



Creative Ireland Report on Arts & Creative Engagement in Irish Hospice Foundation 2020-2021

1. Executive Summary

Support from the Creative Ireland Programme enabled Irish Hospice Foundation to develop policy and strategy for an arts and creative engagement programme. This began and was successfully developed during the pandemic. Understanding and manifestation of national grief through arts and culture has been achieved through Seed Grants, and the development of Compassionate Culture workshops. Literature and Signature arts programmes have been initiated and are evolving over a longer time frame. Potential for future action explored and is articulated.

2. Introduction/background; Proposal summary and Policy background

Under this SLA from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Irish Hospice Foundation (IHF) set out to “*develop and deliver designated projects within a cohesive, meaningful dialogue on dying, death, grief and loss through the medium of the arts, in response to the national experiences of COVID-19*”.

The mechanics to realise this proposal were:

- *Project One: Development of Strategy*
- *Project Two: Arts Project Officer*
- *Project Three: Poetry Project*
- *Project Four: Seed Grant Scheme*

Much was uncertain at the time of agreement in Autumn 2020. COVID-19 had magnified people’s experiences of dying, death, loss and grief. Live art and much creative engagement practice had ceased. Yet the pandemic had encouraged people to reach for the arts, culture and creative responses for meaning, solace and inspiration.

IHF had often engaged with arts and creative practice previously, though had no policy framework for doing so. Support from the Creative Ireland Programme was aligned to its growing understanding of creative work with older adults. While the majority of Ireland’s 30,000 deaths a year are older adults IHF’s work is for all at whatever age and circumstance they meet by dying, death and bereavement. This was the first time IHF had sought State support for a programme of creative practice. IHF is 92% funded by public donation.

Engaging with the arts, cultural and creative mediums offer pathways towards the human experience of dying, death, grief and loss. Exploring through the arts, culture and creativity allows for an expression of what it means to be alive, how to approach the end of life, how death can be marked and understood, and how to process loss and grief. As this programme developed the experience of COVID-19 generated yet more new, critical and urgent possibilities for engaging people in Ireland in meaningful dialogue around dying, death, grief and loss through the arts.

On average in Ireland 80 people die each and every day, meaning 800 friends, families, beloveds, co-workers, acquaintances, are newly affected by grief daily. As the IHF Arts & Engagement Programme began deaths in the pandemic were around 200 per day and rising. The country was in level 5 lockdown. Daily death count remained high through-out the initial programme period. At the time of writing the country is still in lockdown.

There is little precedent for art and creative engagement with the dying or bereaved. This programme is innovating and establishing practice, process and policy with relevance beyond these shores.

3. Outline of team and key participants

The initiative was instigated and supported by Irish Hospice Foundation CEO Sharon Foley and the engagement and communications team at IHF: Lynn Murtagh, Rebecca Lloyd, Rebecca Kelly and Grainne Rogers.

Policy was developed for IHF by Maureen Gilbert through consultation with 52 Irish and international experts. *(See Appendix 1 for list of those consulted)*

Dominic Campbell was appointed inaugural Creative Arts and Engagement Officer, part time basis, from November 2020 to June 2021, to animate policy and evolve strategy.

Participants

Compassionate Culture workshops developed with input from IHF Bereavement and Education leads were delivered with support from First Fortnight, The Abbey Theatre, The Ark, Mother Tongues Festival, Waterford Healing Arts Trust, Dear Ireland, Dublin City Council Culture Company. Sessions for Irish Street Arts Network, Dublin Theatre Festival, Axis are confirmed but not scheduled.

Seeds Programme made 11 commissions: Martha Cashman (Sculptor, Cork), Hazel Green and Lynn Gallagher at Galway Hospice Foundation, Chris Hayes at Crannog Media (Waterford), Frank Monaghan (Architecture at The Edge, Galway) and David Kelly (architect, Dublin), Jennifer Moran Stritch, Jantien Schoenmakers and David O'Neil (Limerick), Michelle Collins (musician) with Mairin Cronin (Marymount Hospice, Cork) and Maeve Mulrennen (Cork Arts Office), Sharon Murphy and Sadbh (Embrace Music, Kildare), Dunshaughlin Choral Society (Meath), Joanne Ryan (theatre maker) with Lime Tree Theatre/Belltable (Limerick), Maria Gasol (illustrator, Donegal), Gaultier GAA Club (Waterford).

Poetry Project was developed with Poetry Ireland CEO Niamh O'Donnell and education lead Jane O'Hanlon, input was from Poetry Ireland Poet in Residence Catherine Anne Cullen and editor is Mary Shine Thompson.

Initiatives arising from this support are ongoing with:

All IHF departments notably the Hospice Friendly Hospitals network of 42 acute hospitals, and Compassionate End of Life network of 200 residential care settings.

Signature projects are developing with the RHA, Nomad Network of touring venues, individual artists and creative producers including Pop Baby, Galway International Arts Festival, Brokentaklers and Michelle Read.

The Arts and Creative Engagement lead consulted with researchers including Professors Maureen Galvin, Lorna Roe, and Sara Burke, members of The Global Brain Health Institute and TILDA. Dr Francesca Farina Developing Arts and Health Facilitators Network research for Mary Grehan/Justine Foster, and the Department of Music at the University of Limerick.

4. Outcomes and outputs

The ambition of this initiative was to: *Increase strategic engagement with the arts, cultural and creative mediums to enable the expressing of 'meaning' around the difficulties experienced by dying, death and bereavement.*

To achieve this required developing clarity of ambition, objectives, and mechanisms. Initially within IHF, then more widely across arts, culture, health and wellbeing sectors, and the general public. This is an ongoing process. Learning has been and is being fed back and projects, strategy and longer terms aims are being adapted in response. Regular conversation with and the support of the Creative Ireland Programme leads have been maintained and are valuable.

Achievement to date has been through

- 4.1 Development of Strategy – Arts Policy
- 4.2 Appointment of an Arts and Creative Engagement Officer
- 4.3 Development of Seeds Programme
- 4.4 Poetry and Literature Project
- 4.5 Additional Developments

4.1. Development of Strategy - Arts Policy

IHF has engaged with the arts and with cultural initiatives for over 20 years. Recognising the power of the arts to express meaning in relation to dying, death, loss and bereavement, and the ways in which arts can stimulate conversations and viewpoints which might otherwise be inaccessible, the IHF has initiated projects involving visual arts, creative writing, music, animation and more. Some have been related to fundraising drives, others to memorialisation. IHF realised that strategy needed policy to guide its evolution, especially during an uncertain time.

