

GALWAY CITY GETS STAGE SET FOR 2020

Following the appointment of local business leader Hannah Kiely as 'Galway 2020' Chief Executive Officer, a major recruitment drive is now underway as the City of the Tribes puts plans in place in preparation for European Capital of Culture in 2020.

With plans now in the pipeline by 'Galway 2020' to create up to 40 jobs over the next four years, these jobs will range across a number of fields including logistics, programming, IT, health and safety among others. Recruitment is currently taking place for two positions – Communications Director and Operations Director – and a Creative Director has already been appointed. Details of this appointment will be made known in July.

"One of main focuses at the moment is to get the team in place," according to Hannah Kiely. The Galway 2020 CEO said that part of her job is to put a sustainable structure in place to support these positions.

"It is so important to enable that to happen. The arts can be a tough place to make a living but part of what we need to do in Galway 2020 is to harness that creativity and develop the structure to create jobs."

Previous Capital of Culture hosts have benefited from job creation, she said. "Jobs in culture in other cities is one of the legacies of this and other cities have benefited from it in a huge way."

With a total budget for Galway 2020 estimated to be in the region of €45 million, the CEO said that monitoring this spend will be important and its value back to the community will be big part.

PROJECTS 'MAKING WAVES'

Some of the projects involved in Galway 2020's 'Making Waves' programme are "big in scope and scale," Kiely added. One of those projects is 'Hope it Rains', a programme that focuses on Galway's rain.

This programme, imagined and led by Galway based artist, Ríonach Ní Néill, will invite people to collaborate and create



weatherproof projects that inspire wet weather activity and innovative design for rural and urban locations.

Also part of this project is 'Faoi Run' which involves the creation of words that will only appear in the rain. This is a co-project with 'Small Towns, Big Ideas' and will be a celebration of the diverse languages of the different communities in Galway, including Irish.

Hannah Kiely explained that work on some of the programmes will start this year and the work will be ongoing right up to 2020. "A lot of the events take a lot of planning. We also will be planning an opening and closing ceremony."

Also a major part of the initiative is connecting to the wider European context, with over one million visitors expected to visit Galway during the year. "We will be the window to Europe. This is very important.

"Also, we want to make sure people learn a lot from this. Part of it is to enable new people to come on stream so that they learn a lot and grow. The legacy for this is to make sure everyone gets what culture is about."