



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



**2022**  
Progress Report

*A Creative Future*





# An Introduction to the Report

2022 has proved to be a hugely significant year for the Creative Ireland Programme in my Department. I am delighted that Government agreed with my proposal to extend this initiative for another five years until 2027.

I'm very pleased that Minister Foley, Minster O’Gorman, Minister Harris and I will shortly bring a new Creative Youth Plan to Government for agreement. Through our education and training systems, and in our communities, this will nurture the creativity of children and young people. With the increase in funding I provided to local authorities, Cruinniú na nÓg continues to go from strength to strength with over 669 initiatives delivered nationwide in 2022.

Under Creative Communities, I was delighted at the response of local authorities to the additional funding I provided to them in 2022 for initiatives in relation to older age, cross-border collaboration, social prescribing and development of local creative economies. Minister O'Brien and I will increase investment in our local authorities as they deliver new community-led Culture and Creativity Strategies 2023-2027. These strategies will continue to serve as a catalyst for more vibrant, healthy, inclusive and sustainable places.

From coastal light installations, pollinator walking routes, and renewable energy-generating artworks, these unique collaborations brought a creative approach to illustrating and making the changes needed to fight climate change during 2022. Through a new Creative Climate Action Fund, Minister Ryan and I will continue to leverage the culture and creative sectors with a new €3.6 million fund to meaningfully connect people on the island of Ireland with the need for behaviour change on climate action.

Together with Minister McGrath and Minister Coughlan, I was pleased to host the *Design in Government* conference in the wonderful Lighthouse Cinema during Public Innovation Week in November. Creativity and design thinking needs to be hardwired into our public services and I look forward to the opportunities that can bring.

Following a successful national symposium in June hosted with Minister Donnelly, I was very happy to renew our agreement with Healthy Ireland, the HSE and the Arts Council as we seek a more integrated and aligned approach between the creative arts and healthcare sectors in relation to creative health and wellbeing. I was particularly delighted to meet with the exciting Traveller Wellbeing through Creativity projects - a rich collaboration that I hope to build upon in the years ahead.

In terms of enhancing the Programme's contribution towards social sustainability, I look forward to working with my colleagues across Government and stakeholders to bring greater focus towards equality of opportunity - particularly in relation to disability, equality, diversity and LGBTI+. And finally, with the Taoiseach's announcement in December of support through the Shared Island initiative, I know Creative Ireland is already moving to adopt a greater all-island focus to its work in the years ahead.

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



Ailbhe Gerrard and Minister Catherine Martin,  
Brookfield Farm, Image by Aengus McMahon.



A group of about seven people are walking away from the camera on a dark, gravelly path. They are dressed in outdoor or work-appropriate clothing like jackets and hats. The path leads towards a flat landscape where several wind turbines are visible in the distance. The sky is a mix of blue and white clouds. In the foreground, there's a body of water reflecting the scene. On the left, there are some green ferns and bushes.

# 2022 Highlights

Worker's Villages IAF Image  
Image by Evelyn D'Arcy

# 2022 Highlights



Creative Ireland Programme  
extended until **2027**



**€6.6m**  
allocated to Creative Ireland local  
authority projects



**€3.6m**  
Creative Climate Action fund  
announced



Creative Ireland joined  
**277,000** visitors at the Ploughing



Cruinniú na nÓg returned to  
**in-person** events around the  
country



Piloted a **Traveller wellbeing**  
initiative with the HSE, the  
Department of Health and the  
Arts Council



A photograph of a meeting in progress. On the left, a woman with glasses and a patterned top stands, gesturing with her right hand as if speaking. Seated at a long wooden table are two men. The man in the center, wearing a teal t-shirt, looks towards the speaker with a slight smile. The man on the right, wearing a purple sweater, is looking down at papers on the table, holding a pen. Several microphones are positioned on the table. A white cup of coffee sits on a saucer. The background shows a room with wood-paneled walls and other tables.

# *Creative Communities*

Cork County Council Soap Opera Project  
Image by Alison Miles

# Creative Communities

In 2022 through the Creative Ireland Programme, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage invested €6.6 million in local communities. Support for projects covered policy areas such as climate action, enterprise, tourism, youth, urban, rural and community development, and community health and wellbeing. Alongside these projects, several new creative initiatives were introduced.

The **Creativity in Older Age** initiative continues to support the wellbeing of older people. In 2022 initiatives included 750 concerts presented by Mobile Music Machine in care homes throughout the country, an intergenerational knitting project in Kilkenny, the creation of a radio soap opera in County Cork, a creative analogue photography project on the streets of Cork City and an art project that preserved the portraits and personal stories of the older people of Laois.



