

An Iarmhí Westmeath

Straitéis Cultúir agus
Cruthaitheachta 2018-2022

Culture and Creativity
Strategy 2018-2022



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*Athlone Pipe Band at
Athlone Castle*

Ábhar Contents

1	Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh agus an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh <i>Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive's Foreword</i>
2	Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht san Iarmhí <i>Culture and Creativity in Westmeath</i>
3	Fís Éire Ildánach don Iarmhí <i>The Creative Ireland Vision for Westmeath</i>
4	Luachanna Éire Ildánach san Iarmhí <i>The Creative Ireland Values in Westmeath</i>
5	Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha don Iarmhí <i>Strategic Priorities for Westmeath</i>
6	Cur i bhFeidhm <i>Implementation</i>

1

Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh agus an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive's Foreword

FÁILTÍONN COMHAIRLE CHONTAE na hIarmhí roimh Straitéis Chúig Bliana Éire Ildánach. Athdhearbhaíonn sé ár dtiomantas i leith glacadh le cruthaitheacht chultúir mar bhunluach saoil san Iarmhí. Cuireann sé bealach ar fáil dúinn chun tacú le beocht chultúrtha agus an bheocht sin a chothú, rud a chuireann le caighdeán an tsaoil do shaoránaigh, agus a chothaíonn nuálaíocht agus forbairt shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch an chontae. Léirítear sa straitéis seo an mhuinín atá curtha sna hÚdaráis Áitiúla chun cur leis an idirghníomhaíocht le pobail áitiúla. Faoin tionscnamh spreagúil seo, is féidir linn a chinntiú go bhfuil an deis ag gach saoránach san Iarmhí a bheith rannpháirteach, ar mhodh dáiríre, i raon gníomhaíochtaí cultúrtha.

Tugann an clár Éire Ildánach deis dúinn comhoibriú a dhaingniú laistigh den Earnáil Chultúir agus é mar aidhm againn tacaíochtaí agus deiseanna a fheabhsú do mhuintir na hIarmhí. Tá stair agus tírdhreach againn a thugann deis chun an tsamhlaíocht a spreagadh agus a shíneadh. Tá sé de chumas ag an straitéis seo comhshaothair iontacha nua a spreagadh, ar saothair iad a thabharfaidh deis chun insintí nua a chruthú ar bhealaí éagsúla d'fhonn aird a dhíriú ar an tsainiúlacht a bhaineann le cultúr na hIarmhí.

Sa bhliain 2017, thosaigh muid ar an gcreat a chruthú don chlár Éire Ildánach. Mar thoradh ar ár Meitheal Cultúir a chruthú, ar dhul i mbun comhairliúcháin leis an bpobal maidir le cúrsaí cultúir san Iarmhí agus ar roinnt tionscadal a chur i gcrích, bhí deis againn chun éisteacht agus foghlaim a dhéanamh agus chun ceannaireacht a léiriú.

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL welcomes the Creative Ireland Five-Year Strategy. It reaffirms our commitment to embrace cultural creativity as a core value of life within Westmeath. It provides us with a means to support and sustain a cultural vibrancy which not only improves the quality of life for our citizens, but contributes to innovation as well as the social and economic development of the county. This strategy reflects the trust given to Local Authorities to build on their interaction with local communities. Through this exciting initiative we can now ensure that all citizens of Westmeath have the opportunity to engage meaningfully in a range of cultural activities.

The Creative Ireland Programme allows us to embed collaboration within the Cultural Sector with the aim of enhancing support and opportunities for the people of Westmeath. We have a history and a landscape which provides a platform to inspire and stretch the imagination. This strategy has the potential to encourage exciting collaborations which will allow new narratives to be created through a multiplicity of forms, to highlight the uniqueness of the culture of Westmeath.

In 2017, we took the first steps in creating the framework for Creative Ireland. The creation of our Culture Team, the consultation with the public on culture in Westmeath and the roll out of a number of projects have provided an opportunity to us to listen, learn and lead.

Fáiltíonn baill agus feidhmeannacht Chomhairle Chontae na hIarmhí roimh fhoilsiú na Straitéise seo, agus roimh aon mhaoiniú eile a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann ó Éire Ildánach amach anseo chun ligean don chruthaitheacht bláthú san Iarmhí. Is féidir linn a bheith muiníneach go leanfaidh ár nOidhreacht Chultúir de bheith ag bláthú agus ag bisiú mar go mbeidh straitéis Éire Ildánach mar a bheadh buntaca beartais ann sna cúig bliana atá romhainn.

Pat Gallagher
Príomhfheidhmeannach

An Comh. John Dolan
Cathaoirleach

The members and executive of Westmeath County Council welcome the publication of this Five Year Strategy, and any additional funding from Creative Ireland which might become available to allow creativity to flourish within Westmeath. With the Creative Ireland Strategy underpinning policy for the next five years, we can be confident that our Cultural Heritage will continue to flourish and thrive.

Pat Gallagher
Chief Executive

Cllr. John Dolan
Cathaoirleach



Mainistir Bhaile Fhobhair, An Iarmhí
Fore Abbey,
Westmeath

2 Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht san Iarmhí Culture and Creativity in Westmeath

IS CONTAE SAIBHIR ilghnéitheach é an Iarmhí i dtaca le cúrsaí cultúir de. Is áit inspioráideach í, agus an stair le feiceáil go soiléir inti. Tá an Cnoc Beannaithe Uisnigh ann ó thréimhse mhiotaseolaíochta agus fhinscéalaíochta na hÉireann, agus é suite i gceantar ina bhfuil neart fothracha mainistreacha, reiligi ársa, caisleán, tithe breátha agus eastát. Tá tírdhreach ar leith sa chontae, idir lochanna agus uiscebhealaí a shníonn tríd an gContae, chomh maith le portaigh atá 10,000 bliain d'aois, agus tá foraoiseacha agus glasbhealaí ann don phobal agus do chuiditheoirí araon. Le fada an lá, tá an tírdhreach, an cultúr agus an stair sa chontae ag mealladh scríbhneoirí, agus ag feidhmiú mar inspioráid do scríbhneoirí, ar nós JP Donleavy. D'imir turas báid a thóg Jonathan Swift ar Loch Ainninn tionchar ar *Gulliver's Travels*, ceann de na leabhair is íocónaí dar scríobhadh riamh. Chaith Oliver Goldsmith a chuid luathbhlianta sa chontae. Rugadh John Broderick, Josephine Hart agus Dermot Healy san Iarmhí, agus tá an taithí a bhí acu le linn a n-óige sa chontae le feiceáil ina saothair. Rugadh an teanóir, an Cnta John McCormack, an soprán Ailish Tynan agus an t-amhránaí Joe Dolan san Iarmhí, daoine a bhfuil cáil orthu ar fud an domhain. Ina theannta sin, is san Iarmhí a rugadh Lisa Dwan, aisteoir agus léirmhíneitheoir Beckett.

Tá déantóirí ealaíne ina gcónaí ar fud na hIarmhí, agus iad a saibhriú ag an áit ina bhfuil siad ag obair agus ina gcónaí. Déanann an pobal ealaíne atá uailmhianach agus bisiúil ath-shamhlú go rialta ar oidhreacht chultúrtha agus ar fhéiniúlacht an chontae. Bíonn deiseanna ann chun imeachtaí áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta a réachtáil trí leas a bhaint as infreastruchtúr na n-ealaíon sna ceantair uirbeacha sa chontae. Oibríonn ealaíontóirí aonair go dlúth le pobail, agus iad ag iarraidh caidreamh a bhunú le daoine.

