



Louth Arts Development Plan

2022-2026



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth Arts Development Plan 2022-2026

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Foreword of Chief Executive Joan Martin

I am delighted to welcome this new Arts Development Plan 2022-2026. County Louth is home to a rich and thriving artistic sector with its heritage and culture etched in the landscape. This fertile ground is a source of inspiration for the creative minds and for many years Louth has been a leader in the area of artistic development, being one of the first counties in Ireland to appoint an Arts Officer to its Local Authority.

Louth County Council recognises the value of the arts sector as an important element of sustainable local communities, with the well-being of its citizens of primary concern. This has been evidenced by the enhancement of cultural spaces including; An Táin Arts Centre, Droichead Arts Centre, Highlanes Gallery and the County Museum, Dundalk amongst others.



The Louth Arts Development Plan sets out to provide a supportive environment for artists to develop their practice alongside supporting a wide range of opportunities to bring arts out into the community. It is vital that we ensure we have a programme that has inclusivity at its heart.

The Arts sector should be accessible to all and we must ensure that we reach marginalised groups, those living in areas of disadvantage and those who would not otherwise experience the benefits of arts and culture in their everyday lives.

We recognise the value of arts in relation to the development of our children and young people as well as providing support and enhancing the quality of life for our ageing population. We acknowledge and recognise the large number of artists who live and work in this county alongside the arts centres and arts organisations who do so much to add to the rich social, economic and artistic fabric of this county and its citizens.

Following the consultation and workshops with key stakeholders we have devised a development plan that outlines the strategic priorities for the arts sector for the next five years up to and including 2026. This Arts Development Plan will enrich the artistic environment and provide a framework for the County in line with the national arts policies of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and that of the Arts Council of Ireland and I look forward to experiencing and enjoying the enhanced creative output and expressions of our citizens in the years to come.

Joan Martin

Joan Martin,
Chief Executive Louth County Council

Foreword



As Cathaoirleach of County Louth I welcome this new Arts Development Plan 2022-2026, which seeks to enhance, support and develop the thriving artistic environment that is embedded here in Louth.

This Development Plan is Louth's statement of strategic intent in delivering an Arts Service that is sustainable and inclusive. It outlines our strategic priorities and core objectives for the development of Arts in County Louth which will be delivered within the five-year period up to and including 2026.

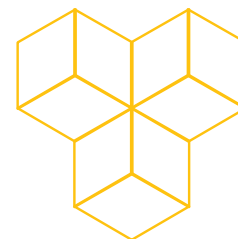
This strategy will be delivered by the County Louth Arts Office who will work with several other sections in the council to support the enhancement of the arts sector ensuring a widespread audience reach and diverse representation. As well as working across sectors within the local authority they will work with the strategic partners of the arts office to ensure that the quality of work delivered is of a high standard and has impact on all levels.

I look forward to seeing the outputs of this strategy reap dividends for all the citizens of County Louth in the coming months and years.

Conor Keelan

Cllr. Conor Keelan,
Cathaoirleach Louth County Council

Introduction



County Louth is located on the eastern seaboard midway between Ireland's two largest cities of Dublin and Belfast. The County has a population of 128,884 (Census 2016), an increase of 4.9% on the 2011 Census which is higher than the national average growth rate of 3.8%. In 2016, 50.7% (76,498) of the constituency's population was female and 49.3% (74,426) was male.

27.8% of Louth's population was aged under 18 (higher than the national average of 25%) and 12.1% were aged 65 or older in 2016. 88.2% of the usually resident population of Louth stated their nationality as Irish in the 2016 Census. 86% of the population recorded as having good/very good health and an average disposable income of €18,359.

While Louth is the smallest county in the state with an area of 827 km² (Census 2016), it is the most densely populated county in Ireland, outside of Dublin, with a population density of 156 persons per km², compared to the national average of 70 persons per km². It is also home to two of the three largest towns in the country, namely, Drogheda and Dundalk, with the majority of the population living in urban areas – circa 66.1% (85,224).

County Louth possesses a network of attractive and inviting towns and villages, interspersed with a diverse range of landscapes and natural environment and rich and varied natural and built heritage, which contributes substantially to the county's character, identity and sense of place.

County Louth, like the rest of the country, has had to adapt and adjust to the impact of the pandemic and the changes experienced which present both challenges and opportunities.

The impact of COVID-19 on the arts and culture sector has been severe. Research commissioned by the Arts Council from EY¹ shows that 4 of 10 jobs would have been lost without state support and that even with government supports, 39% of artists have experienced a 50% drop in income. Behaviours and Attitudes research commissioned by the Arts Council² also shows an increased move by audiences towards online consumption arising from the lockdown. Equally, the number of Irish adults really looking forward to attending events in person trended downwards compared to pre-Covid times.

While the pandemic has deeply impacted the entire arts and cultural ecosystem and the way people engage with the arts, the crisis has further revealed the important role of the arts and culture as a major resource for resilience, connection and recovery. Digital technologies have provided new ways for people to connect with culture most commonly in the home and the growing use of public space has opened up new and imaginative ways to re-imagine the future of the arts as an integral part of the economic, social and environmental recovery. The extension of the Creative Ireland programme up to 2027 will also enable an increasing number of individuals and communities to realise their creative potential to the full.

Collaboration with our strategic partners such as Creative Spark, An Táin Arts Centre, Highlanes Gallery, Music Generation Louth, Droichead Arts Centre and others, will be strengthened over the coming years to embrace these opportunities and deliver on the Louth Arts Development Plan 2022-2026.

¹ EY report on the Employment and Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 on the Arts Sector in Ireland, 2020

² Report on Arts During Lockdown, Behaviours and Attitudes; commissioned by The Arts Council, 2021

Policy Context

The Louth County Council Arts Development Plan 2022-2026 plays an important role in supporting Louth County Council’s social, economic and cultural policy objectives and is positioned within a wider national legislative and policy context.

Legislative Framework

Section 6.(1) of the Arts Act 2003 requires local authorities to prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within their functional areas and shall, in so doing, take account of policies of the Government in relation to the arts.

6. (2) states that a local authority may provide such financial or other assistance as it considers appropriate to such persons or in respect of such activities or undertakings, for the purposes of a) stimulating public interest in the arts; b) promoting knowledge and appreciation of the arts or; c) improving the standards of the arts.

