

FINGAL'S CREATIVE FIVE-YEAR CULTURE STRATEGY

An innovative five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy has been developed by Fingal County Council's Culture Team and the local Creative Ireland Programme co-ordinator, in consultation with local artists, creatives, cultural and heritage organisations, community groups, the creative industries, centres of education and schools.

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, was joined by Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD, and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD, for the recent launch of Fingal's Culture and Creativity Strategy (2018-2022), as part of the Creative Ireland Programme.

The strategy aims to provide meaningful opportunities for citizens and local communities, together with local authorities, to nurture, sustain and facilitate participation in cultural and creative activities.

A number of special initiatives form part of Fingal's Culture and Creativity Strategy:

- Provision of financial and practical supports to artists and creative practitioners to sustain their professional practice.
- Opportunities explored for funding young and emerging creative practitioners in Fingal.
- Actively promoting local artists both at home and abroad, nationally and globally.
- Supporting/developing creative hubs' infrastructure, studios, creative space for artists, gallery spaces, rehearsal space for bands (Swords Cultural Quarter is a key opportunity to do this).
- The use of the pop-up models for arts, culture and creative events in the council's properties such as the heritage houses, libraries, artist in residence spaces, in vacant buildings, in community centres and spaces, and at events like Flavours of Fingal.
- To promote and develop the Creative Fingal section of fingal.ie, to become a one-stop shop for individuals or groups for creative and cultural information.

Speaking at the launch at the Irish Architectural Archive in Merrion Square, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, said: "Creative Ireland is all about improving access to culture and creativity in every county nationwide, to improve public wellbeing.

"The culture teams in each local authority have been absolutely essential to fulfilling this aim. By bringing people across a range of disciplines together in our local authorities, we could achieve more than the sum of their individual efforts. The



Local authority culture teams and co-ordinators pictured with An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD, and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD, at the launch of Fingal's Culture and Creativity Strategy (2018-2022) on 12 September.

published plans are proof that these collective efforts are resulting in projects of real scale and ambition."

Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD, thanked the local Creative Ireland co-ordinators, chief executives, directors of services and all the culture teams across all of the local authorities for working so hard in recent months to help realise the key ambitions in the Creative Ireland programme.

Paul Reid, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: "As local authorities we want to see all of our communities reaching their full potential and this means more than just providing services. The Creative Ireland Programme allows us the space to try new things, to be truly innovative, to build creativity into how we look at other policy areas such as health, enterprise, education and outreach.

"Fingal has the fastest growing and youngest population in Ireland. The county is ethnically and culturally diverse with 16% of the population born outside of Ireland. We have a well-educated and skilled workforce to support economic development and innovation and a vibrant and active community of creative practitioners and artists."