

The Arts Focus Group present a response to Dublin City Development Plan 2016-22 based on two questions from Issues Paper(p35) and the Dublin City Arts Plan 2014 “Arts/cultural facilities in the city that are lacking .. how local arts could be developed to ensure equal access appropriate to age , ability and cultural tradition”



Our long title starts with some arts/ cultural facilities and structures that are missing in Dublin from our point of view and some suggestions for developing policy to prioritise participatory arts –the short title is above

## Who are the arts focus group?



The Arts Focus Group was founded in 2002 and restarted in 2012. It has a membership of over 20 groups. Membership of the Arts Focus Group includes a wide variety of individuals, groups and organisations involved in both the arts and culture throughout the city. The Arts Focus Group encourages all participants to share their knowledge, allowing for diverse cultural experience. Participatory arts allow the citizens to become involved in the arts and build future audiences for the arts in general.

We have worked within the structures of Dublin City Community forum and we are now a member of the newest structure the Public Participatory Network for Dublin City.

Drama Groups Choirs Community Orchestra Creative writing groups  
Knitting groups Art classes Story telling groups Community Television  
Spoken word groups Traditional music Craft classes Community centre  
Ethnic arts groups local history groups Age&Opportunity Arts Festivals ...

## What is participatory arts ?

The voluntary or participatory arts are those that citizens undertake for self-improvement, social networking and leisure. The range of art-forms is wide and includes folk, dance, drama, literature, media, music, visual arts, crafts and applied arts, and festivals.

What's more, investing and encouraging participation in the voluntary arts offers a cost-effective way of creating social cohesion, a culture of life-long learning and a healthy nation with an enviable quality of life. –

See more at: [http://http:// Voluntary Arts Network Ireland](http://http://VoluntaryArtsNetworkIreland)

For a fledgling listing of some participatory arts groups and venues and spaces in Dublin see [Dublinmearts.wordpress.com](http://Dublinmearts.wordpress.com)(version 2 – )  
To find Search: go to [Dublin.ie/](http://Dublin.ie/) then  
[/Dublin Community forum/Community arts focus group](#) )

The Arts Focus group suggest that the SPC start to develop future policy to look these two areas identified within the section on community infrastructure and social inclusion p35 of The Big Issues discussion document re the Dublin City Development plan 2016-22

- **What arts facilities in the city are lacking ?**
- **How can local arts be developed to ensure equal access appropriate to age, ability and cultural tradition?**



We suggest that the Arts Focus Group and the Dublin City Community Forum learning might be used as a starting point for future policy making

- From the Arts Focus Group/DCC Community Forum seminars in 2012 and 2014 , it was identified that it would be useful to have a named person within DCC Arts office with responsibility for creating a listing of spaces available for workshops, classes , rehearsal or meeting spaces and to champion participatory arts.

1

- **Solution ensure there is one named person within DCC Arts office to champion participatory arts and create a listing of community spaces . This person to take over and update the Dublin me Arts Listing currently on Dublin.ie**





Set up a working group to develop policy for participatory arts and capacity building for the citizens of Dublin

**How can local arts be developed to ensure equal access appropriate to age, ability and cultural tradition?**

2

**Solution the SPC to set up working group to look at capacity building for participatory arts**

From within DCC –

Art Office , Culture Recreation ,Community Development Section ,Library sector  
Heritage Section.

From statutory bodies

AONTAS +Voluntary Arts Network Ireland+ Create

AONTAS is the National  
Adult Learning  
Organisation



Voluntary  
Arts Ireland



**create** national development  
agency for collaborative arts

The emphasis in arts plan 2014-16 seems to be on aiding community artists ,prioritising youth projects and creating events to bring in tourists not about capacity building for all the citizens of Dublin.



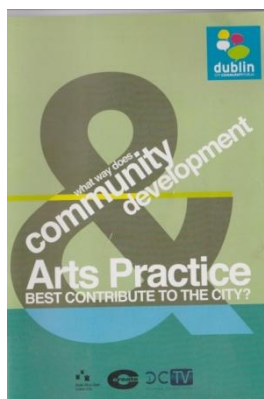
The Arts Focus Group support the idea that arts practitioners in the community and voluntary sector should be paid well and have access to quality work spaces and support. However we also suggest that some of the arts budget go to supporting a culture of life long learning in the arts for all citizens of Dublin.