The arts as defined in the Arts Act 2003, incorporates: *“any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and including in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture and includes any medium when used for those purposes.”*

National Policy Framework

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provides the national policy and legislative framework and the financial resources to support the stimulation and development of the arts in Ireland. National policies inform the context in which Louth County Council Arts Office structures and delivers its supports and programmes. This plan takes into account recent developments within the context of the arts nationally, in particular the following:

- ***Culture 2025: A National Cultural Policy Framework (2020)***
- ***Making Great Art Work (2015 – 2025) Arts Council / An Comhairle Ealaíon***
- ***Survive, Adapt, Renew: Arts Council response to the Covid-19 crisis for the Arts in Ireland***

Furthermore, this Arts Development Plan recognises opportunities for the arts within the **Louth County Creative Ireland Programme** as outlined in our Louth County Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022.

Our long-standing partnership with the Arts Council is further strengthened through our **Framework for Collaboration agreement** with the Arts Council for the period 2022-2025.



Local Policy Framework

The Arts Office sits within the Social Development Directorate. In preparing this Arts Development Plan, the Arts Office is informed by and responsive to:

Louth County Council's Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024

Vision: To provide and deliver leadership and deliver high quality, citizen focused, responsive and effective services.

Quality of Life

- Making our communities great places to live and volunteer - where everyone takes pride in their local area
- That all of our citizens, avail and enjoy our Arts, Culture and Library Services
- Make Louth a great place to live for
 - Our older people
 - Our younger generation
 - Immigrants and all minority communities
 - And where those with disabilities can live ordinary lives in ordinary places



Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027

Vision: Promote County Louth, in particular the Regional Growth Centres of Drogheda and Dundalk, as uniquely attractive places in which to live, work, visit and do business and where the quality of employment and educational opportunities, natural and built environment, cultural experiences and provision of inclusive communities are all to the highest standards, while transitioning to a low carbon and climate resilient society.

Louth County Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2022

Vision: Louth will be a prosperous, proud, safe, and inclusive county where people want to live, work, visit and invest, and where there is equal opportunity for all.

Goal 1: Enable wellbeing and quality of life to support safe, resilient, independent and engaged communities.

Objective 1. Build community capital and collaboration in communities across the county.

Action 1.4 Develop an arts strategy and programme that supports our artists, improves access to the arts and increases levels of public engagement.

Our Arts Service – What we do

Mission: The Arts Service of Louth promotes a society which values the arts, and recognises their positive contribution to individuals and communities.



Vision

Our vision is to re-build the arts in a changed landscape post COVID-19 and incorporate the arts into the economic development of the county for the benefit of the artistic community and the community as a whole to ensure Louth is a great place to work, live and visit.

Values

Respect:

for artists, communities, volunteers, participants and audiences across all ages and social backgrounds.

Partnership and

Collaboration:

to broker conversations and build relationships.

Connectivity:

to support and develop access to creative opportunities for people and communities across the county.

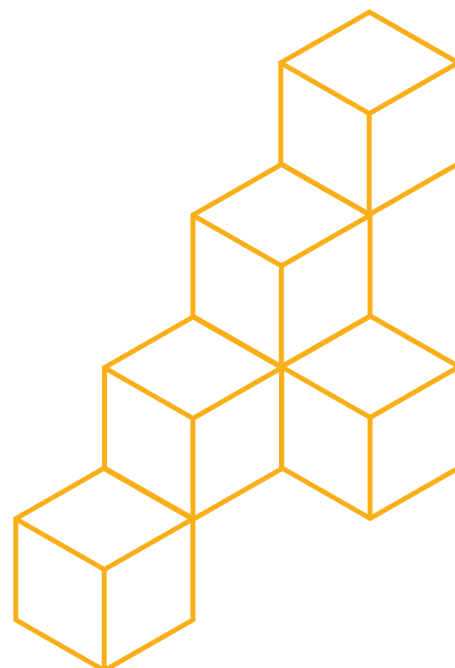
Innovation:

to be progressive and creative in our thinking around behavioural changes needed in relation to climate change and economic development.

Transparency and

Accountability:

across all our programmes, funding schemes, initiatives and projects and ensure value for money.



Strategic Framework

The strategic priorities that form the core of our Arts Development Plan have been developed through our consultation process which included focus groups with the sector, engagement with other department in Louth County Council and a public survey. Details of the consultation process are outlined in Appendix 1. The strategic priorities provide an opportunity for Louth County Council to focus on specific areas which will further enhance and develop its arts offering into the future. They will provide a targeted focus for the Arts Service over the next five years.

The Arts Service works across five main areas –



Community Arts

We support creativity at community level through initiating projects which sees art being made available outside formal arts venues. Work delivered includes arts in education programs such as the Irish Alive and Mostly Female projects which make the County Art Collection, Táisce Lú, accessible to both primary and secondary schools. We facilitate older people's participation in Bealtaine through Music in Healthcare settings. With our membership of the Creative Ireland Initiative our Louth Culture Team also provides funding to projects that bring arts and culture directly into community settings in particular areas of disadvantage and with marginalised groups ensuring inclusivity across the county.



Programming & Development of Art

To support artists we engage in Artist in Residency programs with some of our strategic partners as well as support artist studios and offer a range of supports in our grant schemes. We also commission new and relevant artworks across a range of media which reflect Louth's communities, heritage and aspirations, using the Per Cent for Art Scheme. We work on facilitating murals, acquiring artwork for Taisce Lú, the Council's visual art collection and working with arts festivals throughout the county. With Creative Ireland Louth we also seek to identify county wide projects that have impact and legacy attached to them which we can provide support to. These have included the SEEK Festival, Borrowed Ground Artist Studios and Fighting Words Projects.



Funding and Partnership

Financially supporting artists and communities in Louth through a range of tailored funding opportunities and working with organisations at Board level to further arts and creativity in our county. Funding is available through Creative Ireland Louth with our Community Grants Scheme and through our CreateLouth funding with our Arts Act Grant schemes including School Music Instrument Purchase Scheme, Tyrone Guthrie Residency Scheme and the Drama League of Ireland Summer School Scholarship programme. Our Partnership with the Arts Council of Ireland, Creative Ireland and our work with our strategic partners means we can deliver a meaningful and impactful programme to communities and the arts sector in Louth.



