



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



Creative Ireland Programme

Fingal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018- 2022

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Creative Fingal

Culture and Creativity Strategy for the **Creative Ireland** Programme in Fingal

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Foreword



I am delighted to launch the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022, a four-year plan for Fingal under the Creative Ireland Programme, which will provide a framework for ongoing engagement between the community, creative practitioners and Fingal County Council.

Over the past year, I have been inspired by the level of participation by the community in the Creative Fingal Programme, opening with the inaugural Cruinniú na Cásca in Swords Castle at Easter, when over 4,000 people turned out to celebrate culture and creativity in Fingal. Moreover, I personally had the pleasure, as Mayor of Fingal, of launching the annual 2017 Creative Fingal Programme at Swords Castle in the company of An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. where we were treated to a showcase of the emerging talent of our young and diverse community through song, rap and dance.

Our community and local groups have continued to demonstrate their commitment to contributing to culture and creativity by running festivals and events and availing of support through Arts, Community and Events funding.

My colleagues on the Council have been hugely supportive, participating in consultation events and attending the many creative cultural activities across the county.

In December 2017, An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D., together with the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms. Josepha Madigan, T.D., the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D., and Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe T.D., launched Creative Ireland's comprehensive Creative Youth plan. This is very exciting news for us particularly as we have the fastest growing young population in the country; 29% of the population in Fingal is under the age of 18 years, and 16% of Fingal residents are from new communities. We also welcome the new plans for Cruinniú, which will be a national day for children. We look forward to the opportunities this will present to engage with our children and young people in Fingal to celebrate culture and creativity.

I strongly believe in the core proposition of the National Programme, that participating in cultural activity drives personal and collective creativity, with significant benefits for individual and societal well-being.

I am delighted to launch this strategy which identifies strategic priorities and a range of innovative and creative, collaborative projects. This will facilitate the sustained impact of the Creative Fingal initiative, beyond the life of the annual programmes of events, through on-going public engagement and interagency collaboration with a range of stakeholders across all sectors in Fingal.

Cllr Mary McCamley
Mayor of Fingal



The Creative Ireland Programme is built around the themes of identity, culture and citizenship with core operating principles of Collaboration and Communication, Community Empowerment, and Internationalisation. Local authorities have a crucial role in the overall local delivery of the programme and are exclusively mandated, through their culture teams, to deliver Pillar 2 of the programme – Enabling Creativity in Every Community.

Fingal has the fastest growing and youngest population in Ireland. The county is ethnically and culturally diverse with 16% of the population born outside of Ireland. We have a well-educated and skilled workforce to support economic development and innovation and a vibrant and active community of creative practitioners and artists.

Since the Council embarked on the Creative Fingal Programme in 2017, the Creative Culture Team, which brings together expertise in arts, heritage, biodiversity, conservation, community, sport, libraries, technology and tourism, has led the delivery of a diverse and exciting programme to increase engagement for all of our citizens with creativity and culture. The support and collaboration of a range of stakeholders has allowed the Creative Fingal Programme to grow and flourish and is critical to its success.

In 2017 innovative initiatives ranged from community archaeology digs at Swords and Bremore Castles to Resort Revelations involving artistic and academic residencies at Lynder's Mobile Home Park in Portrane. The Library STEAM Programme offered opportunities for young people to engage creatively through coding, lego and working with 3D printers, while developing and applying their science, maths and technology skills. We are committed to continuing to support the wellbeing of our community, through providing opportunities for creativity, and engagement with the rich culture of Fingal.

Our unique community and culture are at the heart of this strategy which, guided by public consultation, provides us with a roadmap to continue to develop inclusive programmes that provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds, across the county to develop their creativity and enhance their wellbeing through engaging in culture and arts in the broadest sense.

Guided by the priorities identified in the Fingal Culture and Creativity Strategy, we will deliver another annual programme to celebrate culture and creativity in Fingal for 2018, which is the European Year of Cultural Heritage. We will continue to search for fresh opportunities to collaborate and engage the community in creativity through our arts, libraries, sports, heritage and community programmes. For example, April 18th International Day of Monuments and sites, will focus on the theme of youth, and we look forward to engaging our young population in exploring cultural heritage and creativity.

