gurb é an méid atá fágtha d'éagsúlacht agus de charachtar nádúrtha ár n-áite dúchais is dlúth dó.

Bíonn comhdhéanamh an charachtair uathúil ata ag áit ag brath go formhór ar na sonraí oidhreachta nádúrtha agus cultúrtha atá forshuite

Creative Voices

John Feehan, Birr – Culture and Creativity: landscape is the foundation

Woven into the deep foundation of creative inspiration is the influence of place: of the particular place in which the artist lives and works. And by 'artist' in this context is meant not only those of us who concentrate on the production of particular 'works' of art, but each one of us attempting in our everyday lives to respond to the immediate landscape around us, the only landscape with which we are truly intimate and in which we can be truly creative, be it as farmers or builders, poets, students or secretaries.

The landscape we inherit is itself a collective work of unconscious art, the creation of all the generations before us, more attuned than ours to the particular places of their grounding: which grew the crops and supported the animals that nourished them, filled the wells from which they drank, supplied the timber and stone from which they constructed, age over age, the cultural fabric of the landscape that is our most precious inheritance. Every detail of that precious heritage is deserving of our attention, demanding of us an awareness of its place in the overall interweaving pattern of nature and culture: fields and walls and homes and graveyards, woodland and forest and the flowers along the way: for where the cultural detail of archaeology and architecture are the weft of landscape pattern, what remains of the natural diversity and character of our home place is its warp.

The fabric of the unique character of place resides largely in the natural and cultural heritage detail superimposed on the more broadly-sketched 'landscape' of the place. The colour and meaning of landscape is found and

ar 'thírdhreach' na háite ina iomláine. Aimsítear agus airítear dath agus brí tírdhreacha ag leibhéal an ard-fhormhéadúcháin agus ag leibhéal scála na sonraí áitiúla. Sa bhrí is bunúsaí seo, is tírdhreach oidhreachta é gach tírdhreach.

Iompraíonn gach rud sa phátrún seo brí dá bhfreagraíonn an t-ealaíontóir – de réir na céille is caoile anois – is é sin le rá, go háirithe: na bláthanna comónta ar thaobh an bhóthair, nó saoirseacht chloiche droichid; agus is iad pátrúin fhabraic an tírdhreacha, ar greamanna aonair iad de chuid na fabraice sin, a chomhdhéanann carachtar sainiúil áiteanna áirithe áitiúla: contae nó paróiste, sráid nó sráidbhaile nó baile.

Tá carachtar uathúil áite bunaithe go príomha sna sonraí oidhreachta nádúrtha agus cultúrtha atá forshuite ar 'thírdhreach' na háite ina iomláine. Aimsítear agus airítear dath agus brí tírdhreacha ag leibhéal an ard-fhormhéadúcháin agus ag leibhéal scála na sonraí áitiúla. Tá gach greim tábhachtach; má chailltear ceann amháin acu níl aon snáithe ionaid ann dó.

De bharr chreimeadh na sonraí áitiúla nádúrtha agus cultúrtha sa tírdhreach, feicimid an fhabraic oidhreachta á scaoileadh ag 'leibhéal an ghreama' (mar a déarfá), creimeadh na sonraí ábhartha ina bhfuil carachtar agus uathúlacht na háite áitiúla breactha síos sa tírdhreach. Agus, ina theannta sin, airímid scaoileadh an mhuintearais leis an áit, rud a chreideann an-chuid againn atá lárnach i saol duine sláintiúil. Tá easpa tuisceana ar an áit ina mairimid an-choitianta anois i measc ghnáthdhaoine na sochaí. B'fhéidir nach bhfuil gá againn leis an aeistéitic a chuireann luach ar fhilíocht Seamus Heaney nó ar phéintéireacht Roderick O'Connor. Ach ní féidir linn dearmad a dhéanamh ar na nithe sin ós rud é, cé go mbeidh na focail ar an leathanach nó sa chuimhne go deo agus go mbeidh an canbhás sa dánlann go lá an bhrátha, go bhfuil an fhilíocht agus an áilleacht a chruthaigh an dúlra agus an t-am agus

experienced at the high magnification and scale of local detail. In this most fundamental sense, every landscape is a heritage landscape.

Every thing in this pattern carries a meaning to which the artist – in the narrower sense now – more particularly, may respond: the common flowers by the side of the road, or the stonework of a bridge; and the patterns of the landscape fabric of which these are individual stitches are what constitutes the distinctive character of particular local places: county or parish, street or village or town.

The fabric of the unique character of place resides largely in the natural and cultural detail superimposed on the more broadly-sketched 'landscape' of the place. The colour and meaning of landscape is found and experienced at the high magnification and scale of local detail. Every stitch counts; the loss of any one is a loss for which there is no replacement thread.

With the erosion of the local natural and cultural detail in the landscape we are seeing the unravelling of the heritage fabric at 'stitch level' (as it were), the erosion of the material detail in which the character, the uniqueness of local place is spelled out in the landscape. And with it we are experiencing the unravelling of the sense of belonging, which many of us believe to be so central to healthy human living. An insensitivity to place now pervades the grass roots of our society. Maybe we can do without the aesthetic that appreciates the poetry of Seamus Heaney or the painting of Roderick O'Connor. But this we cannot forego, because while the words will

an tslí inar shnaidhm an fheirmeoireacht agus an cheardaíocht brí isteach i dtáipéis na talún de réir a chéile á gcreimeadh: ar bhealach chomh mall sin nach féidir linn é a thabhairt faoi deara i dtréimhse ghearr ár saoil.

Seo an chúis go bhfuil tionscadail a eagraíodh le deireannas, amhail an tionscnaimh phobail ag Pollach chun ról lárnach na mbrící i bhfabraic uathúil a thírdhreacha áirithe a scrúdú agus a cheiliúradh, nó an ceiliúradh ar dhath agus ar sholas na héagsúlachta áitiúla bitheolaíochta le Caroline Conway agus Tina Claffey, i measc na dtionscnamh is suntasaí cruthaitheachta ar na saolta deireanacha. Táimid ag súil go spreagfar tionscnaimh eile amach anseo trasna na tíre ar tionscnaimh iad a bheidh bunaithe, ar an dóigh chéanna, ar na háiteanna a bhfuil dlúthnasc againn leo agus a dtugaimid baile orthu.

Niamh Murray, Béal Átha Chomair, 18

Dúradh lá den saol gurbh í an chruthaitheacht an cheannairc is mó atá ann, agus is fíor a rá go bhfuil Uíbh Fhailí, mar chontae, chun tosaigh sa cheannairc sin. Ó aois m'óige i leith, bhí dúil agam riamh sna healaíona, rud a áiríonn réimsí na scríbhneoireachta cruthaithí, na n-amharcealaíon agus an cheoil.

