Áiteanna Ildánacha Bhaile Átha Í
Creative Places Athy - Evaluation Report



Deireadh Fómhair 2021 - Deireadh Fómhair 2024
October 2021 - October 2024

LE DAVID TEEVAN & ASSOCIATES
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Múrphictiúr na gCorr Réisc, Sráid Stanhope, Baile Átha Í, 2023 - Comhdheartha le TCÉ Amhránaíochta agus Comharthaíochta Bhaile Átha Í, Cumann Grianghrafadóireachta Bhaile Átha Í agus an t-ealaíontóir Marian Noone do Bhaile Slachtmhar Bhaile Átha Í, Tosaitheoirí Bhaile Átha Í agus Scéim Feabhsúcháin Sráide LEO Chill Dara. Péinteáilte ag Marian Noone (Friz) leis an ealaíontóir Gerry Norman. Creidmheas Grianghraf: Peadar Doogue.

Heron Mural, Stanhope Street, Athy, 2023 - Co-designed with Athy Sing and Sign ISL, Athy Photographic Society and artist Marian Noone. for Athy Tidy Towns, Athy Town Promoters and Kildare LEO Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. Painted by Marian Noone (Friz) with artist Gerry Norman. Photo Credit: Peadar Doogue.

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01



Paráid Lá Fhéile Pádraig Baile Átha Í 2022

St. Patrick's Day parade, Athy, 2022.

Grúpa Breakout Art 'Ceardlann Mindful Art Break' i Leabharlann Bhaile Átha Í do Oíche Chultúir 2022 le Orla McDonagh agus Chris Moran

Breakout Art Group's 'Mindful Art Break workshop' in Athy Library for Culture Night 2022 with Orla McDonagh and Chris Moran



01

Áiteanna Ildánacha Bhaile Átha Í

Creative Places Athy

Leis an tuarascáil seo, déantar athbhreithniú ar an gcéad trí bliana de chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha na Comhairle Ealaíon i mBaile Átha Í, Co Chill Dara, a reáchtáladh idir Deireadh Fómhair 2021 agus Deireadh Fómhair 2024. Tugtar achoimre leis an doiciméad ar an rath a bhí ar an gclár thar roinnt príomhréimsí, lena n-áirítear, tacaíocht a thabhairt d'ealaíontóirí áitiúla réimse tionscadal ealaíon a cheapadh agus a sheachadadh agus an pobal rannpháirteach iontu, agus naisc idir an pobal cruthaitheach agus an earnáil forbartha pobail a bhunú agus a neartú. Leagtar béim leis an tuarascáil freisin ar roinnt de na dúshláin a tháinig aníos agus an uaillmhian a bhaineann leis an gclár cistiúcháin nua seo á sheachadadh, ar clár é atá ag feidhmiú ar fud na réimsí cleachtais ealaíon agus forbartha pobail.

Aimsítear leis an tuarascáil seo gur chuir an clár Áiteanna Ildánacha i mBaile Átha Í go mór leis an mbaile, go háirithe trí acmhainn agus uaillmhian an phobail chruthaithigh a fhorbairt chun oibriú go héifeachtach le comhpháirtithe áitiúla ar mhaithe le tionscadail ealaíon a fhorbairt agus a sheachadadh lena raibh rannpháirtíocht agus comhar an phobail i gceist. Dírítear aird leis an tuarascáil ar an ngá le tuilleadh infheistíochta a dhéanamh i dtacaíochtaí chun a chinntiú go ndéanfar an dul chun cinn a rinneadh le trí bliana anuas a dhaingniú agus go bhfíorófar an cumas atá ann don phobal cruthaitheach, is é sin, go gcuirfidh siad le cáilíocht na beatha i mBaile Áth

This report reviews the first three years of the Arts Council's Creative Places programme in Athy, Co Kildare, which ran between October 2021 and October 2024. The document outlines the success the programme had across a number of key areas, including supporting local artists to devise and deliver a range of arts projects with community participation and establishing and strengthening connections between the creative community and community development sector. The report also highlights some of the challenges that emerged delivering on the ambition of this new funding programme that is operating across the realms of arts practice and community development.

This report finds that the Creative Places programme in Athy made significant contributions to the town, in particular developing the capacity and ambition of the creative community to work effectively with local partners to develop and deliver art projects with community participation and collaboration. The report points to the need for further investment of supports to ensure that the progress made over the last three years is consolidated and the potential of this the creative community, to make meaningful and sustained contributions to the quality of life in Athy, is realised.







Seisiúin Toby Lee, Coláiste Bhaile Átha Í, 2023 - leis an ealaíontóir Shane Sullivan.

Toby Lee Sessions, Athy College, 2023 -with artist Shane Sullivan.

Tionscadal Luathbhlianta na hEalaíne agus Éiceolaíochta, Gaelscoil Bhaile Átha Í, 2024 - Comhoibriú le Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Chill Dara agus na healaíontóirí Jackie Maguire agus Trish Maclaughlin. Creidmheas Grianghraf: Kate Maher

Art and Ecology Early Years Project, Gaelscoil Átha Í, 2024 - A collaboration with the County Kildare Childcare Committee and artists Jackie Maguire and Trish Maclaughlin. Photo Credit: Kate Maher

An Bhearú, Baile Átha Í

The River Barrow, Athy

02

Clár Cistiúcháin Áiteanna Ildánacha

In 2022, d'fhoilsigh an Chomhairle Ealaíon a straitéis spásúil dar teideal Áit, Spás agus Daoine. Is í an fhís a leagtar amach sa doiciméad sin tír ina bhfuil an deis

"ag gach duine na healaíona agus cultúr a chruthú, dul i ngleic agus páirt a ghlacadh iontu agus taitneamh a bhaint astu, beag beann ar cé hiad féin, cá bhfuil siad ina gcónaí nó cá háit a n-oibríonn siad".[1]

Cé gur bunaíodh an scéim cistiúcháin Áiteanna Ildánacha sular foilsíodh an tuarascáil seo,[2] is comhchuid de straitéis na Comhairle Ealaíon í an scéim chun an fhís sin a bhaint amach, agus í ina conaire trína bhféadfaidh an eagraíocht infheistíocht a dhéanamh in "áiteanna nár bhain tairbhe as infheistíocht leanúnach ealaíon roimhe seo". Bhí Baile Átha Í ar cheann amháin de chúig bhaile a fuair deontas Áiteanna Ildánacha in 2021.[3]

1 An Chomhairle Ealaíon, (2022), Áit, Spás agus Daoine.
2 An Chomhairle Ealaíon, (2021), Preaseisiúint. Arna rochtain 15/9/24: https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Strategic-development/Creative-Places/
3 Ba iad na hÁiteanna Ildánacha eile a chuir tús leis in 2021: Darndál agus Baile Uí Lachnáin/an Baile Breac, Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath, Éadan Doire, Contae Uíbh Fhailí, Muine Bheag, Contae Cheatharlach, agus Oileáin Iarthar Chorcaí.

Creative Places Funding Programme

In 2022 The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon published its spatial strategy called People Place and Space. The vision outlined in this document is for a country

"where everyone has the opportunity to create, engage with, participate in and enjoy the arts and culture, regardless of who they are or where they live and work". [1]

While established in advance of this report being published, the Creative Places funding scheme is a key component in the Arts Council's strategy to deliver on this vision, representing a pathway by which the organisation can invest in "places which have not benefitted from sustained arts investment before".[2] Athy was one of five towns to secure a Creative Places awards in 2021.[3]

1 The Arts Council An Chomhairle Ealaíon, (2022), People Place and Space.
2 The Arts Council An Chomhairle Ealaíon, (2021), Press Release. Accessed on 15/9/24: https://www.artscouncil.ie/Arts-in-Ireland/Strategic-development/Creative-Places/
3 The other Creative Places commencing in 2021 were: Darndale and Loughlinstown/Ballybrack, County Dublin, Edenderry, County Offaly, Bagenalstown, County Carlow, and the West Cork Islands.

02

Bhí dúshlán roimh na bailte sin, mar aon le Tuaim a chuir tús leis in 2020, maidir le conairí éifeachtacha a aimsiú chun treoir na scéime deontais a bhaint amach, ina sonraíodh:

Ba cheart d'Áiteanna Ildánacha a bheith cuimsitheach agus ilghnéitheach, agus a gcuid clár fite fuaite le cleachtas ealaíon atá gníomhach go sóisialta agus le prionsabail na forbartha pobail. Tógfaidh iarratasóirí a n-éireoidh leo ar láidreachtaí cultúrtha atá ann cheana féin agus iad faoi stiúir de rannpháirtíocht agus de smaointe an phobail. Féachfaidh siad go háirithe le daoine a áireamh a bhíonn eisiata go minic.[4]

Leis an ráiteas sin, soláthraíodh paraiméadair shoiléire do na dámhachtaithe le n-oibriú dá réir. Mar sin féin, cuimsítear réimse ollmhór agus casta leis na treoirlínte sin. I bhfianaise fhairsinge na treorach sin, bhí creat na gclár Áiteanna Ildánacha an-éagsúil ó bhaile go baile. I measc gnéithe eile a chuir leis na difríochtaí sin bhí an méid seo a leanas:

- *suíomhbhunús an eintitis a mbronntar an deontas orthu (an dámhachtaí);*
- *taithí, eolas agus líonra an chomhordaitheora ar cuireadh de chúram orthu an clár a fhorbairt agus a sheachadadh;*
- *an caidreamh idir dámhachtaí ÁIBÁÍ agus an pobal cruthaitheach atá gníomhach sa bhaile.*

These towns, together with Tuam that commenced in 2020, were faced with the challenge of discovering effective pathways to deliver on the award scheme brief which stated:

Creative Places should be inclusive and diverse, and their programmes rooted in socially engaged arts practice and community-development principles. Successful applicants will build on existing cultural strengths and be led by community participation and ideas. In particular, they will look to involve people who are often excluded. [4]

This statement provided the Creative Places awardees clear parameters to work within. However, the territory encapsulated by these guidelines is immense and complex. Given the breath of this brief, the contours of the Creative Places programmes varied significantly from town to town. Other factors contributing to the these differences included:

- *the situatedness of the entity that is awarded the grant (the awardee);*
- *the experience, knowledge and network of the coordinator that is tasked with developing and delivering the programme;*
- *the relationship between the CPA awardee and the creative community active in the town.*

4 An Chomhairle Ealaíon, (2024), Dámhachtain na nÁiteanna Ildánacha: Treoirlínte d'Iarratasóirí. Arna rochtain 15/9/24: https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Creative-Places-Award/.

4 The Arts Council An Chomhairle Ealaíon, (2024), Creative Places Guidelines. Accessed on 15/9/24: https://www.artscouncil.ie/Funds/Creative-Places-Award/.

02

I gcás Bhaile Átha Í, ba í Seirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara a chuir iarratas isteach ar an dámhachtain Áiteanna Ildánacha agus a mbronnadh orthu í don bhaile agus dá chúlchríoch (Ceantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Í). Fógraíodh an dámhachtain i mí an Mheithimh 2021. D'fhógair Seirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara ról an Chomhordaitheora agus ceapadh Eilish Langton, duine de bhunadh Bhaile Átha Í a chríochnaigh MA san Ealaín Phobalghníomhach ag an gColáiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne is Deartha le déanaí. Thosaigh Langton ina ról mar Chomhordaitheoir ÁIBÁÍ laistigh de Sheirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2021 agus chomhordaigh sí an clár le linn a céad trí bliana.