Creative Placemaking and Climate Action

We will work closely with other sectors within the Council such as Climate Action, LEO (Local Enterprise Office) and Economic Development to support the delivery of key council policies and identify areas where we can use arts and creativity to contribute to the Creative Place Making of Louth and its environs and encouraging behavioural changes with regard to Climate Action.



Information and Advice

Providing information on events and opportunities through our website, www.createlouth.ie, and through the development of publicly accessible databases such as Taisce Lú. We respond promptly to requests for information on a one-to-one basis, and provide mentoring and advisory services for artists in our county.



Strategic Priorities

Priority 01 Supporting Artists & Developing Infrastructure

Artists are the key factor in delivering arts and culture in Louth. The support of artists and provision of resources for artists is crucial for us to deliver a comprehensive and vibrant artistic plan.

Priority 02 Community, Health and Wellbeing

We believe that art should be accessible to all and be as impactful as it can be to all. We aim to deliver an Arts Development Plan that is inclusive and diverse which reaches all sectors of our community, in particular marginalized groups and those who are from areas of disadvantage.

Priority 03 Children and Young People

Are the heart of our communities and our future is dependent on their resilience and growth. It is vital we nurture and encourage them.

Priority 04 Arts and Older People

We recognise the importance of arts and creativity to our ageing population. We strive to deliver an arts service that will enhance quality of life for all and ensure older artists can continue their practice where possible.

Priority 05 Promote Louth as a great place to work, live and visit

We need to ensure Louth is seen as a county that can offer a lot and which in turn will bring business and economic growth to the region.





Strategic Priorities and Actions

Priority 1: Supporting Artists & Developing Infrastructure

- Artists will be supported through residencies, commissions, grant awards and professional development training opportunities.
- Continued support will be provided to An Táin Arts Centre, Droichead Arts Centre, Highlanes Gallery and Creative Spark to programme with local artists and provide resources to local artists to develop their practices.
- Artists will be encouraged to engage with the service and the arts infrastructure and where appropriate to increase business acumen through a range of courses.

Priority 2: Community, Health and Wellbeing

- Provide Opportunity and access to artists and facilitators to work collaboratively with community groups to deliver a range of arts and culture projects to enhance the wellbeing of participants.
- The Arts Service will endeavor to deliver a range of projects to address mental health issues and feelings of isolation by working with community organisations at the heart of Louth who have an established relationship with those in need such as HSE, Turas and various resource and outreach centers.
- Bringing projects out into the community will be a focus of the Arts Service in order to create more engagement. A specific focus will bring more inclusivity, diversity and equality by reaching marginalized groups and those living in areas of disadvantage.

Priority 3: Children and Young People

- The Louth Arts Office will continue to promote arts and culture for children and young people with continued investment in programmes that will target these age groups including Music Generation, a Youth Theatre Weekend and projects that will bring the Taisce Lú art collection out to schools.
- Connecting Artists and our arts organisations with schools to work with children from a young age to see the benefit of art and its ability to help them express themselves.
- Continuing through our Creative Ireland Initiative the annual Crinniú na nÓg day which brings arts and culture to children in communities through a range of workshops both in the weeks preceding and on the day itself.



Priority 4:
Support
our Ageing
Population

- The Arts Service will have specific focus on working with groups and facilities specifically supporting our ageing population to deliver arts programmes to enhance wellbeing and quality of life.
- The Arts Service will endeavor to deliver a range of projects to address mental health issues and feelings of isolation by working with community organisations at the heart of Louth who have an established relationship with those in need such as HSE and Age Friendly as well as groups through the PPN network that are specific to ageing members.
- The Arts Service will work to support older artists in the community in accessing services and promoting their work.

Priority 5:
Promote Louth
as a great place
to work, live
and visit

- Support Arts Festivals, groups and organisations to continue to deliver an arts programme that attracts artists and audiences from outside Louth while also nurturing local talent.
- Work with the Public Realm team in the council to include Arts in the contribution and planning of future projects and to seek out opportunities for Per Cent for Art Scheme.
- Promote Louth as a county that has a host of attractions and benefits for artists to work with including attracting film companies to use Louth as a location.
- Work with LEO (Local Enterprise Office) and Economic Development sections in promoting and developing Louth through a range of training courses and events that will enhance the creative economy and build a sustainable future for the industry.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We are committed to ongoing monitoring and evaluation as we progress the implementation of the Louth County Council Arts Development Plan and the following approach will be used to measure our progress:

- Qualitative and quantitative feedback from the public
- Gathering feedback from partners in all our joint programmes
- Regular updates to Louth County Council and key stakeholders
- Preparation of an annual works plan
- Arts Grants Audit Tracker through Create Louth that includes checks for branding, logos and events taking place

The Arts service also undertakes regular reporting to the Arts Council as a key part of our funding applications and the Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for the Creative Ireland Initiative. This includes the delivery of impact reports in relation to:

- Audience participation and attendance
- Artists supports given
- Number of artists employed
- Feedback on events and programmes



Boann Mural – Funded by the Arts Council under In the Open | Faoin Spéir Initiative, Louth County Council, Love Drogheda BIDS and Town & Village Accelerated Measures funding. Supported by the d hotel, Colourtrend Paints and Murtagh's of Drogheda. Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.



Butterflies in your Stomach – LGBTQ+ mural & artist Alice Lambert. Designed and created by French illustrator Licea this mural featured as part of the SEEK Festival, a collaboration between Dundalk BIDS and Creative Spark, along with their main sponsor Colourtrend. Supported by Louth County Council and Creative Ireland programme. Photo Credit, Ken Finnegan.



Appendix – Consultation Findings

The development of Louth Arts Development Plan 2022-2026 was a collaborative process involving Louth County Council, our strategic partners and the public. The key steps included:

Desk Research



Review and analysis of key policy documents, strategies and reports at local and national level.