Thacaigh muintir Uíbh Fhailí agus an Roinn Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí araon go mór le foilsiú mo leabhair do pháistí 'A Full Irish Christmas' sa bhliain 2011. Scríobhadh an scéal faoi eachtra timpeall an domhain le Daidí na Nollag nuair a bhí mé deich mbliana d'aois i rang a cúig. Nuair a bhí mé dhá bhliain déag d'aois, áfach, bheartaigh mé an leabhar a fhoilsiú ar son Ospidéal na Leanaí, Sráid Temple. Sna seachtainí roimh Nollaig na bliana 2011, dhíol mé míle cóip de mo ghearrscéal agus bailíodh €4369 don ospidéal mar thoradh air sin.

Níorbh é sin an chéad uair a spreagadh mé chun peann a chur le pár. Le linn mo thréimhse

always be on the page or in the mind and the canvas will stay in the gallery till doomsday, the poetry and beauty shaped by nature and time and the slow dance with which farming and craft have woven meaning into the tapestry of the land is being eroded: slowly enough for us not to notice in the short span of our own lifetimes. This is why such recent projects as the initiative of the community at Pullough to explore and celebrate the central role of brick in the unique fabric of its particular landscape; or the celebration in colour and light of local biological diversity by Caroline Conway and Tina Claffey are among the most significant initiatives in creativity in recent times. We look forward to a kindling of future initiatives across the county similarly inspired by the intimate places we call home.

Niamh Murray, Ballycumber, 18

It was once said that creativity is the greatest rebellion in existence, and it is true to admit that Offaly, as a county, is leading this rebellion. From a young age, I have always had a passion for the arts, over a spectrum of creative writing, visual arts and music.

The publishing of my children's book 'A Full Irish Christmas' in 2011 was greatly supported by both the people of Offaly and the Arts Department of Offaly County Council. The tale of an adventure around the world with Santa was penned when I was ten years old, in fifth class. However, when I was twelve, I chose to publish the book in aid of Temple Street Children's Hospital. Over the weeks preceding Christmas 2011, I sold one thousand copies of my short story, raising €4369 for the hospital.

i Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Bóthar, i mBéal Átha Chomair, ghlac mé páirt in an-chuid tionscnamh amhail comórtais ghearrscéalaíochta agus filíochta. Bhí an t-ádh orm, agus ar dhaltaí eile bunscoile ó Uíbh Fhailí, gur foilsíodh ceann de mo chuid dánta sa leabhar 'Write a Poem'. D'fhéadfá a rá gurbh é sin an chéad bhlaiseadh a fuair mé de bheith foilsithe mar údar, ach d'fhéadfá a rá go cinnte nach aon Seamus Heaney mé go fóill!

Cuireadh tús le mo dhúil san amhránaíocht freisin sa Chontae Dílis, nuair a chuaigh mé isteach i gcór Shéipéal an Bhóthair faoi stiúir Majella Killeen nuair nach raibh mé ach cúig bliana d'aois. Bhí amhránaithe óga díograiseacha as gach cearn den chontae sa chór. Spreag an taithí a bhí agam ag taisteal ar fud na tíre mé chun tosú le cór Phobalscoil an Mhóta, a bhí faoi stiúradh Lorna Duignan, nuair a thosaigh mé sa mheánscoil, agus d'éirigh linn Comórtas Cóir Scoile na hÉireann a bhuachan in 2014. Thosaigh mé ceachtanna oiliúna gutha freisin agus chríochnaigh mé na hocht ngrád amhránaíochta le gradam.

Tá tacaíocht gan áireamh tugtha ag ár gcontae dóibh siúd atá ag iarraidh a bheith ina spreagadh do dhaoine eile, agus leanfaidh sé ar aghaidh leis an tacaíocht sin. Chuir duine de na healaíontóirí is mó a bhfuil gean air in Éirinn, Mark O'Neill, tús lena ghairmréim sa Millhouse i gCill Aichidh, Contae Uíbh Fhailí. Chaith Charlotte Brönte, údar Jane Eyre, am i mBeannchar le linn a gairmréime scríbhneoireachta.

Cé go bhfuilim ag déanamh staidéir ar an Dlí agus an Gnó in COC anois, cuimhním go minic ar na laethanta luatha sin nuair a d'aimsigh mé mo ghrá do na healaíona, agus ba é Uíbh Fhailí an spreagadh.

This was not my first time to be inspired to put pen to paper. Throughout my time in Boher National school in Ballycumber, I took part in many initiatives such as short story and poetry competitions. I was fortunate, along with other primary school students from Offaly, to have one of my poems printed in the 'Write a Poem' book. I guess you could say that was my first taste of being a published author, although it is safe to say I am still no Seamus Heaney!

My passion for singing also began in the Faithful County, when I joined Boher Church choir directed by Majella Killeen at the tender age of five. The choir was comprised of young and enthusiastic singers from all over our county. My experience travelling around the country performing encouraged me to join the Moate Community School choir, under the wing of Lorna Duignan, when I began secondary school, and we were successful in winning the All Island School's choir competition in 2014. I also began vocal training lessons and completed my eight grades of singing with distinction.

Our county has, and will continue to offer countless support to those who wish to inspire others. One of Ireland's most popular living artists, Mark O'Neill began his career in the Millhouse in Killeigh, County Offaly. Indeed, Charlotte Brönte, author of Jane Eyre spent time in Banagher during her writing career.

Although I am now studying Law and Business in UCC, I often think back to those early days when I discovered my love of the arts, and Offaly was the inspiration.

Yvonne Farrell, Ailtire, Ailtirí Grafton

Is focal é Cultúr atá deacair a shainmhíniú, ach is é an Cultúr an fhianaise nithiúil orainn féin mar dhaoine. Ní mór dúinn an Cultúr a chosaint agus borradh a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht. Ar nós gach rud a fhásann, ní mór síolta a chur – ní síolta amhrais – ach síolta féidearthachtaí.

Tá feiniméan ann ar a dtugtar sineirge, nuair a spreagann smaointe a chéile agus nuair a thugann siad beatha do rud éigin nua, rud gan choinne. Sin mar a tharlaíonn i bpobail chruthaitheacha. B'fhéidir nach mbeidh a fhios againn riamh faoin gcailín nó faoin mbuachaill, faoin mbean nó faoin bhfear a fhaigheann an mhuinín chun páirt a ghlacadh mar thoradh ar fhile a chloisteáil ag léamh a shaothair, mar thoradh ar fhlóta a fheiceáil i bParáid Lá 'le Pádraig, mar thoradh ar dhráma áitiúil a fheiceáil. B'fhéidir nach mbeidh a fhios againn riamh cén rud a thugann spreagadh do dhuine a bheith cruthaitheach. Ní féidir linn ach na dálaí, an misneach, na catalaígh a chur ar fáil.