This strategy has been drawn up in parallel with the development of the National Youth Mental Health Taskforce Report and it is envisaged that a number of the Creative Ireland measures will complement other actions in the community by supporting 'youth friendly' spaces, sporting and cultural facilities that are conducive to promoting good mental health.

We firmly believe that the implementation of the Fingal Culture and Creativity strategy will lead to a better Fingal and are firmly committed to delivering an exciting and meaningful programme.

Paul Reid
Chief Executive

3 **Culture and Creativity in Fingal**

Fingal has a rich cultural, natural, archaeological and architectural heritage that defines and inspires the people that live, study, work and visit here. It is visible in the extensive coastline, rolling countryside, native wildlife and plants, ancient monuments, historic houses and vernacular thatched cottages. It is heard in the local histories, music, colloquialisms (derived from “Fingallian Speech”), folklore traditions and stories. It is tasted in the produce from our centuries old horticulture, agriculture and fishing industries where even in medieval times Fingal is noted as supplying food for Dublin city and its hinterland.

The passage tombs of Bremore, the medieval settlements at Swords and Lusk, and the castles, heritage houses, demesnes and designed landscapes at Malahide and Ardgillan and the distinctive thatched houses of the north county reflect a strong history of creativity and culture.

In the last twenty years the population has grown by close to 80% and Fingal is now a vibrant County with a young and diverse population and an active community of artists and creative practitioners and strong interest among the community in culture.

The diverse nature of creativity and culture in Fingal is reflected in the traditions of the past which have evolved into the cultural landscape of the present. This creative tradition, is evident in vernacular buildings and the use of traditional skills such as thatching. Innovation and creativity will be central to the process of design of the Swords Cultural Quarter, which will be a hub for culture and creativity in the county.

A long-standing tradition of performance and celebration of culture can be traced from the plays of the ‘Mummers’ on St Stephen’s Day, to the many active amateur dramatics groups of today and the growing and vibrant range of local festivals celebrating the coast, the harvest and other aspects of local heritage.

Fingal has a strong tradition of music reflected in events like the annual Soundwaves festival in Skerries and in the cultural connections to Seamus Ennis, renowned uilleann piper and poet. A longstanding tradition of pipe bands in the county was highlighted during the Centenary Commemorations when the Black Raven band, which was co-founded by Thomas Ashe, played at a range of events including the Centenary of his death in 2017. The launch of the Creative Ireland Fingal Programme for 2017 was an opportunity to Showcase emerging talent in the County, including singer-songwriter Soulé.

Fingal has a vibrant visual arts sector among both the amateur and professional arts sectors. The sheer scale and diversity of the county of Fingal has always required the artist to take a

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broad overview of its rural, urban and coastal profiles and by way of exploration, journey through them physically and metaphorically.

Creative hubs

Draíocht Arts Centre and the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre, both funded through the Arts Office and owned by Fingal County Council, produce year-round programmes of events and performance, exhibitions and educational programmes. Both Arts Centre are beacons of culture and creativity and act as hubs of creativity for all communities in Fingal.

The evolving role of Local Authorities has resulted in an increased role for the Council in supporting economic development, closer involvement in community and local development, and a broad co-ordination and leadership role locally. This is reflected in key projects such as the restoration of Swords Castle, which lies at the heart of the planned Swords Cultural Quarter, a major infrastructural development for creativity and culture in the county. This exciting new project will respond to the needs of creative practitioners, encourage clustered cultural activity, and provide a hub for community engagement with arts, creativity and heritage.

The Arts Office

Under the 2003 Arts Act, Fingal County Council is required by legislation to publish a current arts development plan. This will contextualise the current national and local arts landscape in relation to the national Culture Ireland strategy and Culture 2025. The approach to arts provision within this context will be built into the research methodology for the Fingal Arts Plan 2018 – 2025 and will be done in parallel with the Arts Council Framework Agreement 2018-2025.