WESTMEATH IS A culturally rich and diverse County. It is an inspirational place, which holds its history in plain view. The Sacred Hill of Uisneach draws us back to Irish myth and legend, in a County which is dotted with monastic ruins, ancient graveyards, castles, fine houses and estates. A unique landscape of lakes and waterways thread throughout the County, and 10,000 year old boglands, forests and greenways are there for the community and visitor alike. The landscape, culture and history of the County have always drawn in and inspired writers like JP Donleavy. *Gulliver's Travels*, one of the most iconic books ever written was influenced by a boat ride taken by Jonathan Swift on Lough Ennell. Oliver Goldsmith spent his formative years in the County. John Broderick, Josephine Hart and Dermot Healy were born in Westmeath, producing work marked by experiences of childhood in the County. Westmeath was also the birthplace of world renowned tenor, Count John McCormack, soprano Ailish Tynan and singer Joe Dolan. Internationally renowned actor and Beckett interpreter Lisa Dwan was born in Westmeath their home county.

Art makers live throughout Westmeath, enriched by the place where they live and work. The cultural heritage and identity of the county is constantly re-imagined through a thriving and ambitious arts community. Arts infrastructure in the urban centres within the County allow for programming of local, national and international events. Individual artists work closely with communities, reaching out and engaging with people.

Is fírinne leathan chuimsitheach é an cultúr agus an chruthaitheacht san Iarmhí. Díríonn an Oifig Ealaíon ar acmhainneacht a fhorbairt, agus ar chleachtóirí a chumasú chun a gcuid uailmhianta ealaíne a chomhlíonadh, rud a dhéantar trí sheirbhís riachtanach tacaíochta a chur ar fáil don phobal ealaíne. Chomh maith leis sin, faigheann na príomhionaid ealaíne san Iarmhí agus na healaíontóirí aonair tacaíocht airgid agus gairme. Tá na seacht leabharlann bhrainte sa chontae lárnach i dtaca le luachanna cultúrtha a chur chun cinn agus le scileanna a choimeád beo do na glúnta atá le teacht agus iad a fhorbairt, agus mar thaisclann do thaifid agus do bhailiúcháin a bhaineann leis an gContae. Tá Plean Oidhreachta cúig bliana forbartha don Chontae faoi láthair ag Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na hIarmhí, agus é mar aidhm aige feachtas ar an oidhreacht nádúrtha, fhoirgnithe agus chultúrtha san Iarmhí a chur chun cinn, agus an oidhreacht sin a chosaint. Tá glactha ag an Meitheal Cultúir leis an tionscnamh Éire Ildánach, mar go gcuireann sé creat agus córas tacaíochta ar fáil don mheitheal chun gur féidir léi oibriú le chéile i dtaca le roinnt tionscadal.

Tugann beirt ealaíontóirí – Liz Johnson, ealaíontóir físiúil, agus an scríbhneoir Gearóid O'Brien – a léargas ar leith mar chleachtóirí cruthaitheachta atá ag obair agus ina gcónaí i gContae na hIarmhí.

Culture and creativity in Westmeath is a very broad and inclusive reality. The Arts Office focuses on developing capacity and enabling practitioners to fulfill their artistic ambitions by providing an essential support service for the artistic community. In addition to this the primary arts venues in Westmeath and individual artists receive financial and professional support. The 7 branch libraries within the County are integral to promoting cultural values, passing on and developing skills and as a repository for records and collections relating to the County. Westmeath County Council Heritage Office has developed a 5-year Heritage Plan for the County which aims at protecting and promoting awareness of the natural, built and cultural heritage within the Westmeath. The Culture Team has embraced the Creative Ireland initiative, as it provides a framework and support system for the team to work together through multiple projects.

Two Westmeath artists – visual artist/educator Liz Johnson and writer Gearoid, O'Brien provide their unique perspectives as creative practitioners working and living in County Westmeath.

Ealaín phobalghníomhach: An fáth gur gá dúinn a bheith rannpháirteach

–Ealaíontóir agus Oideoir, Liz Johnson

Más meafar í an ealaín don saol, is meafar é an phéinteareacht *Hesitate* le Bridgette Riley (1964) don ealaín phobalghníomhach. San anailís a rinne sí ar an saothar sin, deir *Fiona Rae* (2013) ‘chuir [Riley] poill sa phictiúr agus dá bharr, rinne sí péintéireacht a chuireann an breathnóir i lár an aonaigh.’ Chomh maith céanna, is í an aidhm atá leis an ealaíon phobalghníomhach ná an rannpháirtí a chur i gcoilár an phróisis.

Mar chleachtóir atá báite i gcleachtas comhoibríoch rannpháirtíochta ealaíne, bhí sé d’ádh orm a bheith ag obair le cuid mhór comhpháirtithe agus grúpaí i raon comhthéacsanna éagsúla ar fud an chontae. Faighim mo spreagadh ealaíonta ón muinín atá agam le fada an lá i luach sochaíoch agus i gcumhacht bhunathraitheach na n-ealaíon agus, chomh maith leis sin, sa luach cultúrtha a bhaineann leo. Feictear dom go dtarraingíonn rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach daoine le chéile trí chúinsí a chruthú a chothaíonn malartú cruthaitheach cómhálartach, agus freisin, cabhraíonn sé le daoine a chumhachtú trí scileanna a thabhairt dóibh a chothaíonn athrú ina saol.

Tá sampla de seo le feiceáil sa togra ealaíne pobalghníomhaí dar teideal *The Contemporary Museum Without Walls* (2015). D’oibrigh mé i gcomhar le pobal leasmhar chun cíoradh a dhéanamh ar théamaí criticiúla, mar shampla féiniúlacht chultúrtha agus ionadaíocht i dtaca le Bailiúchán Náisiúnta na hÉireann d’Ealaín Chomhaimseartha. Físeán coimeádaíochta a bhí mar thoradh air sin, ar físeán é inar cuimsíodh saothair chomhaimseartha ealaíne a bhí ábhartha do shaol agus d’fhéiniúlacht réigiúnach ar leith na rannpháirtithe. Ba é an tionchar ba

Socially-engaged art: Why we need to participate

– Artist and Educator, Liz Johnson

If art is a metaphor for life then the painting *Hesitate* by Bridgette Riley (1964) is a metaphor for socially-engaged art practice. In her analysis of the work *Fiona Rae* (2013) states ‘[Riley] punched holes in the picture space, and in doing so, made a painting which puts the viewer in the middle of the experience.’ Equally the purpose of socially-engaged art practice is to place the participant at the heart of the process.

As a practitioner whose practice is immersed in collaborative and participatory arts practice, I have been fortunate to work with many partners and groups in a variety of contexts across the county. My artistic motivation comes from a long held belief in the societal value and transformative power of the arts, as well as the cultural value. I’ve found that active participation not only unites people by creating circumstances for reciprocal creative exchange, it also increases agency by empowering people with skills to affect positive change in their lives.

An example of this is a socially-engaged art project titled *The Contemporary Museum Without Walls* (2015). I worked collaboratively with a community-of-interest to explore critical themes such as cultural identity and representation in relation to Ireland’s National Collection of Contemporary Art. The outcome was a curatorial video that included contemporary artworks germane to the lives and distinct regional identity of the participants. Perhaps the most significant impact of the project was the participant’s ability to utilise elements of the process to benefit their future learning.

mhó, b’fhéidir, a bhí ag an tionscadal ná go raibh deis ag na rannpháirtithe leas a bhaint as codanna den phróiseas ar mhaithe le foghlaim a dhéanfaidh siad sa todhchaí.

Tá sé tábhachach a thuiscint gur bealach í an ealaín phobalghníomhach chun a chur ar chumas rannpháirtithe agus ealaíontóirí tionchar a imirt ar chomhrá cultúrtha sa phobal – agus gan amhras, tá mo chleachtas tar éis an tuiscint atá agam ar thírdhreach shaihbhir chultúrtha na hIarmhí, mar chuid d’fhéiniúlacht náisiúnta dhúchasach ag athrú de shíor, a neartú. Cé go bhfuil suim an phobail ag méadú san ealaín phobalghníomhach i gcónaí, caithfidh ealaíontóirí a bheith díoghbháilte chun cleachtas a choimeád ar bun sa timpeallacht eacnamaíoch atá ann sa lá atá inniu ann, agus ós rud é go mbíonn cleachtóirí ag obair go neamhspleách ar fud na hIarmhí, caithfidh muid a fhiafraí “cén chaoi gur féidir linn na gnéithe ar fad a tharraingt le chéile?” D’fhéadfá a rá nach mbaineann rannpháirtíocht le feidhmiú mar chuid den phróiseas, agus leis sin amháin, ach go mbaineann sí freisin le feidhmiú i gcoilár an phróisis, beag beann ar an áit ina bhfuil tú i do chónaí (McGonagle, 2013).