Tugann Pobail Chruthaitheacha deiseanna do dhaoine nár cheap riamh go nglacfaidís páirt chun leas a bhaint as a gcruthaitheacht féin, a gcuid talann a roinnt, sult a bhaint as an saol agus ligean don tsamhlaíocht fás iontu. Seans go bhfuil an Leabharlann ar cheann de na spásanna is radacaí sa tsochaí chomhaimseartha - ceann de na spásanna saora deireanacha inár bpobail - suite ag tús cadhnaíochta na cruthaitheachta toisc gur Seomra Poiblí í don saoránach is óige go dtí an saoránach is sine. Is áit é an Leabharlann inar féidir le pobail tacaíocht a fháil, áit inar féidir leo forbairt.

Má chuimhnímid ar an seanfhocal: 'Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí' ...bláthfaidh sí, forbróidh sí. Tá sé tábhachtach a chuimhneamh nach don óige amháin é an spreagadh, ach do gach aoisghrúpa sa phobal. Is fórsa í an tsamhlaíocht agus caithfear luach a chur uirthi, í a chothú agus aoibhneas a bhaint aisti.

Yvonne Farrell, Architect, Grafton Architects

Culture is a word, which is hard to define, but Culture is the concrete evidence of ourselves, as human beings. We need to protect Culture and we need to grow Creativity. Like anything that grows, seeds need to be sown – not seeds of doubt – but seeds of possibilities.

There is a phenomenon of synergy, where ideas spark off one another, giving life to something new and unexpected. This is what happens in creative communities. We might never know about the young girl or boy, woman or man, who, because of hearing a poet read their work, because of seeing a float in the St.Patrick's Day Parade, because of watching a local play, gets the courage to become involved. We might never know what gives a person the inspiration to create. We can only provide the conditions, the encouragement, the catalysts.

Creative Communities provide opportunities for people who never thought that they might become involved, benefit from their own creativity, share their talents, enjoy themselves and let their imaginations grow. The Library is probably one of the most radical spaces in contemporary society - one of the last free spaces in our communities - positioned at the cutting edge of creativity, because it is the Public Room for the youngest to the oldest citizen . The Library can be the place where communities feel supported, where they can develop.

If we remember the sean fhocal: 'Mol an Oige agus tiocfaidh said' ...Praise the young , and they will succeed , they will bloom, they will develop. It is important to remember that encouragement is not only for the young, but for all age groups within communities. Imagination is a force, which needs to be valued, nurtured and enjoyed.

3 Fís Éire Ildánach i gcomhair Uíbh Fhailí
The Creative Ireland Vision for Offaly

Plean Cultúir agus Cruthaitheachta agus Pleananna Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Leabharlainne

Tá trí phlean ar leith ag Contae Uíbh Fhailí i gcomhair na nEalaíon, na hOidhreachta agus na Leabharlann. Is é an réimse a bhfuil an clár seo dírithe air ná an comhspás ina bhforluíonn na réimsí sin atá fréamhaithe i gcomhoibriú pobail agus a shíneann amach chuig an bpobal leathan. Tagann na pleananna contae ar fad faoin bPlean Áitiúil Forbartha Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail 2016–2021.

Is é fís Éire Ildánach agus fís Phlean Cultúir agus Cruthaitheachta i gcomhair Uíbh Fhailí 2018–2022 ná go mbeidh an deis ag gach duine a chónaíonn in Éirinn a gcumas cruthaitheach a fhíorú ina iomláine. Leantar leis an bhfís trí chúig cholún an Chláir 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 agus 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

Culture and Creativity Plan and Arts, Heritage and Library Plans

There are three separate plans for County Offaly for Arts, Heritage and the Libraries. The area this programme is focusing on is the joint space where these areas overlap that are rooted in community collaboration and reach into the wider community. All the county plans come under the Local Economic and Community Development Plan 2016–2021.

The vision of Creative Ireland and the Culture and Creativity Plan for Offaly 2018–2022 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

Tá an rannpháirtíocht agus an rochtain lárnach don fhís. Meastar gur cuid thábhachtach freisin é ealaíontóirí agus táirgeoirí cruthaitheacha eile a nascadh le pobail chun an fhís a fhíorú.

Tá an t-údarás ag Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí ceannaireacht a ghlacadh ar Cholún 2, Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal. Níl ról na Comhairle teoranta do Cholún 2, áfach, agus comhoibreoidh an Chomhairle le pobail, le grúpaí agus le gníomhaireachtaí chun cabhrú leo na ceithre cholún eile a fhorbairt agus a sheachadadh.

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

Offaly's Culture Team has the mandate to lead on Pillar 2, Enabling the Creativity in Every Community. However, the Council's role is not exclusive to Pillar 2 and the Council will collaborate with communities, groups and agencies to assist with developing and delivering the four other pillars.

Ag siúl tírdhreach Sliabh Bladhma le John Feehan
Exploring the landscape of the Slieve Blooms with John Feehan

4 Luachanna Éire Ildánach in Uíbh Fhailí
The Creative Ireland Values in Offaly

TÁ LUACHANNA ÉIRE Ildánach ina mbonn don straitéis agus don chláreagrú in Uíbh Fhailí i gcomhair an chláir cúig bliana. Léirigh na treoirthionscadail in 2017 **neart an chomhoibrithe** i dtaca le healaíontóirí, saineolas oidhreachta agus pobail áitiúla a thabhairt le chéile chun gnéithe dá n-oidhreacht a scrúdú. Cruthaíonn comhpháirtíochtaí torthaí níos láidre, níos doimhne agus níos marthanaí.

Beidh gach tionscadal de chuid Éire Ildánach **dírithe ar an bpobal**, is cuma cé acu an pobal áitiúil, scoil áitiúil, grúpa sainspéise, grúpa Bailte Slachtmhara atá i gceist nó mar atá luaite i gColún 5: *Clú na hÉireann ar fud an Domhain a thabhairt le chéile*, trí dhul i gcaidreamh le pobal an diaspóra trí fhaisnéis maidir lena sinsir nó maidir lena n-áit dúchais a chur ar fáil. Léiríodh sin go soiléir trí Bhailiúchán Digby Uíbh Fhailí a chuaigh ar líne in 2016 agus is féidir sliocht na ndaoine a d'fhág an ceantar a fheiceáil ag dul i dteagmháil leis an acmhainn ar fud an domhain. Dá mhéad atá tionscadal ábhartha don phobal is ea is mó an bhrí a bheidh aige. Tá an soláthar ábhair shonraigh cartlainne a bhfuil baint dhíreach aige le gaolta thar lear an-inbhraite agus tá níos mó brí ag baint leis ná mar a bheadh i gcás teachtaireacht chineálach maidir le branda Éireannaigh. Áirítear leis sin acmhainn a fhorbairt laistigh de phobail agus ealaíontóirí agus iad siúd a oibríonn i réimse na hoidhreachta a bheith ag obair i gcomhar lena chéile.