Fingal Arts Office will engage in a number of consultative activities which will encourage participation in the future direction of arts provision in Fingal and will design opportunities for citizens and stakeholders to take part in creative thinking and action-based research. The Arts Office will draw on a wide range of expertise nationally & internationally as consideration is given to new models of arts provision in the cultural public realm. With this approach the Arts Office are entering into the Arts Council Framework Agreement 2018-2025 to develop work in the areas which underpin shared interests, and which will also reflect many of the core values of Creative Ireland.

Four key policy areas from the current 2013-2017 Fingal Arts Plan will be adopted, which are relevant as an approach in designing the methodology for the forthcoming Arts Plan and Arts Council Framework agreement.

1. Arts Support

Creative places, artistic practice, artform development, funding, residencies

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2. **Infrastructure & Policy**

Creative places, studios, strategy, production, dissemination, policy development

3. **Public Participation/Access & Audience Engagement**

Creativity in communities, children & young people, evaluation, funding

4. **Partnerships**

National, international, institutional, public & private, policy development, across artform and thematic within areas of responsibilities, creative places, engagement, wellbeing, children & young people

Supporting artists

It is estimated that there are 145 professional artists living and working in Fingal at present. The Fingal Art's Office also supports the creative community of the county with the annual Artists' Support Scheme, the objective of which is to support individual professional artists from Fingal to develop their artistic practise. The award seeks to provide time and resources to think, research, reflect and engage with artistic practice and is open to practising artists at all stages in their professional careers working in music, visual art, drama, literature and dance.

Fingal County Council 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. This facilitates unique opportunities for artists to explore towns and communities in new and meaningful ways, and to tell stories about where and how we live now.

Infrastructure 2017 — 2021 invites artists to see anew, to visit and return, to listen to histories and people, tracing the patterns that make connections and comparisons between local and global, with Fingal placed as a microcosm of an ever-changing world.

Young people

As Fingal, has the youngest and fastest growing population in Ireland a key aspect of the Creative Fingal Programme will be to enhance existing programmes that help to build capacity to support creativity and develop new initiatives for young people.

The Fingal Arts Office have developed an extensive range of innovative programmes for young people including Space Invaders and Room 13 Enquiry. Space Invaders at Farmleigh is a creative programme for children aged 0-5 years and their adults that recognises the importance of supporting the artistic learning, development and wellbeing of children, their carers and educators.

Room 13 Inquiry is a collaborative art education programme that assists schools in Fingal to investigate the concept of hosting an art studio for their students. It is inspired by the renowned *Room 13 International* project and includes the provision of dedicated art studio space and an artist-in-residence in each school. In addition, a series of programmed visits to

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artists' studios & exhibitions are scheduled for the students to engage with contemporary art in different contexts.

Each school studio operates differently and is responsive to the interests, needs and imaginations of the children and artists involved. The studios act as a space where people can share ideas, expertise, facilities, and responsibilities and make art during the school day. The development of pupils' entrepreneur and enterprise skills is an important element of the programme.

Reflections on Room 13

It has been interesting and uplifting to see that the pupils, in particular the senior pupils, have adopted a respectful attitude to the studio. Rather than taking advantage of the freedom offered within the studio and wasting the opportunity afforded to them, they have embraced this and used this in the spirit with which it was intended. They experiment, explore and enjoy the process rather than focusing solely on the end product.

Renee Moran, Visual Arts Coordinator in Scoil Bhríde Cailíní

It's not a regular studio environment, as the average age of those I share with are 8-11 years old but it is a perfectly dynamic and rich one, offering daily crits, posing meaningful aesthetic challenges, providing an enthusiastic and vocal audience for developing work... The conversations we share are a mixture of student –teacher technical inquiry, philosophical wonderings, aesthetic meanderings probing the nature of the arts and life. It is a generous and honest environment.

Artist, Orla Kelly

'Room 13 is not an ordinary place'

'Room 13 is a place where you can express your feelings'

'I think about art in a different way now'

Students involved in Room 13

Creativity in the broadest sense

Creativity in Fingal is not limited to the arts, music and literature but extends in to creative thinking across a range of disciplines including fashion, design, science technology and engineering. This is reflected in our industrial heritage and in the businesses that choose to locate in Fingal.