831

Community-led projects delivered by 31 Local Authorities



4,854

creative and cultural workers engaged



Cork County Council Soap Opera Project.  
Image by Alison Miles





### Writing home

*It ignited something and we are  
still feeling the benefits of it*

The Writing Home initiative by Kilkenny County Council in partnership with Poetry Ireland was a creative writing project that supported the wellbeing of residents of homeless shelters in Waterford and Kilkenny. Led by poet Colm Keegan, the project used writing and spoken word to provide an authentic insight into the lives of service users.





# Creative Youth



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185

new schools added to the Creative Schools programme



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153

new schools joined 42 Creative Clusters around the country



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629

new school artist residencies were awarded under BLAST (Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers) for the 2022/2023 school year



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124

educators trained through the Creative Technology Programme with Kinia



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480

Creative Writing sessions in partnership with Fighting Words reaching over 12,000 young participants



# Creative Youth

185 new schools and Youthreach facilities joined the Creative Schools programme. This includes the addition of four schools in alternative settings which will receive enhanced supports: Oberstown Children Detention Campus School; Ballydowd High Support Special School; Crannog Nua Special School, Portrane; and St Canice's Special School, Limerick.

The partnership with Fighting Words expanded. Creative Ireland supported in-person workshops all around the country. The Story Seeds initiative was extended into Dublin West, Dublin south inner city, Bray, Drogheda, Cork City and Limerick City.

Kinia continued to supply training in creative technology skills for professional educators, youth workers and volunteers working with young people throughout the country and launched Kinia Credentials for professional development.

The Big Idea worked with transition year students in 42 secondary schools on creative problem solving and design thinking. An adapted model was also trialled in a Youthreach setting and a Leaving Certificate Applied programme.


6 Local Creative Youth Partnerships continue to address issues of inclusivity, social and rural isolation and cultural identity through innovative creative initiatives. Projects delivered include the energetic and life affirming 'Succeed' written by a group of boys from Abbeyfeale with support from the Limerick/ Clare Local Creative Youth Partnership. Since then, it has received multiple hits on YouTube and the young people performed live at outdoor events in the Learning Hub, Limerick and The Kabin, Cork for Traveller Pride week.

Read more about the first 5 years of Creative Youth [here](#)



Scoileanna Ildánacha Chorcaí.  
Íomhá ó Liam D Kidney





# *Creative Industries*

Towards a Creative Future  
Image by Mark Stedman



# Creative Industries



Towards a Creative Future.  
Image by Mark Stedman.

Creative Communities Economic Action Fund was launched in April. This new initiative provided eight local authorities with resources to grow the potential of local creative industries. This included support for animation clusters in Munster, immersive games development in Galway, an investigation into a collaboration between Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and IADT, the activation of design practice in wider industry across the North West, development of fabric production in Donegal, typography skills development in Kells Co Meath, the links between hair dressers and art in Leitrim.

In November Minister Catherine Martin, Minister Michael McGrath and Minister Ossian Smyth welcomed delegates to the inaugural *Design in Government* conference at the Light House Cinema. Through the Creative Ireland Programme, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform hosted the conference as part of Public Service Innovation Week 2022. The event launched a prototype of design principles that aim to embed design thinking in the heart of government. The conference showcased the benefits of building design capabilities into the public sector for both service users and service providers.

See some presentations from the conference [here](#)

A young child with blonde hair is holding a camera up to their face, as if taking a photo. The child is wearing a red and white long-sleeved shirt. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a library or a room with bookshelves. The title text is overlaid in a white, handwritten-style font.

# *Creative Health and Wellbeing*

Creativity in Older Age Cork  
Image Liam D Kidney



# Creative Health and Wellbeing

On the 22nd June Minister Catherine Martin and Minister Stephen Donnelly hosted The Art of Being Healthy and Well symposium. Through a Creative Ireland Programme partnership between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive and the Arts Council, the symposium marked a significant step towards embedding creativity and arts within the delivery of healthcare in Ireland.

Creative Ireland, with the Department of Health, the HSE and the Arts Council, launched the Traveller Wellbeing through Creativity pilot initiative. Its aim was to promote Traveller health and wellbeing through the co-production and delivery of impactful creative arts projects from Guth na Mincéirí in Limerick; the Pisreóg Project in Ballymun; Cultural Action, Cultural Rights: A Foundation for Wellbeing in Galway, Travellers on Screen by Cluster Fox Films; and a project by the Gallery of Photography Ireland, Martin Beanz Warde and the Open Doors Initiative.

Creative initiatives for older people in the community, in hospitals and in nursing homes continued in 2022. Partners worked with the Irish Hospice Foundation to support the creative exploration of dying, death and bereavement including a special project designed specifically for people with Down syndrome and their families.