3

### **Solution capacity building with some short courses for adults**

Some of the Arts Budget should be put into capacity building for interested citizens This is also one of the ways that arts practitioners could also be paid . DCC Arts office should part of their funding aside to fund courses build capacity in the arts

For the working group which might look at how Dublin City could at how to put more emphasis on participatory arts we suggest that a start might be to utilise the learning from the Dublin City Community Forum re building social cohesion and encouraging a culture of life long learning



4

#### **Utilise the learning from D.C.C. Com. Forum**

- What Way does Community Development and Arts practice (2012) and networking event Enabling Spaces to Build Capacity in Participatory Arts (2014)
- Update the existing list of community spaces and classes that help empower citizen participatory arts i.e. Dublin Me Arts



Dublin City Arts Plan seems to prioritise youth projects , supporting community artists and tourism events- (“Theme Park Dublin”). We suggest that the Arts Plan should have an emphasis on places for adults to build their capacity in the arts and to build audiences for art exhibitions and festival events

- **How can local arts be developed further?....how to ensure access to arts experience is enhanced?**

To cut social isolation and ensure that citizens of Dublin have a chance to get involved in the arts we need to have centres where all the citizens of Dublin could drop in and get involved in participatory arts.

### **Solution**

5

Named person within Dublin City Office to use Dublin me Arts as a starting point and update this information for interested citizens and community groups

## Problems identified during the up dating of Dublin-me-Arts 2012 by the Arts Focus group

Trying to update “Dublin me arts”

- We found that it was very hard to get listings on what is happening in a local area
- There was no information on community spaces that participatory arts groups might use

6

### Solution

**Better communication between community development services, arts office, adult education services , library services and heritage services**

How Mary and Patsey might find something to do in the arts in the short term

The Arts Focus Group likes the culture and recreation listing on DCC Web page. This is a positive step towards making the web site more citizen friendly.

7

### **Solution**

Turn the culture and recreation listing on Dublin City Web site into a weekly opt in email newsletter

<http://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-recreation-culture-events-dublin/upcoming-events>

To recap

To  
recap



So MARY AND PATSEY  
WANT TO FIND  
SOMETHING TO DO IN  
THE ARTS

## 7x things the Arts and Culture SPC could aim for

1

Ensure that there is a named person within Dublin City Art office with responsibility for promoting participatory arts for capacity building in the arts , encouraging life long learning in the arts and building social inclusion

2

Set up a working group set up to look at emphasising the importance of participatory arts and how they might best be delivered in Dublin City

3

Short courses funded by Arts office for capacity building for adult learners and to create places for intercultural communication and to cut social isolation.

4

Learn from the findings of DCC Community Forum and Arts Focus Group seminars and apply some of the ideas.

5

Ensure that there is a named person within Arts office to take over the responsibility of maintaining and updating Dublin meArts or similar listing with information on courses and community spaces

6

Ensure better communication between Adult Educational Services and Community Development section and Arts Office and Library Services

7

Turn the listing on cultural events into a weekly email newsletter that people could opt into

<http://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-recreation-culture-events-dublin/upcoming-events>



# Summary of sources for the research for this presentation

## Three work actions

1. seminar in Wood Quay 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 on How Community Development and arts practice best contribute to the city-booklet
2. The problems the arts focus group encountered updating a brief listing of community arts centres and places where one can learn or participate in the arts in Dublin see [dublinmearts.wordpress.com](http://dublinmearts.wordpress.com)
- 3 Seminar on Enabling spaces a networking event for community and voluntary groups February 2014

## Other Resources

What way does Community Development and Arts practice best contribute to the city? Report from World Cafe Seminar Wood Quay 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 organised by DCTV and Dublin City Community Forum see [see http://www.dctv.ie/events/artcities/Home.html](http://www.dctv.ie/events/artcities/Home.html)

**Enabling Spaces for Participatory arts: Arts Focus Group Seminar February 2014**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZT\\_YjJt3lw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZT_YjJt3lw)

**Dublinmearts.wordpress.com(version 2 - )**

**To find Search: Dublin.ie/**

**/Dublin Community forum/Community arts focus group**