

→ PLEAN EALAÍON FHINE GALL 2013-2017 ←

# L→ FINGAL ARTS PLAN 2013-2017 ←

Our county-our Fingal-provides an abundance of riches from inland to coast. Historically the rich farmlands of the Naul to the plentiful ports of Howth and Skerries have sustained and shaped our relationship with our county and our environments. From the birds-eye view of the raven to the searing perspective of the gulls and seabirds we are reminded that our county-our Fingal-is a place that is rich in land and sea. A source of inspiration for all.

Fine Gall-Flúirse Talaimh is Mara.

## Authors

Rory O'Byrne and Sarah O'Neill

# Director of Services, Housing and Community Department

AnnMarie Farrelly

## **County Arts Officer**

Rory O'Byrne

# **Deputy County Arts Officer**

Sarah O'Neill

#### **Public Art Co-ordinator**

Caroline Cowley

## **Youth and Education Officer**

Julie Clarke

## **Translation**

**Dublin City University Language Services** 

#### Illustration

Denise Nestor

## **Design and Production**

an Atelier Project, www.atelier.ie

# **Print and Lithography**

MM Fine Art Book Printing & Repro

## **Copy Editor**

Lucy Deegan Leirião

# **Binding**

Patist, Netherlands

# Edition

250 copies

# **Published and Distributed by:**

The Arts Office Fingal County Council County Hall Swords, Fingal Co. Dublin

Tel +353 1 890 6237 Fax +353 1 890 5109

#### www.fingalarts.ie

© 2013 Fingal County Council Arts Office

© 2013 The Authors and Illustrator

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher.





# STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR AND THE COUNTY MANAGER

COUNCILLOR KIERAN DENNISON
COUNTY MANAGER DAVID O'CONNOR

THIS, THE 2013–17 FINGAL ARTS PLAN, IS THE SECOND FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT for arts development by Fingal County Council. The first plan, the 2006–10 Arts Plan, identified the strengths of current cultural activity within the county and placed it within a greater Dublin and national context. This document builds on that plan, taking into consideration the substantial economic changes that have occurred in that time, both locally and nationally. ¬

The development of the 2013–17 Fingal Arts Plan was informed by a process of public consultation that was entered into over a nine-week period, from September to November 2012. The overall consensus from that consultation demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with the existing arts programmes and access to the arts. However, a recurring theme that emerged was the widespread concern for the sustainability of existing programmes in a climate of financial cutbacks and economic uncertainty. It is within this context that the 2013–17 Arts Plan will outline a realistic approach to addressing the current and future challenges for the delivery of a countywide arts service. This will be achieved by setting attainable goals for future development that allow for the arts to be accessible and relevant to all. 3

As we develop our role to serve our existing and rapidly growing population and new communities, Fingal County Council recognises the importance that the arts play in the development of cultural identity and in the enrichment of people's lives. We acknowledge the need for a cohesive approach to future development of the arts. In so doing, we recognise that cultural life in Fingal is rich, diverse and constantly evolving. It is the vibrancy and diversity of our culture that gives it strength and lends itself to the celebration and development of our traditions through the arts.

THE PROVISION OF AN ARTS PLAN FOR THE COUNTY IS A REQUIREMENT UNDER Section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act. It is a strategic response to addressing the needs of arts development in Fingal. It offers an opportunity for people to become engaged with, and to invigorate and renew their interest in, the arts, and to help create an environment where people are willing to be challenged and have their lives enriched through participation in the arts.

The role of the Council's Arts Office is to encourage, foster and support cultural activity within Fingal. Just as my colleague Sarah O'Neill and I did for the 2006–10 Fingal Arts Plan, we decided to write the 2013–17 Fingal Arts Plan in house, using our collective internal expertise and experience, rather than commissioning external arts consultants to write it. ¬

This plan does not replace the 2006–10 plan. Rather, this strategy for the arts augments, complements, reinforces and builds on the success of that plan, and builds on the successes and profile of arts development in Fingal through policy development, innovative programming, best practice, and critical thinking and evaluation. At the core of the plan are the findings of an inclusive period of public consultation with the people of Fingal, complemented with a review of all relevant literature and policy documents. ¬

In order to inform the development of the 2013–17 Fingal Arts Plan, a process of public consultation was entered into over a nine-week period, from September to November 2012. As part of this process, six surveys were designed and conducted to gather input from a range of groups and individuals who participate in the arts in Fingal. The surveys were customised under the following headings: General Public, Professional Artists, Youth, Schools, Arts Groups and Public Art. ¬

The completion and adoption of this, our second arts plan, is a direct response to the needs of the arts community in Fingal. It is evident from the large response that the arts remain an important part of people's lives. There is evidence of a strong desire among respondents to get involved, whether it is as an audience member, a participant in the arts, a professional artist or part of an arts group. \(\frac{1}{2}\)

As a core principle, we, the Arts Office of Fingal County Council, will work to ensure that the delivery of a sustainable arts service remains high on the agenda. We will also strive to ensure that all citizens, regardless of location, social standing or economic circumstances, have equal opportunity to access and participate in the arts and the cultural activities of Fingal.



# **EVOLUTION**

#### **RATIONALE FOR THE ARTS PLAN**

The provision of an arts plan for the county is a requirement under Section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act.  $\neg$ 

The section states: A local authority shall, for the purposes of Section 67 of the Act of 2001, prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within its functional area and shall, in so doing, take account of policies of the Government in relation to the arts.

Every day, local authorities make decisions that impact on the quality of people's lives. Cultural planning is an integral part of this process. Culture has a direct impact on communities, whether it is through direct grant aid to a local drama group, artist-in-residence schemes in local schools, the provision of public artworks, or the creation of specific cultural facilities, such as arts centres. Over the last decade in Ireland, the role of culture and the arts has assumed greater importance in local government planning. The arts can be an effective means of assisting local government to achieve social and economic objectives. These range from community development initiatives in urban and rural contexts to economic regeneration, urban planning, the embracing of groups, and the creation of a high-quality physical environment. ¬

As a core principle, Fingal County Council will ensure that the delivery of a sustainable arts service remains high on its agenda, and it will strive to ensure that all citizens, regardless of location, social standing or economic circumstances, have equal opportunity to access and participate in the arts and the cultural activities of Fingal.