Is ealaíontóir agus oideoir í Liz Johnson atá lonnaithe i gContae na hIarmhí.

Tagairtí

Rae, F. (2013). *Fiona Rae on Bridget Riley’s Hesitate (1964)*. *Tate ETC*. Summer 2013 (28), p.86.
McGonagle, D. (2013). *Lecture to MA SEA (FACE) Year 1*.

Critically, socially-engaged art is a conduit enabling participants and artists to contribute to a civic cultural dialogue – and undoubtedly, my practice has strengthened my understanding of Westmeath’s rich cultural landscape, within an ever-changing and evolving indigenous national identity. While socially-engaged art continues to gain traction nationwide, artists have to be tenacious to maintain a practice in today’s economic climate, and with practitioners working autonomously across Westmeath we must ask, how can we connect the dots? Arguably, participation is not just about being part of the process; it’s about being at the heart of the process irrespective of where you live (McGonagle, 2013).

Liz Johnson is an artist and educator based in County Westmeath.

References

Rae, F. (2013). *Fiona Rae on Bridget Riley’s Hesitate (1964)*. *Tate ETC*. Summer 2013 (28), p.86.
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Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht san Iarmhí – An Scríbhneoir Gearóid O’Brien

Tá sé tábhachtach do go leor scríbhneoirí go mbraitheann siad go bhfuil ceangal acu le háit ar leith agus ceapaim gur cuireadh na fréamhacha a bhaineann le mo mhian scríbhneoireachta féin nuair a bhí mé i mo pháiste agus bhí tionchar ag tíreolaíocht mo dhúiche féin ar an mian sin. Bhain mé inspioráid as an mothúchán gur rugadh roinnt filí agus scríbhneoirí cáiliúla san Iarmhí, i ngan fhios dom féin nuair a bhí mé i mo pháiste. Bhí tionchar suntasach ag cuairteanna chuig Dúiche Goldsmith, soir ó thuaidh ó Bhaile Átha Luain, ar an tsuim a bhí agam sa scríbhneoireacht, sin agus scéalta a chloisteáil faoin áit a ndearna Goldsmith cur síos uirthi, agus é ar deoraíocht i Sasana. Thig le léirmheastóirí a bheith ag rá i gcónaí go bhfuil *The Deserted Village* lonnaithe i Sasana, ach ní áiteoidh siad ormsa riamh é. Bhí Goldsmith ag scríobh do lucht léitheoireachta Sasanach, mar gurbh é sin a theastódh óna fhoilsitheoir, ach is cinnte gur bhain sé leas as na cuimhní a bhí aige óna óige chun tíreolaíocht agus tírdhreach an tsráidbhaile miotaseolaíochta sin a chruthú arís, ar sráidbhaile é a tháinig chun bheith ina ‘Sweet Auburn loveliest village of the plain...’

Agus é cúig bliana déag d’aois, tráth a mbíonn sé an-éasca dul i bhfeidhm ar dhuine, thug comharsa chineálta mé go dtí ócáid chun comóradh a dhéanamh ar chothrom céad bliain bhás John Keegan Casey, a bhfuil aithne gheanuil air faoina ainm cleite, ‘Leo’. Rugadh é sa Lochán san Iarmhí sa bhliain 1846 agus is é a bhailéad ‘The Rising of the Moon’ is mó is cúis leis an gcáil atá air. Spreag an méid a d’fhoghlaim mé ar an lá cinniúnach sin sa bhliain 1970 meas agus suim ionam san amhránaí bailéad agus an file seo a bhí óg agus thar a bheith rómánsúil ar feadh mo shaoil.

Culture and Creativity in Westmeath – Writer Gearoid O’Brien

A sense of place is very important to many writers and I think the seeds of my own desire to write were sown in childhood and influenced by the geography of my own locality. A childhood realisation that a number of very famous poets and writers came from around Westmeath was somehow subliminally inspirational for me. Early visits to the Goldsmith Country, north-east of Athlone, and hearing the descriptions of the place as penned by Goldsmith, while living in exile in England, were significant catalysts for my interest in writing. Critics can argue until they are blue in the face that *The Deserted Village* is set in England but they will never convince me. Goldsmith wrote for an English audience, because that is what his publisher would have wanted him to do, but he surely used his childhood memories to recreate the geography and landscape of this mythical village that became ‘Sweet Auburn loveliest village of the plain...’

At the age of fifteen, a very impressionable age indeed, I was brought by a kindly neighbour to an event to mark the centenary of the death of John Keegan Casey, affectionately known by his pen-name ‘Leo’. He was born in Mount Dalton in Westmeath in 1846 and most famous for his ballad ‘The Rising of the Moon’. What I learned that fateful day in 1970 has fed into a lifelong interest in and admiration for this young, hyper-romantic poet and balladeer who only lived

Níor mhair sé ach 24 bliana, ach d’fhág sé oidhreacht a ndéantar ceiliúradh uirthi fós sa lá atá inniu ann. Tá a chuid bailéad agus dánta lán le sloinnte áitiúla agus le logainmneacha agus déantar ceiliúradh iontu ar an tsainiúlacht a bhaineann leis an tírdhreach sa cheantar Lár-Tíre.

Faoin am a d’fhág mé an mheánscoil bhí roinnt dánta foilsithe agam i nuachtáin agus bhí an-dúil sa scríbhneoireachta agam. Nuair a bhí mé naoi mbliana déag d’aois agus leabhar féinfoilsithe de mo chuid dánta luatha i gcúrsaíocht, d’fhreastail mé ar chothrom dhá chéad bliain Goldsmith (sa chontae in aice linn, Contae an Longfoirt) áit ar casadh Séamus Heaney, John Montague agus Benedict Kiely orm, agus daoine eile nach iad, agus chuir an ócáid sin ina luí orm, thar aon ócáid eile i rith mo shaoil, gur theastaigh uaim a bheith i mo scríbhneoir.

Nuair a bhí sé ina mhac léinn sa Choláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, bhí suim mhór ag m’athair (nach maireann) i bhfilíocht Michael Walsh, file a rugadh ag Binn Bhaile Fhobhair i dtuaisceart na hIarmhí. Chuir sé Ben Kiely (mac léinn freisin) ar an eolas faoi shaothar Walsh agus chuala mé Ben ag labhairt go moltach faoi Michael Walsh ar ‘Sunday Miscellany’. Ansin fuair mé amach go raibh ceithre imleabhar d’fhilíocht Michael Walsh ag m’athair agus ní gá a rá go bhfuil siad agam féin inniu. Agus mé ag éisteacht le Ben Kiely, níor cheap mé riamh go mbeinn féin le cloisteáil ar ‘Sunday Miscellany’ freisin. Ceanglaím an tsuim atá agam sa chraoltóireacht leis an mblaiseadh a fuair mé den chlár sin ag an am ceart, ag aois a bhfuil sé thar a bheith éasca dul i bhfeidhm ar dhuine.

for 24 years but left a rich legacy which is still celebrated and appreciated today. His poems and ballads are full of local names and place-names and celebrate the uniqueness of our Midland landscape.

By the time I had left secondary school I had several poems published in newspapers and I was bitten by the writing bug. At the age of nineteen and with a self-published chap-book of my early poems in circulation I attended the Goldsmith Bi-Centenary (in our neighbouring county of Longford) where I met among others: Seamus Heaney, John Montague and Benedict Kiely and this event convinced me, more than any other single event in my life, that I wanted to become a writer.