The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated many diverse aspects to the relationship between the arts and the expectation or experience of dying, death, grief and loss. Singing from balconies and remotely produced dance performances were among the arts activities which defied the gloom of the pandemic; writing and online theatre among the activities which explored and expressed the COVID-19 experience; poetry and visual arts among the activities which honoured those who contracted the illness.

In a survey undertaken on behalf of IHF in early May 2020*, at the height of the pandemic, some 68% of respondents said that COVID-19 had made Irish society rethink the way it deals with death and bereavement. Over a third (34%) felt that death and bereavement are not discussed sufficiently in Ireland. This is not least due to not knowing how to broach the subject, or what to say.

Putting these realities together, IHF was ready to deepen its strategic engagement with the arts as a potent vector for meaning and development, and in the context of stimulating new ways of perceiving, understanding and relating to dying, death, grief and loss.

* Behaviour & Attitudes Omnibus Survey May 2020

First, however, the organisation needed to:

- define the nature and parameters of its engagement with the arts, culture and creative activities, in the context of enriching IHF's services, activities and communications, while also contributing to the ways in which the arts and arts practitioners relate to dying, death, loss and bereavement; this will not be limited to arts and health activities and will exclude consideration of hospice-specific arts-related initiatives.
- develop a framework within which to propose, relate and respond to initiatives involving the arts, culture and creative engagement.
- decide how best, institutionally, to manage the IHF's relationship with the arts and creative engagement, given the skill set available in the organisation currently.

IHF appointed Maureen Gilbert to develop Arts Policy for IHF with the above as a brief. The Policy was completed in November 2020 (See *Appendix 2.*)

4.1.2. Developing policy

Drew on more than 50 interviews with arts organisations, arts practitioners, academics, public servants and others in October-November 2020.

The interviews were constructed so as to explore the central theme: how best can the IHF engage with the arts so as to encourage more open and deeper conversation about dying, death, grief and loss among the general public in Ireland? (See *Appendix 3 for a core list of interview questions.*)

In keeping with lockdown all interviews were online, allowing for some international input.

4.1.3 Key elements of the Policy are:

It uses the term "the arts" to cover not only those activities covered by the Arts Act, 1951, but also all forms of creative expression (for example, craft, design and heritage activities).

It is developed in line with the UN Convention on Human Rights, and with the Arts Council's Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy, therefore IHF asserts that everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community and to enjoy the arts.

It articulates a Vision for IHF's engagement with the arts:

IHF's vision is for an Ireland where death is talked about and not hidden away, people do not avoid thinking or talking about grief and where people get space and time to grieve, talk and remember.

It articulates the Mission of IHF's engagement with the arts:

IHF aims to work with the arts, cultural and creative sectors, and to include arts, cultural and creative approaches in its work, in order to broaden and deepen conversation among the general public in Ireland about dying, death, grief and loss. The People's Charter on Dying, Death and Bereavement underpins all IHF activities in the area of arts, culture and creative expression (See *appendix 4*).

It determines Parameters and operating principles:

Scope

The policy applies to IHF's engagement with the general public. The organisation does not propose to develop specialised arts, cultural or creative expression activities for people nearing end of life, nor does it aim to engage in arts-related work whose primary aim is therapeutic.

Collaboration

IHF intends to work collaboratively with appropriate, experienced organisations and practitioners with a track record in the field of the arts, culture and creative expression which share its values and harmonise with its aim.

To achieve this IHF will take a "partnership of expertise" approach to ensure that its collaborations in the area of arts, culture and creative expression are of mutual benefit. The IHF is not now, nor does it intend to become, an arts or "creative sector" organisation

Artistic integrity

IHF respects the integrity of the arts and creative sector, and the intrinsic value of quality arts and creative products

Funding

IHF is committed to ensuring the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists, in line with the Arts Council's Paying the Artist policy. The Arts are not primarily opportunities for fundraising.

IHF aims to ensure that all arts-based activities with which it is associated are as accessible and affordable to the public as possible.

4.2 Appointment of an Arts and Creative Engagement Officer

With Policy developing IHF appointed an Arts & Creative Engagement officer to develop and deliver strategy. Applicants applied through a process of competitive interview. Dominic Campbell, the candidate selected, brought enthusiasm and experience to the position.

Beginning in November 2020 he clarified SMART objectives based on; the SLA agreed with Creative Ireland Programme including time scale, IHF's emerging Arts Policy, recommendations and relationships made through the Policy process and his experience.

Objectives were to be achieved through the Literary programme and Seed Grants. A dedicated Officer in IHF has enabled development to be driven, with strategy to be matched to pragmatic opportunity. In addition to the Literature and Poetry project and Seed Grants in the SLA this role facilitated Compassionate Culture, Talks, Creativity across IHF Networks, Signature Projects and engaged with the National Memorialisation process.

4.3 Poetry and Literature Project

On appointment the Arts & Creative Engagement Officer assessed the status of the Poetry & Literature Project as it stood at that time. A poetry book "By Your Side" was under consideration but it was recognised there were a number of technical and development issues: IHF's cost projection included sales. CI's agreements preclude this. There was therefore a significant budget shortfall in projected costs. The Arts & Creative Engagement Officer began to explore alternative approaches with CI informed at all stages. The outcome is:

4.3.1 "Loss and Covid"

IHF are focusing CI resources on the support of a project which fulfils the agreed ambition.

Working with Poetry Ireland we are commissioning and supporting artists and health workers to produce new writing directly responding to their experience of the pandemic.

Up to 10 new commissioned works will be accompanied by interviews with health care workers, from across the health care services including porter, a night nurse, a consultant, Bereavement Support Line volunteers.

Self-published a limited run of 500 copies will be available from summer 2021. It will be distributed without charge by IHF through the Hospice Friendly Hospitals network and in collaboration with Creative Ireland.

4.3.2 "By Your Side"

A poetry anthology of work by Irish poets from across the generations will be published in 2022 by Gill Books. Editor Mary Shine Thompson has curated with IHF and Poetry Ireland staff a shortlist of 120 works by leading poets appropriate for those at end of life or grieving.

Gill Books will secure all rights, design, print, distribute and sell this work. An initial 5000 copies will be produced in Autumn 2022 for sale in Ireland. Additional support has been secured from DCU for translation from old Irish to contemporary English.

Creative Ireland Programme's support of the art and engagement lead facilitated the development and curatorial process. However, CI resources were not and will not be used in the creation of the book. IHF have a contract with Gill for this project.

4.4 Seed Grants

The Seed Grants programme offered awards to support groups, organisations and individuals who wished to mark in some tangible way their response to the realities of dying, death and bereavement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IHF's Arts & Creative Engagement Officer with IHF's Communications team developed language, branding, website, data base and process. An invitation to apply was created. This was promoted via IHF's networks and databases including the HSE facing Hospital Friendly Hospitals Network, PPN, Creative Ireland Programme, Local Authority Arts Officers.