# CONTEXT

## FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission statement is to improve the quality of life for the people we serve. Despite the simplicity of the statement, it is a challenging one, given the rapidly expanding population base that has to be accommodated in the fastest-growing local-authority area in the county. ¬

# Fingal County Council's core attributes:

- Inclusive
- Progressive
- Efficient ¬

As we develop our role to serve our existing and rapidly growing population and new communities, Fingal County Council recognises the importance that the arts play in the development of cultural identity and in the enrichment of people's lives. The arts contribute towards the local economy, towards social cohesion within communities, towards combating feelings of isolation, and towards the empowerment of individuals who may feel powerless or distanced from the mainstream. Fingal County Council acknowledges the need for a cohesive approach to future development of the arts. In so doing, it recognises that cultural life in Fingal is rich and diverse. It is the vibrancy and diversity of our culture that gives it strength and lends itself to the celebration and development of our traditions through the arts.  $\neg$ 

In September 2006, Fingal County Council published its first arts development plan. The plan was the result of a year's in-depth consultation with a broad range of cultural groups, individuals and arts organisations, at both local and national levels. ¬

Our aim in writing the plan was to identify the strengths of current cultural activity within the county and place it within a greater Dublin and national context. We made 55 recommendations on a broad range of cultural issues, and set out time periods for achieving these goals. The majority of the recommendations set out were met within their time frames. The recommendations that remained incomplete were connected to capital projects, such as the provision of studio space for professional artists.  $\[ \]$ 

# THE 2013-17 FINGAL ARTS PLAN

The 2013–17 Fingal Arts Plan is the second framework document for arts development by Fingal County Council. This plan does not replace the 2006–10 plan. Rather, it augments, complements, reinforces and builds on the success of that plan. It also reflects the substantial economic changes that have occurred in that time, both locally and nationally. At the core of the plan are the findings of an inclusive period of public consultation with the people of Fingal, held during 2012, complemented with a review of all relevant literature and policy documents. ¬

In order to inform the development of the 2013–17 Fingal Arts Plan, a process of public consultation was entered into over a nine-week period, from September to November 2012. As part of this process, six surveys were designed and conducted to gather input from a range of groups and individuals who participate in the arts in Fingal. ¬

# The surveys were customised under the following headings:

- General Public
- Professional artists
- Youth
- Schools
- Arts Groups
- Public Art ¬

The surveys looked at respondents' profiles, their current level of engagement with the arts, barriers to participation, and needs and priorities for the future. As part of the process, respondents' details were also gathered in order to facilitate future communication with the Arts Office. This will assist the Arts Office in raising awareness and promoting events in a targeted way, as well as facilitating ongoing needs analysis among stakeholder groups and the general public.

In outlining a strategic approach in this plan, it was necessary to be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances.

This strategy for the arts consolidates the work carried out in the previous plan and builds on the successes and profile of arts development in Fingal through policy development, innovative programming, best practice, and critical thinking and evaluation.

The Arts Office has devised a series of policies and programmes in partnership with various agencies and community groups, providing the citizens of Fingal with opportunities for access to, and participation in, a range of cultural activities.

#### These include:

- The Youth & Education programme, wherein professional artists bring their skills to bear in the school/community setting and provide a forum for creative expression;
- A funding scheme, whereby arts organisations, groups and individuals can apply for financial assistance under Section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act, including:
- a bursary scheme for the professional arts sector, which provides opportunities for artists from a variety of disciplines to develop their practice;
- an arts information service through fingalarts.ie (the multimedia arts website features visual images, videos, opportunities, events and detailed information, embracing the entire Fingal arts community);
- the commissioning of public art under the Per Cent for Art scheme;
- the provision of two arts centres to enhance cultural life in Fingal and provide public access to the arts; and
- an events programme that provides access to, and participation in, the arts locally. ¬

#### **COUNTY PROFILE**

Fingal, as we now refer to it, was established as a result of the Local Government Act 1993, which dissolved Dublin County Council and created three new local authorities. The Fingal area extends to 450 square kilometres and stretches from the River Liffey and the Dublin City boundary in the south to the Meath boundary north of Balbriggan, and from the coast in the east to the Meath and Kildare boundaries in the west. Fingal, sometimes referred to as 'North County Dublin', is an area rich in history and tradition that can be traced back 4,000 years.  $\[ \]$ 

## **DEMOGRAPHIC**

The population of Fingal was 273,997 as of the 2011 Census. This figure represented a rise in population of 14% over the previous five years. The age groups of 0-4 and 25-34 experienced a particularly rapid increase in population in these years, which reflects our knowledge of recent home-buying and a baby boom, despite the recession. The population aged 25-34 in Fingal increased by over 33% in the five years, and the population 0-4 increased by almost 35%. Fingal has the youngest age profile of all local authorities in Ireland, with an average age of 32.9 years, while the national average age is 36.1 years. A number of priority demographics have been identified through the consultation process. Children and young people were highlighted as areas of priority.  $\boxed{\phantom{a}}$ 

# **CULTURAL PROFILE**

Since the establishment of Fingal County Council, the county has seen many positive changes in terms of its cultural profile and arts-service delivery. Traditionally, the county has had a strong amateur musical and dramatic movement. These groups have availed of funding under the Arts Act since 1994. In addition to financial assistance, the Council also offers bursaries and allied support to professional and amateur artists and groups. We utilise the existing monies under the Per Cent for Art scheme and fund and operate two arts centres. In addition, we provide an extensive youth and education programme.  $\rightarrow$ 

CONTEXT



# **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The role of the Council's Arts Office is to encourage, foster and support cultural activity within Fingal through a policy-based approach.