The county traditions of horticulture, agriculture influenced design of the Silver Gilt Medal winning Bremore Medieval Garden at 'Bloom in the Park' 2016, a collaboration project initiated by Fingal County Council in conjunction with the lecturers and students of the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown (ITB). The medieval theme took inspiration from the history of Bremore Castle, the area's association with St Mologa, a Seventh Century Irish saint long renowned for beekeeping. The design highlighted skills such as wood carving and stone

building and used recycled stone from the Bremoore Castle site, local willow from Skerries for edges of raised beds, and Irish handmade grass bee hives (skeps).

The thread of creativity in Fingal runs through community engagement and is demonstrated in innovative partnerships, such as the one between the Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown and Fingal Public Participation Network. Using workshops, conducted through the creative medium of story-telling, the project explored what wellbeing means to residents of Fingal and acted as a catalyst to promote further acts of wellbeing and creativity.

The role of cultural heritage as a key contributor to social cohesion, the sustainability of our towns, cities, villages and rural areas and to the character and attractiveness of places is recognised in Project Ireland 2040, the Government's overarching policy to make Ireland a better country for all of us.

Consultation

This strategy is informed by a process of consultation including;

- Public consultation meetings and invitation for online submissions
- *Your Say, Your Way* consultation with young people involved in creative programmes at Draocht, in Dublin 15
- Cross departmental staff ideas storming workshops and staff information lunchtime sessions

A greater focus on community engagement and consultation, is now a core aspect of Fingal County Councils work. New methods for public consultations, including for example, the *Your Say, Your Way* consultation with young people involved in creative programmes at Draocht in Dublin 15, are being applied to inform the development of strategies including the Creative Ireland programme and the Heritage Plan. Participants descriptions reflect the broad nature of creativity encompassing creative ideas, making and doing, rather than a narrow definition of 'art'.

'Something that you can use to make something unique or different'

'Thinking laterally, finding connections, experimenting and looking for new ways to do things'

'Your imagination running wild and forming ideas that are your own'

'Dancing, drawing, writing and being imaginative'

'A way of expressing who you are and your own unique self'

'An expression of your thoughts or feelings through a creative medium. It is to think outside the proverbial box'

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg also took part in consultation on developing the Heritage Plan and had suggestions about engaging people, with an emphasis on interactive, fun and hands on approaches integrated into existing festivals and events.

The public consultation meeting at the outset of the process of developing this strategy revealed aspects of the Creative Ireland programme that appeal to the community.

‘Speak our story in a positive way, find a forum for people to tell the narrative in whatever medium they want’.

Attendees broadly welcomed the Creative Ireland initiative as a way to raise the profile of arts, and saw the community led, democratised, not all high level but ‘ground level’ approach that recognises the contribution of culture and creativity to wellbeing as strengths.

‘Community artists have been saying this stuff for years’

‘It will make creativity, culture and arts part of everyday life ‘like going to the cinema’

‘When it’s sewn, roots will grow and it will develop on its own’

Attendees welcomed opportunities to network, forums for discussion, the linking of heritage and arts and the focus on children and young people.

‘Huge artistic intellectual property in Fingal, often working in a silo’

‘Access to tuition really struck a chord’

Concerns were voiced about resources and the impact on the role and livelihood of the professional artist, and the need for additional supports for artists was raised.

‘We need to be honest, rhetoric needs to be matched by investment in professional artists’

When asked what the Council can do to support community engagement provision of accessible, interactive, creative community spaces, both indoors and outdoors across the county was identified as a priority. The importance of inclusion was stressed.

‘There are experts and then those who just want to take part. Initiate participation by the wider public, the super-duper ones will get there anyway’

‘Broaden to include sports, music...’

