



CREATING SPACE

CLARE ARTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 – 2014



SPACE FOR MAKING... SPACE FOR SHARING





CREATING SPACE

CREATING SPACE

Clare Arts Development Plan 2010 – 2014

SPACE FOR MAKING... SPACE FOR SHARING



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1

1.1	Preface	3
1.2	Executive Summary	4
1.3	Introduction	5
1.4	Core Principles	6

SECTION 2

MAKING SPACE

2.1	Participation in the Arts	7
2.2	Public Art / Creation of New Work	8

SECTION 3

SHARING SPACE

3.1	Promotion of the Arts	9
3.2	Partnerships for the Arts	11
3.3	Arts Spaces	12

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Informing the Arts Plan	13
Appendix 2	2010 – 2014 Public Art Policy	15
Appendix 3	Bibliography	16



SECTION 1

1.1 PREFACE



Ireland has undergone a period of substantial change at both local and national level, since the adoption of the previous County Arts Development Plan covering 2005 – 2009. This period saw increasing value being placed on the role of the arts in society, value that brought with it opportunities, challenges and responsibilities.

As a leading local authority in arts development Clare County Council continues to respond and react to changes in the cultural climate in innovative and strategic ways working with the wealth of artistic talent in the county.

It is the experience of the local authority that the arts can be most effective when high standards of artistic excellence and practice are achieved. This in turn can only be achieved by creating the conditions for professional artists of a high calibre to do good work and by following accepted best practice principles and national guidelines where available.

As Clare County Council celebrates 25 years of local authority support for the arts this year, this plan looks forward to the future, cognizant of the challenges facing us but confident that we will rise to them in a creative manner for the benefit of all the citizens of the county.

Patricia McCarthy

Chairperson,

Housing, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

Mr Tom Coughlan

Clare County Manager

Mr Christy Curtin

Cathaoirleach

September 2010

SECTION 1

1.2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Clare Arts Office serves a population of 110,950 people spread over an area of 1,215 square miles (3,147 km²) Census, 2006.

The Arts Office is located within the Housing and Social Directorate of Clare County Council and is based within the County Library Service. It is staffed by a County Arts Officer and receives ancillary support from the County Library, particularly in the area of IT.

The Arts Act, 2003 provides the statutory basis for this Arts Development Plan, requiring all local authorities to develop such plans.

The Clare Arts Development Plan 2010-2014 is the third arts plan for the county and has been arrived at through extensive consultations with members of the public, elected members, staff and specific arts groups through focus group meetings, one to one consultations and submissions received by email and through social networking sites.

Local and national policy documents were consulted which provided data on both the external and internal environment within which the arts service presently operates. The plan aligns itself to the core values of the Clare Local Authorities Corporate Plan 2010-2014 in the areas of social inclusion, quality of life and innovative, customer focused service delivery and has been developed in tandem with a number of local authority plans such as the Clare Library Development Plan 2010-2014 and Clare Local Authorities Tourism Strategy 2010 – 2014.

The plan is also guided by national guidelines and policies such as the Arts Council of Ireland's Partnership for the Arts and the National Guidelines on Public Art.

The Arts Plan is structured in two main sections; Space for Making and Space for Sharing.

Space for Making focuses on three concentrated areas of interest

- Participation in the Arts
- Public Art / Creation of New Work
- Support for the Individual Artist

Space for Sharing also has three concentrated areas of interest

- Promotion of the Arts
- Partnerships for the Arts
- Infrastructural Initiatives

A full bibliography is included in Appendix 1.

SECTION 1

1.3 INTRODUCTION



This third arts development plan comes on foot of over a decade of sustained arts development in the county.

It reflects the growing importance placed on the arts by society in general in terms of social cohesion, creative economies and cultural identity.

Previous plans have focussed on public access to the arts and capacity building in the arts as key areas for development with particular emphasis on the visual arts and traditional arts.

This plan proposes to build on the continued success achieved in these areas by focussing the resources available to the Arts Office on managing and maintaining existing facilities and programmes whilst linking in with local, national and international partners to develop further creative opportunities for the arts to flourish in Clare.

Central to this plan and to all Arts Office activities and programmes is the artist. Clare County Council remains fully committed to supporting the role of the individual artist in creating artworks, working with their local communities and engaging in professional development opportunities.

Clare County Council acknowledges that the successes in the arts to date in the county have evolved from the role and work of individual artists across all art forms. The creative spirit of all Clare artists has not only influenced the policies laid out in this plan, but has informed and inspired the work of the local authority in terms of arts development.