# The core values of Fingal County Council's Arts Service are:

- to promote the value of the arts as an essential component in building balanced, inclusive communities with a sense of their own identity;
- to promote inclusiveness and wider access for all citizens who wish to be involved in the arts:
- to develop and deliver an arts service in a fair, open and transparent manner;
- to develop sustainable policies in consultation with the various departments of Fingal County Council, relevant organisations and community groups;
- to take account of local, national and international arts policies and trends; and
- to make the arts accessible to people with disabilities. ¬

# **ARTS CENTRES**

Fingal County Council continues to enhance the cultural life of Fingal and provide public access to the arts through the ongoing development and support of its two arts centres. Draíocht is a multi-purpose arts venue in Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, offering theatre, dance, contemporary visual arts exhibitions, and community education and outreach programmes. Draíocht is now a vital part of the expanding and diverse cultural life of Dublin 15. The Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre, located in Naul, is an arts centre that celebrates the life and legacy of traditional music icon Séamus Ennis through its focus on the traditional arts.  $\[ \]$ 

In 2012, both of the Council's arts centres celebrated their tenth anniversaries. Over that decade, they have established themselves as central to the quality of life of the people and communities who access them. Since 2006, the total financial investment to Draíocht was €3.9 million, with an additional €1.1 million to the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre. ¬

← CONTEXT Fingal Arts Plan 2013–17

The Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre is a traditional music venue that aims to develop and maintain rural traditions and the traditional arts against the backdrop of a rapidly changing environment in rural Fingal. In 2012, over 10,500 people attended events in the centre. In 2006, the Council made an application under ACCESS II (the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme II), and in April 2008, a grant of €740,000 was awarded for the capital enhancement of the centre. In 2011, a report for the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre was commissioned. The purpose of the study was to set out a vision and assess a feasible approach for the future development of the centre whilst working in the current financial climate. Amongst the challenges for the centre are the tasks of maintaining the physical infrastructure of an ageing building and looking for opportunities to broaden the scope of the centre by attracting new audiences and funders. ¬

# The focus for the 2013-17 period will be:

- to maintain the level and quality of programming that all our audiences have come to expect;
- to engage with the public in ways that are meaningful to them;
- to adopt or initiate programmes in response to demand;
- to support artists in the development of their work by engaging with venue networks;
- to remain a leader in the field of children's/youth arts and to focus on music appreciation in the area of the traditional arts, and to proactively work to develop these sectors;
- to maintain and, where possible, develop the physical infrastructure so that the buildings remain places where artists want to perform and the public wants to visit;
   and
- to create the building blocks in all facets of our organisation to enable us to take advantage of the periods of stabilisation and eventual growth that will take place.

#### **PUBLIC ART**

The public art programme has the potential to generate tourism, offer new perspectives on our environment and engage with our communities. Since the 2006 – 10 Arts Plan and the appointment of a public art co-ordinator in 2005, the Arts Office has increased its programming in the area of public art. One of the main tasks was to identify and draw down monies associated with a variety of capital work schemes under the Per Cent for Art scheme. ¬

The first round of funding was allocated and made available in 2007. Following this, a public art panel was put in place with a relatively open brief: to carry out a variety of projects across all the art forms, with an even geographic spread across the county. The artists commissioned under the scheme focused on Fingal's rich heritage, landscape and history. Since 2007, an allocation of approximately €460,000 has seen nine projects realised. Throughout the commissioning process, the Arts Office has built relationships with a number of departments within the Council. The nature of the majority of the commissions resulted in the Arts Office interacting with the architects and the parks, environment, heritage and planning departments. What became apparent was that the concerns of these departments and those of the artists were similar, with both providing equal expertise in these areas. ¬

We are now in a position to embark on a new programme of commissioning, with a heightened sense of what can be achieved through the scheme. There is a budget of €350,000 under the Per Cent for Art scheme, which will support new commissioning strands and provide funding to complete existing projects. We will continue to develop and maintain best practice in our engagement with professional artists and local communities in the commissioning of public artworks. ¬

In 2000, with the opening of its new headquarters at Fingal County Hall, Swords, the Council adopted a policy of assembling a municipal arts collection for the benefit of its citizens. Fingal's collection is varied in discipline, medium and expression. There are approximately 40 works in the collection at present, with an estimated value of €80 – 100,000. In 2008, the Arts Office published *Not in Alphabetical Order: Fingal Public Art Collection, Volume One*. This publication offered a snapshot of works from the collection, with comments from the artists who created them. In the lifetime of this plan, we will endeavour to assemble and publish Volume Two. ¬

## **PROFESSIONAL ARTS**

It is estimated that there are 145 professional artists living and working in Fingal at present. In order to support the ever-increasing professional arts sector, Fingal County Council has organised a series of events that enable artists to showcase their work locally. *Amharc Fhine Gall*, which is hosted in Draíocht each year, is one such initiative. This exhibition is a platform to support recent art-college graduates from Fingal in building their profiles by offering them a chance to show in one of the finest visual art galleries in the county, on a professional level. This annual event also allows the Arts Office to connect with these emerging artists and identify practical and relevant ways to support them in the early stages of their careers. In order to compliment *Amharc Fhine Gall*, the Arts Office programme also features *What Next?*, an annual professional development day. *What Next?* offers a unique insight into the challenges and opportunities relevant to artists working in the current climate, with practical advice and insights about living and working as an artist today.

Since 2001, Fingal County Council has offered professional artists opportunities through its artist bursary scheme at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. It affords the opportunity for artists to interact with other practitioners. The favoured art forms change from year to year, in order to ensure the support and diversity of arts disciplines. In recent years, we have provided the Graphic Studio Print Residency Award. This opportunity is aimed at artists from Fingal, offering them an intensive programme of masterclasses with master printer Robert Russell at Graphic Studio.  $\[ \]$ 

The Council also provides paid employment opportunities to artists through the artist-in-residence schemes in primary and post-primary schools, and through the commissioning of public art.  $\neg$ 

Following on the recommendation in our last arts plan, 2006–10, to 'make provision for professional studio space in Fingal', a comprehensive study was commissioned, entitled *Report on the Provision, Design and Management of Artists' Studios within Fingal*. The recommendations in this report were echoed in the feedback from the public consultation process undertaken for the 2013–17 plan. This was the one outstanding goal not achieved. We will continue to try to identify possible funding streams that will allow for investment in studio provision. We are recommending a mix of residential and day studios. Through our public consultation process, it was found that artists want opportunities in the areas of career development, bursaries, dialogue/debate and documentation. ¬