Mar aon le tacú le cleachtas ealaíon i mbaile nach raibh mórán infheistíochta ón gComhairle Ealaíon ann go dtí sin, ba é sainchúram na nÁiteanna Ildánacha freisin tús a chur le "clár fite fuaite le cleachtas ealaíon atá gníomhach go sóisialta agus le prionsabail na forbartha pobail" agus chun caidreamh a bhunú le daoine "a bhíonn eisiata go minic". Cuireann an uaillmhian sin leibhéil bhreise castachta leis an gclár Áiteanna Ildánacha. Dá bhrí sin, déanann an mheastóireacht seo breithniú ar an gcaoi ar breathnaíodh ar chaidrimh chumhachta agus ar shaincheisteanna eiticiúla agus ar an gcaoi ar socraíodh iad le linn na dtrí bliana den chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha i mBaile Átha Í.

In the case of Athy, it was the Kildare County Council Arts Service that applied for and was awarded a Creative Places award for the town and its hinterland (Athy Municipal District). The award was announced in June 2021. The role of Coordinator was advertised by Kildare Arts Service and awarded to Eilish Langton, a native of Athy, who had recently completed an MA in Socially Engaged Art at NCAD. Langton took up her post as CPA Coordinator working within Kildare County Council Arts Service in October 2021 and coordinated the programme throughout its first three years.

In addition to supporting art practice within a town where there has been little Arts Council investment up to this time, the Creative Places remit was also to lead out with "programmes rooted in socially engaged arts practice and community-development principles" and to engage with people "who are often excluded". This ambition adds multiple layers of complexity to the Creative Places programme. Consequently this evaluation considers how relations of power and issues of ethics were observed and negotiated within the art projects initiated during the three years of the Creative Places programme in Athy.

03



Ceann amháin de shraith imeachtaí a scrúdaíonn acmhainneacht chlár na nÁiteanna Cruthaitheacha.

One of a series of events exploring the potential of the Creative Places programme.

03

Áit

Tá saol cruthaitheach agus cultúrtha de chuid bhaile éigin fite fuaite ar bhealach dosheachanta i gcomhthéacs stairiúil agus comhaimseartha áite, agus bhí an dá ghné sin fite fuaite ina chéile sa chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha i mBaile Átha Í toisc gur choinnigh sé béim ar fhorbairt a dhéanamh ar "láidreachtaí cultúrtha atá ann cheana féin".

Bunaíodh Baile Átha Í ag tús an 13ú haois nuair a thóg na hAngla-Normannaigh Caisleán Bhodastóic ar an taobh thiar d'Áth Ae, abhainn a thrasnaíonn an Bhearú. Le himeacht ama, thosaigh lonnaíocht ag fás timpeall an dúin sin lenar cuimsíodh bunú dhá mhainistir. Sa 15ú haois, tógadh droichead trasna na Bearú, síos an abhainn ó Chaisleán Bhodastóic, ar a raibh daingean ar an taobh thoir, arbh ionann é agus Caisleán de Faoite ina dhiaidh sin. Le himeacht ama, tréigeadh an lonnaíocht sráidbhaile níos sine ar an taobh thiar toisc go raibh sé níos deacra é a chosaint ó na clanna Éireannacha míshásta a ndearnadh ionradh ar a dtailte. Bhí Caisleán de Faoite, a raibh garastún air, in ann cosaint níos fearr a dhéanamh ar an droichead trasna na habhann agus chuir sé cosaint níos fearr ar fáil do na lonnaitheoirí a raibh cónaí orthu agus a d'oibrigh sa sráidbhaile ar an mbruach thoir.5

Place

The contemporary creative and cultural life of a town is inescapably entwined with the historical and contemporary context of place, which were both interwoven in the Creative Places programme in Athy as it retained a focus on building on "existing cultural strengths".

The town of Athy was first established in the 13th century when Woodstock Castle was built by the Anglo Normans on the western side of the Ford of Ae, a river crossing on the Barrow. Over time a settlement began to grow around this fortification that included the establishing of two monasteries. In the 15th Century, a bridge was built across the Barrow, down river from Woodstock Castle, with a fortress on the eastern bank, which was to become White's Castle. Over time, the earlier village settlement on the west bank was abandoned, as it was more difficult to protect from the disgruntled native Irish clans whose lands had been invaded. White's Castle with its garrison, was better able to protect the bridge across the river and offered greater protection for the settlers who lived and worked in the village on the eastern bank.[5]

5 Frank Taaffe, (2021), Eye on the Past Athy, Accessed 12/9/24: https://athyeyeonthepast.blogspot.com/search/label/Woodstock%20Castle.

03

Le linn riail an choilíneachais, bhí rath ar Bhaile Átha Í mar bhaile garastúin agus é suite ar imeall na Páile. Cuireadh a thuilleadh le nascacht agus tábhacht Bhaile Átha Í in 1791 nuair a osclaíodh an Chanáil Mhór, a chruthaigh nasc idir an baile agus na hionaid uirbeacha níos mó, is iad sin, Baile Átha Cliath agus Luimneach, agus an tSionainn. Le teacht an iarnróid in 1846, cuireadh a thuilleadh le tábhacht an bhaile mar ionad tráchtála.[6] Tá an stair sin agus an timpeallacht thógtha a d'eascair aisti lárnach do shainiúlacht nua-aimseartha Bhaile Átha Í.

Ní raibh an rath céanna ar Bhaile Átha Í le blianta beaga anuas, áfach, agus ainmníodh an baile mar cheantar ard-dífhostaíochta in 2019 agus measadh go raibh codanna den bhaile i measc na gceantar uirbeach is mó faoi mhíbhuntáiste sa tír. Tá méadú ag teacht ar an daonra óg sa bhaile, agus sáraíonn leibhéil spleáchais na n-óg na leibhéil náisiúnta. Tá cónaí ar an líon is mó náisiúnach coigríche agus ball den Lucht Siúil ann i gCill Dara freisin.

Agus aghaidh á tabhairt ar na staitisticí sin, sainaithníodh le Plean Áitiúil Eacnamaíochta agus Pobail Chontae Chill Dara 2024-2029 "Éagothroime spáis inmheánach i ndáil le beogacht dhéimeagrafach agus eacnamaíoch, agus níl CB Bhaile Átha Í agus go leor d'Iardheisceart Chill Dara chomh láidir leis na CBanna sa chuid eile den chontae". Le Plean Forbartha Chontae Chill Dara 2017-2023, sainaithníodh Baile Átha Í mar phríomhthosaíocht do gach gníomhaireacht reachtúil i gCill Dara mar gheall ar a leibhéil fáis, daonra óig agus díothachta agus mar gheall ar a bhearnaí seirbhíse.

During the years of colonial rule, Athy, positioned as it is at the edge of the Pale, prospered as a garrison town. The connectivity and importance of Athy was further enhanced in 1791 with the opening of the Grand Canal, linking the town to the larger urban centres of Dublin and Limerick and the River Shannon. The arrival of the railway in 1846, further enhanced the importance of the town as a commercial centre.[6] This history and the built environment that it created are central to the modern identity of Athy.

Recent history has, however, been less kind to Athy, with the town being designated as an unemployment blackspot in 2019 with parts of the town considered to be among the most disadvantaged urban districts in the country. The town has an increasing youth population, with youth dependency rates in excess of national/local levels. It also houses the highest number of foreign nationals and Travellers in Kildare.

Responding to these statistics, County Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 identified "internal spatial imbalances in respect of demographic and economic vitality, with the Athy MD and much of Southwest Kildare not as economically strong as the rest of the county". The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 identified Athy as a key priority for all statutory agencies in Kildare, due to its growth, youth population, deprivation levels and service gaps.

6 Bhí tionchar ag nascacht an bhaile trí iarnród agus uisce ar bhunú na monarchan aispeiste i mBaile Átha Í in 1936. Is fostóir mór í an chuideachta, a d'athraigh a hainm go Tegral Building Products in 1976, i rith an ama seo agus oibríonn sí fós sa bhaile sa lá atá inniu ann.

6 The Establishment of the asbestos factory in Athy in 1936 was influenced by the town's connectedness through rail and water. The company, which still operates in the town today, changed its name to Tegral Building Products in 1976, has been a major employer in the town throughout this time.

03

Is é an ghné ríthábhachtach eile de chomhthéacs stairiúil agus comhaimseartha na háite a bhí, agus atá fós, lárnach do chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha Bhaile Átha Í, saibhreas na dtraidisiún ealaíonta áitiúil agus rannpháirtíocht an phobail chruthaithigh a chónaíonn agus a oibríonn i mBaile Átha Í agus sa cheantar máguaird. Go háirithe, tá saol ceoil thraidisiúnta láidir i gCill Dara Theas agus tagann an-chuid píobairí uilleann chuig an gceantar, Brian Hughes agus Liam O'Flynn ina measc. Tá a shaol ceoil chomhaimseartha féin i mBaile Átha Í freisin, ina gcothaítear ceoltóirí ar nós Jack L agus Picture This, agus is é baile dúchais thuismitheoirí Johnny Marr, an t-iar-ghiotáraí le The Smiths. Tá an t-amhrán cumhachtach frithchogaidh, Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye, a scríobhadh in 1867 ar dtús agus a bhain cáil idirnáisiúnta amach a bhuí le The Clancy Brothers agus Tommy Maken, suite ar an mbóthar chuig Baile Átha Í. Tógadh an grianghrafadóir John Minihan i mBaile Átha Í, duine a réitigh an bealach do neart grianghrafadóirí ardaidhmeannacha an lae inniu.

The other critical feature of the historical and contemporary context of place that was, and remains central to the Athy Creative Places programme, is the richness of local artistic traditions and the contribution of the creative community living and working in and around Athy today. In particular there is a strong traditional music scene in South Kildare, with many renowned uilleann pipers coming from the area, including Brian Hughes and Liam O'Flynn. Athy also holds its own in the contemporary music scene, nurturing musicians such as Jack L and Picture This, and being the hometown of the parents of Johnny Marr, former Smiths guitar player. The powerful anti-war song Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye, originally penned in 1867 and made internationally famous by The Clancy Brother and Tommy Maken, is set on the road to Athy. Photographer John Minihan was raised in Athy, paving the way for many aspiring photographers today.

04

Modheolaíocht

Fostaíodh an Taighdeoir i mí an Mheithimh 2024 chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar an obair a bhíodh ar bun i mBaile Átha Í le linn an chláir trí bliana Áiteanna Ildánacha (Deireadh Fómhair 2021 - Deireadh Fómhair 2024).

Cuireadh tús leis an taighde le roinnt cruinnithe le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara agus le taighde deisce ina dhiaidh sin chun tuiscint níos fearr a fhorbairt ar chultúr, stair, dinimic shochaíoch chomhaimseartha agus eacnamaíoch Bhaile Átha Í agus an cheantair máguaird.