‘Make it Fingal-wide, link east and west of the county, mix old and new residents and include people who are not from Fingal’

Fingal - Creative Ireland

At the start of the Creative Fingal programme, Fingal County Council hosted a day of free family fun and creativity at Swords Castle for the inaugural Cruinniú na Cásca on April 17th, 2017. A host of local artists, craft-makers and artisan producers displayed their creative wares as part of the family friendly Easter Market. The recently refurbished surroundings of the historic Swords Castle created the perfect backdrop for the council's Easter Monday activities which included live music and entertainment, children's arts and crafts and more.

There was an opportunity to learn more about the history of Swords and its heritage sites, including Swords Castle, St. Columba's Round & Square Towers, St. Colmcille's Well, Peter Wilson's Bridge and the Carnegie Library, from the open top bus tours which ran on the day. The event was attended by over 4,000 people and demonstrated the high level of willingness among our community to engage with culture and creativity.

4 The Creative Ireland Vision for Fingal

'The vision of Creative Ireland is that every person living in Ireland will have the opportunity to fully realise his or her creative potential. The vision is pursued through the Five-Pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme:

Pillar 1: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Pillar 2: Enabling Creativity in Every Community

Pillar 3: Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure

Pillar 4: The Creative Industries: Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production

Pillar 5: Unifying our Global Reputation

Participation and access are central to the vision. Connecting artists and other creators to communities is also regarded as essential to realising the vision'

In developing strategic priorities for the Fingal Culture and Creativity Plan, the Culture Team have been mindful of the importance of access and participation and this is reflected in the focus on providing space for culture and creativity, mapping culture in Fingal, and communicating and promoting culture and creativity in an effective and sustained fashion.

Development of the Fingal model of support for artists and creative practitioners, will build capacity for connecting artists and other creators to communities. Innovative initiatives, such as the Fingal STEAM programme, will draw on the resources and expertise available in local industry, business and third level institutions and highlight the creative nature of not just the arts but science, technology, engineering and maths.

The Creative Fingal programme, which will stimulate natural curiosity, enhance understanding and foster understanding, is both novel and strategic in a nature, with potential to deliver the vision of the programme.

5 The Creative Ireland Values in Fingal

Collaboration and coordination

The process of developing the Creative Ireland Programme for Fingal has been built on collaboration. The Fingal Creative Culture Team, drawn together from across the Council, mirrors the high level, high ambition, interdepartmental approach taken by national government. The Creative Culture Team, established in 2017, will continue to bring a range of expertise to bear and lead the development and implementation of an annual Creative Culture Programme for Fingal.

The Creative Ireland Coordinator is responsible for overall co-ordination to align with the national Creative Ireland Programme and other relevant national strategies and to facilitate cross department and cross stakeholder working to ensure the aims and the objectives of the plan are delivered. This will include liaising between the national Programme Co-ordinator and the Creative Culture Team, Fingal on programme requirements e.g. branding, consultation, reporting and deadlines, and overseeing delivery of these as required.

The level of collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders achieved to date is reflected in the diverse programme that showcases creativity in Fingal from Space Invaders Early Years Creative Programme at Farmleigh House and the Big Sports Quiz, in primary schools, to the Fingal Fleadh Reunion on the Main Street of Swords and the Flúirse Fingal Garden at Bloom. Fingal County Council will continue to collaborate with stakeholders as this is vital to successful implementation of this strategy.

Communication

From the outset it was clear that a key aspect of engaging the community in the programme would be effective communication. This was achieved through consultation, to elicit the views of both the public and creative practitioners and development of a communications strategy. The programme will promoted through a range of digital and traditional media and the innovative projects such as Fingal, In Creative Conversation, Through the medium of film, diverse conversations about creativity in Fingal will be recorded and shared online and in stakeholder communications over the course of the five year programme. This will build a digital repository of the developing, dynamic and unique creative culture of Fingal and reflect the views of the diverse range of people involved in our creative conversation. Communication

and promotion are identified as a strategic priority in this plan and will continue to form an intrinsic aspect of programme planning and delivery.