#### YOUTH AND EDUCATION

In 2009, research commenced into a youth and education policy involving widespread consultation, and the policy was adopted by the Council in May 2010. It is our framework document for the design and delivery of all youth and education initiatives, which promote the principles of best practice and identify new ways of engaging with the public in an inclusive way. ¬

The Fingal Arts Office has formed strong working relationships with schools in Fingal through the provision of an artist-in-residence programme (ARP). The ARP allows for contemporary arts practice to be brought directly into the classroom. Projects seek to complement and expand on current art curricula and give young people access to cultural opportunities that they would not otherwise have. In 2007, the Arts Office piloted a teacher-training programme entitled Creative Exchange. Research found that teachers welcomed continued professional development (CPD) within the ARP. ¬

In 2011, the Arts Office commissioned a report entitled *Sounding Out Fingal*. The brief was to assess the current state of musical education for young people in Fingal and to identify ways in which Fingal County Council might proceed in partnership with others to develop a sustainable countywide music-education programme. Consultation with Fingal schools assisted with the establishment of music-education programmes in several primary schools. We hope to reinforce conducted research and support these schools, and enable others to develop sustainable music programmes in the future.

In acknowledging the Draíocht Youth Arts Programme, which services the Dublin 15 area, the Arts Office's Youth & Education programme has endeavoured to service the north of the county, with consideration given to geographical spread to projects allocated. ¬

The Youth & Education programme has the potential to assist with the integration of new community facilities within local communities. Through innovative approaches to educating young people, we aim to explore learning opportunities presented by new media and technologies. We will research and support the area of Early Years Arts, and promote the use of Fingal's new community centres for young people.

## **GRANTS**

The awarding of grants remains a core support to many of our organised groups and individual artists. Funding is accessed under Section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act. Since 2006, the total monies awarded in grants have been €487,000. These grants are specifically designed for events and performances that have a broad countywide appeal and add positively to the cultural life of Fingal. In the period from 2006, €261,000 has been awarded under the 2003 Arts Act, with an additional €226,000 awarded to local annual festivals. A finding from our public consultation process was that the majority of those who had received grants over the years were keen to get involved in establishing a countywide Fingal Arts Network. ¬

#### **FUNDING**

Fingal County Council acknowledges that in order to deliver the Arts Plan, adequate funding must be in place. The Arts Office currently comprises four posts, and the level of services provided within the current structure is currently at capacity. Since 2008, the arts budget of Fingal County Council has recorded a 31.5% reduction. This decrease has affected the delivery of the arts service. It is hoped that circumstances will allow the budget to maintain its current level in order to ensure the successful implementation of this plan. ¬

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The work of the Arts Office is greatly supported and enhanced by the range of partnerships that it has established and continues to sustain. In order to maximise the vision set out in this arts plan, it will be essential that the Council work in collaboration with schools and arts organisations at a local level. On a national level, we continue to benefit from our cooperation with the Arts Council of Ireland, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Office of Public Works (OPW), County Dublin Educational and Training Board (County Dublin ETB), the European Commission, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Department of Education and Skills, third-level colleges and national institutions. Fingal County Council welcomes a new partnership approach that is reflective of an environment of reduced funding and resources. The continued development of partnerships will allow us to deliver a sustainable arts service countywide and realise our ambitions. \( \textstyle{1} \)

#### **EVENTS**

The Arts Office continues to programme performances and events in Fingal on an annual basis. *Spréacha* is an annual international children's theatre festival programmed by Draíocht, with additional funding from the Arts Council of Ireland. ¬

Since 2009, the Arts Office has presented a series of events to celebrate National Drawing Day. Over the past four years, National Drawing Day has been delivered in Farmleigh Estate, Malahide Castle and Newbridge House. The public had the opportunity to visit the estates and explore their surroundings, while also taking part in numerous drawing workshops and masterclasses for all ages. ¬

Arts events in public libraries offer support in establishing and sustaining local writers' groups. They also provide a showcase for exhibitions in the various branches. Some of these events are jointly organised between the Arts Office and the Libraries Division, and are aimed at encouraging lifelong learning. The Arts Office and the libraries have enjoyed a close relationship since the inception of the Council, and have co-developed many new cultural initiatives, such as the annual literature programme, Writing 3.0: Fingal's Annual Writers' Festival. Writing 3.0 is co-programmed by Fingal Libraries and the Arts Office, having evolved from Finscéal: A Writer's Trail of Fingal, first established in 2005. The shift to Writing 3.0 recognises and encompasses new opportunities available to professional and amateur writers alike, from traditional print media to ever-changing technological platforms, such as social media, blogs, the Internet and animation, and performance, both in local venues and on the big screen. The future challenge for this event is to sustain funding and remain relevant in programming.

# **PROCESS**

## CONSULTATION

As a starting point for the production of the plan, the Arts Office began an intensive process of information-gathering from all sectors of the community in Fingal, in order to examine the role that the arts play in the lives of its residents. It was important to identify the needs of the community and to create an environment in which multiple cultural projects can flourish. ¬

Six individual sectors of the arts community were identified, for which specific questionnaires were planned and dispatched:

- General Public
- Professional Artists
- Youth
- Schools
- Art Groups
- Public Art →

# **ACTIONS**

The consultation process has resulted in specific findings in relation to each of the groups targeted by the research, including professional artists, young people, schools, arts organisations and the general public. While needs and priorities vary from group to group, a number of common themes emerge. ¬

It is evident from the large response that the arts remain an important part of people's lives. There is evidence of a strong desire among respondents to get involved, whether it is as an audience member, a participant, a professional artist or as a member of an arts group. There is strong interest in engaging with the Arts Office by receiving communications about arts programmes, benefitting from funding, or participating in networks. ¬

Space for the arts, e.g. arts centres, studio space, or exhibition and performance space, is a priority for a range of groups. Some practitioners would be prepared to pay, as would audience members, to attend art events, and some schools say that they have space available that could be developed as a dedicated arts space. ¬

Development of arts programmes for young people and festivals and events for the general public have been identified among the priorities for the future. Access to funding and grants are important, as costs and access to the arts can be barriers to participation.