Le linn na chéad chéime den taighde, nuair ba léir nach raibh mórán fianaise doiciméadaí ann den obair a tharla sa chéad dhá bhliain go leith den chlár, bheartaigh an taighdeoir staidéar eitneagrafach de ÁIBÁÍ a úsáid, inar úsáideadh agallaimh duine le duine leathfhoirmiúla, fócasghrúpaí agus breathnóireacht rannpháirtithe, chun tuiscint níos fearr a thógáil ar thionchar agus ar thábhacht an chláir Áiteanna Ildánacha sa bhaile.

Methodology

The Researcher was engaged in June 2024 to evaluate the work that had been ongoing in Athy during the three year Creative Places Athy programme (October 2021 - October 2024).

The research began with a number of meetings with key stakeholders followed by desk research undertaken to develop a greater understanding of the culture, history, contemporary societal dynamics and economics of Athy and the surrounding area.

During the initial phase of the research, when it became evident that documentary evidence of work that had taken place in the first two and a half years of the programme was limited, the Researcher decided to utilise an ethnographic study of CPA that used one-to-one semi-formal interviews, focus groups and participant observation, to build an understanding of the impact and import of the Creative Places programme in the town.

04

Eagraíodh cuairteanna ar Bhaile Átha Í chun tarlú i gcomhthráth le roinnt imeachtaí ÁIBÁÍ a bhí sceidealaithe, rud a chuir deis ar fáil don Taighdeoir cuid de thorthaí an tionscadail a fheiceáil agus buaileadh leis na healaíontóirí agus leis na rannpháirtithe pobail.[7] Chomh maith leis sin, d'fhreastail an Taighdeoir ar cheithre cheardlann a reáchtáil Workhouse Union le páirtithe leasmhara ÁIBÁÍ éagsúla.

Le linn na tréimhse taighde sin, tugadh le tuiscint go raibh ann do phobal cruthaitheach beoga ar tháinig borradh faoina mhuinín agus faoina acmhainn i rith na dtrí bliana de ÁIBÁÍ agus d'earnáil forbartha pobail a bhí níos muiníní agus níos compordaí agus na healaíona agus saothair faoi threoir ealaíontóirí á gcomhtháthú acu ina gcláir.

Visits to Athy were organised to coincide with a number of CPA events that were scheduled, which provided the Researcher with the opportunity to experience some of the project outcomes and meet artists and community participants.[7] The Researcher also attended four workshops that were run by Workhouse Union with a variety of CPA stakeholders.

The impression developed during this research period was of a vibrant creative community that had grown in confidence and capacity over the course of the three years of CPA and of a community development sector that had become more confident and comfortable integrating arts and artist led work into their programmes.

7 I measc na n-imeachtaí ar freastalaíodh orthu bhí Radharc Ghrianstad an tSamhraidh (an 21 Meitheamh 2024), Dhá Ghuth, Ceolchoirm Amháin (an 28 Meitheamh 2024), Taispeántas Tábhachtach d'Ealaíona Baineanna (an 20 Meitheamh 2024) agus seoladh leabhar Woodstock (an 3 Deireadh Fómhair 2024).

7 The events attended included the Summer Solstice Spectacle (21st June 2024), Two Voices, One Concert (28th June 2024), An Important Exhibition of Female Arts (20th June 2024) and the launch of the Woodstock book (3rd Oct 2024).



Ár dTionscadal Baile, Baile Átha Í, 2022 - An tEalaíontóir Emily Rainsford le KARE.

Our Home Athy Project, 2022 - Artist Emily Rainsford with KARE.


White Castle Lawns
Margaret
Amanda
St Michils
Church by Michael McCormack.
BOOK SHOP
VERONAS
Lisa

05

Forléargas agus meastóireacht

Ón tús, bhí misean soiléir ag ÁIBÁÍ:

Chun páirt a thabhairt do phobail ar fud Bhaile Átha Í agus an cheantair máguaird i réimse leathan eispéiris ealaíon, agus cleachtas ealaíon pobalghníomhach agus cur chuige forbartha pobail mar bhonn faoi, thar thréimhse trí bliana, i dtreo todhchaí inbhuanaithe.

Agus an misean á bhaint amach, treoraíodh ÁIBÁÍ le cúig threoirphrionsabal ar tugadh na Príomhcholúin orthu. Ba iad sin:

1. Oibriú i gcomhar le chéile;

2. Nascadh daoine agus áit;

3. Cur chuige ón mbonn aníos;

4. Sineirgí atá ann cheana a mhéadú;

5. Tacú le pobal ealaíon inbhuanaithe.

Seachadadh an chláir a mheasúnú

Agus machnamh á dhéanamh ar an obair a rinneadh le linn na chéad trí bliana de ÁIBÁÍ, tá sé tábhachtach a thabhairt faoi deara, ar nós Thuama ar bronnadh an Dámhachtain Áiteanna Ildánacha air in 2020, sna cúig bhaile a thosaigh a gclár Áiteanna Ildánacha in 2021, gur cuireadh tús leo le linn phaindéim Covid-19, rud a d'fhág go raibh ar na heagraithe déileáil le céimeanna éagsúla dianghlasála agus le buairt daoine faoi bheith ag bailiú le chéile le linn luathchuid an chláir.

Overview and evaluation

From the offset CPA had a clear mission:

To engage communities across Athy and surrounds in a wide range of arts experiences, underpinned by socially engaged art practice and community development approaches over a three-year period, towards a sustainable future.

In delivering the mission CPA was guided by five guiding principles which were called the Key Pillars. These were:

1. Working collaboratively;

2. Connecting people and place;

3. A ground up approach;

4. Growing existing synergies;

5. Supporting a sustainable arts community.

Assessing the programme delivery

In reflecting on the work undertaken during the first three years of CPA, it is important to note that, like Tuam that was awarded the Creative Places Award in 2020, the five towns that began their Creative Places programme in 2021, commenced during the Covid-19 pandemic, which meant that the organisers had to deal with varying stages of lockdown and people's nervousness about gathering together during the formative part of the programme.

05

Bhí na hÁiteanna Ildánacha tosaigh sin ar thús cadhnaíochta freisin nuair a thosaigh siad ag ceapadh agus ag seachadadh cláir a d'fhreagair do mhisean uaillmhianach an chláir chistiúcháin náisiúnta. Ar nós aon chláir nua, bhí láidreachtaí agus laigí sa phróiseas seachadta.

Bunaithe ar na taifid a bhí ar fáil, ar na himeachtaí ar freastalaíodh orthu agus ar agallaimh a rinneadh le daoine den phobal áitiúil, is léir gur lean an clár ÁIBÁÍ an treoir a leagtar amach sna príomhcholúin agus gur bhain sé amach an misean. Tá fianaise ann gur chuid lárnach iad 'modheolaíochtaí oibriúcháin comhoibríocha' de chuid mhaith de na tionscadal, nó fiú an chuid is mó acu, a chistigh ÁIBÁÍ. A mhéid ab fhéidir measúnú a dhéanamh go siarghabhálach, rinneadh machnamh ar shaincheisteanna cumhachta agus eitice agus tionscadail chomhoibríocha pobail á bpleanáil agus á gcur i gcrích.

Ba léir freisin cuspóir an chláir de 'nascadh daoine agus áit' agus an cuspóir gaolmhar de 'fás sineirgí atá ann cheana' sna tionscadail ealaíon agus leagadh béim orthu arís agus arís eile sna scéalta a d'inis daoine a cuireadh faoi agallamh.

Cé go raibh siad ann i roinnt tionscadal ÁIBÁÍ, is cosúil go raibh na cuspóirí 'cur chuige ón mbonn aníos' agus 'tacú le pobal ealaíon inbhuanaithe' níos deacra le baint amach le linn na céime tosaigh sin den obair i mBaile Átha Í. Mar sin féin, ba uaillmhianta bailí iad fós don chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha, agus sainaithníodh iad mar chodanna tábhachtacha d'fhorbairt leanúnach an phobail chruthaithigh i mBaile Átha Í.

These initial Creative Places were also charting new ground, as they set out to devise and deliver a programme that responded to the ambitious national funding programme's mission. As with any new programme, there have been strengths and weaknesses in the delivery process.

Based on the records available and from events attended and interviews undertaken with members of the local community, it is clear that the CPA programme followed the direction outlined by the key pillars and delivered on the mission. There is evidence that 'collaborative working methodologies' were a key part of many, if not most, of the projects funded by CPA. In as much as it was possible to assess retrospectively, issues of power and ethics were considered when planning and executing collaborative community projects.

The programme objective of 'connecting people and place' and the allied objective of 'growing of existing synergies' were also both in evidence in the art projects and highlighted repeatedly in the narratives of the people interviewed.

While present in some of the CPA projects, the objectives of 'cultivating a ground up approach' and 'supporting a sustainable arts community' appear to have been harder to achieve during this initial phase of the work in Athy. However, they remain valid aspirations for a Creative Places programme, and have been identified as key building blocks for the continued evolution of the creative community in Athy.

05

Ar na torthaí dobhraite de ÁIBÁÍ, tá comhtháthú an phobail áitiúil chruthaithigh i dtreo eintiteas níos aontaithe a bhfuil dearcadh níos fearr aige ar a láidreachtaí agus ar a acmhainn.

Fuarthas amach leis an taighde seo go bhfuil pobal cruthaitheach fuinniúil rannpháirteach i mBaile Átha Í a ghlacann páirt ghníomhach i rannchuidiú le saol sóisialta agus cultúrtha an bhaile le roinnt mhaith blianta. Nuair a tosaíodh an obair i mBaile Átha Í, rinne Comhordaitheoir ÁIBÁÍ a míle dícheall teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an bpobal cruthaitheach le linn luathchéimeanna an chláir. I bhfianaise na srianta ar thionóil phoiblí an uair sin, baineadh é sin amach trí chruinnithe duine le duine a eagrú. Nuair a ceadaíodh tionóil phearsanta de ghrúpaí beaga leis na srianta paindéime, eagraíodh na cruinnithe sin i dTeach Tábhairne O'Brien. Is éard a tháinig chun cinn ón bpróiseas sin samhail oibriúcháin don chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha i mBaile Átha Í a bhraith go mór ar iontaoibh an Chomhordaitheora mar chainéal agus mar nascóir, toisc go raibh sí in ann freagairt do riachtanais agus mianta na n-eagraíochtaí pobail ar bhuail sí leo ach iad a chur in aithne d'ealaíontóirí a bheadh in ann tacú leo chun a spriocanna a bhaint amach.

One of the intangible outcomes of the CPA has been coalescing the local creative community towards being a more cohesive entity that has a better perspective on its strengths and capacity.

This research found that there was an energetic and engaged creative community in Athy, that were actively engaged in contributing to the social and cultural life of the town for many years. On commencing work in Athy, the CPA Coordinator made a concerted effort to reach the creative community during the early stages of programme. Given the restrictions on public gatherings at the time, this was realised by organising one-to-one meetings. When the pandemic restrictions allowed intimate gatherings of small groups, these were organised in O'Brien's Bar. What emerged from this process was an operating model for the Creative Places programme in Athy that relied heavily on the coordinator as conduit and connector, as she was able to respond to the needs and desires of community organisations she met by introducing them to artists who could support them in the realisation of their goals.

