



creativeireland

The Creative Youth Conference 2021

Creativity: the connection to our future, now

Thursday
13 May 2021

The Print Works
Dublin Castle
Streamed online via Hopin



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



Introduction

Catherine Martin, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



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**You are all very welcome to the Creative Youth
Conference, *Creativity – the connection
to our future, now.***

The Creative Youth Plan was published by the Government in December 2017 as one of the five Pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme, seeking to enable the creative potential of every child and young person. At its heart lies the conviction that knowledge and creativity should be equal partners in the formation of our children, supporting them to become creative, active citizens.

Through a partnership of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, the Department of Education, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth and

the Arts Council, Creative Youth supports measures which aim to expand young people's access to creative initiatives and activities, focus on the inclusion of every child, and support positive and sustainable outcomes for children and young people through creative engagement across formal and non-formal settings.

Since publication of the Plan, a wide array of initiatives have been developed and supported, including:

- The roll-out of the Creative Schools programme which has supported 464 schools to begin a new creative journey since the programme was introduced in 2018.
- A new Creative Clusters Programme was rolled out as part of the Schools Excellence Fund so far supporting 220 schools to collaborate on creative projects.
- Cruinniú na nÓg – the national day of free creative activities for children and young people was launched and rolled out in partnership with every local authority. Whether in person or online, Cruinniú has provide 1000's of opportunities for young people to try something new and unleash their creativity.
- Local Creative Youth Partnerships (LCYPs) have been established in conjunction with 3 Education and Training Boards (ETBs), seeking to develop closer local networking and provide more opportunities for young people to engage with creative activities – particularly those previously least served.
- Full training in accessing the voice of the child has been provided to those delivering initiatives such as Creative Schools, Creative Clusters and the LCYP pilots as well as helping to inform the development of programmes for Cruinniú na nÓg.
- Support for Teacher Continuing Professional Development for primary and post-primary schools, with research undertaken to support the development of a new early years CPD model.

- Projects to increase and enhance access in out-of-school provision have been supported – including in the areas of music education, creative writing and youth drama.

I hope that the presentations and discussions at *Creativity – the connection to our future*, now will not only enlighten and inspire you, but provoke a consideration of how we as a society need to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as we consider what strategies, structures and systems will be required to truly deliver positive and sustainable outcomes for children and young people through their engagement with arts, culture and creativity.

About the Conference

— Participation in and engagement with the arts, culture and creative activities helps build vital connections for young people in their daily lives – connections to:

- Our national culture & heritage and their own creative capacities;
- Personal mental health and wellbeing;
- An enhanced educational experience that builds key competencies;
- Their current and future lives as active and engaged citizens, equipped with the skills they need in a fast-changing world.

Through examining the impact that Creative Youth has had to date, this conference will ask what steps all sectors of government and society need to take now to ensure our young people are provided with equitable access to the arts, culture and creative activities; to be provided with the opportunities to grow, learn and develop into the (creative) citizens of the future; to be supported in sustaining and enhancing these vital connections – now and for their futures.

The Creative Youth Conference 2021 is an opportunity to reflect on progress to date and get input concerning the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The conference also serves as an opportunity to re-state government commitment to Creative Youth and the Creative Ireland Programme in general.

Schedule

TIME	EVENT
12:00	Keynote Address by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin Panel discussion and Q&A: Introduced by Norma Foley, Minister for Education <hr/> Andreas Schleicher OECD Director for Education and Skills <hr/> Prof. Anne Looney Executive Dean, Institute of Education, DCU <hr/> Michelle Cullen Managing Director, Accenture <hr/> Arlene Forster CEO, National Council for Curriculum & Assessment
13:00	A short film where young people give us feedback on our work

TIME	EVENT
13:05	Panel discussion introduced by Roderic O’Gorman, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth <hr/> Bo Stjerne Thomsen Vice-President of the LEGO Foundation <hr/> Roddy Doyle , Author Co-Founder and Chairman of Fighting Words <hr/> Helene Hugel CEO Helium Arts <hr/> Prof Linda Doyle Provost-elect TCD
13:55	Closing Remarks by Catherine Martin, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Conference Hosts and Panellists

HOST



Sarah Keating (Host)

Sara Keating is a writer and cultural journalist, with a special interest in youth affairs. Her commentary can be read in The Irish Times and the Business Post. Educated at Trinity College Dublin, she holds a PhD from the Samuel Beckett School of Theatre. Sara is currently Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Writer in Residence 2020-2021, where she is completing her first book, with the further support of the Arts Council.