Clare County Council views the arts as a central strategy in its cultural, social and economic development but remains cognisant at all times of the current economic climate.

The title of the Arts Plan 'Creating Space' came about from comments made by visual artists and traditional musicians at two separate meetings. Both commented on the value of creating space for their relevant artforms to happen.

From this starting point the Arts Plan is structured in two sections; Space for Making and Space for Sharing.



SECTION 1

1.4 CORE PRINCIPLES



Clare County Council will continue to embrace the arts as a key element in its strategies for cultural development and a central element in its strategies for social development.

In doing so Clare County Council will be guided by these core principles for the duration of this plan:

- Public access to and involvement in quality artistic activity is of paramount importance to arts development in the county.
- The arts have a valuable role to play in society.
- The pursuit of excellence and diversity in the arts is actively encouraged.
- The arts will be integrated into overall development policy for the county particularly in areas such as social inclusion, recreation and leisure policies and tourism policies.

Through this plan Clare County Council aims:

- To create quality opportunities for artists and the public to interact and inspire each other.
- To assist professional artists to create new work through concentrated supports and promotion.
- To protect and promote our traditional arts .
- To encourage sustainable arts development through the allocation of realistic time-scales and resources to projects undertaken during the timeframe planned for.

SECTION 2

2.1 PARTICIPATION



Participation in the Arts is a key objective of Clare County Council. The Arts Office will endeavour to put the following actions in train within the context of staffing and financial resources available to it.

The Arts & Young People

The Arts Office continues to place an emphasis on participation by young people in the arts.

Clare Arts Office will

- Continue to support and develop Clare Youth Theatre.
- Continue the Artist in Schools Scheme but will reconfigure the scheme to promote the work of contemporary artists.
- Continue to work with the Summer Music series to identify young people to participate in their operatic programme.
- Continue to work with national resource organisations to identify bursary opportunities for young people e.g Association of Irish Choirs.

Clare Arts Office aims

- To encourage the development of new music amongst young bands by supporting the recording of CD's etc.
- To re-establish traditional music sessions for children and teenagers throughout the county.
- To support initiatives aimed at raising the status of traditional singing and passing on traditional singing to young people.

The Arts & Social Inclusion

The Arts Office has led the way in social inclusion activities within the local authority and remains committed to these worthwhile activities. Working in tandem with Clare County Council's Social Inclusion Plan the Arts Office will:

- Continue the Embrace Arts and Disability programme.
- Continue to participate in the Bealtaine Festival celebrating creativity in older age.

Clare Arts Office aims

- Form a register of people willing to volunteer their services to Arts & Health activities e.g. musicians, artists etc.

Promoting the Arts Generally

The Arts Office also undertakes to engage in the following specific Initiatives aimed at promoting participation in the arts:

- Work with local film makers to continue to develop film as a media for community / participatory arts.
- Establish a register of music teachers and schools in Clare.

SECTION 2 SPACE FOR MAKING 2.2 PUBLIC ART, CREATING ART



Creating Art

The creation of new work is central to the arts. It is the one element that is integral to the development of artists, participants and audiences and as such is of primary importance and necessity. Clare County Council will continue to support the creation of new work within the context of the resources and staffing available to it.

The Arts Office

■ will implement a New Public Art Strategy comprising of a new approach towards the commissioning of Per Cent for Art Commissions that is in line with the National Guidelines for the Per Cent for Art Scheme.¹

■ will continue to build upon the experiences of its rural arts programme through the continuation of creating opportunities for creative exchange and dialogue around public art practices that address the uniqueness of Co Clare.

■ will continue to work with the traditional arts sector to expand the public's experiences of more traditional type exhibitions and performances.

The Arts Office aims

■ to introduce a bursary for artists, resident in the county whose work engages artistically with individual communities.

■ to explore the feasibility of having international Artists Residencies throughout the county, potentially linking with twinning partners of Clare local authorities.

■ to support initiatives to raise awareness of audio work as an artform, and support its inclusion in exhibitions, documentation of cultural artefacts / events etc.

Critiquing Art

Clare County Council acknowledges that new work needs to be supported by quality opportunities for exhibiting, performing and critiquing such work and endeavours to work to create a climate of public discourse and criticism around such artworks.

Clare Arts Office aims to activate a discursive platform for and about public arts practice within the pluralistic communities that make up the population of County Clare through public enquiry, seminars, mentoring sessions, invited artists and critical thinkers etc.

¹ See Appendix 2

SECTION 3 SPACE FOR SHARING

3.1 PROMOTION



Promotion of the Arts is the second key objective of Clare County Council. The Arts Office will endeavour to build on previous work by continuing with the following actions within the context of staffing and financial resources available to it.