Tionscadal Luathbhlianta na hEalaíne agus Éiceolaíochta, Gaelscoil Bhaile Átha Í, 2024 - Comhoibriú le Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Chill Dara agus na healaíontóirí Jackie Maguire agus Trish Maclaughlin. Creidmheas Grianghraf: Kate Maher

Art and Ecology Early Years Project, Gaelscoil Átha Í, 2024 - Collaboration with the County Kildare Childcare Committee and artists Jackie Maguire and Trish Maclaughlin. Photo Credit: Kate Maher

05

Mar a léireofar i gcuid 5, nuair a dhéanfar cuid de na torthaí a athbhreithniú, rinne an próiseas sin a luaigh mórán daoine mar láidreacht ÁIBÁÍ go leor nasc nua ar fud an phobail agus seachadadh go leor tionscnaimh rathúla leis.

D'ainneoin éifeachtacht an bhealaigh oibre sin agus na srianta faoinar oibrigh Comhordaitheoir ÁIBÁÍ, ba léir le linn an phróisis comhairliúcháin gur cheap cuid mhaith príomhpháirtithe leasmhara, go háirithe i measc an phobail chruthaithigh, go raibh easpa trédhearcachta i gceist leis an bpróiseas cinnteoireachta agus an straitéis fhoriomlán Áiteanna Ildánacha i mBaile Átha Í.

As will be evident in section 5, when some of the outcomes are reviewed, this process noted by many as a strength of CPA, established many new connections across the community and delivered many successful initiatives.

Notwithstanding the effectiveness of this way of working and the restrictions that the CPA Coordinator was operating under, it became apparent during the consultation process that many of the key stakeholders, particularly among the creative community, perceived the decision-making process and overall Creative Places strategy in Athy to have lacked transparency.



Cónaitheacht Woodstock, 2024 - Na hEalaíontóirí Mark Durkan agus Mary Jo Gilligan le pobail Woodstock. Íomhá tógtha ag Ócáid Sheachtain na hOidhreachta 2024.

Woodstock Residency, 2024 - Artists Mark Durkan and Mary Jo Gilligan with the communities of Woodstock. Image taken at Heritage Week Event 2024.

05

Leis an aiseolas sin ón bpobal cruthaitheach, rinneadh mórán eolais don taighde agus do na moltaí a leagtar amach sa chonclúid, is é sin, gur cheart ról níos lárnaí a bheith ag an bpobal cruthaitheach lena chinntiú go mbeidh seachadadh an chláir Áiteanna Ildánacha atá ag dul ar aghaidh i mBaile Átha Í bunaithe go láidir ar an gcur chuige ón mbonn aníos.

Le hÁiteanna Ildánacha ag oibriú le hionchur níos mó ón bpobal i gcoitinne leis an bpleanáil agus leis an seachadadh, chomhlíonfaí ar bhealach níos fearr freisin misean Áiteanna Ildánacha na Comhairle Ealaíon agus uaillmhian Sheirbhís Ealaíon Chill Dara maidir le "daoine nach bhfuil baint acu sa chinnteoireacht go traidisiúnta" a bheith "lárnach agus eolas á dhéanamh do na cláir ealaíon atá ar fáil".

This feedback from the creative community greatly informed this research and the recommendations outlined in the conclusion that a more central role be claimed by the creative community to ensure that the delivery of the ongoing Creative Places programme in Athy is firmly rooted in a ground-up approach.

A Creative Places operating with greater community input to planning and delivery would also better fulfil the Arts Council's Creative Places mission and Kildare Arts Service's ambition to have "people traditionally not involved in decision making" being "central in informing the arts programmes available".

05

Cé go n-aithnítear gur bhain pobal cruthaitheach Bhaile Átha Í tairbhe as ÁIBÁÍ, tá easpa acmhainne fós ann ó thaobh eolas maidir le cainéil chistiúcháin agus conas acmhainní agus tacaíochtaí eile a rochtain. Cé go ndearnadh iarracht éigin meantóireacht a sholáthar d'ealaíontóirí i rith na dtrí bliana de ÁIBÁÍ, bhí na hiarrachtaí sin ina bpíosaí agus treallach. Cé gur sainaithníodh leis an taighde seo gur dheis nár tapaíodh í sin, **moltar gur cheart cur chuige straitéiseach chun acmhainn an phobail chruthaithigh a neartú a bheith ina thosaíocht sa chéad chéim eile de ÁIBÁÍ.**

Cé go n-aithnítear dúshláin maidir le seachadadh ÁIBÁÍ, d'eascair torthaí inbhraite agus dobhraite suntasacha ón gclár a chuir le cáilíocht na beatha d'áitritheoirí Bhaile Átha Í.

San aiseolas a thug siad don Taighdeoir, d'aithin an pobal cruthaitheach gur bhain siad tairbhe as ÁIBÁÍ ar neart bealaí, go háirithe sa chaoi is

- *Go raibh cistiú ar fáil d'ealaíontóirí chun páirt a ghlacadh i dtionscadail uaillmhianacha lenar cuimsíodh íocaíocht dóibh féin;*
- *Tar éis dóibh spreagadh agus misniú a fháil ó mhisean ÁIBÁÍ chun oibriú i gcomhar le rannpháirtithe pobail, bhí deis ag cuid mhaith ealaíontóirí a chónaíonn i réigiún Bhaile Átha Í a gcleachtas a leathnú chun obair le rannpháirtithe pobail a chur san áireamh.*

While acknowledging that the Athy creative community benefited from CPA, it still lacks capacity in terms of knowledge of funding channels and how to access other resources and supports. While there was some attempt to provide mentoring to artists over the three years of CPA, these efforts appear to have been piecemeal and sporadic. While this research identified this as a missed opportunity, **it is recommended that a strategic approach to strengthen the creative community's capacity should be a priority within the next phase of CPA.**

While acknowledging challenges in the delivery of CPA, there have been significant tangible and intangible outcomes from the programme that have contributed to the quality of life of the inhabitants of Athy.

In their feedback to the Researcher, the creative community acknowledged that they had benefited from CPA in many ways, most notably in that

- *There was funding for artists to engage in ambitious projects that included an allocation to pay themselves;*
- *Having been inspired and encouraged by the CPA mission to work collaboratively with community participants, many artists living in the Athy region had the opportunity to expand their practice to include working with community participants.*

05

Chomh maith leis sin, thug eagraíochtaí forbartha pobail, ar tugadh spreagadh dóibh ealaíontóirí a thabhairt isteach chun oibriú lena n-úsáideoirí seirbhíse, aitheantas poiblí don tionchar a bhí aige sin ar a gcuid oibre:

- *Do Chumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann, d'athraigh ÁIBÁÍ a dhearcadh maidir lena spás a úsáid mar spás le haghaidh cruthaitheachta;*[8]
- *Don Chlár Cumhachtaithe Pobal, d'athraigh ÁIBÁÍ an chaoi a dtéann siad chun cainte leis na pobail a n-oibríonn siad leo. Thar na trí bliana, gabhadh seanscéalta agus scéalta nua, cuireadh le scileanna, agus forbraíodh caidrimh.*[9]

Mar fhocal scoir, maidir leis an infheistíocht mhór a rinne an Chomhairle Ealaíon agus Comhairle Contae Chill Dara i saol cruthaitheach an bhaile, nach bhfuair infheistíocht náisiúnta cistithe ealaíon go dtí seo, aimsítear leis an tuarascáil seo go ndearnadh an bealach a réiteach do thodhchaí ina mbeidh na healaíona agus an chruthaitheacht in ann ról níos mó fós a ghlacadh i bhfolláine áitritheoirí Cheantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Í.

Community development organisations that had been encouraged to bring artists in to work with their service users also publicly acknowledged the impact this had on their work:

- *For the Irish Wheelchair Association, CPA has changed their perspective in terms of the use of their space as a space for creativity;*[8]
- *For the Empowering Communities Programme, CPA has changed the way they approach the communities they work with. Over the three years, old and new stories have been captured, skills have been enhanced, and connections made.*[9]

In conclusion this report finds that the significant investment by the Arts Council and Kildare County Council in the creative life of the town, that heretofore had not received national arts funding investment, has laid the foundations for a future where the arts and creativity has the potential to play an even greater role in the wellbeing of the inhabitants of Athy Municipal District.

8 Evelyn O'Rourke, Stiúrthóir, Ionad Chumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann, Baile Átha Í ag an imeacht Reflecting on the Journey, Shaping the Future, in Óstán Abbey, Baile Átha Í, an 12 Meán Fómhair 2024.
9 Jason Leigh, Oifigeach Rannpháirtíochta Pobail, an Clár Cumhachtaithe Pobal, Baile Átha Í, ag an imeacht Reflecting on the Journey, Shaping the Future, in Óstán Abbey, Baile Átha Í, an 12 Meán Fómhair 2024.

8 Evelyn O'Rourke, Director, Irish Wheelchair Association Centre, Athy at Reflecting on the Journey, Shaping the Future, in The Abbey Hotel, Athy, on 12th Sept 2024.
9 Jason Leigh, Community Engagement Officer, Empowering Communities Programme, Athy, at Reflecting on the Journey, Shaping the Future, in The Abbey Hotel, Athy, on 12th Sept 2024.

05



Cruinniú Grianstad an tSamhraidh, 2024 - D'oibrigh na healaíontóirí Beth Murphy agus Bridget Ní Dhuinn le hAontas Ógra, YouthINK, Amhránaíochta agus Comharthaíochta TCÉ, IWA Bhaile Átha Í, Bothán na mBan Bhaile Átha Í, Willow Weavers, Coláiste Bhaile Átha Í, Comhaltas Bhaile Átha Í, Amharclann Óige Griese.

Summer Solstice Gathering, 2024 - Artists Beth Murphy and Bridget Ní Dhuinn worked with Aontas Ógra, YouthINK, Athy ISL Sing & Sign, IWA Athy, Athy Women's Shed, Willow Weavers, Athy College, Comhaltas Athy, Griese Youth Theatre.

05

Torthaí

Thar na trí bliana de chlár ÁIBÁÍ, bronnadh 87 dámhachtain lenar dáileadh €315,061.27 san iomlán. Áiríodh leis seo 64 dámhachtain agus coimisiún de €237,462.97. B'fhiú €250 an dámhachtain ba lú. B'fhiú €30,000 an dámhachtain ba mhó.[10]

Rinneadh formhór na ndámhachtainí faoi thrí chlár gairmeacha oscailte cistiúcháin a reáchtáil ÁIBÁÍ:

- *Dámhachtainí €500 d'Ealaíontóir atá ag Teacht Chun Cinn/Cleachtóir Cruthaitheach;*
- *Dámhachtainí €2,000 Naisc a Chruthú;*
- *Dámhachtainí €4,000 chun Ealaíona Pobalghníomhacha a Chothú.*

Cé gur bronnadh roinnt Dámhachtainí Gairmeacha Oscailte ar ealaíontóirí ó lasmuigh de Cheantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha Í, bronnadh formhór acu ar ealaíontóirí atá lonnaithe go háitiúil nó ar ealaíontóirí a bhfuil nasc láidir acu leis an gceantar. Chuaigh cuid mhaith ealaíontóirí ar bronnadh an dámhachtain Ealaíontóir atá ag Teacht Chun Cinn orthu ar aghaidh chun an dámhachtain Naisc a Chruthú a fháil an bhliain dár gcion agus, ar an gcaoi chéanna, bhí rath ar roinnt ealaíontóirí/eagraíochtaí ar bronnadh an dámhachtain Naisc a Chruthú orthu maidir leis an dámhachtain níos mó, Ealaíona Pobalghníomhacha a Chothú, a fháil de réir mar a tháinig a n-acmhainn agus a muinín chun cinn.