My late father had, as a student in U.C.D. taken a great interest in the poetry of Michael Walsh a poet who was born at the Ben of Fore in North Westmeath. He had introduced Ben Kiely (a fellow student) to his work and I heard Ben wax lyrical about Michael Walsh on ‘Sunday Miscellany’. I then discovered that my father had four volumes of Michael Walsh’s poetry on his bookshelves and needless to say they grace my bookshelves today. Little did I think as I listened to Ben Kiely that one day I too would feature on ‘Sunday Miscellany’. I put down my interest in broadcasting to the right exposure to this programme at a very impressionable age.

D'oscail úrscéalta John Broderick mo shúile mar gur aithin mé nár ghá baile shamhlaíoch a chruthú, maille lena thíreolaíocht shamhlaíoch féin, ach bhí sé go hiomlán inghlactha cur síos a dhéanamh ar rudaí a bhfuil taithí agat féin orthu. D'fhéadfadh mac léinn tíreolaíochta staidéar a dhéanamh ar úrscéalta John Broderick mar gheall ar an gcur síos gan locht a dhéantar iontu ar thíreolaíocht Bhaile Átha Luain agus ar an tírdhreach sa cheantar tuaithe timpeall air. I measc na scríbhneoirí eile a fuair inspioráid óna gceantar dúchais, an Iarmhí, tá Brinsley MacNamara, Leo Daly, Desmond Egan agus Dermot Healy agus daoine eile nach iad.

Deirtear gur féidir an fear a bhaint as an bportach ach nach féidir an portach a bhaint as an bhfear. Caithfidh mé a rá go mbainim inspioráid gan teorainn ó mo chontae dúchais – na lochanna iontacha agus na portaigh dhroimneacha, na scéalta faoi Chnoc Uisnigh agus an finscéal Clann Lir, tá sé ar fad againn. Tá an Iarmhí neadaithe i mo DNA, tá sé riachtanach dom agus gura fada buan é chun inspioráid a thabhairt do ghlúin nua scríbhneoirí, filí agus drámadóirí chun an traidisiún iontach litríochta sa chontae sainiúil seo a choimeád beo.

Reading the novels of John Broderick was a great revelation because suddenly I realised that one didn't have to create an imaginary town with its own imaginary geography but instead it was perfectly admissible to describe that with which you were very familiar. The novels of John Broderick could be studied by a student of geography for their flawless descriptions of the geography of Athlone and the topography of the surrounding countryside. Other writers who have been greatly inspired by their native Westmeath include Brinsley MacNamara, Leo Daly, Desmond Egan and Dermot Healy to name but a few.

They say you can take the man out of the bog but you can't take the bog out of the man. I have to say I find my home county endlessly inspiring. From the wonderful lakes to the undulating bogs, from the storied Hill of Uisneach to the legend of the Children of Lir we have it all. Westmeath is imbedded in my DNA, it is vital to me and long may it continue to inspire a new generation of writers, poets and playwrights to carry on the great literary traditions of this unique county

An damhsóir Robyn Byrne ag Loch Uail taobh amuigh den Mhuileann gCearr, Grianghraf de chuid Emma Gorman
Dancer Robyn Byrne at Lough Owel Outside Mullingar, Photograph by Emma Gorman



3

Fís Éire Ildánach don Iarmhí

The Creative Ireland Vision for Westmeath

IS ÉARD ATÁ i bhfís Éire Ildánach don Iarmhí ná fíis a mbíonn freagairt fhíor-chomhoibríoch ann i leith cruthaitheacht a chur i gcoilár aon fhorbairt a dhéantar sa chontae. Is fíis í trína dtugtar aghaidh ar an ngá le leathnú a dhéanamh ar an rochtain atá ag daoine ar na healaíona, le deiseanna a thabhairt do chleachtóirí cruthaitheachta, agus leis an gcontae a chur chun cinn mar áit iontach le bheith i do chónaí ann agus le cuairt a thabhairt uirthi. Is fíis í a bhfuil sé mar aidhm aici an timpeallacht nádúrtha agus an timpeallacht fhoirgnithe a chosaint agus a chaomhnú, agus deiseanna a thabhairt chun taitneamh a bhaint aisti, stair an chontae a cheiliúradh, feasacht ar oidhreacht ealaíne agus cultúrtha na hIarmhí a mhéadú agus páirt ghníomhach a thabhairt do na saoránaigh sa phróiseas seo sna cúig bliana amach romhainn. Iarrtar ar gach Comhairle Contae, mar chuid de réadú fhís náisiúnta Éire Ildánach, díriú go sonrach ar Cholún 2 den Chlár Cúig Cholún, á aithint go bhféadfadh roinnt tionscnamh teacht faoi réim piléir eile.

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 san Infreastruchtúr na Cruthaitheachta agus an Chultúir

Colún 4

Tionscail Chruthaitheachta: Éire mar Lárionad Barr Feabhais maidir le Léiriúchán na Meán Cumarsáide

Colún 5

Clú na hÉireann ar fud an Domhain a thabhairt le chéile

THE CREATIVE IRELAND vision for Westmeath is one which sees a truly collaborative response to placing creativity at the centre of all development in the County. It is a vision which addresses the need to broaden access to the arts, give opportunities to creative practitioners, promote the County as a great place to live and to visit. It is a vision which seeks to protect, preserve and enjoy the natural and built environment, to celebrate the history of the county, increase awareness of the artistic and cultural legacy of Westmeath and proactively involve citizens in this dynamic process over the next five years. The realisation of the Creative Ireland national vision asks that each County Council focus specifically on Pillar 2 of the Five-Pillar Programme, while acknowledging that some initiatives may have cross over into other pillars.

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 rannpháirtíocht agus rochtain lárnach don fhís. Meastar gur gné riachtanach de réadú na físe is ea pobail a chur i gceangal le healaíontóirí agus le cruthaitheoirí eile.

Cuimsíonn Meitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí ionadaithe ó raon leathan discipline a bhíonn ag plé le pobail agus, dá réir sin, beidh freagracht ar an ngrúpa seo i ndáil le haghaidh a thabhairt ar Cholún 2 – Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal.

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

The Culture Team of Westmeath comprises representatives from across the broad range of disciplines which deal with communities and accordingly this group will be responsible for addressing Pillar 2 Enabling the Creativity in every Community.



Ceoltóir as an Iarmhí,
Tanya O'Callaghan
Westmeath Musician
Tanya O'Callaghan

4

Luachanna Éire Ildánach san Iarmhí

The Creative Ireland Values in Westmeath

LE LINN STRAITÉIS chultúir agus Chruthaitheachta na hIarmhí a chur le chéile, rinne an Mheitheal Cultúir machnamh ar na bealaí soiléire follasacha ina bhfuil na rannóga éagsúla de chuid Chomhairle Chontae na hIarmhí ailínithe lena chéile agus ar na bealaí inar féidir leo tacaíocht a thabhairt dá chéile. Bainfear leas as na luachanna seo a leanas atá leagtha amach ag Éire Ildánach ar leibhéal náisiúnta nuair a bheidh obair Mheitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí ar siúl i dtaca le Colún 2 de straitéis Éire Ildánach a chur i bhfeidhm:

Rochtain

An pobal a chumasú chun taitneamh a bhaint as gníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheachta agus chun bheith rannpháirteach iontu.

Uilechuimsitheacht

A chinntiú go mbíonn gach duine den pobal cuimsithe i dtionscnaimh de chuid Phlean Éire Ildánach. Áirítear anseo aird bhreise a dhíriú ar ghrúpaí agus ar dhaoine aonair atá imeallaithe.

Sármhaitheas

An obair a dhéantar sna foirmeacha ealaíne ar leithligh a cheiliúradh agus a chur chun cinn agus deiseanna a aimsiú chun an obair sin a chur ar taispeánt, agus dinimic a chur leis trí chomhoibriú agus trí thionscadail ildisciplíneacha.