Community

Fingal has one of the largest, fastest growing and youngest populations of any county in Ireland and is ethnically and culturally diverse. The vibrancy and diversity of our culture is one of our greatest assets, but integration is one of our biggest challenges. Fingallians have a strong desire to engage with culture and arts and recent research commissioned by Fingal County Council reveals the things people value and regard as distinctive about Fingal include its heritage, culture and open spaces. This was also reflected in the high level of interest and enthusiasm for engaging with Creative Fingal; over 4000 people attended the Crinniú na Casca event alone. Our unique community are at the heart of this strategy and programmes that provide opportunities for people of all ages, social and ethnic groups, across the county to develop their creativity and enhance their wellbeing through engaging in culture and arts in the broadest sense.

Participation, Inclusivity and Empowerment.

The Programme offers opportunities for participation by people of all ages across the county from large events like Flavours of Fingal and the Fingal show garden at Bloom to community festivals and initiatives with cultural and creative dimensions including Sheeplawn Rubyfest, Mayfest in Baldoyle and the Fingal Festival of Fire. Creative Fingal Grants have supported community groups including Men's Shed, Musical and Historical Societies in creative endeavours and will continue to do so. Through events such as Balbriggan Taste of Nations, the programme will continue to encourage participation of new and migrant communities in the celebration of culture in the County.

6 The Strategic Priorities for Fingal

Strategic Priorities for Fingal

Based on feedback through consultation with the public, creative practitioners and staff within Fingal County the following strategic priorities have been identified for implementation over the course of the plan. These priorities will be the main areas of focus for delivering the vision of the Creative Ireland Programme between 2018-2022.

The strategic priorities align with and support the delivery of the individual culture and creativity plans for Fingal and provide a platform for enhanced cross departmental collaboration by Arts, Sports, Heritage, Libraries, Community Development, Built

Environment, Information Technology, Parks and Economic Development and Tourism. Furthermore, they present opportunities for synergy and added value.

These innovative and creative, collaborative projects have been selected as they facilitate sustained impact of the Creative Fingal initiative, beyond the life of the annual programmes of events. Delivery of the programme will require on-going public engagement and interagency collaboration with a range of stakeholders across all sectors in Fingal.

1. Develop the Fingal Model of support to artists and creative practitioners (Suggested lead: Economic Development in collaboration with the Arts Office)

During consultation it became evident that creative practitioners, who are key to the delivery of pillars one and two of the Creative Ireland Programme, require financial and practical supports to sustain their professional practice. A creative practitioners' forum would facilitate collaboration across disciplines, for example encouraging artists to work with heritage practitioners or STEAM practitioners. The Council's Economic Development and Tourism Department will collaborate with the Arts Office, Heritage Office and others as required to deliver this programme.

Implementation actions

- **Establish stakeholder group** Review available data on needs analysis and consult with artists and creative practitioners to identify what extra supports they need to develop their practice (e.g. childcare, cooperatives, usable spaces etc.)
- **Devise sustainable models of support for artists and creative practitioners** The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) could support start-ups and SMEs which are creativity-based, e.g. designers, architects, fashion, food, maker spaces.
- **Provide income assistance for artists** LCDCs SICAP provider have indicated they are considering a pilot with the Department of Social Protection which identifies artists as a group whose employment and income is vulnerable, and which may require specific interventions and support to assist more sustainable creative practices.
- **Explore opportunities for funding young and emerging creative practitioners in Fingal.**
- **Actively promote our local artists both at home and abroad, nationally and globally.**
- **Examine opportunities to support Creative Practitioners presented by Swords Cultural Quarter development.**

2. Develop and provide space for culture or creativity in Fingal

Provide space for community engagement and culture by optimising use of heritage properties, parks, community space, existing Fingal County Council resources, programmes and events, and other facilities and spaces for creative activity and cultural engagement. The desire for accessible, interactive, creative community spaces and open-air space across the county emerged through the public consultation process, which engaged the community and creative practitioners.

Implementation actions

- **Support/develop creative hubs** Infrastructure, studios, creative space for artists, gallery spaces, rehearsal space for bands; The **Swords Cultural Quarter** is a key opportunity to do this.
- **Use the pop-up model for arts, culture and creative events** In Fingal County Council properties such as the heritage houses, libraries, the Atrium of County Hall, Swords, artist in residence spaces, in vacant buildings, in community centres and spaces, at events like Flavours of Fingal.
- **Programme of inclusive play, similar to Playful Cities** to be developed by Parks, Operations and Heritage Houses.