Outcomes

Over the three years of the CPA programme, €315,061.27 was allocated towards programme delivery. This included 64 awards and commissions of €237,462.97. The smallest award was for €250.The largest award was for €30,000.[10]

The majority of awards were made under three open call funding programmes run by CPA:

- *Emerging Artist/Creative Practitioner awards of €500;*
- *Making Connections awards of €2,000;*
- *Sowing the Seeds of Socially Engaged Arts Awards of €4,000.*

While some of the Open Call Awards were made to artists from outside the Athy Municipal District, the majority were made to locally based artists or artists with a strong link to the locale. Many artists that were awarded the Emerging Artist Award went on to secure a Making Connections Award in the following year and similarly some of the artists/organisations that were awarded the Making Connections Award were successful in getting the larger Sowing the Seeds of Socially Engaged Arts Award as their capacity and confidence developed.

10 Bronnadh an Dámhachtain Ceangail agus Cruinnigh mar chuid d'Áiteanna Ildánacha Bhaile Átha Í de luach €30,000 ar an ealaíontóir Anthony Haughey.

10 Creative Places Athy Connect & Gather Award for €30,000 was awarded to artist Anthony Haughey.

05

Bhain tionscadail ÁIBÁÍ leas as rogha leathan foirmeacha ealaíne agus sheachaid siad torthaí éagsúla, cuid acu a dhírigh ar an bpróiseas, agus cuid eile acu a dhírigh níos mó ar an toradh. Phléigh an clár go rathúil le páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla. I measc na samplaí de sin, áirítear:

- *Ealaíontóir Vera McEvoy ó Chill Dara a stiúir tionscadal teicstíle idirghlúine ina raibh daltaí idirbhliana ó Ardscoil na Tríonóide agus an Creative Crew i gCnocán Mhuire, Baile Átha Í páirteach;*
- *Ealaíontóir Emily Rainsford a reáchtáil sraith ceardlann ar an téama "baile" le seirbhísí KARE inar cuireadh smaointí agus léirmhínithe éagsúla i láthair trí mheáin mheasctha;*
- *Ealaíontóir Trisha McLoughlin a d'oibrigh i gcomhar le Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Chill Dara agus Gaelscoil Átha Í a dhírigh ar an luath-óige (0-3 bliana d'aois). Ba é b'aidhm don tionscadal léirthuiscint a sholáthar d'fheighlithe leanaí atá lonnaithe i mBaile Átha Í ar na healaíona san oideachas agus cúram luath-óige.*

CPA projects drew on a wide selection of artforms and delivered a variety of outcomes some focusing on process, while others were more outcome oriented. The programme successfully engaged with a wide diversity of stakeholders. Examples of this include:

- *Kildare artist Vera McEvoy who led an intergenerational textile project that involved Transition Year students from Ardscoil na Tríonóide and the Creative Crew in Mount St Mary's, Athy;*
- *Artist Emily Rainsford who ran in a series of workshops on the theme of "home" with KARE Services showcasing diverse ideas and interpretations through mixed media;*
- *Artist Trisha McLoughlin who collaborated with the County Kildare Childcare Committee and Gaelscoil Átha Í focused on early childhood (aged 0-3 years). The project aimed to provide Athy-based childminders with an appreciation of the arts in early childhood education and care.*

05

Bunaithe ar an iliomad comhráite le healaíontóirí in agallaimh fhoirmiúla agus duine le duine araon, ag ceardlanna WHU agus trí chasadh le daoine go neamhfhoirmiúil, is léir gur bhain an Pobal Cruthaitheach tairbhe mhór as clár ÁIBÁÍ. Go háirithe, dúirt ealaíontóirí:

- ***gur leathnaigh siad a scileanna ealaíonta;***
- ***go raibh deis acu oibriú ar thionscadail uaillmhianacha;***
- ***gur fhoghlaim siad faoi oibriú i gcomhthéacs pobail;***
- ***go ndearna siad an-chuid nasc nua laistigh den phobal cruthaitheach agus den phobal forbartha pobail;***
- ***gur éirigh siad níos inniúla ag an obair riaracháin a bhaineann le bheith i d'ealaíontóir.***

D'ainneoin na ngnóthachan sin, ba í an phríomhinsint eile a tháinig ón bpobal cruthaitheach an mhian chun leanúint den turas seo agus an fheasacht faoina leochaileacht toisc go bhfuil mórán fós le foghlaim acu.

Leis na staidéir ghearra seo a leanas ar roinnt tionscadal a fuair tacaíocht ó ÁIBÁÍ, soláthraítear fianaise ar éagsúlacht shaibhir, tionchar sochaíoch agus uaillmhian ealaíonta chlár ÁIBÁÍ. Soláthraítear samplaí leis na tionscadail seo de na naisc a thionscain Comhordaitheoir ÁIBÁÍ agus ar thacaigh sí leo lenar tugadh ealaíontóirí agus pobail áite agus spéise le chéile, agus den chaoi ar éirigh le cuid acu leanúint ar aghaidh tar éis dheireadh chistiú ÁIBÁÍ.

Based on the many conversations with artists both in formal one-to-one interviews, at WHU workshops and through casual encounters, it is clear that the Creative Community benefited a great deal from the CPA programme. In particular artists spoke of:

- ***having expanded their artistic skills;***
- ***having had the opportunity to work on ambitious projects;***
- ***having learned about working in a community context;***
- ***having made many new connections within the creative community and the community development community;***
- ***having become more proficient at the administrative work involved in being an artist.***

Notwithstanding these gains, the other key narrative coming from the creative community was the desire to continue on this journey and an awareness of their vulnerability as they still have much to learn.

The following short studies of a number of projects that were supported by CPA provides evidence of the rich diversity, societal reach and artistic ambition of the CPA programme. These projects provide examples of the connections that were initiated and supported by the CPA Co-ordinator that brought artists and communities of place and interest together and how some of them have managed to carry on beyond the end of CPA funding.



Tionscadal Luathbhlianta na hEalaíne agus Éiceolaíochta, Gaelscoil Bhaile Átha Í, 2024 - Comhoibriú le Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Chill Dara agus na healaíontóirí Jackie Maguire agus Trish Maclaughlin. Creidmheas Grianghraf: Kate Maher

Art and Ecology Early Years Project, Gaelscoil Átha Í, 2024 - Collaboration with the Kildare County Childcare Committee and artists Jackie Maguire and Trish Maclaughlin. Photo Credit: Kate Maher



05

Plé le Daoine Óga – Clár drámaíochta Crooked House in éineacht le InSync.

Is eagraíocht seirbhísí óige agus teaghlaigh é InSync atá lonnaithe i gCill Dara agus in Iarthar Chill Mhantáin, agus is é is aidhm dó tacú le daoine óga a n-acmhainn a fhorbairt ionas go mbainfidh siad barr a gcumas amach trí oibriú ar chláir oideachais neamhfhoirmiúla. D'fhoghlaim brainse Bhaile Átha Í de InSync, a reáchtálann Dave Ryan, faoi ÁIBÁÍ nuair a thug Eilish Langton cuairt orthu chun í féin a chur in aithne. Thar na trí bliana, ghlac baill InSync páirt i roinnt tionscadal ÁIBÁÍ, mar shampla, Gairdín Tíleanna Cré Bhaile Átha Í ag Ionad Ealaíon Pobail Bhaile Átha Í agus iad ag oibriú leis an ealaíontóir Moya Rothwell. Ghlac grúpa déagóirí níos sine páirt freisin i dtionscadal drámaíochta a d'éascaigh compántas amharclannaíochta atá lonnaithe i nDroichead Nua, Crooked House.

In 2022, bhí roinnt déagóirí níos sine sainaitheanta ag Ryan i measc ógra InSync a raibh deacracht acu iad féin a chur in iúl. Ar feadh tréimhse roinnt seachtainí, reáchtáil sé roinnt ceardlanna drámaíochta, agus thug sé cuireadh do na daoine óga sin freastal orthu. Ag freagairt don aiseolas dearfach uathu maidir leis na seisiúin sin, d'fhiafraigh sé díobh an mbeadh suim acu sraith ceardlann a dhéanamh le héascaitheoir oilte. Dúirt siad go mbeadh, agus fostaíodh Crooked House chun na ceardlanna sin a dhéanamh. Cé gur cistíodh na ceardlanna trí chlár forbartha óige Crooked House, bhí gá le cistiú chun costais iompair agus fáilteachais na n-éascaitheoirí a chumhdach. Thoiligh ÁIBÁÍ na costais sin a chumhdach.

Engaging with Youth – Crooked House drama programme with Insync.

InSync is a youth and family services organisation based in Kildare and West Wicklow, that aims to support young people to build their capacity in order to reach their full potential through working on informal educational programmes. In Sync's Athy branch, run by Dave Ryan, learned about CPA when Eilish Langton visited to introduce herself. Over the three years, InSync members participated in a number of CPA projects, including the Athy Clay Tiles Garden at the Athy Community Art Centre working with artist Moya Rothwell. A group of older teens also took part in a drama project facilitated by the Newbridge based theatre company Crooked House.

In 2022, Ryan had identified a number of older teenagers among the InSync youth that had difficulty expressing themselves. Over a period of weeks he ran a number of drama workshops, inviting these youth to attend. Responding to their positive feedback to these sessions, he asked if they would be interested in doing a series of workshops with a trained facilitator. They agreed and Crooked House were engaged to do these workshops. While the workshops were being funded through the Crooked House youth development programme, funding was needed to cover transport and hospitality costs for the facilitators. CPA agreed to cover these costs.

Bhí clár drámaíochta 12 sheachtain Crooked House, a d'éascaigh Oguzhan Sahin, ar siúl idir mí Eanáir agus mí an Mheithimh 2023. Ag machnamh dó faoi thoradh an tionscadail, dúirt Ryan go bhfaca sé "difríocht intomhaiste i muinín na ndaoine óga". Slat tomhais de rath an tionscadail sin is ea gur thosaigh beirt ón ngrúpa sin ag obair go deonach ag InSync, agus chuidigh siad leis an bhfoireann tacú leis na grúpaí níos óige. Thug Ryan faoi deara freisin gur chuidigh an tacaíocht cistithe ó ÁIBÁÍ le InSync "comhar a thosú le Crooked House atá anois ina thríú bliain acadúil".