Applications were invited from individual artists, crafts people and community groups. IHF hoped to offer between 10 and 15 awards in the region of €500 - €1,000 per project. Key dates were:

- Invitation to apply launched December 8th, 2020

- Friday January 29th, 2021, 5pm - Closing date for all applications
- Monday February 1st- Friday February 12th – Applications reviewed.
- Week Commencing Monday February 15th, 2021 - Applications were notified of decision, including potential other avenues for development if unsuccessful.
- March 30th, 2021 - Successful projects were to be complete by this date.

74 applications came from Limerick, Cork, Galway, Waterford, Donegal, Meath, Wexford, Tipperary, Kildare, Dublin, Meath, Westmeath, Limerick, Kerry, Longford, Mayo, Louth, Laois, Wexford, Waterford, Cavan, Kildare, Roscommon. Applicants included health professionals, artists, craftspeople, community workers, mental health specialists, counselling services, disability support services, residential care settings, hospices, NGO's, community choirs and sports teams. It was an audit of national grief.

11 successful projects were selected by an IHF staff team with policy writer Maureen Gilbert, to align with IHF Arts Policy, the ambition of the Creative Ireland Programme and the potential to be achieved within the time frame within covid. The ambition was for national and organizational spread, and diversity of approach. In addition to the financial resources IHF offered support (access to staff, comms support, IHF grief expertise, emotional support, creative process and production support etc). IHF created dedicated pages on its website to help share stories of work in progress.

Successful projects were notified swiftly, media consent and first payments processed, and applicants made aware of the support structure put in place. An invitation to attend an awareness session on Zoom was taken up by all. This was so beneficial it was repeated toward the end of the programme.

All applicants completed a final questionnaire, were part of an online forum, and had one to one discussion. All digital outcomes are listed in Section 6.

The 11 projects are detailed below.

[Marthaz Urns \(Cork\)](#)

Martha Cashman, artist/sculptor will make an urn for her brother who “wanted to be cremated but felt for my mother’s sake, who is 92, he wouldn’t do that but give her the traditional burial she is used to”. It will reflect his love of motorbikes and nature. This project sits within a bigger ambition of creating personalised urns and exploring women in funeral industry.

Status – The urns are completed, and this stage of the project finished. Martha is seeking further training in Grief Counselling from IHF and considering how the project might be sustained.

Quote *“I am making a collection for more raku firings now for my website, it would be good to get a link to my site perhaps and a story again later on in the summer to see what collections I will have available and info on how people can commission a piece. If there is an option in time to connect with the Poetry group there could be a really interesting project”*

[One story Encourages Another \(Galway\)](#) Meallan scéal scéal eile

Hazel Greene and Kathy Hyland, a bereavement support services coordinator and art therapist in Galway Hospice Foundation, will offer their community who have experienced loss during COVID-19 an opportunity to share experience in words, music and poetry, which will be captured as a video.

Status - A 15-minute video featuring multiple poems can be found on the website

Quote *“The project offered a platform for living with loss during covid and assisted the loss and as a cathartic outlet. It acknowledged the complexity that people have met in their experience of loss and the process of grief during a pandemic. It acknowledged that some aspects of grief have been disenfranchised and the need to find an outlet to support people. It was a pleasure to be able to bring people’s stories to life, give them a voice, and honour their loved one in a way that was lost in the pandemic and the absence of traditional commemorations. It encouraged action at a time when people feel stuck. The funding offered a creative licence to think outside the box” Hazel Greene*

[Say It Feel It \(Wexford\)](#)

Chris Hayes at Crannóg Media produces the HedgeRadio podcast, wants to “give voice to those grieving and dying who cannot have loved ones close” beginning by creating an audio work on a dedicated website where he will curate stories recorded with people affected by the pandemic.

Status – Podcasts, music and website are completed and can be heard at www.sayitfeelit.ie

Quote *“It has been an immersive experience in bereavement for me. The conversations have been humbling and revealing, all the participants have commented on missing the common rituals around death and dying in Ireland. Some have also admitted that they don’t think the death of their loved one has fully come home to them yet, that they feel the process is still open. I have been taken aback by how giving the participants have been, the details they have shared and how intimate the interviews were. That reinforced for me the need for this project, how essential it is to provide an outlet for people to engage in conversations like this.” Chris Hayes*

[House of Memory \(Galway and nationwide\)](#)

Frank Monahan and the Architecture At The Edge team, who explore the role of architecture and its impact on our lives, will build a temporary installation proposed by architect David Kelly, that explores the boundary between life and death. It suggests how we can find a way to grieve and mourn the loss of a loved ones given the restrictions of social distancing and gathering. Installed in Galway in March, visitors will be invited to leave a token of remembrance or an offering before the installation is disassembled and set alight as a beacon of hope.

Status - Galway City Council were unable to offer licensing as Stage 5 lockdown has continued from application until now. IHF have negotiated with Galway International Arts Festival and the project will appear as a key element of their September 2021 Festival, pandemic permitting. IHF will continue to support and amplify the project.

Quote *“As an initiative, the Seed Grant has enabled individuals, groups and organizations from all over Ireland the opportunity to come together and share our varied responses to loss and grief during this pandemic. To learn, create, exchange, and apply that knowledge to those issues of grief and loss relevant to our communities through a variety of action-led tactics. It’s been a privilege to be a part of it. Many thanks for the opportunity. It has proved extremely difficult to obtain a permit from the City Council for the installation of the House of Memory and this has frustrated the delivery of the project. In itself that issue highlights just how hard it is to memorialise or remember that sense of loss which we collectively have experienced during the pandemic.” Frank Monahan*

[Sorry for Our Troubles \(Limerick and nationwide\)](#)

Jennifer Moran Stritch of the Limerick Institute of Technology Loss and Grief Research Group/Death Café Limerick, together with Jantien Schoenmakers, Marketing Consultant, and David O’Neil of Limerick City Community Radio will set out to make a collective expression of grief when there is much grief but seemingly no place for it to go. Voice messages sent to a dedicated WhatsApp service will be processed through soundwave software to create a unique image for each anonymised recording. Images will be posted on a dedicated website memorial.

Status - Website is completed and functional. Has been promoted on social media. To date only a handful of people have engaged with it. Now the site is built Jennifer and team will explore different ways to engage people with it, while analysing perceptions of digital sites, and their value for processing grief and loss.