Stakeholder Consultation*



- Strategic Planning Workshop with Strategic Partners using PESTEL and SWOT Analysis
- Strategic Planning Workshop with Louth County Council Managers using PESTEL and SWOT Analysis

Public Survey



The public survey was informed by the themes that had emerged from the stakeholder consultation and designed to capture the public views on their experience of the Arts Service and how that work should be prioritised over the next five years.

*List of Workshop Participants

Louth County Council

- Yvonne O'Brien – County Librarian & Head of Quality of Life Section
- Amanda Branigan – Senior Executive Librarian & member of Climate Action Team
- Linda Larrigan – Senior Executive Librarian
- Brendan McSherry – Heritage Officer & member of Climate Action Team
- Aoife Lawler – Senior Executive Officer, Public Realm Section
- Alan Sherry – Senior Executive Officer, Public Realm Section
- Aideen Morrissey – Public Realm Designer, Public Realm Section
- Thomas McEvoy – Head of Enterprise, LEO (Local Enterprise Office)
- Michele Haechler – Arts Office
- Catherine Lynch – Arts Office
- Anna-Marie McKeown – Community Office
- Caroline Moran – Community Office

Strategic Partners

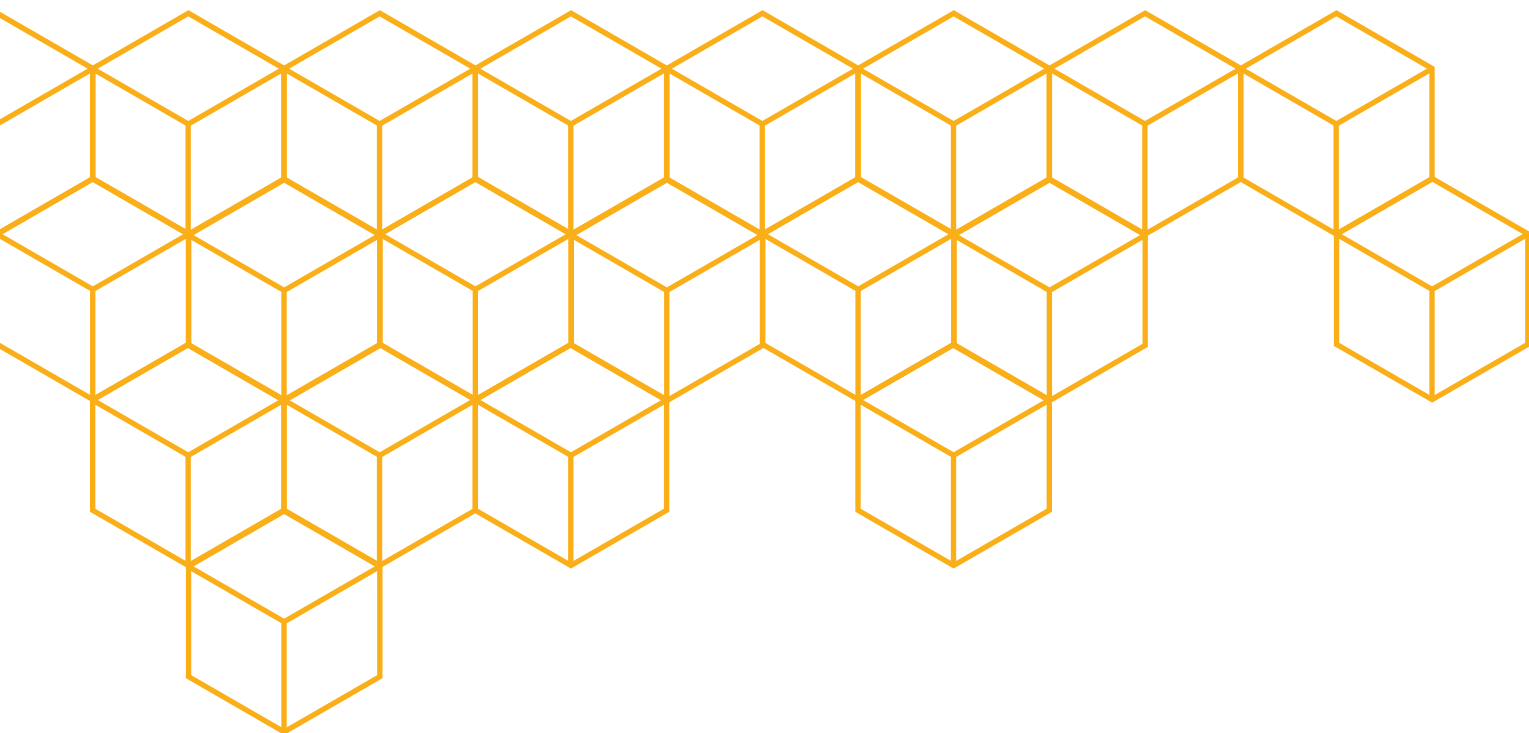
- Ardee Baroque, Pauline Ashwood
- An Táin Arts Centre, Paul Hayes
- Creative Spark, Sarah Daly
- DKIT, Adele Commins
- Drogheda Arts Festival, Paul Hayes & Collette Farrell
- Droichead Arts Centre, Collette Farrell
- Drogheda Classical Music, Pauline Ashwood
- Highlanes Gallery, Aoife Ruane
- Louth Contemporary Music Society, Eamonn Quinn
- Music Generation, Gemma Murray

Creative Ireland Louth Team at time of consultation:

Moya Hodgers (Acting Arts Officer), Yvonne O'Brien (County Librarian), Linda Larrigan (Senior Executive Librarian), Brendan McSherry (Heritage Officer), Brian Walsh (Curator, County Museum Dundalk), Lorraine McCann (County Archivist), Paul Hayes (An Táin Arts Centre), Adele Commins (DKIT), Sarah Daly (Creative Spark), Aoife Ruane (Highlanes Gallery), Collette Farrell (Droichead Arts Centre) & Jackie Nowell (Creative Ireland Project Administrator)

Consultation process

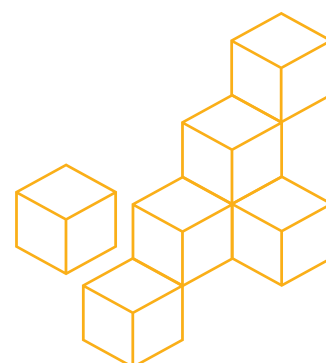
GM Innovations



Key Findings

PESTEL Analysis: The key themes that emerged are summarised below.