Caomhnú

An cultúr saibhis, an stair shaibhir agus an timpeallacht shaibhir a bhaineann leis an Iarmhí a chaomhnú, agus foghlaim faoi na nithe sin, agus leas a bhaint astu mar phointe tosaigh do ghníomhaíochtaí cruthaitheachta agus do chomhoibriú.

IN ARRIVING AT a Westmeath Culture and Creativity strategy the Culture Team has considered the very clear and obvious ways in which their various sections within the County Council are aligned, and how they can support each other's work. The work of Westmeath Culture Team in regard to delivering Pillar 2 of the Creative Ireland strategy will be informed by the following values articulated by Creative Ireland at national level:

Access

Enabling the community to enjoy and participate in creative activity.

Inclusion

Ensuring that all members of the community are included in initiatives within the Creative Ireland Plan. This involves targeting and bringing additional focus to marginalised groups and individuals.

Excellence

Celebrating, promoting and advancing the work carried out in individual art forms and finding opportunities to showcase that work, and add a dynamic to it through collaboration and multi-disciplinary projects.

Preservation

Preserving and learning about the rich culture, history and environment in Westmeath and using it as a starting point for creative activity and collaboration.



Gailearaí Luan,
Baile Átha Luain
Luan Gallery,
Athlone

5 Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha don Iarmhí Strategic Priorities for Westmeath

IS É IS AIDHM do na Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha 5 bliana a shonraítear anseo ná leas a bhaint as cur chuige phleananna na hIarmhí maidir le Leabharlanna agus maidir leis na hEalaíona agus chlár Éire Ildánach a mhéid atá siad aillínithe lena chéile. Cuireadh san áireamh freisin an obair a rinne Meitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí cheana féin sa bhliain 2017 chun tacú le comhoibriú níos fearr le grúpaí pobail, le heagraíochtaí agus le daoine aonair.

Bhí na céimeanna seo a leanas i gceist chun Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha don Iarmhí a shainaithint:

- Comhairliúcháin phoiblí x 5
- Cruinnithe ar leithligh le cleachtóirí cultúir agus ealaine
- Ábhar machnaimh na meithle cultúir agus inniúlacht agus acmhainní na meithle a aithint
- Measúnú ar shineirgi idir spriocanna straitéiseacha Réimsí Oidhreacht, Leabharlainne agus Ealaíon na hIarmhí agus spriocanna straitéiseacha chlár Éire Ildánach

THE 5-YEAR STRATEGIC priorities outlined here aim to build on the aligned approaches of Westmeaths' Library and Arts plans and the Creative Ireland Programme. Consideration has also been given to the work already done in 2017 by the Westmeath Culture Team, in supporting enhanced engagement with Community groups, organisations and individuals.

The process for identifying Strategic Priorities for Westmeath involved the following elements:

- Public consultations x 5
- One-to-one meetings, with culture and arts practitioners
- Culture Team deliberations and cognisance of the team's capacity and resources
- Assessment of synergies between Westmeath Heritage, Library and Arts strategic goals and Creative Ireland strategic goals

Is é Colún 2 an fócas is láidre atá ag Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí. Léirítear é seo sna Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha a aithníodh. Trasnaíonn cuid de na tosaíochtaí na piléir eile a bhaineann le Éire Ildánach agus luaitear é seo go sonrath in aon áit a tharlaíonn sé.

1. Deiseanna chun oibriú leis an oíge a fheabhsú
2. Tacú le cleachtas comhoibríoch i gComhairle Chontae na hIarmhí
3. Tacú le gréasáin ealaíontóirí agus pobail chleachtais agus iad a chothú
4. Caidreamh fóna a fheabhsú idir an pobal agus ealaíontóirí
5. Scrúdú a dhéanamh i dtaobh deiseanna do Chomhairle Chontae na hIarmhí chun comhoibriú le Comhairlí Contae eile ar mhíreanna den chlár faoi chreat Éire Ildánach
6. Freagairt do thacaíocht Éire Ildánach maidir le tabhairt faoi Iniúchadh Mapála Cultúir don Iarmhí
7. Gníomhaíochtaí a fhiosrú a chabhraíonn le pobail i dtaca le tionscadail maidir le téamaí a bhaineann le 'cuimhní a bhailiú'
8. Ceangail a fhorbairt le tionscail áitiúla, le cleachtóirí cruthaitheachta agus le pobail
9. Tacú le tionscnaimh agus tograí a chuireann an Ghaeilge chun cinn san Iarmhí

Pillar 2 is the primary focus of Westmeath Council Council. The Strategic Priorities identified reflect this fact. Some priorities overlap and interact with the other pillars of Creative Ireland and this has been made explicit where it occurs.

1. To enhance opportunities for working with youths
2. To support collaborative practice within Westmeath County Council
3. To nurture and support artists networks and communities of practice
4. To enhance meaningful engagement between community and artists
5. To examine opportunities for Westmeath County Council to cooperate with other County Councils on programme elements under the Creative Ireland framework
6. To respond to the Creative Ireland support to undertake a Westmeath Cultural Mapping Audit
7. To explore activities that engage communities in projects around themes of 'collecting memories'
8. To develop links with local industries, creative practitioners and communities
9. To support initiatives and projects that promote the Irish language in Westmeath



Portráid de Kurt Cobain leis an ealaíontóir David Dunne
Artist David Dunne's portrait of Kurt Cobain

5.1 Deiseanna chun oibriú leis an óige a fheabhsú Colúin 1, 2 agus 3

Déanfaidh Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí measúnú ar na féidearthachtaí atá ann chun cláir reatha a leathnú má dhírítear aird ar leith ar eagraíochtaí agus ar ghrúpaí óige. D'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh cláir reatha ceoil, deiseanna comhléirthe, rochtain níos éasca ar ghníomhaíochtaí oideachais agus ealaíne i suíomhanna cúram sláinte i gceist leis seo. Sa bhliain 2017, tugadh tacaíocht, trí chláir Éire Ildánach, do roinnt tionscadal a raibh lucht féachana / éisteachta óg acu agus samhlaítear go ndéanfar tuilleadh forbartha orthu sin sa bhliain 2018.

5.2 Tacú le cleachtas comhoibríoch i gComhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Colún 2 agus Colún 3

Tríd an Meitheal Cultúir, méadóidh Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí an acmhainneacht i leith tionscnaimh nuálacha tras-roinne a fhiosrú faoi thionscnamh Éire Ildánach. Tá ionadaíocht ag na disciplíní seo a leanas ar Mheitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí – Oidhreacht, Leabharlann, Pobal agus Ealaíona – chomh maith le hionadaithe ó ionaid chultúir agus ó lucht bainistíochta sinsearach na Comhairle Contae. Tosaíodh scéim phiólótach sa bhliain 2017 a bhfuil sé mar aidhm aici pobail atá ina gcónaí nó ag obair gar do chosáin nó do bhealaí siúlóide nó do bhealaí rothaíochta, nó a bhaineann leas áinseas astu, a chur i gceangal lena chéile. Mar chuid den scéim phiólótach, tá scrúdú á dhéanamh, i gcomhar le grúpaí pobail áitiúla, ar idirghabhálacha ealaíne a mbeidh feidhm aeistéitiúil agus feidhm treorach araon acu. Is samplaí iad Sean-Bhealach Traenach na hIarmhí (cuid den Bhealach Rothaíochta atá beartaithe idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Gaillimh) agus Bealach Glas na Canálach

5.1 To enhance opportunities for working with youths

Pillars 1, 2 and 3

Westmeath County Council will assess the potential for expansion of existing programmes where youth organisations and groups are specifically targeted. These might include existing Music Programmes, joint performance opportunities, enhanced access to education and arts activities within healthcare settings. A number of projects with significant youth audience reach were supported in 2017 through Creative Ireland and it is envisaged that these will be further developed in 2018.