Daoine faoi Mhíchumas a Mhealladh – Tionscadal a threoraigh an t-ealaíontóir Ciara Chapman

D'fhreagair Ciara Chapman, ealaíontóir atá ina cónaí i gContae Cheatharlach, do ghlao oscailte ó ÁIBÁÍ le haghaidh Dámhachtain an Choimisiúin Rochtana. Bhí Chapman, a mhaireann faoi mhíchumas í féin, ag iarraidh an dámhachtain a úsáid chun feasacht faoi mhíchumas a mhúscailt. Ba é an smaoineamh a bhí aici oibriú le grúpaí éagsúla míchumais sa bhaile chun "tionscnaimh chruthaitheacha a fhorbairt lena gcuirtear dúshlán romhainn chun smaoineamh ar réitigh nuálacha, gníomhú orthu agus iad a fhorbairt do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas a bhfuil bacainní ar rochtain rompu". Le linn shaolré an choimisiúin, chuaigh Chapman agus grianghrafadóir gairmiúil Aoife Claffey i dteagmháil leis na pobail ag Grúpa Rochtana Bhaile Átha Í, Cumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann, Tionscadal Dara agus le Seirbhísí KARE.

The 12 week Crooked House drama programme, which was facilitated by Oguzhan Sahin, took place between January to June 2023. Reflecting on the outcome of the project Ryan said that he witnessed "a measurable difference in confidence of the young people". A gauge of the success of this project was that two of the group became volunteers at InSync, helping staff supporting the younger groups. Ryan also noted that the funding support from CPA helped InSync "begin a partnership between us and Crooked House that is now in its third academic year".

Engaging People with Disabilities – A project led by artist Ciara Chapman

Ciara Chapman, an artist living in County Carlow, responded to an open call from CPA for the Access Commission Award. Chapman, who is herself living with a disability, wanted to use the award to raise awareness about disability. Her idea was to work with different disability groups in the town to develop "creative initiatives which challenges us all to think, act and develop creative and innovative solutions for people with disabilities who experience barriers to access". Over the course of the commission Chapman and professional photographer Aoife Claffey engaged with the communities at Athy Access Group, Irish Wheelchair Association, Dara Project and KARE Services.

05

I rith na 10 mí den tionscadal, forbraíodh sraith 8 gclár fógraí a chruthaigh Chapman agus í ag obair i gcomhar leis na pobail ar thug sí cuairt orthu sna grúpaí pobail éagsúla. Bhí gach ceann de na cláir fógraí ar taispeáint thar thréimhse 5 mhí ar chláir fógraí feiceálacha i mBaile Átha Í. Bhí sé tábhachtach do Chapman na cláir fógraí a úsáid le haghaidh torthaí an tionscadail toisc gur mhaith léi go mbeadh an ealaín inrochtana do chách agus tá a fhios aici óna taithí féin nach mbíonn gach foirgneamh inrochtana do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas. Agus an saothar ar an tsráid, d'fhág sé sin go raibh sé inrochtana do chách.

Ba chéim mhór do Chapman é, a d'oibrigh léi féin i gcónaí go dtí sin agus í ag déanamh a cuid ealaíne, an t-eispéireas de bheith ag obair i gcomhar leis na rannpháirtithe pobail. D'fhoghlaim sí an t-uafás ón eispéireas agus tá súil aici go mbeidh sí in ann obair ar an gcaoi sin amach anseo.

Tá gealltanas breise ann go ndéanfar na cláir fógraí a athchruthú i gContae Chill Dara mar chuid de chlár Líonra Rochtana Chontae Chill Dara agus go seolfaidh Comhairle Contae Chill Dara leabhar le haghaidh Lá Idirnáisiúnta na nDaoine faoi Mhíchumas agus go ndáilfear é ar Leabharlanna Chill Dara.

Over the 10-months of the project, a series of 8 Billboards were developed, which were created by Chapman working collaboratively with the communities she visited in the different community groups. Each of the billboards were on display over a 5-month period on prominent billboards in Athy town. Using the billboards for the project outcomes was important to Chapman, as she wants art to be accessible to everyone and knows from experience that not all buildings are accessible to people with disability. Having the work in the street meant that it was accessible to everyone.

For Chapman, who up to that time had always worked alone making her art, the experience of working collaboratively with community participants was a big step. She learned so much from the experience and hopes to be able to work in this manner in the future.

There is a further commitment that the billboards will be replicated in Kildare County as part of the County Kildare Access Network programme and a book will be launched by KCC for International Day of Persons with Disabilities and distributed to Kildare Libraries.

05

An Pobal Ealaíon Amaitéarach Áitiúil - Cumann Grianghrafadóireachta Bhaile Átha Í

Bunaíodh Cumann Grianghrafadóireachta Bhaile Átha Í in 1982. Tá 55 ball ann faoi láthair. Cé go n-oibríonn cuid dá bhaill mar grianghrafadóirí gairmiúla, is eagraíocht amaitéarach é an cumann. Is é James Mahon, a reáchtálann siopa deisiúcháin ríomhairí i lár Bhaile Átha Í, an Cathaoirleach faoi láthair. D'fhoghlaim sé faoi ÁIBÁÍ nuair a thug Eilish Langton cuairt air chun í féin a chur in aithne dó agus chun cuireadh a thabhairt don chumann páirt a ghlacadh. I rith na dtrí bliana, rinne an cumann dhá thionscadal a d'fhreagair do na smaointe a chuir Langton i láthair dóibh.

Leis an gcéad cheann, ba fhreagairt é do cheist Langton "cé dóibh a bhfágaim na lámha seo?". Leis an ngríosú sin, iarradh ar bhaill an chumainn a gcuid eolais faoin ngrianghrafadóireacht a chur ar aghaidh go glúin nua. Agus iad spreagtha leis sin, rinne an cumann teagmháil le ceann de na bunscoileanna sa bhaile agus thairg siad sraith ceardlann a dhéanamh le daltaí rang a sé. Bhí rath chomh mór sin ar an bhfiontar go ndearna an cumann imeacht bliantúil as.

Ba é an dara tionscadal a rinne an cumann grianghraif a thógáil de "A go Z Bhaile Átha Í". Ag freagairt dó sin, chuaigh baill den chumann amach chun litreacha den aibítir a ghlacadh i dtimpeallacht thógtha agus i dtírdhreach nádúrtha an bhaile.

Engaging the Local Amateur Arts Community - The Athy Photographic Society

The Athy Photographic Society was set up in 1982. It currently has fifty five members. While some of its members do work as professional photographers, the society is an amateur organisation. James Mahon, who runs a computer repair shop in the centre of Athy, is the current Chairperson. He learned about CPA when Eilish Langton visited him to introduce herself and invite the society to get involved. Over the three years the society undertook two projects responding to ideas presented to them by Langton.

The first was responding to the question asked by Langton "who do I leave these hands to?". This provocation invited the members of the society to pass their knowledge of photography on to a new generation. Inspired by this, the society made contact with one of the primary schools in the town and offered to do a workshop series with the sixth class students. Such was the success of this venture that the society have made this an annual event.

The second project, which the society undertook was to photograph the "A to Z of Athy". Responding to this, members of the society went out to capture the letters of the alphabet in the built and natural landscape of the town.



Tionscadal Rochtana Bhaile Átha Í, 2023 – Comhpháirtíocht le CKAN (Líonra Rochtana Chontae Chill Dara). Chomhoibrigh an t-ealaíontóir Ciara Chapman le Grúpa Rochtana Bhaile Átha Í, Cumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann agus KARE.



Athy Access Project, 2023 – A partnership with CKAN (County Kildare Access Network). Artist Ciara Chapman collaborated with Athy Access Group, Irish Wheelchair Association and KARE.

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Mar aon leis na tionscadail sin, ghlac baill den chumann páirt i roinnt tionscadal ÁIBÁÍ eile agus sholáthair siad na grianghraif ba ghá. An sampla is déanaí ba ea go ndeachaigh Anthony Haughey chun cainte leo chun oibriú leis ar thaispeántas don spás siopa atá á oscailt aige mar chuid dá Chónaitheacht Ealaíontóra ÁIBÁÍ.

Cónaitheacht Bhodastóic – Clár cónaitheachta le healaíontóirí Mary Jo Gilligan agus Mark Durkan

Tháinig an tionscadal seo aníos tar éis comhrá idir Comhordaitheoir ÁIBÁÍ Eilish Langton agus ionadaithe ó Chomhpháirtíocht LEADER Chill Dara - Pobail a Chumhachtú agus Sláintecare - Pobail Shláintiúla i gceantar Bhodastóic Bhaile Átha Í.[11] An togra a bhí ann ná Cónaitheacht Ealaíontóra 10 mí a fhógairt do Bhodastóic. Bronnadh an dámhachtain ar an mbeirt ealaíontóirí Mary Jo Gilligan agus Mark Durkan.[12]

In addition to these projects the society members participated in numerous other CPA projects providing the photograph needed. Most recently they were approached by Anthony Haughey to work with him on an exhibition for the shop space he is opening as part of his CPA Artist Residency.

Woodstock Residency – A residency programme with artists Mary Jo Gilligan and Mark Durkan

This project came about following a discussion between CPA Coordinator Eilish Langton and representatives from Kildare Leader Partnership - Empowering Communities and Sláintecare - Healthy Communities in the Woodstock area of Athy.[11] The proposal was to advertise a ten-month Artist Residency for Woodstock. The award went to artist duo Mary Jo Gilligan and Mark Durkan.[12]



11 Sa cheantar ar a dtugtar Bodastóic i mBaile Átha Í, tá na cúig eastát de Bhaile Átha Í Thiar (Uirbeach), Páirc San Dominic, Páirc Chairbre, na Cnoic Ghlasa, Páirceanna an Bhaile agus Páirc an Chaisleáin.
12 Déanann Durkan cur síos air féin mar ealaíontóir a oibríonn i gcomhar le daoine agus le pobail. Déanann Gilligan cur síos uirthi féin mar ealaíontóir a dhéanann sainchúram d'ealaín suíomhoiriúnaithe agus d'ealaín phobalghníomhach.

11 The area in Athy known as Woodstock is composed of the five estates of Athy West Urban (Dominic's Park, Carbury Park, Greenhills, Townspark and Castlepark).
12 Durkin describes himself as an artist that collaborates with people and communities. Gilligan describes herself as an artist who specialises in site specific art and socially engaged art.

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Ag luathchéim na cónaitheachta, cuireadh Durkan agus Gilligan in aithne do Rose Doyle a oibríonn go deonach ag bainistiú Teach Pobail Bhaile Átha Í Thiar Uirbeach i bPáirceanna an Bhaile, ceann de na cúig eastát i mBodastóic. Éascaíonn sí féin seisiúin sheachtainiúla fuála agus ceirdeanna eile leis an bpobal áitiúil. Ar dtús, cheap Doyle go mbeadh Durkan agus Gilligan ag déanamh múrphéintéireachta san eastát agus bhí ionadh uirthi nuair a mhínigh siad nach ndéanann siad múrphictiúir. D'ainneoin an túis éiginnte sin, forbraíodh nasc an-láidir idir Doyle, Durkan agus Gilligan, agus bhí an Teach Pobail ina phointe nasctha don tionscadal. Beartaíodh go leanfadh an tionscadal ar aghaidh ar feadh 10 mí ar dtús, ach cuireadh fad breise leis trí chistiú breise ó Rannóg Oidhreachta Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara agus seachadadh torthaí iomadúla inbhraite agus dobhraite leis.