PANEL ONE



Michelle Cullen

Michelle is director of operations for Accenture international commercial services. She brings leadership teams together to drive best practice, integration and innovation to Accenture's own business. Michelle has also defined and led Accenture's inclusion and diversity strategy in Ireland. Michelle believes that a strong skills pipeline is important to meet Ireland's future job needs and for the country's economic growth as we emerge from the pandemic. She concurs with the view that a collective coalition between government, education and industry is critical for success in upskilling Ireland. A strong advocate for diversity in leadership and a regular contributor in national media, Michelle is co-founder of Accenture's Women on Walls initiative which seeks to make women leaders visible through a series of commissioned portraits to inspire future generations. She is committed to supporting the arts and creative industries, and believes that the intersection of the arts, technology and industry is of huge importance.



Arlene Forster

Arlene Forster is Chief Executive of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). Arlene began her career as a primary school teacher and taught at all class levels while working in multi-grade and single-grade settings. Having completed postgraduate studies in University College Dublin, Arlene joined the NCCA in 2001. Through her roles as Education Officer (2001-2002), Director (2003-2015) and Deputy CEO (2016-2020), she led work in areas such as curriculum review, assessment, reporting to parents, language, mathematics, science and the development of Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework. Arlene was appointed CEO in late 2020.



Anne Looney

Anne is the Executive Dean of Dublin City University's new Institute of Education. From 2001 until 2016 she was the CEO of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, and also held the position of Interim CEO at the Higher Education Authority until March 2017. A former teacher, she completed her doctoral studies at the Institute of Education in University College London. In 2014/2015 she was Professorial Research Fellow at the Learning Science Institute Australia, based at Australian Catholic University in Brisbane. Her current research interests include assessment policy and practice, curriculum, teacher identity and professional standards for teachers and teaching. She has also published on religious, moral and civic education, and education policy. She has conducted reviews for the OECD on school quality and assessment systems. Anne is President of the International Professional Development Association. She is also a member of the boards of Early Childhood Ireland, and the Ark Cultural Centre for Children.



Andreas Schleicher

Andreas Schleicher is Director for Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He initiated and oversees the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and other international instruments that have created a global platform for policy-makers, researchers and educators across nations and cultures to innovate and transform educational policies and practices.

Before joining the OECD, he was Director for Analysis at the International Association for Educational Achievement (IEA). He studied Physics in Germany and received a degree in Mathematics and Statistics in Australia. He is the recipient of numerous honours and awards, including the “Theodor Heuss” prize, awarded in the name of the first president of the Federal Republic of Germany for “exemplary democratic engagement”. He holds an honorary Professorship at the University of Heidelberg.



Linda Doyle

Linda Doyle is Professor of Engineering and the Arts at Trinity College Dublin. She just finished a term as the Vice President for Research/Dean of Research in Trinity. Her expertise is in the fields of wireless communications, cognitive radio, reconfigurable networks, spectrum management and creative arts practices. Linda was the founder Director of the SFI Research Centre CONNECT – a national research centre focused on telecommunications. During her tenure as Director of CONNECT, she led many flagship projects, including the conceiving and delivery of Pervasive Nation.

Linda has been combining creative arts practices with Engineering for many years and founded the Orthogonal Methods Group (OMG) – a research initiative that works in critical and creative tension with technology with the purpose of generating knowledges, insights and alternative research orientations across disciplines that are sometimes perceived to be mutually exclusive.

Linda is on the Board of the Festival of Curiosity, a yearly cultural feast of science, arts, design & technology for all ages, and is Chair of the Douglas Hyde Gallery Board since 2013. Previously Linda was a member of the Board of Pallas Project Studios and she is a judge in the BT Young Scientist. Linda was also recently elected as Trinity College Dublin’s new Provost and will take up this position on August 1st 2021.



Roddy Doyle

Roddy Doyle is the author of twelve novels, including *The Commitments*, *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, for which he won the Booker Prize in 1993, and, most recently, *Love*. His collection of stories, *Life Without Children*, will be published later this year. He has also written eight books for children, and scripts for stage, screen and TV. He co-wrote *The Second Half*, with Roy Keane.

He is the co-founder, with Sean Love, of *Fighting Words* – whose aim is to help children and young people (and adults who did not have this opportunity as children) to discover and harness the power of their own imaginations and creative writing skills. At its core, *Fighting Words* is also about something much broader and more inclusive. It is about using the creative practice of writing and storytelling to strengthen our children and teenagers – from a wide range of backgrounds – to be resilient, creative and successful shapers of their own lives. He lives and works in Dublin.



Helene Hugel

Helene Hugel is CEO and Artistic Director of Helium Arts. She has an Honours BA Degree in English from Trinity College Dublin and a qualification in Hospital Play Specialism during which she won the Eve Latimer Award for her dissertation. Living in Mullingar, Hugel was born and raised in Upstate New York. Her mother worked as a social worker and her father a doctor, both with a keen interest in arts and theatre which Hugel has kept with her since childhood. She was co-founder and partner of the award-winning Puca Puppets Theatre Company until 2002. As an individual arts practitioner developing arts and health projects for children between 2002 and 2008, she was awarded multiple Arts Council grants and bursaries to develop her practice working with children in hospital. She is the recipient of both a Level 1 and Level 2 Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Award and in 2010 she founded Helium Arts in order to provide a structure for collaborating with other artists and healthcare practitioners to extend the impact of arts and health practice to reach more children and young people living with long-term health conditions across Ireland.