5.2 To support collaborative practice within Westmeath County Council

Pillar 2 and Pillar 3

Westmeath County Council through the Culture Team will grow the potential for innovative cross-departmental initiatives to be explored under the Creative Ireland initiative. The following disciplines are represented on the Westmeath Culture Team – Heritage, Library, Community and Arts – as well as representatives of cultural venues and senior management of the County Council. A pilot scheme aiming at connecting the communities living, working or recreationally utilising trails / cycle and walkways commenced in 2017. The pilot is examining artistic interventions that will serve both an aesthetic and directional function, working with local community groups. The Westmeath Old Rail Trail (part of the proposed Dublin-Galway Cycleway) and the Westmeath Royal Canal

Ríoga san Iarmhí de thionscnaimh inar féidir leas éifeachtach a bhaint as comhoibriú Údaráis Áitiúil. Cuirfidh comhoibriú tras-disciplíneach idir Turasóireacht, na hEalaíona, Leabharlanna agus Oidhreacht dlús le tionscadail den chineál seo. Mar thoradh ar an tionscnamh seo, beidh ceangal níos fearr ann idir ealaíontóirí, an pobal agus an timpeallacht nádúrtha agus fhoirgnithe, agus de réir mar a dhéantar forbairt air tar éis na céime piolótaí, d'fhéadfadh sé geallsealbhoirí a mhealladh ó raon leathan áisíneachtaí ábhartha.

5.3 Tacú le gréasáin ealaíontóirí agus pobail chleachtais agus iad a chothú

Colún 2 agus Colún 3

Aithnítear go mbíonn dúshlán shuntasacha ar leith le sárú ag ealaíontóirí i gcontaetha tuaithe maidir lena gcleachtas a mhéadú, i dtaca leis na foirmeacha ealaíne ar fad. Sa phróiseas comhairliúcháin a seoladh maidir leis an bplean seo, tugadh suntas don ghá le comhoibriú agus tacaíocht phiara níos fearr chun deiseanna níos fearr a chruthú d'ealaíontóirí agus do ghrúpaí ealaíontóirí. Bunaíodh roinnt grúpaí faoi cheannas ealaíontóirí mar thoradh ar Chláir Éire Ildánach agus ceaptar go gcuirfear borradh faoin obair a bhfuil tús curtha léi cheana féin le linn ré an phlean seo le tacaíocht ó Chláir Éire Ildánach. Tá Líonra nua-bhunaithe na hIarmhí tar éis gairmí ealaíon a fhostú ag a bhfuil taithí mhaith maidir le tionscnaimh faoi cheannas ealaíontóra a fhorbairt i réigiúin eile. Agus deachleachtas á chur san áireamh ón tús, ceaptar go bhfuil deis mhaith ag an líonra seo chun leanúint air de bheith ag fás.

Greenway are examples of initiatives where Local Authority collaboration can be utilised effectively. Cross-discipline collaboration will drive projects such as these. This initiative will result in greater connectivity between artists, community and the natural and built environment, and as it is developed beyond pilot stage, could attract stakeholders from a wide range of relevant agencies.

5.3 To nurture and support artists networks and communities of practice

Pillar 2 and Pillar 3

It is noted that artists in rural counties face a very particular set of challenges in growing their practices, across all art forms. The need for enhanced cooperation and peer support leading to greater opportunities for artists and artist groups was highlighted in the consultation process for this plan. A number of Artist-led groups formed as a result of the 2017 Creative Ireland Programme and it is anticipated that the work that has commenced will be advanced over the course of this plan with the support of the Creative Ireland Programme. The newly formed Westmeath network has engaged an arts professional with significant experience in developing Artist led initiatives in other regions. Starting from a perspective of best-practice, it is anticipated that this network is well positioned to continue to grow.

Léiríodh san aiseolas ón gcomhairliúchán poiblí gur chuir ealaíontóirí áitiúla, líonraí agus grúpaí pobail fáilte roimh an tacaíocht bhreise atá ar fáil, agus léiríodh chomh maith go gcabhródh gealltanas níos fadtéarmaí maidir le maoiniúchán leis an uailmhian fhéideartha le linn smaointe cruthaitheacha a chruthú.

5.4 Caidreamh fóna a fheabhsú idir an pobal agus ealaíontóirí

Colún 2

Chuir Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí scéim deontais pobail ar fáil sa bhliain 2017 agus 2018. Cuireadh tacaíocht ar fáil do bhreis is 80 tionscadal/eagraíocht pobail trí scéim deontais ainmnithe. Déanfar an iarraidh rathúil ar thionscadail – neadaithe i bpobail – a athbhreithniú gach bliain i gcomhthéacs na leithroinnta a bheidh ar fáil agus bainfear úsáid as nithe a foghlaimíodh uaidh sin le scéimeanna amach anseo a mhúnlú.

Tá roinnt líonraí ann i gContae na hIarmhí. Ina measc siúd áirítear ealaíontóirí, tionscail cheardaíochta, pobail áitiúla agus grúpaí eile a bhfuil comhchuspóirí acu a bhaineann le háit agus le féiniúlacht. Déanfaidh Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí – trí Éire Ildánach – tacaíocht a thabhairt le haghaidh creat faoinar féidir tuilleadh tacaíochta a chur ar fáil do na braislí sin.

Oireann na braislí sin do chreat straitéiseach trína dtabharfaí tacaíocht d'ealaíontóirí sna foirmeacha ealaíon ar fad (ceol, amharcealaíona, amharclannaíocht, damhsa, litríocht, ailtireacht, an réimse closamhairc) chun caidreamh fóna a bhunú lena bpobail agus is féidir iad a mhúnlú agus a mhacasamhlú dá réir le tacaíocht ó Éire Ildánach.

Feedback from the public consultation indicated that local artists, networks and community groups welcomed the additional supports available, while indicating that a longer-commitment on funding would shape the breadth of ambition possible when generating creative ideas.

5.4 To enhance meaningful engagement between community and artists

Pillar 2

Westmeath County Council delivered a community grant scheme in 2017 and 2018, and 80 projects / community organisations were supported through this designated grant scheme. The successful call for projects, creative in nature – embedded within communities, will be reviewed annually in the context of the allocation available and learning from this will inform the shape of future schemes

A number of Networks exist in County Westmeath. Variously these include artists, crafts industries, local communities and other groups with common objectives linked to place and identity. Westmeath County Council will – through Creative Ireland support a framework within which these types of clusters can be further supported.

Such clusters fit into a strategic framework for supporting artists across all art forms (music, visual arts, theatre, dance, literature, architecture, audiovisual) in engaging meaningfully with their communities and may be modelled and replicated accordingly with support from Creative Ireland.

5.5 Scrúdú a dhéanamh i dtaobh deiseanna do Chomhairle Chontae na hIarmhí chun comhoibriú le Comhairlí Contae eile ar mhíreanna den chlár faoi chreat Éire Ildánach

Colún 2 agus Colún 3

Tá Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí rannpháirteach cheana féin i roinnt tionscnamh cultúir ar fud an chontae (Leabharlanna, Music Generation, Foilseacháin Ealaíon agus Chultúir Lár-Tíre, Cónaitheacht Phárais – Centre Culturel Irlandais). Samhlaítear gur féidir na comhpháirtíochtaí sin a neartú trí chreat Éire Ildánach. Is féidir measúnú a dhéanamh ar dheiseanna nua agus is féidir leas a bhaint as an tionchar aontaitheach atá ag gníomhaíocht chruthaitheach chun an comhoibriú reatha a fheabhsú. Mar shampla, tá roinnt gnéithe oidhreacht sa chontae atá i gcontaetha eile in aice láimhe freisin, leithéidí aibhneacha, lochanna agus eascracha agus an Iarannaois – Clais na Muice Duibhe. Is ábhar iontach inspioráide le haghaidh léiriú cruthaitheach iad i gcónaí tionscadail a dhíríonn ar an saibhreas agus an tsainiúlacht a bhaineann leis na portaigh sa cheantar Lár-Tíre. Tá Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí tiomanta i leith féidearthachtaí a chur chun cinn le haghaidh comhoibriú praiticiúil ar mhaithe le leas pobal áitiúil agus ar mhaithe le foghlaim chomhroinnte sna pobail sin.