In underpinning Fingal County Council's approach to the delivery of an arts service, this plan will be guided by the following principles and key policy areas for development:

- Arts Supports
- Infrastructure and Policies
- Participation, Access and Engagement
- Partnerships ¬

# **ARTS SUPPORTS**

Professional artists play a central role in the establishment of a vibrant cultural environment, and the creation of quality work can also have a positive impact on the local economy. ¬

The Arts Office will aim to encourage and foster opportunities for artists of all disciplines to live, work and develop their arts practice in Fingal through the provision of professional artist studio space. Complementing this, we will offer opportunities through resedencies, travel and training bursaries for professional artists to develop their creative and professional-practice skills in order to support their future development. ¬

The Arts Office will endeavour to create opportunities for dialogue, debate and exchange between professional artists. Where appropriate, we will continue to provide opportunities for professional artists within Fingal to advance their practice through funding under Section 6 of the 2003 Arts Act. In addition, we will continue to design events to enable professional artists to showcase through opportunities like *Amharc Fhine Gall*. We will continue to build on identified sustainable partnerships and seek new ways of supporting the professional arts community in Fingal. ¬

Through an updated and reedesigned www.fingalarts.ie, we will continue to provide a countywide arts information service on current news, opportunities and events, accessible to the public and supportive of local arts activity through the production of a quarterly e-bulletin, to increase access to, and participation in, all arts events countywide. We will explore opportunities in partnership with public and private arts organisations to publicise arts activity in Fingal and continue to act in an advisory capacity to those undertaking arts projects in the County. \(\pa\)

In an effort to stimulate and support local arts activity, we will provide practical support and funding under the 2003 Arts Act. We will raise awareness of events funded by Fingal County Council through increased branding and focused communications. We will support developmental costs and audience research through the establishment of a Fingal Arts Network. This will be implemented in partnership with local arts organisations. The Fingal Arts Network will also provide a framework to promote the active participation of groups and individuals involved in arts events, in partnership with business interests.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE AND POLICIES**

We will endeavour, during the lifetime of the plan, to create a range of physical spaces in which professional artists can live, work and develop their arts practices in Fingal. In the short term, in the absence of artists' studios, we will provide seed funding for a group of artists to come together as a collective to self-initiate studios. ¬

Community centres provide spaces and facilities where communities can participate in the arts in their localities. We will work with planners, community and housing departments, and other relevant departments of the Council to ensure that a measured and strategic approach is taken in the development of resources and facilities countywide. We will encourage opportunities for the inclusion of arts programming so that the arts can continue to grow at a local level with an integrated approach.

Fingal will continue to support the development of a vibrant arts infrastructure and develop sustainable arts policies through a commitment to developing a policy towards Early Years Arts and reviewing and updating the current Youth Arts Policy.

We will cultivate and empower youth audiences to take ownership of, contribute to, and participate in, the arts. We will undertake a feasibility study for a dedicated space for young people to participate in, and engage with, arts practices in a meaningful way. ¬

We will establish a new round of commissioning, through the Per Cent for Art scheme, in line with the national guidelines, and continue to implement the Public Art Policy. We will monitor all policy implementation continually and, where necessary, undertake research to inform its development. We will also investigate new models for multifunctional venues in Fingal, which provide adequately for arts activities and cultural needs.

Through ongoing review and research, we will assess the needs of professional and amateur artists, groups and organisations so that this plan will remain relevant and meaningful. We will also assess the continued professional development (CPD) needs of the Fingal Arts staff. ¬

Through our arts centres, we will actively encourage and promote access and participation. Through our continued direct funding and development of Draíocht and the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre, we will maximise all opportunities to enhance the infrastructure of the two centres while ensuring that both remain places of excellence, in terms of governance, and continue to offer a quality experience to audiences and participants.  $\[ \]$ 

# PARTICIPATION, ACCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

While the Arts Office of Fingal County Council has a countywide remit, the key centres of programmed artistic activity will be the principal centres of population. The artistic programme will be delivered by Fingal County Council's Arts Office in collaboration with other council departments. In particular, the Arts Office will develop greater synergies of programming with the architecture, community, parks and library services and the council's safety advisory group. Further arts activity across all art forms and throughout the county will be supported through arts grants, artists' residencies and public art commissions. We will endeavour to provide Fingal residents with opportunities to interact and engage with the best of contemporary and traditional arts practices within their local communities.

In working with Fingal schools, we will investigate reputable arts-in-education practices. We will continue to programme innovative projects that promote collaboration between artists and schools. We will assess the needs and interest among schools in developing sustainable programmes managed by the schools' core staff and student bodies, with support from the Fingal Arts Office. We will support schools to maximise their current resources, deliver sustainable programmes and identify opportunities for collaboration with relevant government agencies, artists and institutions. We will continue to assist schools in enhancing their current art curriculum through support and advice, the provision of teacher-training initiatives, and the production of Artists' Stories (short films), which are relevant to the curriculum.

# **PARTNERSHIPS**

We will consolidate existing partnerships and develop new ones in the provision of arts activity in the county. We will build sustainable partnerships with strategic partners, which will maximise funding opportunities in all areas of arts development in Fingal. ¬

We will continue to develop a vibrant arts programme, which will engage with the public and foster working partnerships, and an integrated approach to implementing the Arts Plan with the County Development and Heritage Plan. We will work in partnership with commercial promoters and others to explore all opportunities to utilise the county's historic sites for cultural events. We will identify co-productions and collaborations for the long-term development of an enhanced arts infrastructure and develop partnerships with others to develop sustainable independent venues.