[Journey Through the Ritual of Lament and Caoineadh \(Cork\)](#)

Artist Michelle Collins is facilitating residents of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice to explore loss, grief, reflection, and remembrance through lament and keening/caoineadh workshops. This project is supported by Cork County Council Library and Arts Service.

Status - The project has become an extraordinarily close collaboration between an artist, local authority arts office, art therapists, and health care staff as they seek to address through mutual exploration the challenges of supporting people who are approaching end of life, during the pandemic. At the time the award was made patients were in individual isolation, and the project leads requested a modest extension which would allow patients to work in small groups. Michelle began an exploration of laments working online, connected to health workers and therapists who were working directly with patients. Through discussing and sharing rituals and traditions a number of participants engaged with and related experiences about the death of loved ones in their past and spoke about loss in their own lives. Exploring lament and the practice of the *caoineadh*, participants have sung songs from their youth, and some have shared and relayed songs they connect with the passing and funeral of a loved. A challenging process in normal times the project leads note *“The importance of time for a project like this. It is valuable but requires further time and space. It is a slow process, built on trust and engagement.”* The local authority arts office therefore applied for and received support for the project to continue beyond the remit of Seeds from The Creative Ireland programme.

Quote *“This project has been beneficial to both staff & residents. The aim of the project was primarily to facilitate & support older people to reflect on grief, it has also benefited staff greatly. Through planning, implementing & evaluating the programme, staff have had time to reflect on the importance of supporting a service user on their journey. Grief arises in many aspects of life in a continuing care setting, especially in a year of COVID. Further exploration into supporting staff in the area would be very beneficial.” Michelle Collins and Maeve Mulrennan*

[Murmurations: A Song Cycle \(Kildare\)](#)

Sharon Murphy and Sadhbh O'Sullivan of Embrace Music are developing a cycle of three songs reflecting and drawing on the breadth and depth of loss in the residential care communities they work with. Supported by Kildare Arts Office, the title refers to the outbreak of empathy in the pandemic, and the final works will be available as digital recordings online.

Status - Three pieces of music reflecting and drawing upon the breadth and depth of loss experienced by older people known to Sadhbh and Sharon through their work as music and health practitioners have been developed, written, and recorded. The project title refers to heightened feelings of empathy and the synchronisation of the collective experience since March 2020. The three pieces *Blackbird's Lament* (a folk song) *The Dawning* (an instrumental) and *Better Days to Come* (a choral piece) broadly tie into the themes of loss, acceptance and hope.

They are available to hear online. They were accompanied by a bespoke illustration and an introductory text by Niamh Fitzpatrick. Sheet music and lyrics for the third section are available on request. Embrace Music are encouraging their community of singers in care homes, and through IHF/Sing Ireland a wider community of interest to learn and sign this piece when possible. Additional support for this project was provided by Kildare County Council Arts Office.

Quote *“The writing of the song cycle involved much reflection for us - both personal and professional - on loss in all its forms. We drew upon the wealth of content available to us in the form of messages exchanged and thoughts shared amongst older people we were engaging with in WhatsApp, on Zoom and Facebook and in phone calls about their pandemic experience, their fears, losses and hopes for the future.*

In sharing the finished work, we were privileged to experience a second wave of reflection as people from our home county and around the country shared their response to the pieces themselves. We were honoured to realise that the music had resonated deeply with so many. Some of the feedback we have received has been that the cycle is ‘an important piece of musical medicine’, ‘like a door opening into the light that brings us hope for the future’, and ‘I love the way the whole of last year was captured in this song cycle’.

The tight deadline was a challenge and may not have been achievable in more normal, busier times. Both lockdown and the excellent support system put in place by the IHF team worked hugely in our favour in bringing the project over the line.

As freelance artists and arts & health practitioners we have been involved in countless projects over the years and this stands out as being one of the most enjoyable, rewarding and relevant. We are very grateful to IHF and Creative Ireland for the opportunity and - having seen the high quality and emotional resonance of the other projects - look forward to seeing what can be achieved in future collaborations between IHF and Creative Ireland.” Sadhbh O’Sullivan and Sharon Murphy

[Absent Voices \(Meath\)](#)

Róisín Freeney and the 45 members of Dunshaughlin Choral Society, an amateur community choir where all are welcome, play a central role in village life. They propose to compose and record an original collaborative piece to reflect the loss of members and loved ones in their village.

Status - Original music was created collaboratively by the group, arranged for four parts, performed and recorded individually and edited together into an online performance. Video is available to listen to online. There is interest in the group and from other groups in live performance when this becomes possible.

Quote *“As an amateur, community choir we felt the loss of members and loved ones through-out this sad year. Not being able to use our singing voices to help us grieve as we normally would, we seized the opportunity to work with the Irish Hospice Foundation and apply for their Seed Grant, to see if we could find a way to heal from our bereavement and sense of isolation collectively. We collaboratively wrote a song over email and zoom inspired by recent events and reflecting on the experience of rehearsing on zoom rather than in person.*

We called the piece 'Absent Voices' as a reference to the impact a loss of even one voice can have on a choral group. It is an original creation specifically for these times and this situation. A Choral group is an organic, ever changing thing. We not only feel the loss of a member, but we hear it too. We would normally come together to sing and remember those who have gone. This song is our attempt to do that.

It was written together members emailed their reflections and thoughts on recent losses. Though I had been involved in song writing in the distant past I had never really done anything like this before. The Choral Society did not know, even as they were recording, what the song should sound like as we had never heard each other sing it. The recording was for all of us a terrifying and exciting experience. We are so pleased with the final result. We hope it brings some comfort to those who find themselves bereaved and silenced by this awful epidemic. It has been a fantastic experience and has really helped us on the road to recovery.”
Róisín Freeney

[Dying to Know \(Limerick\)](#)

Joanne Ryan, theatre artist, specialises in making entertaining quality work about taboo and stigmatised subject matter. Supported by Limerick's Lime Tree Theatre, and in collaboration with thanatologists and death historians, she will develop parts of a new performance interrogating issues around death that combines autobiography, documentary and research.

Status - Joanne's commission was as support for a work in progress. IHF have connected and supported Joanne as she sought to interview people at the end of life, engage with the issues of ethics and care systems, and the role of an artistic investigation compared to process of academic research. The project has evolved as healthy creative work and IHF have supported applications for its further development.

Quote *“It has felt like a genuine and meaningful partnership which is invaluable to me as an independent artist. The SEED funding and partnership has also enabled me to trigger further funding and support. Science Gallery and Fishamble Theatre*

are now also partnering with me in the development, and I have applied - with supporting documentation from IHF - for a Theatre Project Award from The Arts Council to develop the work to rehearsal-ready stage.”