Participation and Support

The Arts Office plans

- to partake in national initiatives highlighting the Arts in the County e.g. Culture Night, VISIT (National Open Studio Day), National Music Day, Bealtaine Festival etc.
- to continue supporting small scale arts events and activities throughout the county through the Assistance under the Arts Act Scheme.
- To assist artists from all disciplines in the county to form an association to meet and engage with the development of projects across disciplines, to showcase new work and to meet with like minded artists to foster partnerships across all artforms.

Partnerships

The Arts Office plans

- to work with local partners to help them promote and advertise existing information and archival services e.g. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Clare County Library and to support artistic initiatives to bring material from important archives to the public.
- to work with existing promoters across all the arts to inject an added impetus into arts activities in the region through increased marketing, improved quality of events and in devising audience development strategies in particular in the area of outreach and participation.

- To encourage the development of creative industries in the county by working in partnership with the relevant agencies to raise the visibility of the creative industries and provide in-kind supports to them, as appropriate.
- To ensure that the role of the arts in cultural tourism is respected and adequately resourced and to work to advance cultural tourism within the context of the Clare Local Authorities Tourism Strategy 2010 – 2014
- Continue to work with specific established sectors and associations e.g. crafts, to assist them in their development in association with other relevant bodies.

Showcasing

The Arts Office plans

- to promote Clare as a creative county working with relevant partners to build on Clare's established cultural reputation.
- To showcase the artistic practice of local artists beyond the county boundaries to allow the work of local artists penetrate into the wider regional, national and international arenas.

IT Development

The Arts Office plans

- to continue the development of the arts section of the Clare Libraries Website working in conjunction with Clare County Library Services.
- in particular, the Arts Office proposes to create a significant section of the website dealing with traditional arts.
- the Arts Office will look to establish independent websites for specific large-scale projects working in tandem with partners.

Research

The Arts Office plans

- To develop methods of disseminating research undertaken by, and policy documents pertaining to, the Arts Office.
- To develop methods to improve the promotion of the existing information services available to artists in the county e.g. marketing campaigns, awareness seminars, information leaflets etc.

SECTION 3 SHARING SPACE

3.2 PARTNERSHIPS



Clare County Council has built up well established local, national and international relationships and partnerships with associate organisations to further develop the arts, and opportunities for artists in the county. The Arts Office will continue to build on these relationships and will specifically do the following:

Archives

Clare Arts Office plans

- to work with local partners to encourage them to document and archive projects and events through the medium of film and to explore the feasibility of Clare County Libraries / Clare County Council establishing an archive of such material.

Training / Professional Development

Clare Arts Office plans

- to work with local and national training partners to provide training where key needs are identified e.g. training for festival organisers.

- to encourage national training organisations and resource organisations to provide training in the county by providing logistical supports where appropriate.
- to liaise regularly with the local arts community to provide and devise pertinent schemes / training opportunities to assist with the career formation of artists

Advocacy

Clare Arts Office plans

- to act as an advocate for the arts for the funding of artistic practices and projects in Clare as appropriate.

Volunteerism

Clare Arts Office plans

- to work with local artists and interested bodies to create a quality volunteer programme that utilises local skills available to the arts in return for offering quality and challenging work experience.

SECTION 3 SHARING SPACE

3.3 ART SPACES



Clare County Council has invested heavily in developing the arts infrastructure in the county over the last decade. The Arts Office will see a shift in emphasis for the duration of this plan to maximise the functions and potential of the various art spaces in situ and those due to come on line in the lifetime of this plan.

ENNIS

Clare Arts Office will

- offer artistic support and advice to Glór, as appropriate and as requested.²
- establish an independent curation policy for the Gallery at the De Valera Library.
- to continue to oversee the programming of the exhibition space at the Foyer of the County Museum.



SHANNON

Clare Arts Office

- plans to work with Shannon Arts Network to establish a programme of cultural activities for Shannon town.
- will continue to work with Shannon Town Council to develop a multi-purpose artistic space in Shannon town within the timescale of this plan.

² Clare County Council, The Provision of Support to Cultural and Recreational Facilities, 2010

COUNTYWIDE

Clare Arts Office plans

- to further develop the reputation of County Clare by establishing a series of exciting and challenging contemporary art projects and exhibitions, accompanied by an education programme.
- to continue to oversee the programming of the exhibition space at Scariff Public Library
- to develop an exhibition programme at the Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee
- to further develop the Tulla Stables Studios as a resource for artists and the community.

to continue to support the Burren Annual exhibition at the Burren College of Art.