Agus tús na cónaitheachta á thabhairt chun cuimhne aige, dúirt Durkan go raibh, ón tús, "constaicí rompu". Ina theannta sin, cuireadh ar an eolas iad "faoi theorannacha stairiúla idir na heastáit". Thug siad aghaidh ar na barúlacha sin agus ba phríomhthionscnóir é sin don chónaitheacht, toisc gur bhraith Durkan agus Gilligan go bhféadfaidís, "mar dhaoine ón taobh amuigh", neamhaird a thabhairt ar na teorainneacha.

Ba é an chéad imeacht mór a bheartaigh siad sárscannán Éireannach ó na 1980idí, "Eat the Peach", a rinneadh i gContae Chill Dara, a theilgean ar bhallaí seachtracha Chaisleán Bhodastóic. Mheall an t-imeacht breis is 120 duine ó na cúig eastát uile.

At an early stage in the residency, Durkan and Gilligan were introduced to Rose Doyle who works in a voluntary capacity managing the Athy West Urban Community House in Town Parks, one of the five Woodstock estates. She herself facilitates weekly sessions with the local community doing sewing and other crafts. Initially Doyle understood that Durkan and Gilligan would be doing mural painting in the estate and was surprised when they explained that they did not do murals. In spite of this tentative beginning, a very strong bond developed between Doyle, Durkan and Gilligan, with the Community House becoming the connection point for the project. Initially envisaged as a ten-month project, it was extended by a further duration with additional funding from the Kildare County Council Heritage Department and has delivered multiple tangible and intangible outcomes.

Recalling the beginning of the residency Durkan said that from the outset "they were meeting obstacles". They also became "aware of inter-estate historical boundaries". Leaning into these observations became a key driver in the residency, as Durkan and Gilligan felt that they "as outsiders" could overlook the boundaries.

The first significant event they planned was a screening on the exterior walls of Woodstock Castle, of the 1980s classic Irish movie "Eat the Peach", which was made in County Kildare. The event attracted over 120 people from across the five estates.

Múrphictiúr Garter Lane, 2023 - Comhdheartha ag TCÉ Amhránaíochta agus Comharthaíochta Bhaile Átha Í, Cumann Grianghrafadóireachta Bhaile Átha Í agus an t-ealaíontóir Paul Woods do Bhailte Slachtmhara Bhaile Átha Í, Tosaitheoirí Bhaile Átha Í agus Scéim Feabhsúcháin Sráide LEO Chill Dara. Péinteáilte ag Paul Woods.

Garter Lane Mural, 2023 - Co-designed by Athy Sing and Sign ISL, Athy Photographic Society and artist Paul Woods for Athy Tidy Towns, Athy Town Promoters and Kildare LEO Streetscape Enhancement Scheme. Painted by Paul Woods.

05

Trí Doyle, cuireadh Durkan agus Gilligan in aithne don saol cruthaitheach a bhí ann cheana sa phobal, agus bheartaigh siad mar sin díriú ar stair chultúrtha na háite a cheiliúradh agus a dhoiciméadú. Mhínigh Gilligan go raibh na ceisteanna “Cén íomhá de féin atá ag an bpobal?” agus “Cén íomhá atá acu ón taobh amuigh?” lárnach don fhiosrúchán ealaíon agus do na gníomhartha ealaíon a d’eascair as sin. Ba í Doyle an nasc, agus d’éascaigh sí cuid mhaith de na naisc a rinne na healaíontóirí le cónaitheoirí sa phobal a bhí in ann stair bheo na n-eastát a insint dóibh. Chun é sin a chomhlánú, rinne Durkan agus Gilligan teagmháil le staraithe áitiúla a bhí in ann sraitheanna eile a sholáthar chun a chur leis an taighde.

Mar thoradh air sin uile, bhí an smaoineamh acu irisín a thabhairt le chéile dar teideal “History and Your Stories” (Stair agus Bhur Scéalta), a cuireadh i gcló agus a seachadadh, a bhuí le cúnamh ó dhaoine óga áitiúla, ar gach teach san eastát. Tháinig sé irisíní eile ina dhiaidh sin, agus bhreathnaigh gach ceann acu ar ghné dhifriúil den cheantar, mar shampla, eagráin faoi laochra ceoil na comharsanachta, an fiadhúlra dúchasach agus an abhainn. Ba mheascán d’eolas ó thaighde agus scéalta áitiúla a bhí i ngach irisín. Dar le Gilligan, bhí na foilseacháin sin ag iarraidh freastal ar dhá lucht léitheoireachta, an pobal áitiúil sna heastáit agus pobal Bhaile Átha Í i gcoitinne, nach raibh mórán ar eolas ag cuid mhaith acu faoi cheantar Bhodastóic toisc go bhfuil sé scoite amach ag an mBearú agus ag an gCaisleán agus ag sraitheanna de réamhchlaonadh aicme agus mífhaisnéis.

Through Doyle, Durkan and Gilligan were introduced to the existing creative life in the community, which led to a decision to focus on celebrating and documenting the cultural history of the place. Gilligan explained that central to the art enquiry and actions that followed were the questions “How does the community see itself?” and “How are they seen from outside?”. Doyle was the connector, facilitating many of the connections the artists made with residents in the community that were able to recount the living history of the estates. To complement this Durkan and Gilligan reached out to local historians who were able to provide other layers to add to the research.

This led to the idea of making a zine titled “History and Your Stories”, which was printed and dropped, with help from the local youth, to every house in the estate. Six further zines followed, with each one looking at a different aspect of the locale, these included issues on neighbourhood music heroes, the native wild life and the river. Each zine was a mix of researched information and local stories. According to Gilligan these publications were seeking to serve two audiences, the local community in the estates and the wider Athy community, many of whom know little about the Woodstock area, cut off as it is by the Barrow River and Castle and layers of class prejudice and misinformation.

05

Le síneadh an chomhair thar an 10 mí de dheontas ÁIBÁÍ agus cistiú breise acu ón gComhairle Oidhreachta, cuireadh ar a gcumas do Doyle, Durkan agus Gilligan na seacht n-irisíní, mar aon leis na hábhair eile a bhailigh siad le linn na cónaitheachta, a chur le chéile i bhformáid leabhair. Seoladh an foilseachán álainn sin i Leabharlann Bhaile Átha Í an 3 Deireadh Fómhair 2024. Chuir an fhoireann chruthaitheach chomhoibríoch suíomh gréasáin ar bun freisin do Woodstock Castle Press, ar féidir an leabhar a cheannach air agus a bhfuil súil leis go mbeifear in ann foilseacháin eile a sheoladh amach anseo air.

Cé go bhfuil deireadh leis an rannpháirtíocht chistithe, tá an chumarsáid idir na healaíontóirí agus Doyle fós ag dul ar aghaidh agus tá siad fós ag plé comhshaothair féideartha amach anseo.

Extending the collaboration beyond the ten months of the CPA grant with additional funding from the Heritage Council enabled Doyle, Durkin and Gilligan to bring the seven zines together with other material they had collected during the residency into a book format. This handsome publication was launched in Athy Library on October 3rd 2024. The collaborative creative team also set up a website for Woodstock Castle Press, where the book can be purchased and where in time it is hoped further publications can be launched.

While the funded engagement has drawn to a close, communication between the artists and Doyle are continuing and discussions are ongoing about possible future collaborations.



Aimsigh Do Ghuth, tionscadal 2022 - Temperamental MissElayneous le mná áitiúla. Tacaithe ag tionscadal óige InSync, Coláiste Bhaile Átha Í agus Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin (BOOCDCM).

Find Your Voice, 2022 Project - Temperamental MissElayneous with local women. Supported by InSync youth project, Athy College and Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB).

06

Conclúidí agus moltaí

Agus an chéad chéim de ÁIBÁÍ ag teacht chun críche, tá fianaise ann gur tháinig athrú as an infheistíocht i roinnt príomhréimsí, lena n-áirítear:

- *ealaíontóirí a leathnaigh a gcleachtas;*
- *an pobal cruthaitheach a d'fhorbair a mhuinín agus a uaillmhian;*
- *naisc shaibhre inbhuanaithe a cruthaíodh idir an pobal cruthaitheach, pobail áite agus spéise agus eagraíochtaí forbartha pobail.*

Aithníodh go ndearnadh botúin ach, dá bharr, foghlaimíodh ceachtanna agus rinneadh bearta lena gcinntiú go mbunófar, mar thoradh ar an bhfoghlaim sin, timpeallacht ealaíon níos inbhuanaithe sa todhchaí.

Cé nár bhain Baile Átha Í tairbhe as leibhéil mhóra chistithe ón gComhairle Ealaíon san am a chuaigh thart, bhí pobal saibhir cruthaitheach aige roimh thús chlár ÁIBÁÍ. Mar a léirítear leis na samplaí sa tuarascáil seo, d'fháig ÁIBÁÍ go raibh an pobal cruthaitheoirí sin infheicthe, agus tugadh aitheantas don obair a bhí á déanamh acu agus don obair atá fós á déanamh acu, agus don chumas atá acu áit níos fearr le cónaí ann, le hoibriú ann agus le cuairt a thabhairt air a chruthú i mBaile Átha Í.

Conclusion and recommendations

As the first phase of CPA concludes, there is evidence of the investment having delivered change in a number of key areas, including:

- *artists having expanded their practice;*
- *the creative community having grown in confidence and ambition;*
- *rich sustainable links having been created between the creative community, communities of place and interest and community development organisations.*

There has been an acknowledgement that mistakes were made, but from them, lessons were learned and actions taken to ensure that the learning helps establish a more sustainable arts ecology going forward.

While Athy may not have benefitted from significant levels of Arts Council funding in the past, it did have an rich creative community prior to the commencement of the CPA programme. As the examples in this report demonstrate, CPA made visible this community of creatives, recognising the value of the work they have been doing and continue to do, and the potential they have to make Athy a better place for people to live, work and visit.

Trí thacaíochtaí aonair ÁIBÁÍ agus trí rannpháirtíocht chomhchoiteann, tagann an pobal cruthaitheoirí sin chun cinn níos láidre ón gcéad chéim de ÁIBÁÍ agus tá siad i riocht maith chun ról ceannaireachta a ghlacadh agus an clár seo ag leanúint ar aghaidh.

Rinne clár ÁIBÁÍ daoine den phobal cruthaitheach a nascadh le heagraíochtaí forbartha pobail a bhfuil áitribh acu ar fud an bhaile. I gcaitheamh na dtrí bliana, bhí deis ag cuid mhaith ealaíontóirí oibriú sna heagraíochtaí éagsúla sin agus oibriú i gcomhar leo.

Tríd an bpróiseas sin, bunaíodh caidrimh agus tháinig tuiscint ar an luach a bhaineann leis na healaíona agus na heagraíochtaí forbartha pobail a bheith ag oibriú i gcomhar le chéile le bheith ina thoradh marthanach de ÁIBÁÍ.

Through individual CPA supports and collective engagement, this community of creatives emerges stronger from the first phase of CPA and are well placed to play a leadership role in the continuation of this programme.

