

PRESIDENT PAINTS A POSITIVE PICTURE

Every city and county council plays a frontline role in cultivating an embedded arts culture and in creating access to the arts in Ireland, President Mary McAleese told delegates during her inaugural visit to the annual conference of the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers in late 2009.

President Mary McAleese was special guest of honour at the annual conference of the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers (ALAAO) at Dublin City Council's Civic Offices on Wood Quay in late 2009.

During her inaugural visit, President McAleese noted that every city and county council played a frontline role in cultivating an embedded arts culture and in creating access to the arts. "Arts officers are the hands and heads of that work. Your investment is what helps to give us a healthy, vibrant and resilient civic society," the President told conference delegates.

Rosaleen Molloy, out-going chairperson of the ALAAO, said the Association was privileged to have had President McAleese as guest of honour for our 2009 conference. "Local authorities are central players in leading the development of the arts in Ireland and since the appointment of Ireland's first arts officer 25 years ago, the burgeoning of the arts across the country has been one of the most significant and successful measures integrated into local government in recent times," she added.

John Tierney, Dublin city manager, and a representative on the City & County Managers' Association (CCMA), remarked how the President's presence marked "a very proud, a very prestigious and a very pivotal moment in the history of Ireland's Local Authority Arts Services". He also noted that the President's address brought "well-deserved recognition to the immensely challenging work of Arts Officers", but also highlighted "the tremendously positive impact that local authorities have had on the development of the arts in Ireland over the past quarter of a century". For further info contact Lucina Russell, Arts Officer, Kildare County Council, and ALAAO chair @ 045-448318 or email lrussell@kildarecoco.ie



President Mary McAleese pictured with John Tierney, Dublin city manager, Martin Drury, Arts Council, Rosaleen Molloy, arts officer, Wexford County Council, Louise Donlon, member of Arts Council, during her first visit to the ALAAO annual conference on 23 November 2009.



Pictured with President McAleese were (back row l-r): Somhairle MacConghail, Monaghan County Council, Dublin City Council's deputy city manager Philip Maguire, and executive manager of culture, recreation and amenity Paul Clegg, and Fingal County Council's Rory Byrne; (front row) Sinead Connolly, Dublin City Council, Monica Corcoran, Arts Council, Sheila Deegan, Limerick City Council; Mary McAuliffe, Sligo County Council, Joan McKernan, Limerick County Council, and Muireann Ni Chonaill, Laois County Council.