# **EVALUATION**

## MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

It is essential that the Fingal Arts Plan 2013 – 17 be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. Ideally, it should be open to constructive criticism and amendment, in order to ensure that it continues to accord with the values of Fingal County Council. The plan should also aspire to meet with the wishes of the people of Fingal, whether they have a strong or passive involvement and interest in the arts. The plan retains a degree of flexibility in order to respond to changing circumstances, new initiatives and ongoing feedback from interested parties engaged in arts participation. The detail of the delivery on the key principles contained in the plan will be embodied in the Community, Culture and Sports Division's Annual Operational Plan.  $\[ \]$ 

# The Fingal Arts Plan will be evaluated in the following ways:

- A progress report will be submitted to the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
  midway through the term of the plan to ensure its ongoing relevance. It will also
  recommend amendments and additions to the existing plan.
- The Arts Office will continue to develop strong links with individuals and arts organisations in Fingal, whose input into the implementation of the plan will be sought.
- The recommendations of the plan will determine the annual Arts Office work plan.
- The principles of 'value for money' will be applied to the implementation of the plan. ¬

# **IMPLEMENTATION**

The Arts Office recognises that the actions set out in this plan are dependent on funding and available resources. The plan will be continuously reviewed and flexible enough to respond to changing circumstances. Accountability and transparency are essential elements of local-authority service provision. The Arts Office will carry out the key principles in this plan over a five-year period. This will be implemented through annual operational plans, and we will monitor and evaluate each programme on an ongoing basis. ×

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Arts Office would like to thank all those who helped in the management, facilitation and consultative processes that have lead to the publication of the Arts Plan for Fingal County Council. 

¬

In particular, the Arts Office wishes to thank:

#### **Members of the Working Group**

Fionnuala May, County Architect Gerry Clabby, Heritage Officer Janet Ivers, Senior Community Officer Ide de Bairtiseil, Senior Executive Officer Rachel Kenny, Senior Planner Shay Barker, Senior Executive Officer Yvonne O'Brien, Senior Executive Librarian Shane Power, Acting Director of the Séamus Ennis Cultural Centre Emer McGowan, Director of Draiocht Rory O'Byrne, County Arts Officer Sarah O'Neill, Deputy County Arts Officer Paul Barnes, Events Manager

# Members of the Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Anne Devitt Councillor Cian O'Callaghan Councillor Darragh Butler Councillor David O'Connor Councillor Mary McCamley Councillor Matthew Waine Councillor Peggy Hamill Councillor Peter Coyle Mr Aidan McGrath, Fingal Comhairle na nÓg Mr Brendan Sherlock, Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum Mr Myles Caulfield, Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum Mr Paul Holden, Feasta Mr Padraig McMahon, Irish Farmers' Association Ms Clodagh O'Donovan, Fingal Community and Voluntary Forum Ms Grainne Maguire, Balbriggan Town Council

The Mayor and Elected Members of: Fingal County Council Fingal Development Board

David O'Connor, County Manager David Smith Oran Dav

Finally, the Arts Office would like to thank all those who took part in the public consultation, and our colleagues in the Community, Culture and Sports Division.

# Consultation Process, Arts Plan

Consultations with participants, facilitators, boards, steering groups and key personnel took place in the context of the pilot projects under this programme. An extensive public consultation took place over a nine-week period, from September to November 2012. These consultations formed the basis for evaluation and review, and fed into the preparation of the draft Fingal County Council Arts Plan 2013–17.

# **Sectoral Consultation**

A copy of the draft plan and a presentation of the Arts Development Programme were delivered to the Elected Members of the Council and the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

#### **Public Consultation**

A copy of the draft plan was available for inspection by the public from 20 May to 17 June 2013 at the following locations:
County Hall, Swords
Grove Road, Blanchardstown
Draíocht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown
Branch Libraries
www.fingalarts.ie
www.fingalarie.

# Arts Sector Consultation

The following arts groups,

organisations and individuals were invited to submit their views on the future development of the arts in Fingal through written submissions:

Active Retirement Ireland Age Action Ireland Age and Opportunity ALONE Anti-Strophe Films Apollo Gallery Applewood Community Centre Architectural Association of Ireland Archway Studios Ardee Concert Band School of Music Ardgillan Community College Ardgillan Creative Writers Artane Band Artane School of Music Asls Theatre Company, Balbriggan Arts Council of Ireland

Balbriggan Clubs Community Centre Ltd Balbriggan Community School Balbriggan and District Historical Society Balbriggan Dramatic Society Balbriggan Educate Together National School Balbriggan Senior Citizens Balbriggan Youthreach Centre Baldoyle Active Retirement Baldoyle Community Hall Baldoyle Family Resource Services Ltd Baldoyle Forum Ltd Baldoyle Musical and Dramatic Society Ballina Arts Centre **Ballyboughal Community Hall** Ballyboughal National School Ballyboughal Senior Citizens **Balrothery Community** Resource Centre **Balrothery Heritage Singers Balrothery OAP Committee** Balscadden and District Community Centre Balscadden National School Balscadden Senior Citizens B.A.S.E., Swords Bayside Writers' Group Beaumont Comhaltas Beech Park Community Centre, Castleknock Black Church Print Studio Black Raven Pipe Band Black Raven Pipe Band School of Drumming Blakestown Community and Resource Centre Blakestown Community School Blakestown Mountview Educational

Opportunities Programme

Blakestown Community School Blakestown Mountview Educational Opportunities Programme Blanchardstown Active Retirement Association Blanchardstown Adult **Education Service** Blanchardstown Community Gospel Choir Blanchardstown Music School and Shop Blanchardstown Youthreach Centre Blanchardstown Youth Service (Foróige)/The Zone Youth Cafe Blanchardstown Youth Theatre Blue Studio, The Boyne School of Music Bracken Educate Together National School Brackenstown School of Music Broadstone Studios Brown Bag Films Brunswick Mill Studios Burrow National School **Butler Gallery** Buzzardstown House, Community Campus Ltd

Care and Repair Programme Carers' Association Cartoon Saloon Castaheany Community Centre Ltd Castaheany Educate Together National School Castleknock Active Retirement Association Castleknock College Castleknock Community Centre Castleknock Community College Castleknock Educate Together National School Castleknock National School Castleknock School of Music Cecilian Theatre Arts Group, The Ceolscoil Na Mí Ceoltoiri Chluain Tarbh Clonee Music Tuition Centre Clonsilla Golden Oldies Clonsilla Hall Clontarf School of Music Coláiste Choilm Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Kinsealy Common Place Studios Computer Clubhouse Coolmine Drama Circle Coolmine Musical Society Coolmine Sports and Leisure Complex Co-Operation Fingal (North) Ltd Corduff Children's Drama Circle Corduff Community Campus Ltd Corduff Community Resource Centre Ltd Corduff Evergreens