[Lily's Grandpa is an Angel \(Donegal\)](#)

Spanish artist living in Donegal for 15 years, Maria Gasol's father died due to COVID-19 in Barcelona last April. Her 6-year-old daughter trying to console her with care, innocence and imagination, led to a story-poem. As a volunteer in local residential care and community support agencies in West Donegal, she will join forces with community groups to illustrate the poem and create a digital illustrated book. In turn, the book will become a tool to generate conversation.

Status - Drawings and text are completed and the book available for download. Maria has had enquiries about a printed version and is in discussion with her local bookshop.

Quote *“It has reaffirmed my belief that art and creativity are very healing, for oneself and for others. And that sharing your emotions and thoughts and work with the world is also very powerful. Some feelings are universal and it's really validating to see that what you go through can move others too, what gives you comfort can give others comfort too. It makes you feel connected. It makes others feel connected. It works both ways.*

I also found it very therapeutic to work on something that deep inside I knew was a homage and tribute to my own father who died of covid and to my own children who helped me along the way, and yet to be able to make my own experience a universal one that resonate with others. It felt really good in between all the pain and sorrow to produce something beautiful that helped oneself and either helped or delighted others. What has surprised me is the amazing response I've received after sharing it on my own social media and private channels. I was a bit nervous as I wasn't sure I was gonna be able to make the personal, universal. “Maria Gasol Boncopmte

[Mural of Remembrance Project \(Waterford\)](#)

Gaultier GAA Club are deeply embedded in their community. Members of the club and the local community have been lost to COVID-19. With chair Richard Finnegan, they plan a memorial mural made with a local graffiti artist on a wall facing the Dunmore East-Waterford City Road to raise spirits and commemorate.

Status - The mural has been completed to the delight of locals and club members, as lockdown allowed. It combines GAA references, the End-of-Life symbol and a nod to the Sistine Chapel.

We are aware from the CEOL and HFH networks in residential care and acute care, that there is interest in SEED grants but the impact of Covid meant it was impossible to apply. From our broad community work we are aware of public interest from artists and communities.

4.5 Compassionate Culture

Compassionate Culture workshops developed from the realisation that as lockdown increases secular public space for processing loss and grief will be valuable. Experiencing loss in COVID-19 has become a part of life; in the form of losing a job, a holiday, the shape of pre-pandemic hopes and dreams, or someone significant has died. IHF expertise in grief processing suggest it is necessary for positive mental health. Cultural venues are a ready-made nation-wide, secular resource accessible to all population segments, without medical centre stigma.

IHF began offering Compassionate Culture workshops to support cultural organisations who we believe will now regularly meet the general population addressing loss and grief arising from the pandemic, and whose staff and creatives therefore need support. Cultural organisations can be actively engaged in the processing of national loss if skilled, or passive recipients.

IHF staff developed bespoke Compassionate Culture workshop programmes to offer participant artists and cultural organisations awareness-raising training in dying, death and bereavement. Taking place online over two hours groups explored their personal experiences of dying, death and bereavement, with a mixture of practical skills, and exploratory exercises. Sessions detailed the work of IHF, the roles of the arts in this area of work, an individual exercise and learning from experts in grief theory. They were interactive designed to raise awareness and confidence.

Participants reflected on a recent loss and what helped or did not help them. Sharing stories and experiences was profound and often moving for all participants. At the end of each session was reflection on the learnings all can carry forward into our lives and might share them with others.

Feedback from the sessions were that the participants found them meaningful and powerful, many organisations indicated they would like to work with IHF further to develop peer groups to support each other as Ireland slowly begins to come out from lockdown.

“Thank you for an extraordinary workshop which carefully and sensitively prepared the space for some deep listening and learning. I’m especially grateful for how encouraging you were to the participants, reminding them how important their existing skills are in creating forums of creativity and presence where grief can be lived with. Its impact is still reverberating” Phil Kingston, Head of Education, Abbey Theatre

Development of Compassionate Culture Peer Network.

Attendees at the workshops, Seeds applicants, and artists already developing work in this area expressed a wish to connect. We ran online sessions in a peer to peer framework. We recognise great need and immediate potential in the continuance and development of this strand. See Conclusion for detail.

5 Additional Strategic Development and Amplification

The creation of an Arts & Creative Engagement Officer in IHF with Creative Ireland's support made the following additionality possible

5.1 Talks Programme

The team in IHF adapted the Compassionate Culture workshop making it available through co-promotion at First Fortnight and Mother Tongues Festival. They curated an artist talk with Ronan Hession author of Leonard and Hungry Paul the featured author of Dublin City Libraries One City One Book initiative. These online offers indicated an audience for regular online engagement. This is being developed further as Deadly Conversations using IHF core resources to support a monthly conversation and leading towards IHF's Forum in October 2021.

5.2 Art, Creativity and IHF Networks

IHF's sits at the nexus of networks into the HSE across acute and social care, and the NGO sector. We brought Arts and Creative Engagement into those networks. We invited Creative Ireland to talk about the wider programme to the CEOL residential care network.

Arts and Culture lead offered 10-minute workshops to front line workers at the Hospice Friendly Hospitals for Maternity, Acute and Paediatric staff countrywide and for the CEOL residential care network introducing our programme, leading to "one word" poems (*Appendix 5*).

5.3 Signature Projects with partners

IHF are developing Signature projects with cultural producers and artists based on IHF Arts Policy. This includes an exhibition with RHA (2023), and support for individual artists work including playwrights, visual artists, who are developing personal practice concerned with death and dying (various time frames).

5.4 Covid Memorialisation

In May 2020 An Taoiseach Varadkar suggested a memorial project for covid victims. IHF continues to liaise with the Department of Taoiseach. We recommend memorialisation is approached as a means for processing grief and loss which offers mental health benefits. The Seeds programme and Compassionate Culture network offer mechanisms on which to build this programme.

6. Public Engagement outcomes, e.g., levels of audience engagement and participation (if appropriate), media coverage, social media analytics etc;

Policy – 1 original document

Created through 50 interviews (see appendix for details)

Literature – 2 new books

IHF – 500 copies will be self-published by IHF in summer 2021

By Your Side - 5,000 copies will be published by Gill Books in Autumn 2022

Seeds projects 11 projects were funded from 74 applications.

Martha Cashman (Sculptor, Cork)

Hazel Green and Lynn Gallagher at Galway Hospice Foundation

Chris Hayes at Crannog Media (Waterford)
Frank Monaghan (Architecture at The Edge, Galway) and David Kelly (architect, Dublin), Jennifer Moran Stritch, Jantien Schoenmakers and David O'Neil (Limerick)
Michelle Collins (musician) with Mairin Cronin (Marymount Hospice, Cork) and Maeve Mulrennan (Cork Arts Office)
Sharon Murphy and Sadbh (Embrace Music, Kildare)
Dunshaughlin Choral Society (Meath)
Joanne Ryan (theatre maker) with Lime Tree Theatre/Belltable (Limerick)
Maria Gasol (illustrator, Donegal)
Gaultier GAA Club (Waterford) – mural seen by an estimated 10,000 people a day

Compassionate Culture 9 workshops developed for 86 attendees.