- to continue to support the operation of the Courthouse Gallery and Studios in Ennistymon and to work in partnership with them to develop their education programme
- to continue to act as a conduit for individuals and groups seeking to exhibit and perform in the county



APPENDIX 1 INFORMING THE ARTS PLAN



Creating space has been devised following a number of steps:

1. Analysis and evaluation of previous arts plans from Clare and other local authorities including

- Clare Arts Development Plan 2000-2004
- Clare Arts Development Plan 2005 – 2009

2. Independent evaluations of a number of programmes carried out during the duration of the previous arts plan including Artist Mentoring and Networking Programme April 2010

3. Information from national publications and reports pertaining to the arts

4. A series of open invitation focus group consultative meetings

Arts Festivals

Dance

Literature

Theatre

Visual Arts

Arts in Health

Film

Music

Traditional Arts

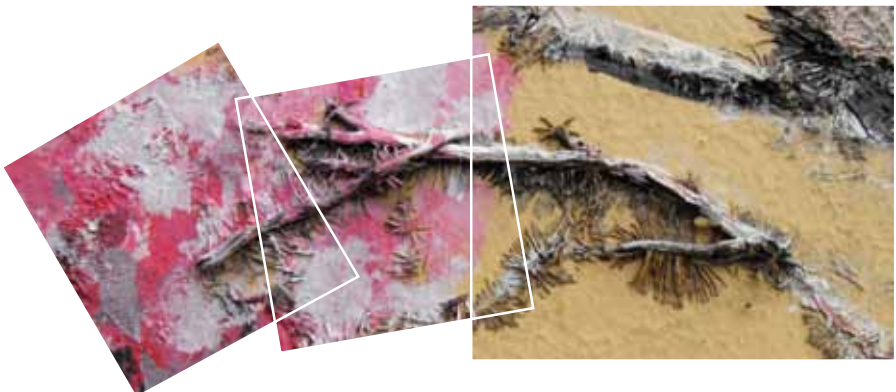
5. Submissions received by members of the public via email and Facebook

- Astrid Adler
- Ennis Street Festival
- Paula Carroll
- Patrick McHugh
- Hilary Dully
- Pauline Goggin
- Maria Kerin
- Colm Nestor, Comhaltas
- Fiona O'Dwyer
- Deirdre O'Mahony

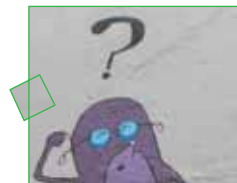
6. Consultations with staff in Clare Local Authorities

7. Consultations with key partners and stakeholders including

- T.E.Jones, Dean, Burren College of Art
- Katie Verling, Director, Glór



APPENDIX 2 CLARE PUBLIC ART STRATEGY 2010-2014



OVERVIEW

Clare County Council has a strong commitment to developing the range and quality of public art projects which are commissioned across the county.

Clare County Council believes that commissioning artwork is a fluid and responsive process which is informed by the vision, context and nature of arts practice and endeavours to put in place supports and systems to maximise the potential of this process for the benefit of artists and the public.

Clare County Council's Arts Office has many years of experience of the professional project management of small, medium and large-scale public art commissions in a variety of locations and contexts. One of the main sources of funding for public art in County Clare is the Government approved Per Cent for Art Scheme. This scheme is a unique and important resource that provides opportunities for dynamic new artistic work to be commissioned in Ireland and presents opportunities for collaboration between artists and communities.

Clare County Council's approach to commissioning is influenced by national and international best practice and in particular the National Guidelines on Public Art. Section 3.4 of these Guidelines outline the scope of the scheme.

Public art and the Per Cent for Art Scheme gives the Irish public the opportunity to experience a vast range of contemporary art, borne out of capital constructions projects, in their everyday life. In turn it provides a challenge and an opportunity to a wide range of artists to create work for public engagement and response.

Public art can be of any form and can work within or across many art forms, such as visual art, dance, film, literature, music, opera, theatre and architecture; including all aspects of contemporary arts practice such as performance, live art, multimedia, video art, sound art, etc. Works under the scheme can be of any duration, temporary or permanent, and can be centred in an urban or rural context.³



PUBLIC ART POLICY

Clare County Council's public art policy reflects the core principles of the Clare Arts Development Plan 2010-2014, namely that

- Public access to and involvement in quality artistic activity is of paramount importance to arts development in the county
- The arts have a valuable role in society
- The pursuit of excellence and diversity in the arts is actively encouraged
- The arts will be integrated into overall development policy for the county particularly in areas such as social inclusion, recreation and leisure policies and tourism policies.

³ Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme. General National Guidelines. Dept. of Arts, Sports & Tourism 2004. pg 16

This policy reiterates Clare County Council's aims to

- Create quality opportunities for artists and the public to interact and inspire each other
- Assist professional artists to create new work through concentrated supports and promotion
- Protect and promote our traditional arts
- Encourage sustainable arts development through the allocation of realistic time-scales and resources to projects undertaken during the timeframe planned for.



Specifically the Public Art Policy sets out to

- Commission new artworks across all artforms that are challenging, dynamic, inspiring and inclusive
- Enable artists to realize their full artistic potential through the provision of any necessary supports including research and development time.
- Promote quality and meaningful engagement with the public through dialogue, interaction and interventions, as appropriate.
- Promote sustainable art works and art projects
- Promote Clare as a region of artistic excellence on a national and international platform.

2010 – 2014 STRATEGY

In tandem with the Clare Arts Development Plan 2010 – 2014, the Arts Office proposes to run a three stranded programme of public art commissions through the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

Funding for the following strands will be allocated from the pooling of Per Cent for art funds across the relevant departments of Clare County Council. Funding will be allocated to

- a) significant artistic projects that have a county-wide remit and are relevant to the county as whole
- b) at least one key project to be undertaken per electoral area over the duration of this plan.
- c) localised projects working with specific communities or artistic groups throughout the county.

These projects will be commissioned in three ways

1. In recognition of the experience, expertise and creative spirit that has emanated from the county, the Arts Office will directly invite a range of Clare artists across a variety of artforms to research and develop public art projects. These projects will offer the creative freedom to develop current themes in the artists' work in ways that are influenced by and accessible to the public at large.
2. The Arts Office will issue a generic call to artists to propose contemporary art projects that have significant public involvement across all artforms. In tandem with this, the Arts Office will issue a call to artists to propose contemporary art projects relevant to specific locations within the county.
3. Furthermore, the Arts Office will issue calls for a number of site - specific commissions throughout the duration of the plan

It is envisaged that this policy framework will ultimately be reflected in the quality of work produced throughout the commissioning process.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Draft Framework for Revised Guidelines, Public Art Advisory Panel, 2009.

National PASA Guidelines, Chrysalis Arts, UK, 2009

Public Art: Per Cent for Art Scheme. General National Guidelines. Dept. of Arts, Sports & Tourism. 2004.

The Arts Council, Partnership for the Arts, Dublin, 2005.

The Arts Council, Points of Alignment. The Report of the Special Committee on the Arts and Education, Dublin, 2008.

The Arts Council, The Living and Working Conditions of Artists in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Dublin, 2010

The Arts Council, The Public and the Arts, Hibernian Consulting, Insight Statistical Consulting and Martin Drury, Dublin, 2006.

The Arts Council, Visual artists' workspaces in Ireland, A new approach Dublin, 2010

The Arts Council, Young People, Children and the Arts: Summary Policy Paper, Dublin, 2005.

CHL Consulting Company Ltd., Review Of Visual Artists' Workspaces, The Arts Council, Dublin, 2009

Clare County Council, Clare Arts Development Plan 2000-2004

Clare County Council, Clare Arts Development Plan 2005 – 2009

Clare County Council, Clare Cultural Policy

Clare County Council, Clare Local Authorities Corporate Plan 2010 – 2014

Clare County Council, Draft Clare County Development Plan 2011 – 2017

Clare County Council, Ennis And Environs Development Plan 2008 – 2014

Clare County Council, The Provision of Support to Cultural and Recreational Facilities, 2010

Hibernian Consulting and Martin Drury, Arts, Education and Other Learning Settings: A Research Digest, The Arts Council, Dublin, 2008

Indecon, Assessment of Economic Impact of the Arts in Ireland: Arts and Culture Scoping Research Project, The Arts Council, Dublin 2009.

Moloney, Annette, Art in Slack Spaces, 2010

National Economic and Social Forum, Arts, Cultural Inclusion and Social Cohesion, Dublin, 2007.

O'Connor, Niamh, Report on Artist Mentoring and Networking Programme, Clare County Council. April 2010



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Thanks to Ennis Street Theatre, Wallcandy
and individual artists for use of photographic images.

25

The Arts Council
of Ireland
Supports the Arts
1996-2011

en.12 Gordon Street
Ennis, Co. Kerry
T044 91111
www.enistheatre.com