3. Design and implement the Fingal STEAM programme in collaboration with third level institutions and Industry

A broad definition of creativity lies at the heart of the Creative Ireland Programme, which is not limited to the arts, but recognises the creativity that lies at the core of other disciplines such as science, technology, engineering and maths. The recent STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026, from the Department of Education and Skills, notes the strong linkage between STEM and arts education, which fosters design, creativity and innovation. Ongoing educational reform recognises the importance of young people being able to apply creativity, knowledge and skills in real life situations. In Fingal we have a unique opportunity to foster development of creativity and scientific literacy among our young and diverse population, which in turn will feed a talent pipeline for STEM and IT industries in the county and stimulate demand for STEM courses. Parents are key influencers and supporting development of scientific capital in families and an awareness of the opportunities that STEM presents is vital. Events programmes and Fingal County Council properties, arts centres and libraries can be leveraged to promote STEAM public engagement. Delivery of the programme will be contingent on collaboration with third level, industry and engagement of expert science communication practitioners.

Implementation actions

- **Roll out of a fun, sustainable STEAM programme** that is both novel and strategic in nature across the library network and in council venues during 2018, for example:
 - Explore development of Maker spaces in libraries within the lifetime of the plan.
 - Creative use of new technologies such as 3d printing will continue with a new 3d printing service offered in Blanchardstown library in 2018.
 - Host workshops in the new mobile library vans at Council and Community events during the summer months with a strong emphasis on making, creativity and STEAM.
 - Deliver career talks to 2nd level, junior cycle students in Fingal libraries in April and September in conjunction with the ITB. Talks will also be held for parents in order to demystify choices around STEM college courses and careers.
 - Host a seminar in Fingal libraries where STEM professionals talk about their experiences in a range of careers including the defence forces, medicine and technology.
 - A further library STEAM project focussing on the Fishing villages of Fingal with possible funding from FLAG is being explored. This project will deliver a series of workshops in fishing villages around Fingal: Balbriggan, Rush and Skerries. The workshops will be heavily STEAM based and will concentrate on lifelong learning and community engagement. Use of the mobile libraries as a classroom is a feature of this project.
 - ITB students will work with older people, through networks such as Fingal Public Participation Network and Fingal Seniors' Forum to develop creative engineering and technological solutions to real world problems, for example, to facilitate older people staying in their homes for longer.
 - Sinewave workshops for 8 – 15 year olds, in the Atrium of County Hall Swords, to explore the science of sound through sampling, synthesising, rapping and radio podcasts. The project will culminate in an annual showcase event in Swords Castle.
 - Pilot STEM-in-a-Box programme in disadvantaged schools in Balbriggan in partnership with Balbriggan Chamber of Commerce

4. Assess significant cultural collections in Fingal and plan for their care and conservation with appropriate public display and access

Find opportunities to secure a sustainable future for significant cultural collections in Fingal, including those in museums (e.g. National Transport Museum, Howth) and in the Council's ownership.

Implementation actions

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- Conduct feasibility studies, to identify opportunities in this regard.
- Formulate business cases as appropriate.
- Devise policy with regard to FCC collections e.g. acquisitions & divesting policy; inventorying & cataloguing; Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) participation.

5. Mapping Culture in Fingal

Perform a cultural mapping analysis of culture and creativity in Fingal. Cross departmental collaboration will be required involving tourism, heritage, arts, built environment, parks and community in this audit and mapping process. This will ensure that work in this regard done to date is used and a comprehensive, dynamic data set is compiled.

Implementation actions

- **Develop a digital map of culture and creativity:** Carry out mapping exercise in collaboration with the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown (ITB); a project proposal is currently being developed for a Creative Fingal App, which will map creative spaces, practitioners and events in the County.
- **Develop a database of working artists/creative people**
- **Identify available space for culture or creativity:** Community centres, Libraries, Boathouses (Loughshinny), Art centres, Martello towers and schools. Make community spaces, like sports halls more open to other uses.