THE CREATIVE IRELAND values are the basis for the strategy and programming in Offaly for the five-year programme. The pilot projects in 2017 showed the **strength of collaboration** bringing artists, heritage expertise and local communities together exploring aspects of their heritage. Partnerships bring stronger, deeper and longer lasting results.

All Creative Ireland projects will be **community focused**, this may be the local community, school, special interest group, a Tidy Towns group or as in Pillar 5: *Unifying our Global Reputation* engaging with the diaspora community through information regarding their ancestors or the place they came from. This has been clearly demonstrated by the Offaly Digby collection which went on line in 2016 and the outreach to descendants of those who left the area worldwide can be seen engaging with this resource. The more relevant the project is to the community the more meaningful it will be. The provision of specific archive material that is of immediate provenance to relations abroad is very tangible and more meaningful than a generic Irish brand message. This includes capacity building within communities and for artists and those working in heritage to work together.

Tá béim ar **rannpháirtíocht a mhéadú seachas rannpháirteachas neamhghníomhach** a bheith ann agus léirítear sin trí rannpháirtíocht roinnt pobal sa tionscadal *Mary Ward's Amazing World of Wonder*.

Táthar ag súil go dtógfar bunchloch láidir in Uíbh Fhailí trí infheistiú i rannpháirtíocht phobalbhunaithe, agus trínár bpobail áitiúla agus trí dhul i dteagmháil lenár ndiaspóra, is féidir linn a chinntiú go mbeidh an-chuid tionscadal nuálach agus buan ann mar thoradh ar an **uilechuimsitheacht agus ar an gcumhachtú sin.**

There is a focus to increase *participation rather than passive involvement* and this is demonstrated by the engagement of a number of communities in the *Mary Ward's Amazing World of Wonder* project.

By investing in community based participation it is hoped to build a solid foundation in Offaly and through our local communities and engaging with our diaspora we can ensure this genuine *inclusivity and empowerment* will reap many innovative and enduring projects.

An cumadóir Karen Power ag obair ar tionscadal Sonic Pollinators

Composer Karen Power developing her Sonic Pollinators project

5 Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha i gcomhair Uíbh Fhailí
The Strategic Priorities for Offaly

TÁ AN STRAITÉIS cúig bliana seo deartha chun comhtháthú a dhéanamh agus comhoibriú a chur chun cinn idir na straitéisí aonair cultúrbhunaithe, is é sin le rá, Plean Oidhreachta Uíbh Fhailí 2017–2022, Plean Ealaíon Uíbh Fhailí 2017–2022 (ar feitheamh), Plean Leabharlann Uíbh Fhailí (faoi athbhreithniú), iad ar fad bainteach le Plean Áitiúil Forbartha Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail Uíbh Fhailí 2016–2021.

Thosaigh an **comhairliúchán** le hócáid a bhí ar siúl tráthnóna an 4 Aibreán 2017 i Leabharlann Thulach Mhór nuair a rinne John Concannon, a bhí ina Stiúrthóir ar Chlár Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach an tráth sin, cur i láthair os comhair 70 duine den phobal faoi leagan amach an chláir agus ról na n-údarás áitiúil. Ina dhiaidh sin, bhí clár eolais lae, arna óstáil ag Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí, in Gloster House, an Bhrosnach, ar an Máirt, an 12 Meán Fómhair 2017, agus d'fhreastail 75 duine air sin. Ba iad seo a leanas na haidhmeanna a luadh: tuiscint a chur ar fáil ar chuspóirí Éire Ildánach; daoine a chur in aithne dá chéile sa chontae agus comhoibriú a fhorbairt sa chaoi sin; foghlaim faoi na treoirthionscadail a bhí á gcur i gcrích in Uíbh Fhailí in 2017; agus aighneachtaí a lorg ón bpobal. Fuarthas fiche a ceathair aighneacht scríofa tar éis an ghlao phoiblí sin ar aighneachtaí, mar aon leo siúd a fuarthas ar an 12 Meán Fómhair, faoin spriocdháta i nDeireadh Fómhair 2017. Ba chabhair iad na haighneachtaí sin agus smaointe an phobail ar an Lá Eolais maidir leis an bplean seo a mhúnlú. Leanfaidh Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí ar aghaidh d'idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh leis na grúpaí ar leith agus leis na daoine aonair éagsúla chun na naisc agus na moltaí sin a fhorbairt tuilleadh, agus príomhchúram Chomhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí á mheabhrú di, is é sin, colún 2 a sheachadadh ach, ina theannta sin, tabharfaidh sí cabhair nuair is cuí sin maidir leis na ceithre cholún eile a sheachadadh.

THIS FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY is to bring coherence and promote collaboration between the individual culture based strategies, the Offaly Heritage Plan 2017–2022, Offaly Arts Plan 2017–2022 (pending), Offaly Libraries Plan (under review) all of which relate to the Offaly Local Economic and Community Development Plan 2016–2021.

Consultation commenced with an evening on 4th April 2017 in Tullamore Library when John Concannon, the then Director of the Creative Ireland National Programme, made a presentation to 70 members of the public outlining the programme and setting out the role of local authorities. This was followed by a day long information programme, hosted by the Offaly Culture Team, in Gloster House, Brosna on Tuesday, 12th September 2017 and was attended by 75 people. The aims were: to provide an understanding of the Creative Ireland objectives; introduce people to others in the county and thereby build collaborations; to learn about the pilot programmes being delivered in Offaly in 2017; and, to invite submissions from the public. Following this public call for submissions twenty four written submissions were received, in addition to those given on the 12th, by the closing date in October 2017. These submissions and the public's ideas garnered at the Information Day helped to shape this plan. The Offaly Culture Team will continue to liaise with the various groups and individuals to develop these links and proposals further, bearing in mind Offaly County Council's main responsibility to deliver pillar 2 but also to assist where appropriate in delivering the other four pillars.

