

Engage
Experiment
Learn
Share
Embed



About us

We connect people and communities through culture and conversation.

When people feel connected to their communities they feel safer and stronger, and are healthier.

Our vision

A Dublin where culture connects everything and everyone.

Our mission

Connecting people through culture and conversation to ignite imaginations and experiences.

We run cultural initiatives and buildings across the city with, and for, the people of Dublin.

Dublin City Council Culture Company was incorporated in March 2018, to build on our work through *Dublin's Culture Connects* (2016 - 2018). We collaborate with people, communities, cultural organisations, businesses and Dublin City Council to embed cultural experiences and increase cultural participation throughout Dublin.

Our goals

We have identified five goals which we will strive to achieve over the next five years. Working with, through and for people in Dublin we will:

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Our values

We are led by our values. They guide what we do and how we do it.

Participation

We make culture real. We connect, activate and support people to revel in their imagination and creativity.

Partnership

We know we are stronger together. We are a catalyst, bringing people and organisations together to grow knowledge, understanding and respect.

Relevance

We believe culture is at the heart of human development and quality of life. We aim to embed culture in the everyday life of the city.

Capacity-Building

We appreciate learning. We develop and share new ways of working that enable everyone to create more connections to culture.

Quality

We do everything in the best way possible. We find and use knowledge, experience and skills to build impact, quality and sustainability into every project.

Engage

“ I can say, 'Yeah I done that, I was part of that!' Because if you've done a bit of it, even one little bit of it, you own that and I think it roots you into a place. ”

Participant, The National Neighbourhood

Engage

Engaging with the people of Dublin is at the heart of everything we do. All our programmes come from year-round conversations with the people of Dublin, putting them front and centre.

We want everyone in Dublin to find, access, and benefit from a wide range of cultural experiences. We want to build ways for people to see and make culture in their place, with people they know.

To achieve this, we will:

Listen to people, learning about and responding to what matters to them.

Invite people - in a personal, open and genuine way - to connect, culturally and creatively, with their place and their city.

Generate the conditions for people to access culture more easily and confidently.

Make cultural projects together with people, based on their stories, wishes and experiences.

How do we know we have succeeded?

We have connected regularly with people and been responsive to their cultural interests.

With our partners, we have opened up new ways for people to engage with culture. People have visited a cultural place for the first time, visited more often or engaged in deeper ways.

People feel more confident making cultural choices. They trust us enough to join us and each other on a cultural journey.

We have made cultural projects and connected creative makers with different people and in more places.



Experiment

“ It took me completely out of my comfort zone but in a good way ”

Participant, Culture Club

Experiment

We are a test-bed for cultural ideas: we make and nurture new things.
We know we don't know best: we are open to ideas coming from anywhere.
We are not afraid of the unfamiliar.

We want to try new things to build deeper cultural and social experiences.

To achieve this, we will:

Create opportunities for individuals and communities to try out their own ideas.

Initiate new projects, programmes and properties that make Dublin a more vibrant cultural place.

Test new methods, models and approaches to culture and society.

Partner with our peers to think bigger, expand horizons and grow the city's cultural ecosystem.

How do we know we have succeeded?

We have created opportunities for individuals and communities to try out their own ideas. Our projects have reflected the full breath of culture.

We have initiated responsive, once-off projects and also slower, longer programmes that people perceive to be culturally vibrant.

We have road-tested new ideas with local, national and international partners.

Our partners see us as influential in expanding cultural horizons and developing cultural access in Dublin.

Learn

“ I love to learn about people, I want to understand them. I want to see what we can do together. ”

Participant, Local Heroes

Learn

We are a learning organisation. We seek out and inject the best thinking available into our work to ensure its relevance and quality.

We want to explore and discover, with others, to continually improve what we do. We want to understand, support and strengthen the city's cultural and community sectors to expand their impact and legacy.

To achieve this, we will:

Consult widely and appropriately in the development of our programmes.

Access skills, knowledge and good practice to make everything we do the best it can be.

Record our work and methods to evaluate outcomes, build sustainability and inform future work.

Activate learning opportunities and invest in training to continually improve our impact.

How do we know we have succeeded?

We have built citizen consultation, participant feedback systems and review mechanisms into all projects.

We have established and regularly consult with advisory panels on culture, heritage, accessibility and more.

We have been finding and learning from the best practices of others.

We have created programmes and projects in which everyone participating has learned by doing.



Share

“ Well it helped us, like, make our minds more vivid. ”

Participant, The National Neighbourhood

Share

We value people, culture and place equally. We recognise that everyone is already involved in culture in their own way.

We want to activate more and different ways for people to be culturally engaged. We want to protect, share and add to the cultural story of the city.

To achieve this, we will:

Make visible the city's cultural buildings, organisations and networks as well as our own work.

Make it easier for all who live in, work in and visit the city to access culture safely and in comfort.

Pass on our research, case studies and learning to contribute to national and international discussions.

Celebrate the people of the city and their many stories.

How do we know we have succeeded?

We have reached a broad range of people.

More people are aware of the rich cultural landscape of the city and how they can access it.

We have implemented our action plans to make our organisation and our activities more accessible.

We have presented our learning at national and international forums and developed platforms to share learning resources and case studies.

We have gathered a digital and physical archive of stories reflecting the diverse culture of the city.

Embed

“ So now I feel that this is all my city. I think if you connect with something, whether you are born here, whether you're from a different country, a different continent, a different age group; if you connect with something and it touches you and it makes you feel stronger, it's yours. ”

Participant, The National Neighbourhood

Embed

We develop projects with a view to having a multiplier effect and a real legacy for those involved. We seek to seed and nurture initiatives and applaud when they are absorbed into community life.

We want to integrate culture and cultural choices into everyday life.
We aspire to strengthen Dublin's reputation as a thriving, connected, culturally vibrant capital city.

To achieve this, we will:

Open up pathways for people to develop and expand their cultural habits.

Cultivate our relationships with agencies, venues and organisations working in the city.

Advocate for culture as essential to the city's development and reputation.

Build on the values and ways of working of Dublin's Culture Connects to enrich culture in the city for everyone.

How do we know we have succeeded?

People have engaged with more cultural places, spaces and organisations in their neighbourhoods and in the city.

People feel a greater sense of pride, and confidence, in what happens in their community and their city.

All our projects involve stakeholders that reflect the diversity of the city. Key stakeholders continue to recognise the importance of culture in the city's development and reputation.

We are recognised as an important driver for culture in the city. The city's cultural organisations value us as a partner.



DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL CULTURE COMPANY

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About Us; Misa Choir part of *The National Neighbourhood*. Photo by Mark Stedman. **Our Goals;** Clontarf Cub Scouts litter picking on Dollymount Strand as part of *The National Neighbourhood*. Photo by Mark Stedman. **Engage;** Friends of Fairview Park, willow weaving in the park as part of *The National Neighbourhood*. Photo by Ruth Medjber. **Experiment;** Visitors celebrating the opening of 14 Henrietta Street. Photo by Julian Behal. **Learn;** Onlookers at *Engage the City*. Photo by John Conway. **Share;** Ye Vagabonds music workshop in Labre Park, Ballyfermot as part of *The National Neighbourhood*. Photo by Megan Killeen. **Embed;** Primary school students visit 14 Henrietta Street. Photo by Ste Murray. **Contact & Credits;** Joyful Noise performing as part of *The National Neighbourhood*. Photo by Aaron McCourt.

**Connecting people through
culture and conversation.**

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