Input from IHF Bereavement and Education and were delivered to: First Fortnight (5), The Abbey Theatre (11), The Abbey Theatre 2nd session (14) Mother Tongues Festival (8), Mother Tongues Festival 2nd session (12), Waterford Healing Arts Trust (11), Dear Ireland (13), Dublin City Council Culture Company (12).

Sessions for Irish Street Arts Network, Dublin Theatre Festival, Axis are confirmed but not scheduled.

Peer Network. 3 Sessions for 55 attendees.

Seeds 2 (22), Peer 2 Peer 1 (33)

Talks. 7 talks.

One City One Book, April 8th, online with Ronan Hession and Mary Shine Thompson with Dominic Campbell host - 41 attendees.

Hospice Friendly Hospitals Sessions – 3 arts workshops for 156 attendees.

- The Acute Hospital Network, April 15th numbers attending 39
- The Maternity & Perinatal Network, April 13th numbers attending 38
- The Paediatric Network, April 22nd numbers attending 79

Attendees were from Connolly Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, St James's Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Sligo University Hospital, Cork University Hospital, University of Limerick Hospital Group, University Hospital Waterford, Mayo University Hospital, St Vincent's University Hospital, Midland's Regional Hospital Tullamore, Tallaght university Hospital, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Galway University Hospital.

Compassionate End of Life Network Sessions (2) presentations by IHF Arts & Engagement Officer (1) and Creative Ireland (1).

Webinar with Lime Tree Theatre, featuring Kate Verling and Joanne Ryan May 21st

Media coverage:

IHF created 13 press releases, focused on the overall Arts and Creativity programme, SEEDS programme, and individual seeds projects. These were distributed nationally and locally. Press contacts local to each Seeds was followed up in person by IHF press lead.

Publication	Article Title	Link where available
January		
Carlow Nationalist (Web)	Irish Hospice Foundation announces new grant scheme	https://carlow-nationalist.ie/2021/01/08/hospice-foundation-launches-new-grant-scheme/
Dundalk Argus (Print)	IHF announce Funding	
Wicklow People (Print)	Hospice Foundation Grants	
Bray People (Print)	Hospice Foundation Grants	
Connacht Tribune (Print)	Support for creative response to loss	
Midlands 103	Interview with Dominic Campbell	
Galway City Tribune (Print)	Support for creative response to loss	
Vale Star (Print)	Irish Hospice Foundation Seed Grant Scheme	
Weekly Observer (Print)	Irish Hospice Foundation Seed Grant Scheme	
Tuam Herald (Print)	New grant scheme to support creativity	
Offaly Topic (Print)	Seed grants to support creativity	
Kildare Nationalist (Print)	Seed grants to support creativity	
Carlow Nationalist (Print)	Grants for arts projects on themes of death and bereavement	
The Southern Star (Print)	IHF's seed grant scheme	
Westmeath Examiner (Print)	Hospice Foundation offers funding to artists	
Dungarvan Observer (Print)	IHF offers funding to support creativity in the community	
February		
Meath Topic (Print)	Recipients of new SEED grants announced	
Galway City Tribune (Print)	Hospice projects offer hope in challenging times	
Connacht Tribune (Web)	Hospice projects offer hope in challenging times	https://connachttribune.ie/hospice-projects-offer-hope-during-challenging-times/
Connacht Tribune (Print)	Hospice projects offer hope in challenging times	
Galway Advertiser (Print)	Galway Hospice seeks stories of living with loss during COVID-19	

Galway Advertiser (Web)		https://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/120027/galway-hospice-seeks-stories-of-living-with-loss-during-covid
Dublin City FM	Interview with Dominic Campell	
March		
New Ross Standard (Print)	New series to document impact of Covid on communities	
Gorey Guardian (Print)	New series to document impact of Covid on communities	
Enniscorthy Guardian (Print)	New series to document impact of Covid on communities	
Wexford People (Print)	New series to document impact of Covid on communities	
Evening Echo (Web)	Marymount and Cork County Council benefit from new seed grant scheme	https://www.echolive.ie/cork/news/arid-40236173.html
Donegal News (Web)	Grieving artist draws inspiration from daughter's world	https://donegalnews.com/2021/03/grieving-artist-draws-inspiration-from-daughters-world/
Donegal News (Print)	Lily's fantasy world inspires grieving mum to compile book	
April		
Cork 96FM (Web)	Artists receive funding to explore themes relating to death and bereavement	https://www.96fm.ie/news/96fm-news-and-sport/artists-receive-funding-to-explore-themes-relating-to-death-and-bereavement/
Donegal News (Print)	Gortahork artist releases new book	
Kildare Nationalist	Kildare musicians provide 'musical medicine' to help us cope with grief	
Liffey Champion	Kildare group's music project to capture grief in pandemic	
Cork Independent (Web)	Sculpture urn to remember late brother	https://www.corkindependent.com/2021/04/29/sculpture-urn-to-remember-late-brother/
Irish Times (Web)	Creative projects assisting with grief during the pandemic	https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/health-family/creative-projects-assisting-with-grief-during-the-pandemic-1.4544618

South East Radio	Interview with Dominic Campbell & Chris Hayes	
Wexford People (Print)	New audio project captures hidden grief of pandemic	
Meath Chronicle (Web)	Choral society to remember 'Absent Voices'	https://www.meathchronicle.ie/2021/04/18/choral-society-to-remember-absent-voices/
Meath Chronicle (Print)	Choral society to remember 'Absent Voices'	
Kildare Nationalist (Web)	Kildare musicians provide 'musical medicine' to help us cope with grief	https://kildare-nationalist.ie/2021/04/18/new-music-to-capture-our-grief-during-covid-released-by-kildares-embrace-music/
The Journal of Music (Web)	New music releases this week	https://journalofmusic.com/news/new-releases-week-16-april-2021
Donegal Democrat	Access to book by Catalan artist in Cloughaneely	
Donegal People's Press	Access to book by Catalan artist in Cloughaneely	
RTÉ Radio 1 Simply Folk	Murmurations by Embrace Music first play	https://www.rte.ie/radio1/simply-folk/programmes/2021/0411/1209194-simply-folk-sunday-11-april-2021/?clipid=103637430#103637430
Donegal Daily (Web)	Beautiful book to help with loss launched	https://www.donegaldaily.com/2021/04/08/beautiful-book-to-help-with-loss-launched-by-falcarragh-group/
BBC Radio Ulster	Murmurations by Embrace Music – played	
May		
Tuam Herald (Print)	Hospice launches video on stories of loss during Covid-19	
Irish Examiner	Ceramicist turns her hand to urns after brother's passing	
RTÉ Lyric FM	Feature on Dunshaughlin Choral Society's 'Absent Voices'. Starts 1 hour in.	https://www.rte.ie/lyricfm/?fbclid=IwAR0UI9mn5DzA6834Qu7vZ5RXLrVoq8hLtEiCR431jDCUgCEI0jWL8dGD73w
Galway Bay FM	Interview with Hazel and Kathy from Galway Hospice	

Engagement on social media channels

Figures refer to IHF social media only.