Political	Economic	Social
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of Government which may lead to a change in policies • Value placed on the arts and how this is reflected in funding • The role of the arts and culture in Local Development Plans/ Corporate Plan • Engagement with Councillors • The ongoing impact of Brexit • Role of the National Campaign for the Arts in advocating for investing for the sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty regarding the post pandemic effect on budget • Potential for economic recession • Skills shortage • Pilot of the Basic Income for Artists • Need to upskill and address skills deficit in financial, business and organisation planning • The increase in creative entrepreneurship • The impact of Brexit on artists income and exporting artistic product to UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing demographics of the county • Increased cultural diversity • Housing crisis • Privacy and social media • People living longer with later retirement • Role of the arts in quality of life and wellbeing • A shift to outdoor living and events • Young people and teenagers engagement with the arts • Volunteerism
Technology	Environment	Legal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid change and expansion in the use of technology • Increased role of the arts in the gaming, film, animation and on-line content • Selling on-line / e-commerce • Training and upskilling staff • Challenge for older populations in accessing and using technologies • Hybrid approach to presenting and consuming the arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the arts in highlighting the impact of climate change on society and the economy • Focus on sustainable energy – goods and products to make arts • The threat of pandemics • Increased role of the public realm • Challenge for large international touring groups and balancing a local verses international arts programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Data Protection and GDPR on collecting data on audiences • Compliance with Health and Safety regulations • Rising cost of insurance • Procurement • Contracts and protecting creative content / IP • Child protection and vulnerable adults • Garda Vetting



Swot Analysis

S

W

Strengths

- + Geographical position of Louth on North South axis
- + Two strong centres with Drogheda and Dundalk
- + Diversity and quality of artistic talent across visual arts, theatre practise, music and film
- + Strong networks across design, artists exchange, film, festivals with international linkages
- + Recognition of the role of the arts and regeneration
- + Strength of the team at Louth County Council
- + Audiences very supportive
- + National media coverage for arts projects
- + Arts linked to sense of pride
- + Innovation of artistic community during lockdown

Weaknesses

- + Shortage of available spaces for the creation, production and presentation of the arts
- + Low public awareness of the arts in Louth
- + Insufficient resources in the Arts Office
- + COVID-19 led to lack of momentum in building on success of the Fleadh Cheoil
- + Perceived lack of a champion for the arts in Louth
- + Perception of low public engagement with the arts
- + Concerted effort needed to do an educational piece – specifically for children
- + Try to be innovative in community and outreach
- + Weak methods for capturing qualitative and quantitative data on the impacts of arts

O

Opportunities

- + Partnership with the Local Enterprise Offices to develop and strengthen programmes of support
- + Understanding the audience and the needs of diverse communities
- + The role of the arts in promoting awareness of climate change
- + Development of Cultural Quarters
- + Greater role of arts in regeneration and place making
- + New cultural space and outdoor performance spaces
- + Raise awareness of the Per Cent for Art scheme across the Local Authority
- + Expand the Creative Ireland team across other sections of the Local Authority
- + Explore cross county collaborations through existing funding programmes such as PEACE
- + Collaboration around big ideas and impact

T

Threats

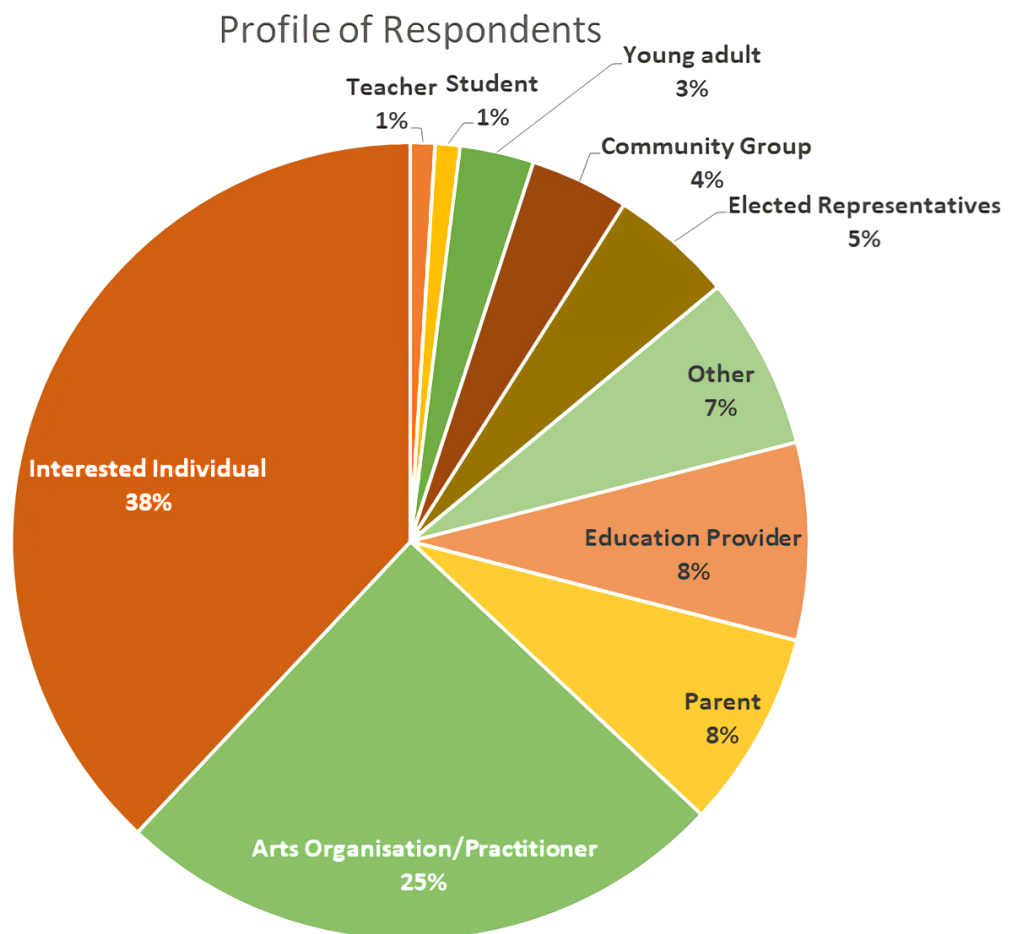
- + Lack of resources within the local authority across staff, finance and time
- + Technology and the impact on particular demographics in terms of skills and cost
- + Development of criteria to fund, evaluate and determine the quality of art
- + Sustaining art
- + Engaging young people in the arts as a career
- + Lack of understanding of the value and range of art on offer in the county
- + Challenge in ensuring an inclusive approach to the arts