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha i gComhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí

Múnlaíodh na tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha agus na réaltachtaí seo a leanas agus na nithe seo a leanas á gcur san áireamh:

- Colún 2 *Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal* mar phríomhfhócas na nÚdarás Áitiúil. Tá an forluí agus an t-idirghníomhú leis na ceithre cholún eile d'Éire Ildánach tábhachtach agus léireofar an méid sin nuair a tharlaíonn siad.
- Tá an clár oibríochtúil seachas caipitiúil ó thaobh fócais de.
- Tá an clár seo fréamhaithe sa chomhoibriú. Má bhaineann tionscadal leis na healaíona, leis an oidhreacht, le leabharlanna nó leis an bpobal amháin, tagann sé faoi shainchúram phleananna cúig bliana na réimsí aonair sin seachas faoin bplean seo.
- Tá acmhainn theoranta ag Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí chun cláreagrú a fhorbairt.
- Déanfar an cláreagrú a chinneadh tar éis acmhainní foirne i Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí a chur san áireamh.

Colún 1: Leanaí agus Óige – Scód a ligean le Cumas na Cruthaitheachta i ngach Leanbh

Cé go ndearna Meitheal Éire Ildánach straitéis náisiúnta ar leith a sheoladh ar an 7 Nollaig 2017, tá an Chomhairle i bhfách le cabhair a tabhairt maidir leis réimse tábhachtach seo, go háirithe trí STEAM (Eolaíocht, Teicneolaíocht, Innealtóireacht, Ealaíona agus Matamaitic), trí Music Generation agus trí chláreagrú cultúir agus cruthaitheachta do leanaí sa leabharlann agus sa phobal.

Strategic Priorities in Offaly County Council

The strategic priorities have been shaped having regard to the following realities:

- Pillar 2 *Enabling Creativity in Every Community* is the main focus of Local Authorities. The overlap and interaction with the four other pillars of Creative Ireland is important and will be made explicit where it occurs.
- The programme is operational in focus rather than capital.
- This programme is rooted in collaboration. If a project relates solely to arts, heritage, libraries or community then it falls under the remit of the 5-year plans for those areas rather than this plan.
- The Offaly Culture Team has limited capacity to develop programming.
- Programming will be determined taking staffing resources within the Offaly Culture Team into account.

Pillar 1: Children and Youth – Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

While a separate national strategy has been launched by the Creative Ireland Team on 7th December 2017 the Council is keen to assist in this key area with particular reference to the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths), Music Generation and culture and creative programming for children in the library and community.

Colún 2 Pobail Chruthaitheacha – Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal

2.1. Fearann Páirce Loch na Buaraí

Rinneadh comhaontú suntasach in 2017 idir Bord na Móna agus Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí chun na dealbha ag Páirc Thaiscéalaíochta Loch na Buaraí a bhainistiú. Is sampla foirfe é an Pháirc seo, atá bunaithe ar an gcoincheap 'áit ina mbuaileann ealaín agus nádúr le chéile', den chaoi inar féidir leis an ealaín agus leis an oidhreacht obair le chéile, rud a léirítear tríd an 105,000 cuairteoir a taifeadadh in 2017. I rith thréimhse an phlean, beartaítear comhoibriú le Bord na Móna chun leas iomlán a bhaint as an acmhainn seo.

2.2. Cláreagrú Cultúrtha Leabharlainne

Tá sainchúram leathan ag an tseirbhís leabharlainne, mar aon le caidreamh uathúil le pobail agus scóip shuntasach chun síneadh amach sa phobal lena ghréasán leabharlann brainse. Tá clár ceardlann, spásanna, taispeántas, taibhiúchán agus cainteanna á fhorbairt aici agus cuireann sí rannpháirtíocht seachas breathnú neamhghníomhach chun cinn. Beartaítear iarratais a lorg le haghaidh painéal a bhféadfadh an leabharlann é a úsáid chun an tseirbhís seo atá á forbairt a fheabhsú don phobal mór.

2.3. Coimisiúin Thábhachtacha

In 2017, cinneadh cuireadh a thabhairt d'ealaíontóirí freagairt do réimse tábhachtach 'Plean Uile-Éireann um Pailneoirí', agus tharla comhoibriú corraitheach leis an gcumadóir Karen Power mar thoradh air sin. Gach bliain roghnófar príomhréimse le haghaidh coimisiún suntasach trína gcuirfear réimse d'oidhreacht Uíbh Fhailí chun cinn tríd an ealaín. Is é 2018 Bliain Eorpach na hOidhreachta Cultúrtha agus beidh scrúdú á dhéanamh ar an réimse sin. Tá 'Déanta in Éirinn' nó 'Éire Luath-Chríostaí' molta mar théamaí dó sin.

In 2017, bhí comhghlao ag Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí agus Comhairle Contae Laoise d'ealaíontóirí chun freagairt d'ábhar an phailnithe. Thug an cur chuige sin deis dúinn scóip an tionscadail a leathnú agus soláthraíonn sé deis do chomhoibriú idirchontae agus do mhalartú saineolais. Beartaítear tabhairt faoi roinnt tionscadal idirchontae nó réigiúnach le linn thréimhse an phlean seo.

Cur chuige eile atá á phlé ná cónaitheacht sa phobal a fhorbairt, agus sinn ag obair leis na trí Cheantar Bhardasacha. Mar shampla, ailtire, file, staraí, éiceolaí, scannánóir, cóiréagrafaí nó drámadóir a choimisiúnú chun taighde a chur chun cinn agus chun a réimse spéise a scrúdú.

2.4.a Tionscadail Chruthaitheacha faoi stiúir an Phobail

In 2017, d'eagraigh Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí glao píolótach ar thionscadail lena n-iarrfaí ar phobail comhoibriú agus obair le réimse ealaíontóirí chun gnéithe dá n-oidhreacht a scrúdú. Bhí an glao seo an-éifeachtach ó thaobh rannpháirtíocht na bpobal a dhoimhniú agus, mar thoradh air, seachadadh roinnt cur chuige agus tionscadal nuálach. Bhí buiséad €2,500 ann in aghaidh an tionscadail. Beartaítear an glao seo a shíneadh chuig pobail agus beidh raon roghanna maoiniúcháin ann. san De réir an aiseolais atá faighte ónár gcomhairliúcháin phoiblí, is léir go bhfuil suim ann maidir le tionscadail a fhorbairt faoi na téamaí Bíodh Eolas agat ar d'Áit nó Daoine Mór le Rá.