No figures for artists, communities or Culture Ireland Programme amplification or own pages.

	Reach	Engagement
Facebook	34,920	1,797
Instagram	8145	368
Linkedin	4388	217
Twitter	121,929	2,303

	IHF Website Page views (As of May 12)
Seeds Landing page	859
Murmuration	1013
Absent Voices	195
Say It Feel It	59
Lillys Grandpa	54
Martha's Urns	47
One Story	245
House of Memory	36
Sorry for Our Troubles	42
Caoineadh	32
Dying to Know	37
Gaultier Mural	31

7. Any relevant findings;

7.1 IHF offers an advantageous mechanic through which to build inter-agency collaboration in care, health and wellbeing delivered across formal, NGO, community and informal sectors.

“Every Death Matters” is at the heart of the work of IHF. It has shaped its patchwork development across acute health systems, social care systems, public health provision, the not for profit, state and commercial sectors. Since the 1980’s IHF’s offer has grown to feature specific provision responding to type of bereavement (suicide, childhood etc), complexity of need (deferred grief, sudden loss, poverty etc) or context (acute hospital, residential unit, at home, at work etc). IHF now offer education and training for medical and healthcare professionals, research, policy development and culture change. It works with all Ireland’s acute, chronic, residential care and psycho-social health providers. It works with many NGO’s particularly in the ageing sector. It is involved more broadly with community engagement, general public awareness, and emotional literacy. It brings thought leadership to bereavement and care.

IHF introduced the ideas of excellence in end-of-life care (the hospice approach) to HSE acute and community services. IHF’s work therefore closely aligns across the HSE, death, dying, and bereavement care being a central concern of the HSE. To influence the cultures of acute and residential care settings IHF formed and facilitates the Hospice Friendly Hospital network with teams from 42 acute hospitals, and the CEOL Nursing Home network with 100’s of members. IHF train HSE staff in culture of care. IHF work on policy. IHF also delivering direct service including a focus on staff health and wellbeing.

Sitting in the middle of a network or networks is a valuable place from which to demonstrate the positive impact of arts and culture. Culture trumps strategy. IHF have already proven this with Design & Dignity, a partnership project of IHF and the HSE (see Appendices), who have now adopted the Design & Dignity guidelines for all new and refurbishment work. IHF are developing a nationwide Bereavement network connecting formal health care, public health and NGO sector at local and community level. Connecting the culture and health care sector is a natural evolution of IHF’s practice and experience.

“Every death matters.” To everybody. IHF connects everybody.

7.2 Making Meaning with Artists Is Emotionally Intelligent Data

Arts and creative practice are an extraordinary tool for facilitating meaning at end of life and in bereavement. Some of that meaning is unquantifiable, death and bereavement being where the spirit meets the bone. Perhaps the arts alone can articulate the mystery at the end of life. While some aspects of IHF’s work aligns perfectly with art, creativity, health and wellbeing practice, it is also a thing apart. A new area of practice. The arts in this area as a process of meaning making that are complete in and of themselves.

While the role of artists in health and wellbeing is clear, the role of art and artists in grief and bereavement is less so. When working with death and bereavement artists, artist facilitators, art therapists, and creative individuals who wouldn’t identify as artists all need different support. Identifying excellent practitioners is a much a matter

of aptitude and maturity as skill and innovation. Art can bring care to carers, be they informal or health care professionals. Likewise, Artists working in this area need caring for.

Creativity is connective tissue, connecting people to people, connecting across institutions, and connecting ideas from diverse disciplines. It needs time to fully take root. The timetable of dying people isn't straightforward. Time limited initiatives alongside more flexible structures, like residencies or waged artists on staff, would be valuable to allow the benefits of creative practice to fully develop. IHF Comms team needed to tell the story of the work being made, to bring the story of the work to a broader public.

An integrated research and evaluation process where medical and arts are equal partners within a Theory of Change model would be beneficial, if aligned with a developing understanding of care systems as they evolve from purely acute response to public health and behaviour change.

7.3 Rapid Response is required to Maintain Positive Developments from the Pandemic

A global pandemic has been the most pertinent time to begin an arts and creative engagement programme: all citizens are affected by loss. Some are affected by extreme loss. Normal patterns of grieving are disrupted. Care staff beloved and battered.

IHF are expert in grief and bereavement. Programmes ranging from general public engagement to professional training to engagement with complex loss are already part of IHF's pyramid of offer (see Appendix 6) from general awareness to specific engagement. Creative Ireland enabled the development policy, strategy and practice that threads arts and creative engagement through the pyramid of IHF offer.

IHF work aligns with developments in Departments of Health and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media including the Healthy Ireland Programme, Slainte Care, Social Prescription, Psycho-Social Response group and the pillars on which Creative Ireland was established.

Pandemic disruption has demonstrated that new models for health and wellbeing built with the arts are possible and functional. Aligning health and wellbeing with research via an Asset based Community Development approach, which creative engagement facilitates, engages people in decision making around their own communities for resilience and sustainability. Continuing positive development rapidly within an iterative learning framework can build on positive change. IHF initiative like Compassionate Community workshops makes it possible for the cultural sector to provide leadership now, as the impacts of the un-lockdown evolve.

8. Conclusion.

IHF delivered on its commitment to “develop and deliver designated projects within a cohesive, meaningful dialogue on dying, death, grief and loss through the medium of the arts, in response to the national experiences of COVID-19” contained in the SLA.

