

CARNIVAL OF SCIENCE IS A FIRST FOR CORK

The first Cork Carnival of Science, which aims to entertain and engage the public in the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths, will take centre stage on 22-23 June at Fitzgerald Park in the city.

Cork City Council has received funding from Science Foundation Ireland's Discover Programme Call to roll out the city's first-ever science carnival, which will be co-ordinated by the Lifetime Lab at the Old Cork Waterworks Experience.

Taking place on 22-23 June, and scheduled to be held again in 2020, Cork Carnival of Science will transform Fitzgerald Park into a STEM engagement wonderland. The two-day event will feature more than 100 exhibitors offering non-stop, family-friendly experiments, interactive activities, games, street cuisine and a packed line-up of live entertainment.

Valerie O'Sullivan, Cork City Council's Director of Services for Environment and Recreation, described the Carnival of Science as "a welcome addition to the vibrant festival culture" offered by Cork.

"Cork City Council is acutely aware of both the importance and the value of STEM engagement to the area. With a strong base of multinational companies and indigenous Irish businesses, maintaining and enhancing the high standards of STEM engagement are essential to Cork's goal of being a competitive, innovation-driven, knowledge-based region," she added.

Mervyn Horgan, manager and project lead at Lifetime Lab at the Old Cork Waterworks Experience, said that one of their main roles is to offer a positive experience through engagement with STEM and sustainability, while also promoting Cork as a leader in primary science education.

"These areas are identified as long-term drivers of growth, employment generators and benefit the economy locally. Our experience identified the public appetite to engage STEM in non-formal settings, as a family unit, in a format easily accessible.

"Carnival of Science sets about creating and delivering a large public engagement event that will intertwine science, engineering and maths with playful learning in a fun, open and easily accessible environment."

DEVELOPING STEM IN IRELAND

Margie McCarthy, Interim Director of Science for Society at Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), said the Foundation is very pleased to support the first ever Carnival of Science. "It will be an



Mark Langtry, aka 'The Science Guy', Head of Science and Sport at Explorium, gives children a scientific demo.

exciting event that encourages families to interact with science and technology in new and engaging ways.

"Through the SFI Discover Programme we're committed to making STEM accessible to all and to developing and nurturing STEM interest and engagement in Ireland. Initiatives like this are a perfect example of how we can achieve our goal."

The carnival will include shows by London Science Museum and W5 Science and Discovery Centre (Belfast), workshops by the Royal Society of Chemistry, Imaginosity and Bubbly Maths, mobile classrooms from the Road Safety Authority, Bord Iascaigh Mara and many more.

Activities will include making slime, meeting live zoo animals, checking out the inner workings of robots and extracting DNA, to name but a few!

Cork Carnival of Science will be the largest STEM engagement event in the region, and is set to attract in excess of 5,000 attendees per day. The two-day festival will align with Cork Midsummer Festival and the planned Mardyke 300 celebrations.

The event is supported by Science Foundation Ireland with the backing of Cork City Council, while Lifetime Lab at the Old Cork Waterworks Experience will act as the event co-ordinator and project office for the two-year duration.