Pillar 2: Creative Communities – Enabling Creativity in Every Community

2.1. Lough Boora Parklands

A significant agreement was made in 2017 between Bord na Móna and Offaly County Council to manage the sculptures at Lough Boora Discovery Park. This park, based on 'where art and nature meet', is a perfect example of how art and heritage can work together, as demonstrated by the 105,000 thousand visitors recorded in 2017. During the period of the plan it is proposed to collaborate with Bord na Móna to maximise this resource.

2.2. Library Cultural Programming

The library service has a wide remit, a unique relationship with communities and considerable scope to reach into the community through its network of branch libraries. It has been developing a programme of workshops, spaces, exhibitions, performances and talks and promotes participation rather than passive observation. It is planned to invite applications for a panel that the library can draw from to enhance this evolving service for the wider community.

2.3. Key Commissions

In 2017 it was decided to invite artists to respond to the key area of the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan' which led to the exciting collaboration with composer Karen Power. Each year a key area will be selected for a significant commission that promotes an area of Offaly's heritage through art. 2018 is the European Year of Cultural Heritage and this will be an area to explore. Suggested themes are 'Made in Ireland' or 'Early Christian Ireland'.

In 2017 Offaly County Council and Laois County Council had a joint call for artists to respond to the subject of pollination. This approach afforded us the opportunity to widen the scope of the project and provides for inter county collaboration and the exchange of expertise. It is proposed to undertake a number of inter county or regional projects during the period of this plan.

Another approach under consideration is the development of a residency in the community working with the three Municipal Districts. For example, an architect, poet, historian, ecologist, film maker, choreographer or dramatist to promote research and explore their area of interest.

2.4.a Community Led Creative Projects

In 2017 Offaly County Council piloted a call for projects whereby communities had to collaborate and work with a range of artists to explore aspects of their heritage. This proved to be very effective in deepening the communities' engagement and a number of innovative approaches and projects were delivered. The budget was €2,500 per project. It is proposed to extend this call to communities with a range of funding options. Feedback from our public consultations has shown an interest in developing projects under the themes Know your Place or Personalities.

2.4.b Cruinniú

In 2017, ceiliúradh Cruinniú na Cásca in Uíbh Fhailí ar Dhomhnach Cásca ag Páirc Thaiscéalaíochta Loch na Buaraí. Beartaíonn Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach imeachtaí 'Cruinniú' a fhorbairt agus a leabú ar fud an chontae amach anseo, agus beidh imeacht do leanaí ann i mí an Mheithimh. Déanfaidh Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí, agus í ag obair le grúpaí pobail, idirchaidreamh le Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach chun Cruinniú a cheiliúradh in Uíbh Fhailí.

2.5. Mapáil Chultúrtha

Tá Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach i bhfách le scrúdú agus mapáil a dhéanamh ar acmhainní cruthaitheacha gach contae ar leith. Le linn an próiseas sin a bheith á fhorbairt, seans go mbeidh am agus acmhainní ag teastáil le go mbeidh Uíbh Fhailí in ann an t-eolas a bhaineann le hUíbh Fhailí a bhailiú agus a chur i láthair.

Colún 3: Inf heistíocht in Infreastruchtúr na Cruthaitheachta agus an Chultúir

Is í Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach go príomha a bheidh i gceannas ar an gcolún seo ag ós rud é go mbeidh fócas oibríochtúil ag na hacmhainní a leithroinnfear agus go mbeidh gá le maoiniú caipitiúil ó fhoinsí eile. Ach féadfar breithniú a dhéanamh maidir le miontionscadail agus mionstaidéir faoin gcolún seo chun ár nInfreastruchtúr Cruthaitheach agus Cultúrtha a éascú.

2.4.b Cruinniú

In 2017 Offaly's Cruinniú na Cásca was celebrated on Easter Sunday at Lough Boora Discovery Park. The National Creative Ireland Team plans to develop and embed Cruinniú events throughout the country into the future with a child based event during June . The Offaly Culture Team working with community groups will liaise with the National Creative Ireland Team to celebrate Cruinniú in Offaly.

2.5. Cultural Mapping

The National Creative Ireland Team is keen to explore the undertaking of an audit and mapping of creative resources for each county. As this process evolves, time and resources may be needed for Offaly to gather and present the information relevant to Offaly.

Pillar 3: Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure

This Pillar will largely be driven by the National Creative Ireland team as the resources allocated are operationally focused and capital funding will need to come from alternative sources. However, minor projects and studies to facilitate our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure may be considered here.

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

Tá FilmOffaly, coimisiún scannánaíochta Chomhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí, ag dul ó neart go neart ónar cuireadh tús leis in 1998. I gcomhpháirtíocht le Filmbase, tá roinnt gearrscannán léirithe sa chontae trí sparánacht bhliantúil FilmOffaly / Filmbase, agus tá gradaim mór le rá buaite ag cuid mhaith acu.
Tá earnáil láidir meán agus léirithe scannán ann sa chontae. Agus í ag obair le Féile Scannán OFFline i mBiorra, chuir Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí tús le Mini Movies in 2012 agus tá sé á reáchtáil ar bhonn bliantúil ó shin i leith. Tá sé mar aidhm aige scileanna léirithe scannán ardchaighdeáin a thabhairt do dhaltaí bunscoile agus meánscoile. Glacann gairmithe scannán páirt i gceardlanna in éineacht leis na daltaí thar roinnt laethanta, agus an toradh air sin ná gearrscannán a chuirtear ar taispeáint den chéad uair ag Ionad Amharclainne agus Ealaíon Bhiorra le linn Fhéile Scannán OFFline. Aithníonn Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí gur deis iontach é seo, agus tá siad i bhfách leis an gclár seo a fhorbairt agus tacú le tionscnaimh sa réimse seo ar gach slí is féidir leo. In 2018 tá tacaíocht tairgthe don chéad Chónaitheacht Bheochanariamh de chuid OFFline. Leabóidh na hiarrthóirí a n-éireoidh leo iad féin laistigh den phobal agus forbróidh siad tionscadail thar thréimhse sé mhí agus, ina dhiaidh sin, déanfar toradh a saothair a chur ar scáileán go poiblí ag Féile Scannán OFFline.

Pillar 4: Creative Industries – Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production

FilmOffaly, Offaly County Council's film commission, has grown from strength to strength since its inception in 1998. In partnership with Filmbase, the FilmOffaly / Filmbase annual bursary has seen the production of numerous short films in the county, many of which have gone on to win prestigious awards. There is a strong media and film production sector in the county. Working with the OFFline Film Festival in Birr Offaly County Council initiated Mini Movies in 2012 which has run annually since then. It aims to bring quality film production skills to primary and secondary school pupils. Film professionals engage in workshops with the pupils over a number of days, the culminating result is a short film that is premiered at Birr Theatre and Arts Centre during the OFFline Film Festival. The Offaly Culture Team recognising this as a great opportunity, is keen to build on this programme and support initiatives in this area through all avenues open to them. In 2018 support has been offered to the first ever OFFline Animation Residency. The successful candidates will embed themselves within the local community and develop a project over six months, culminating in a public screening of their work at the OFFline Film Festival.