Dr Bo Stjerne Thomsen

Dr Bo Stjerne Thomsen is Vice-President, Chair of Learning Through Play, and member of the Leadership Team at the LEGO Foundation. Over the years, Bo led the international research agenda and organizational expertise on children's development, play and learning for the LEGO Foundation and supporting the LEGO Group. In his previous roles as Director of the LEGO Learning Institute, Head of the Centre for Creativity, Play and Learning, and Global Head of Research, he built more than 15 international research partnerships and supported the implementation of evidence into projects across 20+ countries, to raise awareness around the role and impact of play on creativity and lifelong learning. Bo Stjerne has published widely on Creativity, Play and Learning, most recently on the integrated role of technologies in everyday life, and the systems change needed in schools and education to achieve equitable outcomes with learning through play. He holds a master's degree in design, architecture and engineering, and a PhD on performative technologies and learning environments.

April Workshops

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The conference consists of two virtual workshops and a series of youth voice consultations in April, feeding into our event today.

The workshops provided an opportunity to focus primarily on Creative Youth initiatives within the education system and community settings respectively, securing the perspectives of the young people themselves as well as those working to support them. The Voice of the Children and Young People who participated in workshops around the country is a key feature of the conference today.

The conference today will reflect on the key issues that were raised at the April workshops concerning the value of young people's participation in creative activities in the daily lives of young people (their education, their personal development, their future) as the next steps for Creative Youth are evaluated.

The two public events featured contributions from a range of people involved in Creative Youth initiatives – such as the Creative Schools programme and the Local Creative Youth Partnerships – and provided an insight into the roll-out of the Creative Youth Plan to date.

Creative Youth in the Education System

[Click here for a video of this workshop](#)



This workshop focused on Creative Youth initiatives in the Education System. Questions considered included:

- What are the key experiences and learning points that have emerged from participation in schools-based creative initiatives? How might this influence our vision for such activities in the future?
- What are the key changes that have resulted/emerged from participation – in approaches to teaching, classroom dynamics, and student engagement and attainment that should be considered from a creative engagement perspective?
- Where is the dynamic at the moment in a broad sense and where is it likely to take us?

HOST

Catherine Byrne

CONTRIBUTORS

Dr Mimi Doran is a teacher, lecturer and creative practitioner with an interest in participatory approaches to learning and creating. Since 2018 Mimi has worked as a Creative Associate with the Creative Schools initiative that aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children and young people's lives.

Jennifer Buggie is a primary school teacher who has worked with Teacher Artist Partnership (TAP) since 2014 as a lead facilitator and for the TAP national design team. In her school Jenny co-ordinates arts initiatives such as Creative Schools and Creative Clusters.

Professor Dervil Jordan is Head of the School of Education at the National College of Art and Design (NCAD) in Dublin. She has been involved in initial teacher education for over thirty years, as coordinator and lecturer on the Professional Master of Education in Art and Design and the BA in Art and Design Education.

Dr Triona Stokes is the lecturer in Drama Education at Maynooth University Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education in Ireland. A former primary school teacher, Triona has experience of teaching children aged 3-13 years.

Creative Youth in the Community

[Click here for a video of this workshop](#)



This workshop focused on Creative Youth initiatives in the Community. Questions considered included:

- What is working well in providing increased and enhanced opportunities for young people?
- What is scalable and what may require further or more targeted attention?
- Who is being left behind and how do achieve equity?
- What have been the positive personal wellbeing outcomes for young people?
- How might this influence our vision for such activities in the future?

HOST

Catherine Byrne

CONTRIBUTORS

Paula Phelan is Head of Quality, Support and Development with Music Generation. Paula brings with her a breadth of experience spanning the worlds of arts and corporate management, music education leadership and practice.

Rachel Coffey is a traveller education worker in Cork City with the STAR project (Supporting Travellers and Roma). Rachel recently completed the Narrative 4 Story Exchange Facilitation training which was funded through the Creative Ireland Programme.

Steven Tully is an Art Project Worker currently employed in FamiliBase, Ballyfermot. Since joining the team he has been working and training as an arts facilitator and, in collaboration with Youth Theatre Ireland and the rest of the arts team at FamiliBase, has been leading the charge in establishing the first Ballyfermot Youth Theatre.

Monica Spencer is Coordinator of the Local Creative Youth Partnership based at Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. She has worked as a theatre maker, arts producer and community facilitator based in Limerick for the past twenty years.

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