Corduff National School

Corduff Sports Centre

Corduff Variety Group

Court Hall Special School

Craobh Seán Treacy CCE

Daffodil Gallery Director Distortion Music Productions Diswellstown Community and Recreation Centre Donabate Community College Donabate Young People's Partnership Donabate/Portrane Community Centre Ltd Donabate/Portrane Educate Together National School Donabate/Portrane Senior Citizens Donabate/Portrane Summer Festival Douglas Hyde Gallery Draíocht Drama Fever, Swords Drogheda Brass Band School of Music Dublin 15 Community Arts Festival **Dublin Airport Active Retirement** Association Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane Duo Chagall

El Zorrero Films Enchiriadis Treis Choir Essence Evergreens Active Retirement

Farmleigh

Federation of Active Retirement Fingal Adult Education Service Fingal Adult Literacy Service Fingal Chamber Choir Fingal Community College Fingal County Council Photographic Group Fingal County Youth Orchestra Fingal Home Care Fingal Home Help Services Ltd Fingal International Foto Group Fingal Photo Group Fingal Senior Citizens' Network Fingal/Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society Fingal's Finest, Swords Fire Station Artists' Studios Foróige, the National Youth Development Organisation Fortlawn Community Facility Friendly Call Service Friends of the Elderly Full Circle Theatre Company

Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín Gaelscoil Bhrian Bóroimhe Gaelscoil an Duinnínigh Gallagher Gallery Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology Garristown Community Centre Garristown Community Council Garristown Historical Society Garristown Senior Citizens/ Tuesday Club Glasnevin North Active Retirement Association Glee Choir Go for Life GoGoshKa Kinkladze Green Gallery, The Green on Red Gallery

Hartstown Community Centre, St. Ciaran's Hartstown Community School Hartstown Day Activity Centre Hedgestown National School Helium Hillside Strand Road Hollystown Golf Club Holmpatrick School Holy Family Junior National School Holy Family Senior National School Holywell Educate Together National School Howth Active Retirement Association Howth Community Drama Group Howth National School Parent Support Group Howth Peninsula Festival Howth Photographic Club Howth Senior Citizens **Huntstown Community Centre** Hyland Gallery

IADT, Kill Avenue
IMMA
Independent Artists' Studios
Information Centre for
Immigrants, Skerries
Inis Rua Song and Dance
Irish Countrywomen's Association
(Arts Committee)
Irish Senior Citizens' Parliament

Jorgensen Fine Art Ltd

Kerlin Gallery Kevin Kavanagh Gallery Kilbride National School Kilcoskan National School Linesealy National School

Ladyswell National School Lambay Singers, Donabate Latvian Association for Latvians in Ireland Limerick School of Art and Design Lodge, The (Clonsilla) Loreto College Loughshinny Community Centre Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society Lusk Active Retirement Group Lusk Community Council Lusk Community Hall Lusk National School Lusk Photographic Group Lusk Senior Citizens Luttrellstown Community School

Magic Carpet Arts Group, Skerries Malahide Camera Club Malahide Comhaltas Malahide Community School Malahide and District Pipe Band Malahide Lions Club Malahide Musical and Dramatic Society Malahide School of Music Malahide Senior Citizens Man-o-War Senior Citizens Marino Music Studio Market Studios, The Mary Mother of Hope National School Mary Queen of Ireland National School Mater Christi Secondary School Mhuire Iosef Junior National School Mhuire Iosef Senior National School Mid-Sutton Community Centre

St. Mary's School Youth Musical

St. Michael's Special School

St. Mochta's National School

St. Mochta's Sports and

Social Complex

St. Michael's House Special National

St. Mologa's Senior National School

St. Oliver Plunkett's National School

St. Patrick's Junior National School

St. Patrick's Senior National School

St. Peregrine's Senior Citizen Network St. Peter and Paul's National School

St. Sylvester's Junior National School

St. Patrick's Boys' National School

St. Patricks' Hall Management

Committee, Ballyboughal

St. Philip the Apostle Junior

St. Philip the Apostle Senior

St. Sylvester's Infant School

St. Teresa's National School

Santry ICA Historical Group

Scoil Chormaic Community

Scoil Naisiúnta Realt na Mara

Scoil Naomh Mochta, Clonsilla

Scoil Rince Cualann, Balbriggan

Scott Tallon Walker Architects

Setanta Community College

Scoil Rince Ni Anglais, Hartstown

School of Photography

National School

Scoil Naomh Mearnóg

Scoil Choilm

Scoil Ghrainne

Scoil Moibhi

Scoil Oilibhéir

Scoil Thomáis

Shay Lally

Séamus Ennis Centre

Sheepmoorians 35

Signal Arts Centre

School Completion Programme

Scoil Bhríde Boys' National School

Scoil Bhríde Girls' National School

Scoil Mhuire Junior National School

Scoil Mhuire Senior National School

Scoil Naomh Mhuire National School

Scoil Phobail Chuil Mhin/Coolmine

National School

National School

Group, Baldoyle

St. Maur's Pipe Band

School, Baldoyle

Molesworth Gallery Monster Truck Gallery and Studios Moore School of Performing Arts Mount Sackville Mountview Family Resource Centre Mountview Fortlawn Community Campus Ltd Mountview Senior Citizens Mountview Youth and Community Centre Mourne View Community Centre, Skerries Mulhuddart Community Centre Ltd Mulhuddart Family Resource Centre Mulhuddart National School Mulhuddart Over-55's Club Mulhuddart Senior Citizens National College of Art and Design National Federation of Pensioners

National College of Art and Design
National Federation of Pensioners
National Gallery of Ireland
National Sculpture Factory
National Youth Council of Ireland
Naul Community Centre/Hall
Naul National School
Naul Senior Citizens
Navan Road Musical and
Dramatic Society
Next Stage Productions
Niall G. Weldon
North Fingal School Completion
Programme