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

Tá deis ar fáil anseo chun naisc éifeachtacha a dhéanamh leis an diaspóra trí bhunábhar foinse a bhaineann le taifid a bhaineann le bailte fearainn agus le teaghlaigh a chur ar fáil dóibh. Is féidir é sin a dhéanamh trí chartlann chuimsitheach contae, ina mbeidh catalógú déanta ar thaifid ionas go mbeidh siad intuigthe, trí dhigitiú ar líne taifead a shealbhaítear i gContae Uíbh Fhailí a fhorbairt, agus trí Uíbh Fhailí a dhoiciméadú i bhfoilseacháin ardchaighdeáin.

Léiríonn Straitéis Chartlann Uíbh Fhailí comhpháirtíocht láidir idir Stair Uíbh Fhailí agus Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí. Soláthraíonn www.offalyhistoryarchives.com naisc leis an diaspóra trí fhaisnéis shonrach faoi dhaoine agus faoi áiteanna, agus trí dhoiciméid bhunaidh a ngabhann tagairtí cuimsitheacha leo, a chur ar fáil. Thosaigh an tionscadal seo in 2016 agus beartaítear leanúint de rochtain ar ábhar cartlainne ó Uíbh Fhailí a chur ar fáil ar líne.

Tá an méid seo i gcomhréir le hobair atá ar siúl ag an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus ag Straitéis Diaspóra Chontae Uíbh Fhailí 'Seo Uíbh Fhailí, Ag Idirghníomhú & ag Nascadh lenár nDiaspóra, Straitéis Diaspóra Uíbh Fhailí 2017–2020' agus comhlánaíonn sé an obair sin.

Pillar 5: Global Reputation – Unifying our Global Reputation

There is an opportunity here to provide meaningful connections with the diaspora through providing them with primary source material relating to the townland and family records. This can be done through a comprehensive county archive, cataloguing records so they are intelligible, developing online digitisation of archive records held in County Offaly, and, documenting Offaly in good quality publications.

The Offaly Archives Strategy reflects a strong partnership between Offaly History and Offaly County Council. Www.offalyhistoryarchives.com provides connections with the diaspora through specific information about people and place and original documents comprehensively referenced. This project commenced in 2016 and it is planned to continue to make archival material from Offaly accessible on line.

This is in line with and complements the work being carried out by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Offaly County Diaspora Strategy 'this is Offaly, Reaching Out & Engaging with Our Diaspora, Offaly Diaspora Strategy 2017–2020'.

6 Forfheidhmiú in 2018
Implementation in 2018

Éascú

Léirigh an dá chruinniú comhairliúcháin in 2017 na tairbhí is féidir a fháil ó dheiseanna breise a chur ar fáil dóibh siúd a bhfuil baint acu le cultúr agus le cruthaitheacht bualadh le chéile agus páirt ghníomhach a ghlacadh i bpleanáil, i bhforbairt agus i seachadadh tionscadal comhoibríoch. Aithníodh nach raibh deis rialta ná struchtúr ag cuid mhaith daoine na naisc sin a fhorbairt roimhe sin. Leanfaidh Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí ar aghaidh de chabhair a thabhairt chun na naisc sin a chothú, agus chun tacú leo, agus chun daoine a thabhairt le chéile.

Cláreagrú Bliantúil

Ceapfaidh Meitheal Cultúir Éire Ildánach clár bliantúil oibre i gcomhréir leis an mbuiséad atá ar fáil agus beidh an clár sin bunaithe ar an taithí a bheidh faighte le linn na cláir i mblianta roimhe sin a sheachadadh.

Fógrófar tionscadail phobail go tráthúil ionas go mbeidh deis chomhairliúcháin agus chomhoibrithe ann agus chun seachadadh gach tionscadail a éascú le go mbeidh na pobail in ann a n-éilimh airgeadais a dhéanamh faoin bhfómhar gach bliain.

Léirigh an próiseas comhairliúcháin suim shoiléir go gcuirfear daoine ar an eolas faoin gcaoi a dtéann seachadadh an phlean ar aghaidh agus, chuige sin, déanfaidh Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí an dul chun cinn ar na tionscadail atá curtha i gcrích a chur in iúl.

Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach agus an Comhordaitheoir Contae

Is clár nua é seo agus tá dlúth-theagmháil le Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach tábhachtach chun seachadadh an phlean cúig bliana a mhúnlú agus chun foghlaim ó dhul chun cinn agus taithí contaetha eile. Leanfaimid

Facilitation

The two consultation meetings in 2017 showed the benefits that can be gained from providing further opportunities for those involved in culture and creativity to meet and actively engage in planning, developing and delivering collaborative projects. It was recognised that many people had not had a regular opportunity or structure to develop these links before. The Offaly Culture Team will continue to help to foster and support these linkages and bringing people together.

Annual Programming

An annual work programme will be devised by the Offaly Culture Ireland Team with reference to the budget available and the experience of delivering the previous years' programmes.

Community projects will be advertised, in a timely manner, to allow for consultation and collaboration and to facilitate the delivery of each project in order that they may make their financial claims by the autumn of each year.

The consultation process indicated a clear interest in letting people know how the delivery of the plan progresses and, to this end, the Offaly Culture Team will communicate progress on projects delivered.

National Creative Ireland Team and County Co-ordinator

This is a new programme and close contact with the National Creative Ireland Team is important to shape the delivery of the five-year plan and to learn from the progress and experience of other counties. We will continue to liaise with the National Creative Ireland Team to learn from shared experiences particularly in the early stages of this Creative Ireland programme.

d'idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach chun foghlaim ó chomhthaithí, go háirithe i rith na gcéimeanna luatha de chlár Éire Ildánach.

Cumarsáid agus nuashonruithe

Is é Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail (LRP) Uíbh Fhailí an príomhstruchtúr sa chontae le haghaidh teagmháil phobail. Faoi láthair tá 265 ghrúpa cláraithe leis an LRP. Mar sin, beidh an LRP ina acmhainn thábhachtach do Mheitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí agus cabhróidh Bridie Costello Hynes, Oibrí Acmhainne LRP Uíbh Fhailí, lena chinntiú go mbainfear leas iomlán as rannpháirtíocht an phobail i bhforbairt agus i seachadadh an chláir.

