



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



2021 A Creative Opportunity

Progress
Report



Diverse Creatives, Creative Ireland
Waterford, Image by DGM Photographic



Minister Catherine Martin TD and Mathew Hurrell O'Connor
Cruinniú na nÓg launch 2022, Image by Mark Stedman

A Year in Statistics

5,475

estimated individuals involved in the creative sector received funding through the Creative Ireland Programme

348

schools reached by Creative Youth initiatives

4,372

teachers reached by Creative Youth CPD initiatives

>€1,100,000

invested in 224 creative heritage projects

>€1,350,000

invested in creative health and wellbeing projects

>€2,000,000

provided for Creative Climate Action projects

€6,600,000

was provided to the 31 local authorities to deliver nearly 1,500 community-led creative projects including 637 Cruinniú na nÓg projects



Creative Communities



*In Carlow our vision is to create a future with culture
and creativity at its heart to drive happiness, quality
of life, health and economic prosperity.*

John Shortall, County Librarian, County Carlow

2021

Creative Communities

Creative Communities continued to work collaboratively deploying creativity as a strategy for wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic success. Significant investment during 2021 in local communities, through partnership with local authorities, delivered across key policy areas such as climate action, enterprise, tourism, youth, urban, rural and community development, and community health and wellbeing.

The continuing innovation and value of this agile national-local *Creative Communities* partnership has been further evidenced during 2021. Alongside core programming, local authorities also mobilised creative initiatives to support older people during COVID-19 as well as enabling local communities engage with the need for climate action.

Examples of Creative Community Projects:
The Borris Lace by Post project focused on rediscovering the lacemaking tradition of South Carlow. Isolating older people from the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains participated in this unique six month project that culminated in an exhibition in the Laundry Room of Borris Castle in December.

In Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown author Debbie Thomas led a series of writing workshops for young people to explore prejudice in a fun, creative way, in order to build acceptance, find common ground and celebrate difference.

The First Draft Festival in Leitrim gave aspiring playwrights a chance to workshop their completed first draft with professional theatre companies, and enter a live competition to have their completed script produced at the Glens Centre.



Borris Lace by Post, Creative Ireland Carlow. Image by Helena McAteer

A man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a light blue short-sleeved shirt, is seated and playing a violin. He is in a kitchen, with a green stove visible to his right and a tiled wall behind it. The violin is a light brown color, and he is holding the bow with his right hand and the instrument with his left. The text is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

*Tionscaddail Curtha
ar Fáil i nGaeilge*

Tionscadail Curtha ar Fáil i nGaeilge



Dial a Seanchaí, Creative Ireland Clare.
Image by Myriam Riand

Cruthaím 33: Cruthaíodh feachtas chun Gaeilgeoir óg as gach contae in Éirinn chomh maith le duine amháin ón diaspóra Éireannach a aimsiú. B'ábhar iontais dúinn an talann agus an éagsúlacht scileanna atá ag óige na tíre agus is údar misnigh é an chéad ghlúin eile de chruthaitheoirí a fheiceáil. Bhí ríméad orainn gur éirigh linn iad os comhair lucht féachana Cúla4/TG4.

TicToc Dráma (Na Debs): Sraithdrámaíochta a cruthaíodh mar thoradh cheardlann a rinneadh le déagóirí. Ba phróiseas thar a bheith tairbheach a bhí ann mar gheall ar an méid a d'fhoghlaim muid faoin bpróiseas agus toisc gur aimsigh muid talann nua. Is cinnte nach mbeadh na nithe seo bainte amach gan tacaíocht ó Éire Ildánach.



Creative Youth

A group of children sitting on the floor, overlaid with a green filter and white text. The children are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others away. The text is centered and reads:

It has completely changed my life, it has made me a more confident, more open person and made me more comfortable about being myself around other people.

Youth Theatre Ireland participant

Creative Youth

2021 was a very important and significant year for Creative Youth. Through the Creative Ireland Programme, government departments, agencies and organisations across the community and voluntary sector collaborated to deliver more experiences of the arts, culture and creativity in the daily lives of children and young people.

This saw 189 new schools joining the *Creative Schools* programme in 2021 alongside 164 schools which are continuing their second year of the programme. A further 80 schools were also enabled to come together to form 21 new *Creative Clusters*.

A new *Creative Technologies* project began this year with Kinia. With our support Kinia will deliver a series of digital creativity skills workshops and resources to staff and volunteers in youth groups and community organisations across Ireland. Story Seeds, a new collaboration with Fighting Words, supports young people in a number of urban areas to re-imagine their sense of place. 2021 also saw additional investment in the partnership with Youth Theatre Ireland. This will support training for new groups and the safe re-opening of existing groups.

Junk Kouture spread the message of sustainability, inclusion and youthful creativity and was supported to make *Waking the Muse*, a documentary which charted the journey of three young designers working with recycled materials.

Finally, the Taoiseach opened the Creative Youth Conference 2021 in May with contributions from Minister Norma Foley, Minister Roderic O'Gorman and Minister Catherine Martin.

Most importantly, the conference heard directly from young people – what they felt about creativity, and how it can act as a support to them, in school, in their community and at home. The conference was a timely opportunity for reflection and evaluation – to give clear focus to the core themes that will drive Creative Youth in the future.


[Read more about Creative Youth here](#)



Knitting Across the Nation, Creative Ireland
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Image by Mark Stedman

A group of elderly people are gathered in a community room, playing cards. A woman in a black dress stands on the left, holding a fan of red cards. Several other people are seated around the room, some holding cards. The room has a warm, inviting atmosphere with wooden chairs and a framed picture on the wall.