5.5 To examine opportunities for Westmeath Council Council to cooperate with other Councils on programme elements under the Creative Ireland framework

Pillar 2 and Pillar 3

Westmeath County Council already participates on a number of cross county cultural initiatives (Libraries, Music Generation, Midlands Arts and Culture Publication, Centre Culturel Irlandais Paris Residency).

It is envisaged that through the framework of Creative Ireland these existing partnerships can be strengthened. New opportunities can be assessed and the unifying effect of creative activity, can be harnessed to enhance existing collaborations. Westmeath for example shares a number of unique heritage features with neighbouring counties such as rivers, lakes and eskers, and the Iron Age – Black Pig's Dyke. Projects focused on celebrating the wealth and uniqueness of the midlands boglands have always proved fertile inspiration for creative expression. Westmeath County Council is committed to advancing possibilities for practical cooperation for the benefit of local communities and for maximising the shared learning therein.

5.6 Freagairt do thacaíocht Éire Ildánach maidir le tabhairt faoi Iniúchadh Mapála Cultúir don Iarmhí

Colúin 2, 3 agus 4

Tá sé beartaithe ag Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach múnla a shainaithint gur féidir leis na Comhairlí ar fad é a chur i bhfeidhm chun próiseas iniúchta a chruthú a shainaithníonn acmhainní cruthaitheachta agus acmhainneacht. Rachadh próiseas den sórt sin chun tairbhe go mór do tionscnamh chruthaitheachta, do cleachtais agus d'idirghabhálacha amach anseo agus, chomh maith leis sin, bheadh sé ina thacaíocht luachmhar do phobail agus do ghairmithe sna hearnálacha cruthaitheachta. Chuirfeadh Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí fáilte roimh an deis chun obair den chineál seo a dhéanamh don chontae.

5.7 Gníomhaíochtaí a fhiosrú a chabhraíonn le pobail i dtaca le tionscadail maidir le téamaí a bhaineann le 'cuimhní a bhailiú'

Colún 2

Tá cuimhní ina gcuid lárnach de na nithe go léir a chomhdhéanann an oidhreacht chultúrtha in aon chontae. Cabhraíonn siad lenár bhféiniúlacht a mhúnlú, tugann siad an deis chun tuiscint níos fearr a fháil agus is féidir leo bród a mhúscailt i leith ár bpobail.

I gcomhar le comhpháirtithe amhail an Fóram Oidhreachta, féachfaidh Oifig Oidhreachta Chontae na hIarmhí agus Leabharlanna na hIarmhí le pobail a chumasú trí chineálacha éagsúla ceardlann agus imeachtaí cultúir a reáchtáil chun oidhreacht, de chineál a bhíonn do bhraite go minic, a chruthú, a chaomhnú agus a chur ar taispeánt. Spreagann bailiú cuimhní ealaíontóirí, staraithe agus grúpaí daoine i ngach aoisghrúpa an seanchaí istigh a fhorbairt trí mheáin éagsúla.

5.6 To respond to the Creative Ireland support to undertake a Westmeath Audit of Creative Resources

Pillars 2, 3 and 4

The Creative Ireland National Team proposes to identify a model that can be applied by all Councils in the creation of an Audit that identifies creative resources and potential. Such an exercise would greatly inform future creative initiatives, practices and interventions, as well as being an invaluable support for communities and professionals in the creative sectors. Westmeath County Council would welcome the opportunity to have work of this nature conducted for the county

5.7 Collecting Memories

Pillar 2

Memories are an integral part of what makes up the cultural heritage of a county. They help shape our identity, allow for greater understanding and can evoke pride in our community.

Westmeath County Heritage Office and Westmeath Libraries in conjunction with partners such as The Heritage Forum seek to enable communities through a variety of workshops and cultural events to create, preserve and showcase what is often an intangible heritage. Collecting memories encourages artists, historians and groups of all ages to develop their innate storyteller through different mediums.

Trí chuimhní comhroinnte a chur chun cinn ar ardán digiteach, tugtar an deis bród as áit dúchais a neartú agus soláthraítear modh don diaspora ceangal a dhéanamh arís lena gcontae dúchais.

5.8 Ceangail a fhorbairt le tionscail áitiúla, le cleachtóirí cruthaitheachta agus le pobail

Colúin 1, 2 agus 3

Baineann an Iarmhí buntáiste as suíomh lárnach lena ngabhann láidreachtaí infreastruchtúir a chruthaíonn naisc bhóthair leis na réigiúin ar fad sa tír. Chomh maith leis sin, tá córas láidir iompair phoiblí ann sa cheantar, idir bhealaí iarnróid agus bhealaí bus, rud a éascaíonn rochtain sa cheantar.

Cruthaíonn tionscail atá forbartha go maith, amhail an tionscal Déantúsaíochta, deiseanna chun comhoibriú leis an earnáil chruthaitheachta a fhiosrú agus, ag an am céanna, a bheith tuisceanach faoi riachtanais na hearnála tionscail i leith cúrsaí tráchtála. Bíonn naisc ag Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí le tionscail trí raon leathan ranna inmheánacha. Cruthaíonn an idirghníomhaíocht idir tionscail, teicneolaíocht, taighde agus cruthaitheacht deiseanna chun tionscnaimh reatha a fheabhsú nó tionscnaimh nua a fhorbairt. Tá spriocdhírú ar ghrúpaí ar leith (daoine óga, seanóirí, tionscadail idir-ghlúine), nuair is féidir deiseanna i dteicneolaíochtaí nua a aistriú go bealaí foghlama ar leibhéal áitiúil, ina bheart spreagúil atá á éascú le tacaíocht ó Éire Ildánach. Tá roinnt eiseamláirí den sármhaitheas ann cheana féin go háitiúil sna réimsí seo a leanas: códú, dearadh gréasán agus forbairt aipeanna, agus féachfaidh Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí leis na naisc seo idir tionscail, cleachtóirí cruthaitheachta agus pobail a mhéadú chun deiseanna maithe foghlama a chruthú.

Promoting shared memories on a digital platform affords the opportunity to reinforce the sense of place and offers a means for diaspora to reconnect with their county of origin.

5.8 Developing links with local industries, creative practitioners and communities

Pillars 1, 2 and 3

Westmeath benefits from a central location with infrastructural strengths which provide links to all regions of the country by road. Furthermore the region is fed by a strong public transport network for both rail and bus routes enabling ease of access to the area.

Highly developed industries such as Manufacturing create the potential to explore co-operation with the creative sector while remaining respectful of industry's necessary commercial imperative. Westmeath County Council links with industry across a multiplicity of internal departments. The intersection of industry, technology, research and creativity provides opportunities for enhancing existing initiatives or developing new ones. The targeting of specific groups (young people, senior citizens, inter-generational projects), where opportunities in emerging technologies can be translated into learning on a local level is an exciting proposition facilitated by the support of Creative Ireland. There already exists some local exemplars of excellence in coding, web design and app development, and Westmeath County Council will seek to grow these links between industries, creative practitioners and communities to create learning-rich opportunities.

5.9 Tacú le tionscnaimh agus tograí a chuireann an Ghaeilge chun cinn san Iarmhí

Colún 2

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gcuspóir seo tionscadail agus tionscnaimh a spreagadh ar féidir iad a chruthú agus a chur ar fáil i nGaeilge, i gcomhar le tionscnaimh eile, lena n-áirítear Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Bliain na Gaeilge. Beifear gníomhach maidir le spreagadh a thabhairt don iliomad geallsealbhóirí atá páirteach i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge i leith caidreamh a bhunú le clár Éire Ildánach.