Tá cuntais mheán sóisialta ag Comhairle Contae Uíbh Fhailí, ag Oifig na nEalaíon, ag an Oifig Oidhreachta, ag an tSeirbhís Leabharlainne agus ag an LRP. Úsáidfear iad sin chun nuashonruithe agus forbairtí tionscadail le haghaidh thionscadail Uíbh Fhailí Ildánach a fhógairt. Cuirfear na meáin áitiúla ar an eolas faoi thionscadail agus eiseofar preaseisiúintí mar is cuí. Tá liostaí ríomhphoist ag an Oifig Ealaíon, ag an Oifig Oidhreachta agus ag na seirbhísí Leabharlainne i gcomhair nuachta agus imeachtaí. Chun clárú le haghaidh nuashonruithe, cuir ríomhphost chuig artsoffice@offalycoco.ie agus / nó heritage@offalycoco.ie. Beidh faisnéis faoi Éire Ildánach ar fáil ar www.offaly.ie freisin, agus beidh mionsonraí ann faoi phleananna atá foilsithe agus faoi thionscadail leanúnacha.

Óstálann Oifig Oidhreachta Uíbh Fhailí seimineár lae gach Samhain agus cuireann sin, agus cuirfidh sin, deis ar fáil chun tionscadail Uíbh Fhailí Ildánach a phróifíliú.

Communication and updates

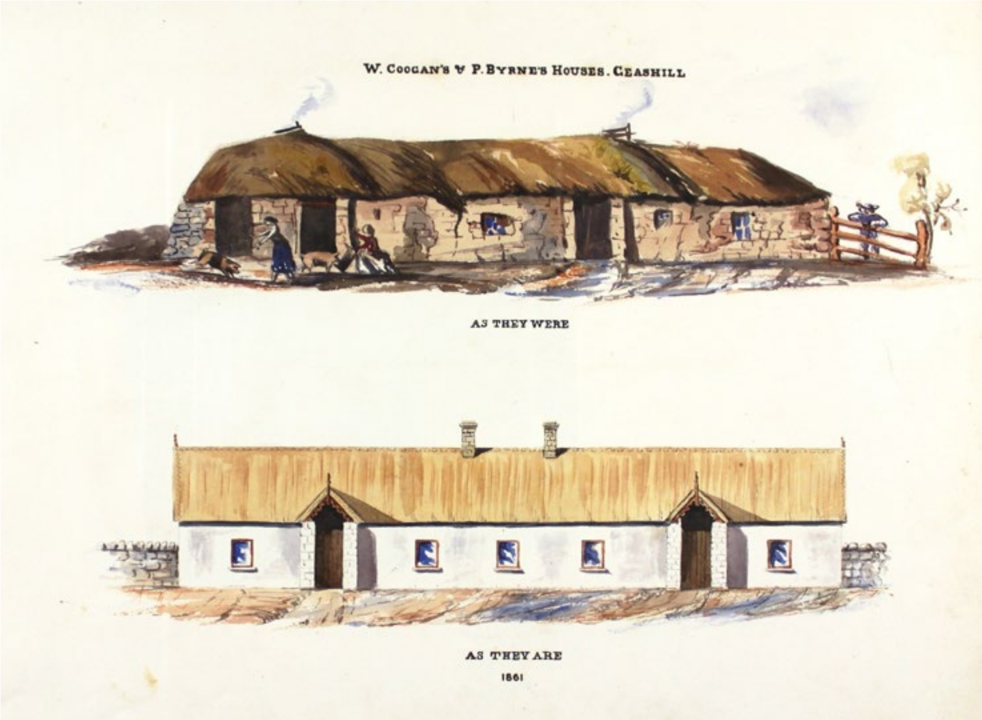
The Offaly Public Participation Network (PPN) is the County Council's main structure for community contact. Currently there are 265 groups registered with the PPN. Accordingly, the PPN will be a key resource for the Offaly Culture Team and Bridie Costello Hynes, the PPN Resource Worker for Offaly, will help to ensure that community engagement in the development and delivery of the programme is maximised.

Offaly County Council, the Arts Office, Heritage Office and Library Service and the PPN all have social media accounts. These will be used to advertise updates and project developments for the Creative Offaly projects. The local media will be notified of projects and press releases issued as appropriate. The Arts Office, Heritage Office and Library services have email lists for news and events. To register for updates please email artsoffice@offalycoco.ie and / or heritage@offalycoco.ie. Information relating to Creative Ireland will also be hosted on www.offaly.ie with details of published plans and ongoing projects.

The Offaly Heritage Office hosts a one-day seminar each November and this has and will continue to provide an opportunity to profile Creative Offaly projects.

The County Coordinator will submit updates to the Chief Executive's Report for County Council meetings on a regular basis. Each member of the Offaly Culture Team will provide updates, as appropriate, to their Strategic Policy Committee and liaise with their contacts and various groups during the course of their work.

Cuirfidh an Comhordaitheoir Contae nuashonruithe ar fáil le haghaidh Thuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh a leagtar os comhair cruinnithe de chuid na Comhairle Contae ar bhonn rialta. Cuirfidh gach ball de Mheitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí nuashonruithe ar fáil, mar is cuí, dá C(h)oiste Beartais Straitéisigh agus déanfaidh siad idirchaidreamh lena dteagmhálaithe agus le grúpaí éagsúla agus a gcuid oibre á déanamh acu.



Íomhánna Digby le caoinchead Páipéir Eastáit Éireannacha Digby / Oifig Oidhreachta CCUF

Digby images courtesy of Digby Irish Estates Papers / OCC Heritage Office.

7 Meitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí
The Offaly Culture Team

Beidh an Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí i gceannas ar an meitheal agus beidh ionadaithe ann ó réimsí na n-ealaíon, na seirbhísí corparáideacha, na forbartha pobail agus áitiúla, na hailtireachta agus na hoidhreachta.

An Comhordaitheoir Contae

Tá an comhordaitheoir contae i measc 31 chomhordaitheoir a oibríonn mar mheitheal náisiúnta chun Éire Ildánach a chur i bhfeidhm do phobail timpeall na tíre. Déanfar comhordaitheoir chlár Uíbh Fhailí Ildánach a cheapadh gach bliain ó bhaill Mheitheal Cultúir Uíbh Fhailí.

The team will be led by the Director of Services with the arts, corporate services, community and local development, architecture and heritage all represented.

County Coordinator

The county coordinator is one of 31 coordinators who work as a national team to deliver Creative Ireland to communities across the country. The co-ordinator of the Creative Offaly programme will be appointed annually from the Offaly Culture Team.

creative.ireland.ie

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland Programme
2017–2022