A gala concert featuring well known Irish musicians along with a 47 piece orchestra conducted by David Brophy celebrated the Covid Care Concert project and the work of frontline healthcare workers at the National Concert Hall in June.



€1,350,000

invested in creative health and wellbeing projects in 2022

Creative Ireland's collaboration with Age Friendly offered opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, reduce loneliness and increase social connections through participation in creative activities. These included train the trainer adapted Céilí sessions, music lessons, poetry and mask making workshops



Creativity in Older Age Cork.  
Image Liam D Kidney





# *Creative Climate Action*

Linte na Farraige Galway  
Image by Peta Niittyvirta



# Creative Climate Action



Lint na Farraige Galway.  
Image by Peta Niittyvirta

The 15 inaugural Creative Climate Action fund projects took place throughout 2022. These included dramatic light installations that demonstrated rising sea levels in Galway and Wexford, immersive agricultural programmes in Dingle and Tipperary, decarbonising projects in Limerick and Waterford and the regeneration of the repair and reuse culture in Westmeath.

This fund, the first of its kind in Europe, brought together artists and the wider creative sector, climate scientists, local authorities and community groups to deliver projects that promote behaviour changes needed to address the climate crisis.

In November Minister Catherine Martin and Minister Eamon Ryan launched a new €3.6 million fund, *Creative Climate Action II: Agents of Change*, which will run from 2023- 2025.



**Field Exchange** was presented by Brookfield Farm in collaboration with artists Deirdre O'Mahony and John Gerrard. Working with a group of 30 farmers and climate and farming experts, the public and artists met and exchanged ideas once a week for 12 weeks over the summer. These Field Exchanges brought together art, food, and agriculture and created opportunities for everyone to exchange ideas about how to combat climate change, as well as about production and consumption.

*"It is a hopeful project!"*

**Artist John Gerrard**



# *Cruinnúis na nÓg 2022*



Caterina holding artwork  
Image by Bonnie Dwyer



# Cruinniú na nÓg 2022



669

live creative events



1,246

creative and cultural  
workers engaged

2022 is the year that Cruinniú na nÓg went back to being live! Creative Ireland commissioned five strategic partners to develop projects around the country in advance of 11th June.

Dance Ireland – Pop Up Dances engaged 12 youth dance companies to work with young people and deliver dance performances and workshops across a range of locations, groups, and dance styles. Garageland, Ireland's leading supporter of emerging musicians of all ages, returned to Cruinniú na nÓg. Eight live venues around the country gave hundreds of young people their triumphant moment on stage after two years of playing from their bedrooms.

The Historic Houses of Ireland introduced young people to heritage properties through a programme of child-driven, creative outdoor activities that explored the biodiversity of the gardens, parks and wild areas.

Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network celebrated its role with four key partners and leaders in the field. Galway Community Circus, Cork Circus Factory, Cloughjordan Circus Club and Dublin Circus Project hosted exciting free workshops and online skills development. Nenagh Children's Film Festival (Create and Participate) commenced in 2022 with a series of outreach projects that culminated in a festival weekend with Cruinniú na nÓg at its heart.



Caterina holding artwork  
Image by Bonnie Dwyer





# Artist's Story

Through Our Eyes  
Martin Beanz Warde

# Artist's Story

## Through Our Eyes - Martin Beanz Warde

*An exhibition of selected photographs of members of the Traveller community by Martin Beanz Warde opened at the Photo Museum Ireland on 3rd November 2022.*

What is an Irish Traveller? As I have learned over the past few months, there are many Traveller experiences that do not fit within the stereotypes and generalisations with which we have become familiar. As a gay writer and performer from the Traveller community, I understand the struggle inherent in expressing yourself while appeasing the traditionalists within your community.

For the Through Our Eyes photography project I partnered with Photo Museum Ireland and Open Doors Initiative, which aims to facilitate expression through an artistic lens. The participants – Winnie Ward, Patrick McDonagh, Chantelle Stokes, Emma Ward, Timmy Casey, Thomas Connors, Martin Ward, Helena Power, and Emily Evans – come from all over Ireland, aged from 19 to 36 years old.

The plan for the project was simple. I met each participant to photograph them, and then they would be tasked with taking a picture themselves, allowing us an insight into their perspective on a range of topics I had assigned to them, including “hopes and dreams”, “happiness”, “freedom”, and “security”. With help from the Open Doors initiative, and an online workshop by photographer Brendan Ó Sé, we were tooled up with knowledge, and ready to go.

Through this project, I got to meet Travellers from all over Ireland chasing dreams that would have been unthinkable 20 years ago. I have learned of the intelligence, resilience and drive that exists within the community and I have had the pleasure of giving a platform to people whose voices are rarely heard.



# Thank you...

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To find out more about the Creative Ireland Programme please go to  
[www.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://www.creativeireland.gov.ie)

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