5.9 To support initiatives and projects that promote the Irish language in Westmeath
Pillar 2

This objective aims to encourage projects and initiatives that can be created, and delivered in Irish, in partnership with initiatives such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, and Bliain na Gaeilge. The many stakeholders involved in the promotion of the Irish language will be actively encouraged to engage with the Creative Ireland programme.



Buaiteoirí 'Junk Couture'
Bhaile Átha Luain i Cannes
Athlone 'Junk Couture' winners
in Cannes

6

Cur i bhFeidhm
Implementation

TÁ FREAGRACHT AR Mheitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí i ndáil le Plean Cultúir agus Cruthaitheachta na hIarmhí a chur i bhfeidhm. Maidir le Meithleacha Cultúir a bhunú sna hÚdaráis Áitiúla ar fad, thug Meitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach le fios go mbunóidh gach Údarás Áitiúil Meitheal Cultúir Contae; deirtear freisin sa chláir Éire Ildánach 2017–2022 “...Ní mór a thabhairt de chumhacht do na húdaráis áitiúla na saoránaigh a spreagadh i mbun ealaíona agus chultúr na hÉireann. D’fhonn an éifeachtúlacht is fearr, éileofar ar gach údarás áitiúil Plean Cultúir agus Cruthaitheachta a ullmhú a thiocfaidh faoi anáil leagan amach ginearálta agus aidhmeanna na straitéise náisiúnta maidir le cultúr agus cruthaitheacht. Cuirfidh gach údarás áitiúil Meitheal Cultúir ar bun freisin a dtabharfar faoina scáth na hoifigigh ealaíona, na leabharlannaithe, na hoifigigh oidhreacht, na cartlannaithe agus oibríthe eile a bhaineann le hábhar—ionas go dtarlaíonn an comhoibriú agus an comhar is fearr agus go ndírítear an aird ar chumas na n-údarás áitiúil beartaíocht chruthaitheachta a chothú agus a spreagadh. Is don Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí a thabharfaidh an mheitheal tuairisc ar an obair agus beidh an Stiúrthóir sin i gceannas.”

Sa bhliain 2017 bunaíodh Meitheal Cultúir san Iarmhí, faoi cheannas an Stiúrthóra Seirbhísí ar a bhfuil freagracht i ndáil leis na hEalaíona. Cuireadh breis saineolais leis an Meitheal Cultúir, ó ionaid ealaíne / chultúrtha a fhaigheann tacaíocht bhardasach, ó fhéilte agus ó spásanna neamhspleácha ealaíne / cultúir. Leanfaidh an mheitheal de bheith ag cur aidhmeanna agus spriocanna Éire Ildánach i bhfeidhm.

A WESTMEATH CULTURE TEAM is responsible for the implementation of the Westmeath Culture and Creativity Plan. In regard to setting up Culture Teams across all Local Authorities, the Creative Ireland National Team indicated that each Local Authority shall establish a County Culture Team; the Creative Ireland Programme 2017–2022 further articulates this, stating “...The empowerment of local authorities to lead the engagement of citizens with our arts and culture is essential. To make this effective, each local authority will be asked to develop a Culture and Creativity Plan, reflecting the overall structure and aims of the national strategy for culture and creativity. Each Local Authority will also establish a Culture Team bringing together arts officers, librarians, heritage officers, archivists and other relevant personal – thus maximizing synergies and focusing attention on the capacity of local authorities to foster and encourage creative activity. The Team will report to and be led by a Director of Services.”

In 2017 a Westmeath Culture Team was set up, led by the Director of Services with responsibility for the Arts. Further expertise was added to the Culture Team, from municipally supported arts / cultural venues, festivals and independent arts / culture spaces. This team will continue to implement the aims and objectives of Creative Ireland.

Gnéithe Eagraíochtúla

- Meitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí a chuirfidh Plean Cruthaitheachta agus Cultúir na hIarmhí 2018–2023 i bhfeidhm agus a dhéanfaidh formhaoirseacht air sin.
- Tarmligeán na ndualgas maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an chláir le comhaontú idir na baill den Mheitheal Cultúir.
- Na gnéithe airgeadais ar fad a bhaineann le maoiniú Éire Ildánach le ceadú ag an Meitheal Cultúir.
- Struchtúir le cruthú ag an Meitheal Cultúir i dtaca bainistiú agus measúnú na dtionscadal / dtionscnamh ar fad laistigh de shraitheanna agus scéimeanna comhaontaithe a chuirtear i gcrích faoi phelean Éire Ildánach 2017–2022.

Cláreagrú

- Clár oibre bliantúil le réiteach agus le ceadú ag Meitheal Cultúir na hIarmhí, faoi réir na n-acmhainní atá ar fáil.
- Fógróidh an Meitheal Cultúir na sraitheanna de chláir na hIarmhí agus déanfaidh an Meitheal iad a riaradh.

Cumarsáid

- Beidh an comhordaitheoir ina phríomhphointe teagmhála do chláir Éire Ildánach.
- Bainfeadh leas as Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail na hIarmhí chun teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an bpobal.
- Bainfeadh leas as na hacmhainní poiblíochta ar fad i gComhairle Chontae na hIarmhí chun eolas faoi dheontais, faoi gnéithe den chláir agus faoi imeachtaí a chur in iúl ar bhonn leanúnach.
- Déanfar brandáil ar gach cáipéis (bileoga eolais, póstaer, fógraí) de réir na dtreoirlínte aitheantais a bhaineann le hÉire Ildánach agus le Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí.

Organisational aspects

- Westmeath Culture Team to deliver and oversee the implementation of Westmeath Creativity and Culture Plan 2018–2023.
- Delegation of duties for programme implementation to be agreed among Culture Team members.
- Culture Team to approve all financial aspects of Creative Ireland funding.
- Culture Team to create structures around management and evaluation of all projects – initiatives within agreed strands and schemes delivered under the Creative Ireland Plan 2017–2022

Programming

- Annual work programme to be devised and approved by Westmeath Culture Team, subject to resource allocation.
- Strands within the Westmeath programme will be announced and administered by the Culture Team.

Communications

- Co-ordinator to be main point of contact for the Creative Ireland programme.
- The vehicle of the Westmeath Public Participation network to be utilised for community contact.
- All internal publicity resources within Westmeath County Council to be utilised in communicating grants, programme elements, events on an ongoing basis.
- All documentation generated (flyers, posters, notifications) to be branded in accordance with Creative Ireland and Westmeath County Council brand identity guidelines.

Bearta Leantacha agus Measúnú

- Freastalóidh baill den Mheitheal Cultúir ar an méid is mó tionscnamh/tionscadal gur féidir leo, ar tionscnaimh/tionscadail iad a dtacaíonn Éire Ildánach leo, de réir mar atá indéanta.
- Coinneoidh lucht eagraithe i dteagmháil leis an Meitheal Cultúir i dtaca le stádas a dtionscadal.
- Cinnteofar go ndéanfar taifeadadh cuí ar thionscadail agus ar ghníomhaíochtaí.
- Cuirfidh rannpháirtithe tuairiscí aiseolais ar fáil ar imeachtaí agus ar ghníomhaíochtaí Éire Ildánach.
- Beidh freagracht ar an Meitheal Cultúir i ndáil le próiseas leanúnach athbhreithnithe ar Chlár Éire Ildánach san Iarmhí.
- Déanfar aiseolas faoin gclár san Iarmhí, agus nithe a foghlaimíodh uaidh, a chur in iúl do Mheitheal Náisiúnta Éire Ildánach.

Follow-up and Evaluation

- Culture Team members will attend and engage with as many of the Creative Ireland supported initiatives/projects as is feasible.
- Project organisers will maintain communication with the Culture Team in regard to their project status.
- Appropriate recording of projects and activities will be ensured.
- Feedback reports will be submitted by participants on Creative Ireland events and activities.
- An ongoing process of review of the Creative Ireland Programme in Westmeath will be the responsibility of the Culture Team.
- Feedback and learning from the Westmeath Programme delivery will be communicated to Creative Ireland National Team.

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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022