6. Communication and promotion of Creative Fingal

Effective and sustained communication will be key to successful and sustained public engagement throughout the life of a dynamic and evolving Creative Fingal Programme. A multi stranded approach is being adopted using communication through traditional and digital media, consultation and engaging stakeholders in a creative conversation.

Implementation actions

- **Promote and develop the Creative Fingal Section of fingal.ie** This will become a one stop shop for individuals or groups for creative and cultural information.
- **Create awareness of Creative Fingal among stakeholders** An ongoing campaign will be devised to promote awareness of Creative Fingal among stakeholders using a range of traditional and digital media including social media, press releases and media interviews.
- **Provide a forum for discussion of Creativity** To facilitate ongoing consultation and engagement a forum will be held annually to discuss Creativity within Fingal. The forum would facilitate updates on the delivery of the plan and could include guest

speakers or workshops to stimulate an open discussion on ways to develop creativity within the community in Fingal.

- **Facilitate and develop the Fingal Model of ‘Creative Conversations’** A digital repository of the developing, dynamic and unique creative culture of Fingal will be built and will reflect the views of the diverse range of people involved in our creative conversations. These conversations will be filmed in collaboration with ITB. The Culture Team. Representatives from across the Council, will engage in conversation with creative practitioners such as artists, sculptors, musicians, photographers, architects, chefs, garden designers and sports coaches as well as people engaged in crafts, gardening, painting, woodwork and building. This will facilitate connectivity between the Local Authority, creative practitioners and the community, while also showcasing the rich cultural heritage and creativity of Fingal. This will be an ongoing project throughout the lifetime of the Creative Fingal programme and conversations will be housed on the Fingal County Council You Tube channel with links from the website and social media channels.

7. Devise and implement the Fingal Commemorations Programme 2018-2023

Creative Ireland grew out of the success and positive public response to the 2016 Commemorations with numerous events organised across the county by local communities and local authorities in addition to the state ceremonies. Following a public consultation process in late 2017 Fingal County Council is preparing a Fingal Commemorations Programme 2018-2023 which will be launched later this year. Given the Council’s experience with the 2016 Commemorations of the wide-ranging and diverse nature of commemorations events it is expected that the Fingal Commemorations Programme 2018-2023 will require the involvement of a number of Council Departments and so all of the Culture Team and others in the organisation all have a key role in the implementation of the programme.

Implementation actions

- **Deliver a Fingal Commemorations Programme of events 2018-2023**

7. Implementation in 2018

Based on outputs the consultation process the Culture Team devised a draft Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022. Endorsement for the strategy was sought from, Executive Management Team, the Strategic Policy Committee and Full Council Meetings.

The Creative Ireland Coordinator for Fingal and the Culture Team will lead the implementation of the Culture and Creativity Strategy for Fingal, to inspire others to participate in cultural activity, in order to drive personal and collective creativity and wellbeing. The team will promote the Programme both within the Council and across the community of Fingal and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to maximise widespread awareness of, and engagement with, the Creative Fingal Programme.

The Chief Executive and the Director of Housing and Community with responsibility for culture, will act as champions for the Creative Fingal Programme and promote stakeholder engagement, both internal and external to the Council.

The following are the key implementation actions for 2018.

- Publish Fingal Culture and Creativity Strategy
- Develop a digital map of culture and creativity
- Provide a forum for discussion of Creativity
- Facilitate and develop the Fingal Model of ‘Creative Conversations’
- Fingal STEAM Programme
- International Day of Monuments and Sites 2018
- Architectural Heritage Fund Project 2018 - Stained Glass works of Harry Clarke in Fingal
- Community Archaeology Strategy 2018 & Programme of Events
- European Year of Cultural Heritage Events
- Fingal Community Group/Person Awards Scheme, creative category
- Explorations in Swords with Anu Productions, interactive performance
- Commence assessment of significant cultural collections in Fingal and plan for their care and conservation with appropriate public display and access