Health and Wellbeing



*I had become locked in and locked down. The next thing
this world of music and movement came into my life. It's
as if someone had turned a key
and opened a door.*

Margaret, Doorstep Dances, Carlow.

Health and Wellbeing

Creative Ireland continued to support arts, culture and creative interventions in community settings and in healthcare facilities to improve people's health and wellbeing. The Programme funded initiatives that supported some of the most vulnerable members of our society during COVID-19.

Initiatives in the community, in hospitals, and in nursing homes supported positive ageing and creative wellbeing for older people. Highlights included live music brought to residential healthcare settings. Creative projects such as dance, theatre and lacemaking were delivered directly into the homes of cocooning older people, and new creative projects for socially-distancing children with long term medical needs were supported by Creative Ireland.

Funding was also awarded to the Irish Hospice Foundation to support the creative exploration of dying, death and bereavement in communities through 26 seed grants, seven Compassionate Culture Network programmes and the publication of a book of poetry.

In November the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at Trinity College Dublin and Creative Ireland launched Creative Activity in an Ageing Population. This important research investigated how creative activity impacts on the lives of older people. It found that older adults who participated in creative activities enjoyed a higher quality of life and were less likely to be lonely, depressed and stressed than their contemporaries who do not.

[Read the TILDA report here](#)



Doorstep Dance- Margaret McKenna.
Image by Patrick Bramley

A nighttime photograph of a city waterfront. In the background, several modern buildings are illuminated with warm yellow and white lights. A prominent building in the center has a large, glowing 'RISING' sign on its facade. The foreground shows a body of water reflecting the city lights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and modern.

RISING

Creative Climate Action



*"For me it's about putting the conversation squarely
to the community, to get the community to take
responsibility for this issue themselves"*

Gary Keegan, Brokentalkers - Rising

Creative Climate Action

In July 2021, Minister Catherine Martin and Minister Eamon Ryan launched 15 creative projects that will deliver changes in behaviour that are urgently required to secure a sustainable future for the planet.

The Creative Climate Action initiative reaches across government and links national environmental policy with cultural policy. It is the first project of its kind in both Ireland and Europe.

The **€2 million fund** includes light installations that will indicate coastlines under threat from rising sea levels, pollinator walking routes in Dublin's north inner city, renewable energy-generating artworks in Ballina, workshops for the people of Westmeath about the lost art of repair, and city wide decarbonisation projects in Limerick.

When does knowledge become wisdom?

How do we rescue the time bit?

Now to treasure the climate

Up close, far away

To walk the Bohemian Way

John Cummins- The Bohemian Way

Lead by the iconic Dublin football club, the Bohemian Way is a creative collaboration with local artists, poets, historians, videographers and musicians that aims to inspire Dubliners to engage with the fight against climate change.

[Read more about the Bohemian Way here](#)



Know Your Locality, Creative
Ireland Laois: Image by Alf Harvey

A photograph of three children in a garden. On the left, a girl in a white sweater holds a small drum. In the center, a boy in a colorful t-shirt is clapping. On the right, a girl in a dark blue patterned top holds a large, traditional drum. They are surrounded by purple flowers, and a brick building with arched windows is in the background.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2021

Cruinniú na n'Óg



Cruinniú na n'Óg, Creative Ireland Meath.
Image by Lismullen Cookery School

Now in its fourth year, *Cruinniú na n'Óg 2021* celebrates and encourages participation by children and young people in creative activities. With over 600 events to choose from this year, there really was something for everyone. With a strong emphasis on participation, there were lots of starter workshops specially designed to spark an inte

This year Creative Ireland again supported Cruinniú na n'Óg strategic partners to deliver a strong programme of national events to 'kickstart' creative activity around the country. These national programmes were initiated by the Nenagh Children's Film Festival, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dance Ireland, Brian Fleming and the Glór Arts Centre, Airc Damsha, Garageland and Airfield Estate and created a strong foundation of activities, workshops and creative challenges that provided children and young people with an opportunity to express themselves.

Most of the events were led by the Culture and Creativity Teams across the 31 local authorities, with huge support from RTÉ and TG4.

The Artist's Story

A group of people is standing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, there is a large, dark, cylindrical structure, possibly a fort or a monument. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, suggesting an overcast day. The overall scene is a wide, open landscape.

The Artist's Story

Through its partnership with local authorities, the Creative Ireland Programme supported over 4,800 individuals in local creative sectors nationwide during 2021

Support from Creative Ireland has been instrumental in enabling me to engage with new communities and audiences, and develop my traditional song practice, particularly while living with Covid restrictions. A Creative Ireland bursary via Wexford County Council enabled my partner and I to undertake a participatory traditional song project which resulted in a video featuring 14 traditional singers each singing excerpts of the song 'The Streams of Bunclody'.

During lockdown, Cruinniú na nÓg programmes in a number of counties supported me in the creation of ten online traditional song workshops – this meant that I was able to document and consolidate my traditional song education practice from the past fifteen years.

These videos have reached thousands of children and families and have been used in hundreds of Primary Schools. I'm also delighted to work as a Creative Associate as part of the Creative Schools initiative which aims to put the arts and creativity at the heart of children's and young people's lives. Aileen Lambert



Miss Mousie's Ball, Traditional Song
Workshop by Aileen Lambert

Thank you...

To find out more about the Creative Ireland Programme please go to
www.creativeireland.gov.ie

Follow us on social media