IHF understanding of what can be achieved with arts and creative engagement rapidly increased in sophistication, depth and scale. The pandemic and its impact is not over. IHF will seek support to continue the current direction, quickly. Key developments include:

8.1 A national Compassionate Culture network at community level.

Having identified 30+ people nationwide with skills and aptitude to lead creative practice exploring loss IHF are now in the process of matching facilitators with, local venues, learning from IHF’s expertise, and a peer support structure. Once resourced this would enable the delivery of a nationwide programme, within an iterative learning process, to be in place at local community level as lockdown eases. Support allowing IHF will attach a research team to codify best practice for replication and targeting of need. IHF intend to enable sustainable alignment with the longer-term need of the Social Prescription programme for a national network of trained facilitators, and with IHF’s emergent Bereavement Network of multiple agencies connected geographically to support individuals in need. To deliver this IHF are consulting with Local Authority Arts Offices and venues, HSE’s Psycho-Social Response Project, the HSE Social Prescription leads and Creative Ireland Programme and The Global Brain Health Institute at TCD.

8.2 HSE Staff health and wellbeing

IHF already offer training to HSE staff in end of life and bereavement and related areas including an MSc programme, Grief in The Workplace, HFH and CEOL networks. These networks have potential to offer a sophisticated understanding of related arts and health directly to health and care practitioners which would have rapid and significant impact on Acute and Residential Care settings. IHF will seek support to develop and deliver these.

8.3 IHF Forum

A bi-annual conference for health care professionals taking place in October 2021. IHF will increase the arts and creative content featuring Seeds and Design & Dignity case studies. Online it has the potential to reach a broad audience in Irelands health services. IHF is developing the programme and will seek CI involvement.

8.4 IHF identified lacuna where arts and creative provision connected to death, dying, grief and bereavement is limited.

Including:

- Communicating expertise in bereavement and care
- Childhood bereavement

- Explaining death and bereavement to people with mental disability or neurodegeneration (e.g., people living with Alzheimer’s disease)
- LGBTQ aware end of life practices
- The manifestation of care in architecture and place making, both in health care centres and more generally in the built environment
- Death and the digital realm
- Climate change and resilience, loss and grief
- Awareness in healthcare practice of cultural diversity and end of life ritual and belief
- The intersection of poverty, social determinants, natural and physical environment with grief and loss,
- The desire to die at home with formal and informal care policy with community awareness and cultural behaviours.

To shine light on these areas IHF is clarifying its capacity to support artists, health care professionals, communities and cultural institutions with creative exploration, research across discipline, or action-research. IHF are growing understanding of how we support partnership across sectors and where our existing programmes already connect.

8.5 Signature Projects.

IHF recognise that aligning national flagship activity alongside local expression delivers meaningful dialogue effectively across society, into national cultural and policy systems. IHF will continue to support relationships with cultural agencies to achieve this.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Policy Interviewees - List of interviewees

Interviewees are listed in alphabetical order of surname. All are based in Ireland unless otherwise indicated.

Gilly Adams, alternative funeral celebrant, Wales
Tania Banotti, Creative Ireland
Brendan Breslin, Royal Irish Music Academy
Marie Brett, artist
Liz Burns, Wexford County Council
Maeve Butler, Waterford Healing Arts Trust
Iseult Byrne, Dublin City Council Creative Company
Tara Byrne, Bealtaine
Jean Callanan, Irish Hospice Foundation
Sheila Caulfield, Department of Health
Dominic Campbell, Irish Hospice Foundation
Cathy Coughlan, Project Arts Centre
Jane Daly, Irish Theatre Institute
Sarah Durcan, Science Galleries International
Angela Edghill, retiree
Sharon Foley, Irish Hospice Foundation
Justine Forster, West Cork Arts Centre
Mireya Gines, Irish Hospice Foundation
Kath Gorman, Cork Midsummer Festival
Brian Lawlor, Global Brain Health Institute
Mary Grehan, National Children's Hospital
Andrew Hetherington, Business to Arts
Paul Johnson, arts consultant
Orla Keegan, Irish Hospice Foundation
Anne-Marie Kelly, Dublin City Public Libraries
Rebecca Kelly, Irish Hospice Foundation
Rebecca Lloyd, Irish Hospice Foundation
Alison Lyons, Office of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature
Anne McCarthy, Mayo County Council
Carrie McGee, Museum of Modern Art, New York, US
Aoife McNamara, Office of the Children's Ombudsman
Natasha Miller, poet and Science Gallery Detroit, US
Aisling Murray, Science Gallery Dublin
Ailbhe Murphy, Create
Patrick T Murphy, Royal Hibernian Academy
Ann O'Connor, Arts Council
Ruairí Ó Cuiv, Dublin City Council
Niamh O'Donnell, Poetry Ireland
Jamie Ó Tuama, GAA
Pádraig Ó Tuama, poet
Rebecca Patterson, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Barbara Raes, Beyond the Spoken, Belgium
Erika Ring, Irish Hospice Foundation
Christine Ritchie, Massachusetts General Hospital, US/
Amanda Roberts, Irish Hospice Foundation
Mary Robson, University of Durham, UK
Bride Rosney, retiree
Lynn Scarff, National Museum
Anne Sheridan, Health Services Executive

Jennifer Moran Strich, Limerick Institute of Technology
John Troyer, Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath, UK
Katie Verling, artist.

Laura McQuade, HSE, provided a written response.

[Appendix 2 Arts Policy](#)

Summary document attached

[Appendix 3 Core Interview Questions leading to Policy](#)

Core interview questions included:

- What's your view of the IHF's proposition (to engage with the arts and creative expression in order to encourage more open and deeper conversation about dying, death, grief and loss among the general public in Ireland?)
- What are the key issues that IHF should be aware of?
- What are the key principles that should inform the IHF's policy/strategy?
- What are the best ways for the IHF to engage with the arts and cultural sector?
- What blocks and limitations should the IHF be aware of?
- In order to encourage more open conversation about dying, death, grief and loss among the general public in Ireland:
 - What kinds of **audience events** do you feel the IHF should prioritise?
 - What kinds of **creative engagement activities** do you feel the IHF should prioritise?
- Leaving aside Covid-19 considerations, what should be the balance between online/podcast/social media/remote engagement, and face-to-face/in-person engagement?
- How can the IHF ensure that it engages the broadest range of people living in Ireland in arts and creative activity aimed at more open conversation about dying, death, grief and loss?
- What structure/mechanism would you recommend to support/guide the IHF in its arts and creative engagement?
- Any key research/policy/reports/directions/activities etc you suggest the IHF to look at?
- What else is going on in a similar field that can help the IHF to develop its thinking?
- What's missing from this list of questions? What else does the IHF need to consider?

[Appendix 4](#)

[The People's Charter on Death, Dying and Bereavement](#)

[Appendix 5](#)

Hospice Friendly Hospitals "Ten Minute One Word Poems" (Separate document)

[Appendix 6](#)

[Adult Bereavement Care Pyramid](#), a national framework