Public Survey Engagement

Key Findings

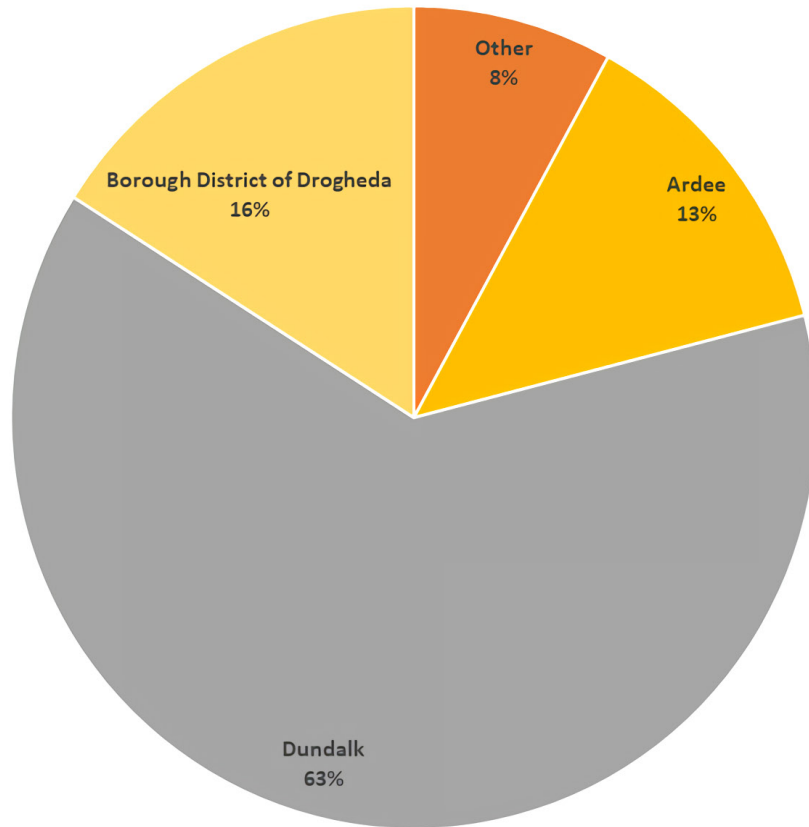
The survey was circulated widely through existing databases across the Arts Service and Louth County Council. 263 responses were captured representing a wide range of diverse interests from arts practitioners, arts organisations, parents, educators, elected representatives, community groups and young adults. Responses came from across the municipal areas of Dundalk, Borough of Drogheda and Ardee, with all age groups represented, from under 18 years of age to over 75 years of age. The key results of the survey are as follows:

Respondents represent a wide range of interest and backgrounds as illustrated in the chart below.

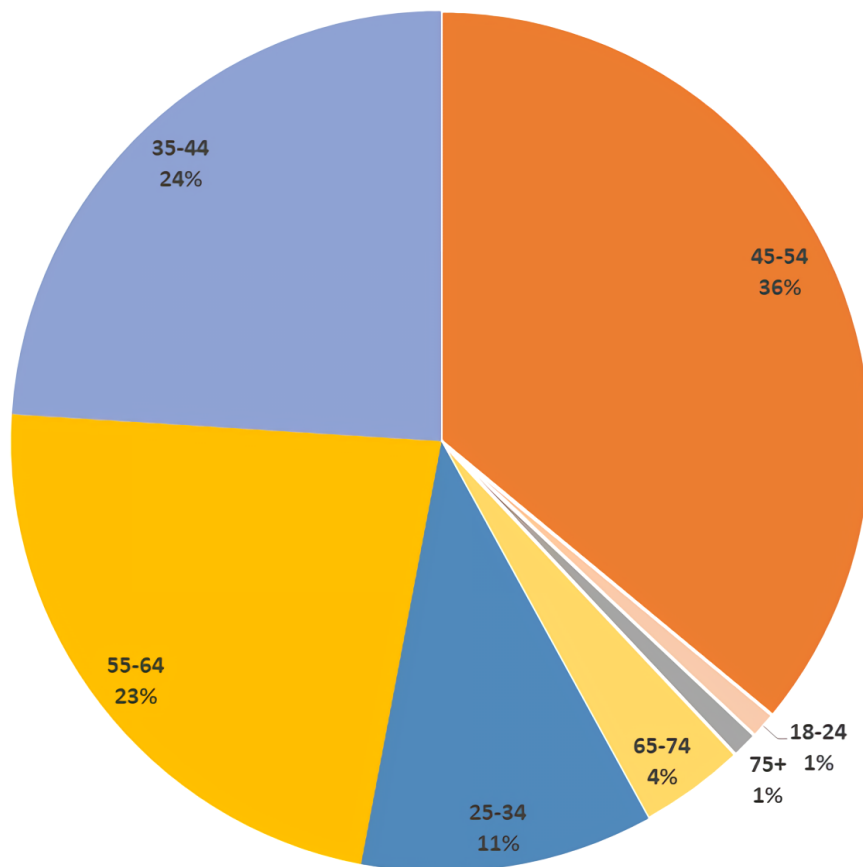


- Teacher
- Student
- Young adult
- Community Group
- Elected Representatives
- Other
- Education Provider
- Parent
- Arts Organisation/Practitioner
- Interested Individual

Respondents place of residency and age profile is illustrated in the charts below.