Oberstown Boys' Education Centre
Oberstown Girls' Centre
O'Dwyer Culture Group, Balbriggan
Oisín Gallery
Old Borough National School, Swords
Older and Bolder
Older Women's Network
Oldtown Community Hall
OPW
Oriel Gallery
Original Print Gallery

Pallas Studios Parslickstown House People's Art Hall and John Woodfull Studio Peppercanister Gallery, The Phibblestown Shared Community Facility Phoenix Writers' Group Pinewood Resource Centre, Balbriggan Platform Productions, Castleknock Pobalscoil Neasáin Pope John Paul II National School Porterstown and Clonsilla **Cultural Society** Portmarnock Community School Portmarnock Guild ICA Portmarnock Musical and **Dramatic Society** Portmarnock Singers Project Arts Centre Pure Tone Music School

RAP Project, Balbriggan **Red Lightning Productions** (David Gilna) Red Stables, The Remember Us Social Club Retired Workers' Committee of ICTU Richmond Road Studios Rinceoil Fingal, Rush (Scoil Samhradh Chris Langan) River Valley Community Centre (St. Finian's) River Valley/Rathingle Active Retirement Rivermeade Community Facility Riversdale Community College Rockabill Film Society, Skerries Rockschool Roganscraft Rolestown Hall Community Association Rolestown National School Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland Rubicon Gallery Rush Camera Group Rush Community Centre Rush Dramatic Society (see also Millbank Theatre) Rush Musical Society Rush National School Rush Senior Citizens Rush Youthreach Centre Rush/Lusk Educate Together National School

Sacred Heart National School St. Andrew's National School St. Anne's Afternoon Club St. Benedict's Community Centre, Ongar St. Benedict's National School St. Benedict's Photo Group St. Brendan's National School St. Brigid's Community Centre St. Brigid's National School St. Brigid's Photographic Group St. Catherine's Dance Divas St. Catherine's National School St. Ciarán's National School St. Colmcille's Boys' National School St. Colmcille's Girls' National School St. Dominic's High School/ Santa Sabina St. Finian's Community College St. Fintan's High School St. Fintan's National School St. Francis Xavier Junior National School St. Francis Xavier Senior National School St. George's National School

Skerries 65 Club St. Cronan's Junior National School Skerries Active Retirement St. Cronan's Senior National School Skerries Community Association Festival Committee (Soundwaves) **Skerries Community Centre** Skerries Community College Skerries Day Care (Sheltered Housing Centre) Skerries Patrician Group Skerries Photographic Group Skerries Theatre Group Skerries Tidy Towns Committee Skerries Town Twinning Association St. Helen's Junior National School Skerries Traditional Music Weekend St. Helen's Senior National School Sligo Institute of Technology St. Joseph's Intellectual Disability Society of Recorder Players (Ireland) Service, Portrane Solomon Gallery St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rush Songschool St. Lawrence's Pipe Band (East Stagezone Theatre School Stoneybatter Studios St. Margaret's Active Age Sutton Camera Club St. Margaret's National School Sutton Park School St. Mary's Hospital and Residential Swords Baptist Church School, Baldoyle (St. Michael's Swords Day Centre Senior Citizens House) Swords Educate Together St. Mary's National School National School St. Mary's National School Drama Swords Historical Society Co. Ltd Group, Garristown Swords Irish Conversation Group St. Mary's Secondary School Swords Music Centre Swords Photo Group

Swords School of Music Swords Senior Citizens Swords Youth Cafe Swords Youthreach Centre

Takenote Productions, Howth Taylor Galleries Ltd Temple Bar Gallery and Studio Third Day Chorale, Sutton Thisisnotashop Toccata House Music School Trinity House School Tumbleweed Turning Worm Theatre Company Tyrrelstown Community Centre Tyrrelstown Educate Together National School

U3A Age UCD Belfield University of the Third Age University of Ulster Upper Circle Academy, Skerries

Vista Project Visual Artists Ireland Visual Arts Centre, The

Warrenstown House Special National School

Young at Heart Senior Citizens' Group

26 De Havilland Studios 4M Media

→

In addition, those also consulted through the Fingal database and public consultation were as follows:

Two hundred and seventy-four (274) professional artists; and nine hundred and eighty-six (986) members of the general public who attended Fingal Arts events. Finally an additional nine hundred and eighty-seven (987) responses from the public consultation over nine weeks from September – November 2012.

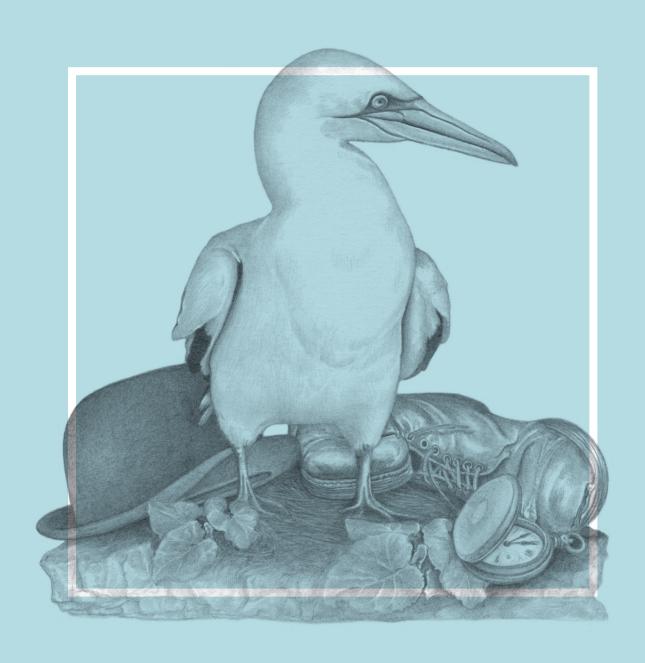
34

An Oifig Ealaíon Comhairle Contae Fhine Ghall Halla An Chontae Sord, Fine Gall Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath

ISBN 978 095 717 2159







**→ WWW.FINGALARTS.IE** ←