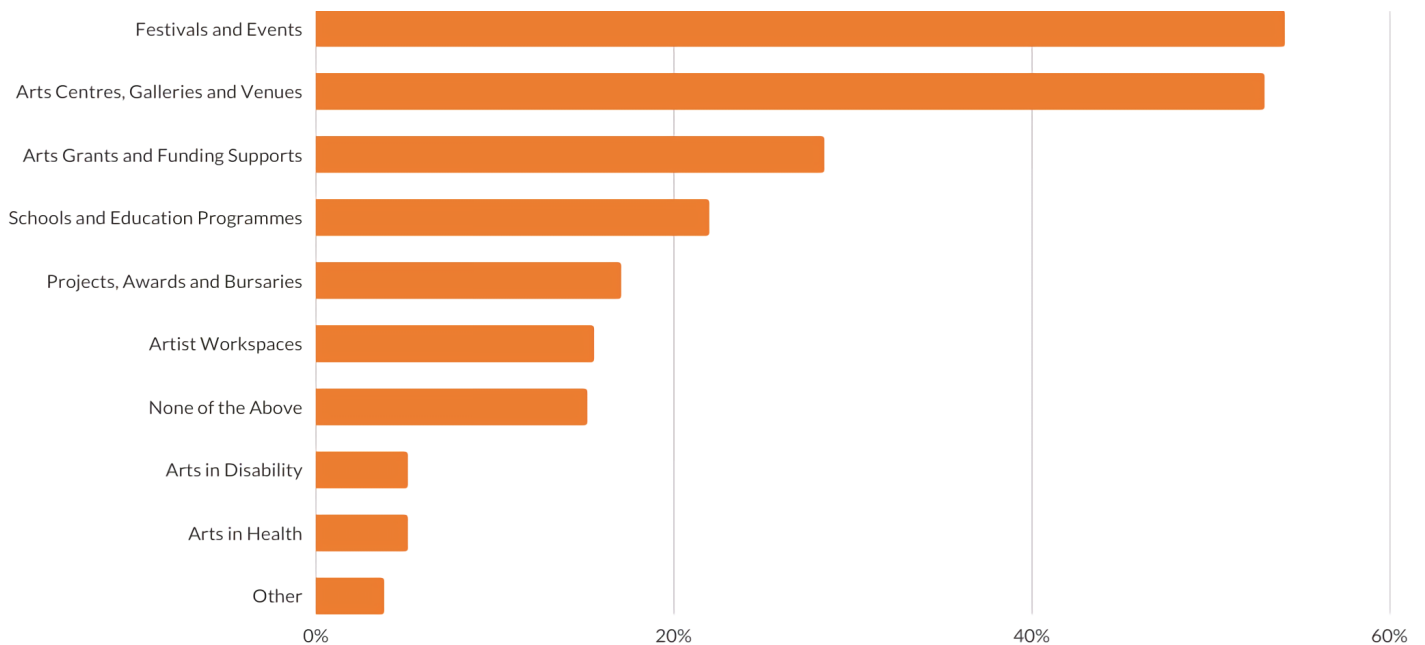
Other Ardee Dundalk Borough District of Drogheda



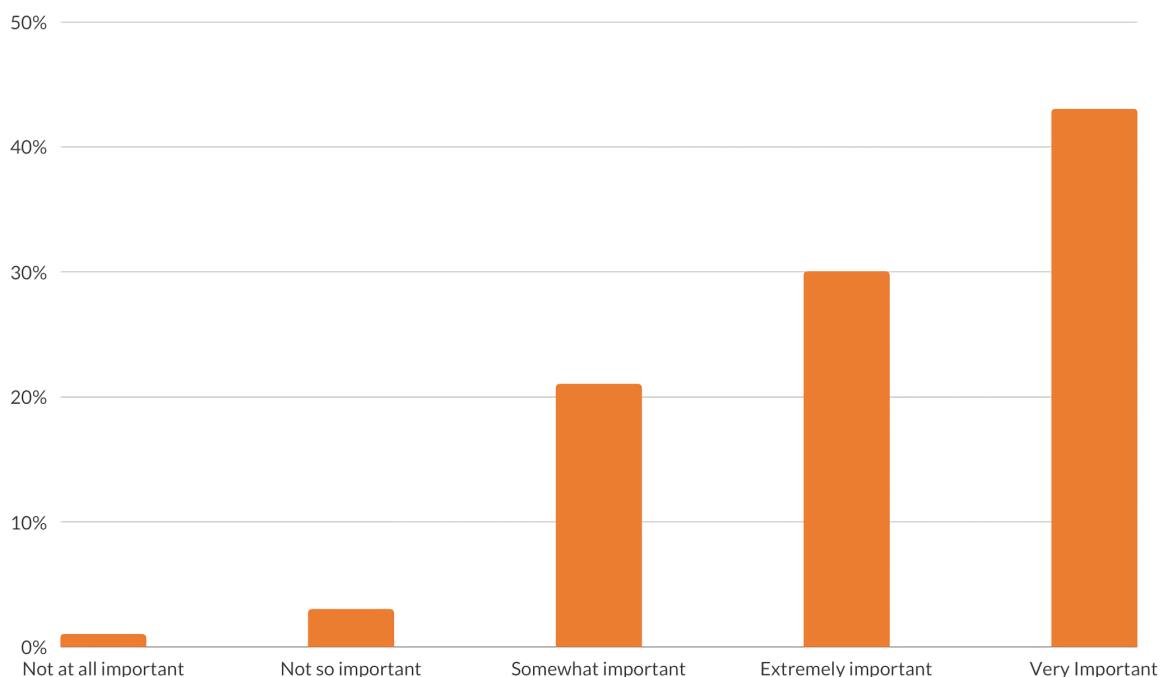
45-54 18-24 75+ 65-74 25-34 55-64 35-44

Engagement with the Arts Office

The following graph illustrates in what area of the arts that respondents have engaged in.

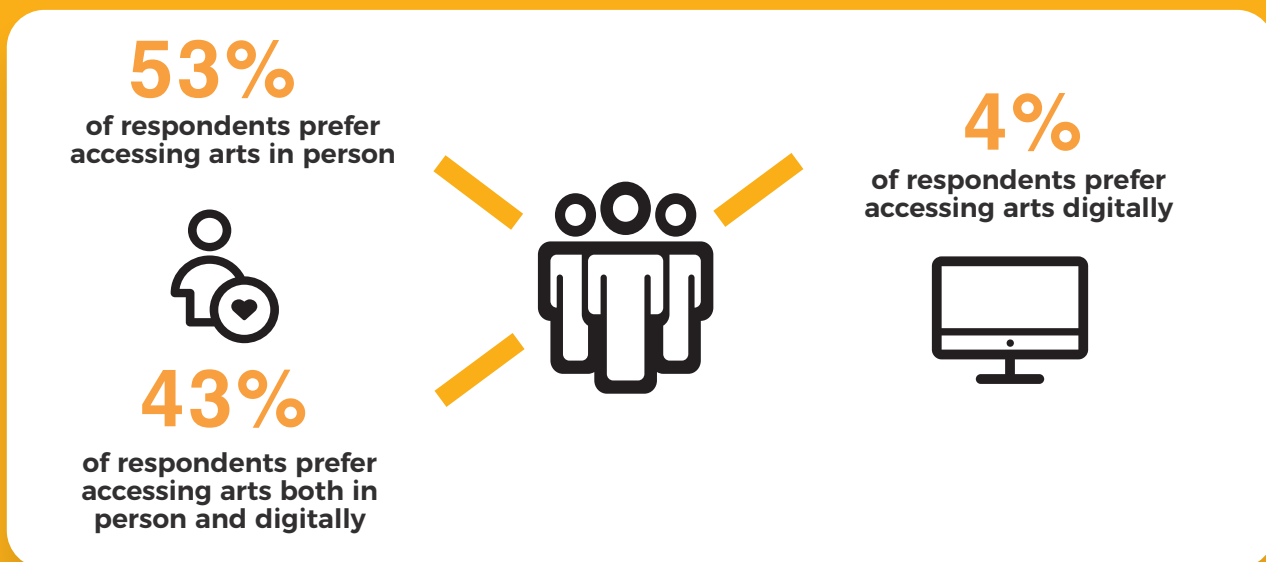


74% of respondents stated that the Art Services is extremely / very important.



Respondents stated the following areas are important for Louth County Council's Arts Development Plan 2022-2026.

- Spaces to make Art
- Training, Mentoring and Artists Supports
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Creating a cultural identity for Louth
- Accessibility to the Arts
- Building Life Long Engagement in the Arts
- Outdoor Arts, Performances and Events
- Collaboration and Partnership
- Marketing and Promotion of the Arts



🔍 Respondents identified a range of areas that the Arts Development Plan 2022-2026 should focus on, including Spaces and venues; Art in Rural / Local Areas; Wellbeing, Children and Young People and Engagement; Festivals, Events, Exhibitions and Programmes; Community Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion and Artists Supports.

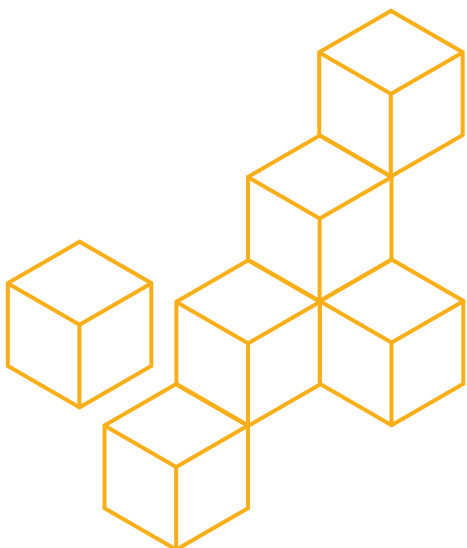






Image Reference:

Cover Photograph: LÚ Louth lettering at Mellifont – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

Page 6: Louth Lú – Giant letters featuring art from local children as part of the Cruinniú na nÓg.

Page 8: Music Generation student performing as part of the Cruinniú na nÓg festivities at the 'Music at the Square' event in Market Square, Dundalk – Photo Credit, Ken Finnegan.

Page 11: Fiddle player Gerry O'Connor at Droichead Arts Centre, Slides Exhibition – A Fleadh Cheoil collaborative initiative between fine art photographer Kate Nolan and Co Louth fiddle player Gerry O'Connor – exhibition commissioned by Louth County Council – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

Page 12: Ardee Baroque Festival 2019 – Photo Credit, Adrian Crawley.

Page 13: Cruinniú na nÓg 2022 – Photo Credit, Ian Moore.

Family day at Mellifont for Cruinniú na nÓg 2019 – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

Page 15: The Táin Tapestry – Funded by Creative Ireland and curated by An Táin Arts Centre with support from Creative Spark, this 5 county collaboration between Louth, Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath and Meath resulted in a 5 piece tapestry depicting the tale of the Táin Bó Cúailgne – Photo Credit, Steven Larkin.

Page 16: Photo of An Tain Sculptures depicting stages of the Táin story – a public art commission by Artist, John Behan.

Page 17: Boann Mural – Funded by the Arts Council under In the Open | Faoin Spéir Initiative, Louth County Council, Love Drogheda BIDS and Town & Village Accelerated Measures funding. Supported by the d hotel, Colourtrend Paints and Murtagh's of Drogheda – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

Butterflies in your Stomach – LGBTQ+ mural & artist Alice Lambert. Designed and created by French illustrator Licea this mural featured as part of the SEEK Festival, a collaboration between Dundalk BIDS and Creative Spark, along with their main sponsor Colourtrend. Supported by Louth County Council and Creative Ireland programme – Photo Credit, Ken Finnegan.

Page 20: Image of Local Live Performance event – Photo Credit, Cathal Carolan.

Page 22-23: Drogheda Arts Festival 2018 at Beaulieu House – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

Page 28: Music in Healthcare – musicians Liam Merriman, Grainne Hope and Lisa McGuinness performing in Moorehall Residential facility in Ardee as part of our Music in Healthcare programme.

Rogu Fire at Millmount performing as part of the Drogheda Arts Festival 2022 – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

Page 29: Bára Gísladóttir & Skúli Sverrisson performing at the Spirit Store, Dundalk in June 2022 as part of the Louth Contemporary Music Society Festival – Photo Credit, Ken Finnegan.

Highlanes Gallery - Culture Night 2020 – Photo Credit, Brian Connolly.

Page 30: Unexpected Gleaming sculpture by artist Sarah McKenna – part of the Taisce Lú Collection – Photo Credit, Jenny Callanan.

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