The CPA programme connected members of the creative community with the community development organisations that have premises throughout the town. Over the course of the three years, many artists had the opportunity to work in and with different these organisations.

Through this process, relationships were established and an understanding of the value of arts and community development organisations working collaboratively became a lasting legacy of CPA.

06

I gcaitheamh na gcéad trí bliana de ÁIBÁÍ, bhí an clár in ann ealaíontóirí a chistiú chun tabhairt faoi obair nua. Mar aon le hioncam luachmhar a sholáthar do na cruthaitheoirí sin, spreag an clár iad chun a n-uaillmhian a mhéadú agus a gcleachtas a fhorbairt.

Ag teacht le treoirlínte an chláir, bhain rannpháirtíocht pobail le formhór na dtionscadal a cistíodh. Bhí leibhéal agus sofaisticiúlacht na rannpháirtíochta pobail éagsúil ó thionscadal go tionscadal, de réir thaithí an ealaíontóra de bheith ag obair i dtimpeallacht pobail agus de réir bhéim agus chuspóir an tionscadail. Soláthraítear fianaise leis na hachoimrí ar na ceithre thionscadal ÁIBÁÍ éagsúla sa tuarascáil seo den raon rannpháirtíochta pobail agus d'fhairsinge na cumhachta de chlár ÁIBÁÍ i mBaile Átha Í.

Agus an clár ag breathnú chun cinn ar an dara céim, déanann sé amhlaidh in éineacht le pobal cruthaitheoirí a bhfuil a n-acmhainn forbartha go mór acu chun oibriú i réimse casta na n-ealaíon pobail agus pobalghníomhach.

Over the course of the initial three years of CPA, the programme was able to fund artists to undertake new work. In addition to providing valuable income for these creatives the programme encouraged them to grow their ambition and develop their practice.

In keeping with the programmes guidelines, the majority of the projects that were funded involved community participation. The level and sophistication of the community engagement varied between projects, depending on the artist's experience working in a community setting and the focus and intent of the project. The synopses of four different CPA projects in this report, provides evidence of the range of community engagement and participation and breath of reach of the CPA programme in Athy.

As the programme looks towards the second phase, it does so with a community of creatives that have significantly strengthened their capacity to work in the complex territory of community and socially engaged arts.

Barr ar dheis - Spriocanna Forbartha Inbhuanaithe, Tionscadal Is Féidir Linn Difríocht a Dhéanamh, 2023/24 - An t-ealaíontóir Kasia Eliasz le daltaí ón 6ú rang i Scoil Phádraig Naofa agus an múinteoir Ann Foy.

Sustainable Development Goals, We Can Make a Difference Project, 2023/24 - Artist Kasia Eliasz with Scoil Phádraig Naofa's 6th-class students and teacher Ann Foy.

'Cad is Áit Chruthaitheach ann?' sraith cainteanna, Leabharlann Bhaile Átha Í 2023 – Ealaíontóir Cathy Callan

'What is a Creative Place?' series of talks, Athy Library, 2023 - Artist Cathy Callan





06

Ag cur leis na forbairtí sin agus muid ag bogadh ar aghaidh, moltar:

- ***Go mbeidh an pobal cruthaitheach áitiúil lárnach don chlár leanúnach Áiteanna Ildánacha i mBaile Átha Í;***
- ***Go dtugtar cuireadh freisin do cheannairí forbartha pobail agus do dhaoine aonair tábhachtacha i bpobail áite nó spéise chun páirt a ghlacadh i bhforbairt straitéiseach na n-ealaíon i mBaile Átha Í;***
- ***D'ainneoin na ngnóthachan a rinneadh le trí bliana anuas, go soláthrófar clár struchtúrtha foghlama, meantóireachta agus tacaíochta don phobal cruthaitheach, ionas go gcumhachtófar iad ar bhealach níos fearr chun úinéireacht a ghlacadh ar neart an chláir Áiteanna Ildánacha agus go gcothaíonn siad é sin san am atá le teacht.***

I ndáil leis an gclár cistiúcháin Áiteanna Ildánacha, tugtar roinnt príomhcheachtanna le fios leis an taighde seo:

- *Tá sé ríthábhachtach go dtarlóidh comhairliúchán leathan ar fud an phobail sula dtugann baile/réigiún faoi chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha. Go háirithe, tá sé ríthábhachtach go rachfar i gcomhairle leis an bPobal Cruthaitheach agus go dtugtar cuireadh dó cuidiú leis an bplean straitéiseach a fhorbairt;*
- *Ós rud é go bhfuil na hÁiteanna Ildánacha á reáchtáil i mbailte/réigiúin nach raibh mórán infheistíochta stáit iontu, tá sé tábhachtach gur cuid de chlár Áiteanna Ildánacha é clár forbartha acmhainne a chur i bhfeidhm don phobal cruthaitheach áitiúil lena chinntiú go neartaítear inbhuanaitheacht an phobail sin;*

Building on these developments, it is recommended that, going forward:

- ***The local creative community are central to the ongoing Creative Places programme in Athy;***
- ***Community development leaders and key individuals in communities of place or interest are also invited to participate in the strategic development of the arts in Athy;***
- ***Notwithstanding the gains made over the last three years, a structured programme of learning, mentorship and supports be provided for the local creative community, so that they are better empowered to take ownership of and sustain the momentum of the Creative Places programme into the future.***

In relation to the Creative Places funding programme, this research points to a number of key learnings:

- *It is vital that a wide consultation takes place across the community before a town/region commits to undertaking a Creative Places programme. In particular it is vital that the Creative Community are consulted and invited to help develop the strategic plan;*
- *Given the fact that the Creative Places are taking place in towns/regions that have had little state investment, it is important that a programme of capacity building for the local creative community is part of a Creative Places programme to ensure that the sustainability of this community is strengthened;*

- *Mar aitheantas ar fhairsinge uaillmhian an chláir Áiteanna Ildánacha, go bhforbraítear plean straitéiseach réalaíoch indéanta leis na páirtithe straitéiseacha uile lena chinntiú go mbainistítear ionchais;*
- *Go gcuirtear foireann tacaíochta i bhfeidhm in éineacht leis an gComhordaitheoir lena chinntiú go mbaintear amach uaillmhian an chláir, agus riaracháin agus doiciméadú tionscadail san áireamh.*

Ar deireadh, d'áiteodh an taighde seo go bhféadfadh cás láidir a dhéanamh don Chomhairle Ealaíon agus do na Comhairlí Contae atá ag tacú le hÁiteanna Ildánacha, i bhfianaise thiomantas sonraithe an chláir do "phrionsabail forbartha pobail", go moltar cur chuige níos oscailte, toisc go bhféadfadh sé níos mó ná trí nó ceithre bliana a thógáil chun na blianta fada faillí a chur ina gceart. I mBaile Átha Í, ina raibh forbairt inchainníochtaithe ar acmhainn agus ar uaillmhian an Phobail Chruthaithigh, agus bunú caidreamh inbhuanaithe le comhpháirtithe pobail agus tógáil muiníne le pobail rannpháirteacha san áireamh, moltar infheistíocht agus tacaíochtaí leanúnacha lena chinntiú go mbainfear amach an acmhainneacht sin agus go mbeidh an Pobal Cruthaitheach láidir go leor chun dul san iomaíocht le bailte réigiúnacha eile a bhain leas as infheistíocht ealaíon mharthanach le tríocha bliain anuas.

- *In recognition of the breadth of the Creative Places programme ambition a realistic and achievable strategic plan is developed and shared with all strategic partners to ensure that expectations are managed;*
- *A support team be put in place around the Coordinator to ensure that the ambition of the programme is realised, including administration and project documentation.*

Finally, this research would argue that a strong case can be made to the Arts Council and County Councils that are supporting Creative Places, that given the programmes stated commitment to "community-development principles" a more open ended approach is recommended, as it may take longer than three or four years to redress decades of neglect. In Athy, where there has been a quantifiable development of the capacity and ambition of the Creative Community, including the establishing of sustainable relationships with community partners and the building of trust with participant communities, continued investment and supports are recommended to ensure that this potential is realised and the Creative Community have become robust enough to compete with other regional towns that have benefited from sustained arts investment over the last thirty years.

Aguisín: 1
Appendix: 1

Pobail Chleachtais agus Pobail Spéise ÁIBÁÍ

Grúpaí daoine agus pobail áitiúla a ghlac páirt in ÁIBÁÍ 2021-2024.

Club Óige Aontas Ógra, Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Grúpa Rochtana Bhaile Átha Í, Ionad Ealaíon Pobail Bhaile Átha Í, Coláiste Bhaile Átha Í, Cumann Grianghrafadóireachta Bhaile Átha Í, Sing and Sign Bhaile Átha Í, Bothán Fear Bhaile Átha Í, Bothán Ban Bhaile Átha Í, Teach Bheitheart, Ionad Cruthaitheach Croí Anú, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Átha Í, Gaelscoil Átha Í, Amharclann Óige Griese, InSync, Cumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann, KARE, Conair Ceoil Made of Athy, Cnocán Mhuire, Cumann Cónaitheoirí Chloch an Mhuilinn, Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Cúram Lae Naomh Uinseann, Cumann Cónaitheoirí Bhodastóic, Young at Heart, YouthINK.

Comhpháirtithe agus cumasóirí ÁIBÁÍ

Ionad Acmhainní Teaghlaigh Bhaile Átha Í, Alternative Project Bhaile Átha Í, Athy Youth Café, Athy Town Promoters, Club Lucht Siúil Bhaile Átha Í, Coiste Cúraim Leanaí Chontae Chill Dara, Sláinte Chill Dara, Chomhpháirtíocht LEADER Chill Dara, Clár Cumhachtaithe Pobal Chill Dara, Tús, KARE: Ionchuimsiú do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas a Chur Chun Cinn, Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil Chill Dara, Comhpháirtíocht Áitiúil Spóirt Chill Dara, Pobail Shláintiúla Sláintecare, Tusla, Coiste Seirbhísí Leanaí agus Daoine Óga Chill Dara, Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chill Dara agus Chill Mhantáin (BOOCDCM), Ospidéal Naomh Uinseann FSS, Tionscadal Athstiúrtha don Óige Extern, Dánlann Shackleton.

CPA Communities of Practice and Communities of Interest

Groups of local people and communities that engaged with CPA 2021-2024.

Aontas Ogra Youth Club, Ardscoil na Tríonóide, Athy Access Group, Athy Community Arts Centre, Athy College, Athy Photographic Society, Athy Sing and Sign, Athy Men's Shed, Athy Women's Shed, Bert House, Croí Anú Creative Centre, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Átha Í, Gaelscoil Átha Í, Griese Youth Theatre, InSync, Irish Wheelchair Association, KARE, Made of Athy Music Trail, Mount St Mary's, Old Clonmullion Residents Association, Scoil Phádraig Naofa, St Vincent's Daycare, Woodstock Residents Association, Young at Heart, YouthINK.

CPA partners and enablers

Athy Family Resource Centre, Athy Alternative Project, Athy Youth Café, Athy Town Promoters, Athy Travellers Club, County Kildare Childcare Committee, Health Kildare, Kildare County LEADER Partnership, Kildare Empowering Communities Programme, Tús, KARE Promoting Inclusion For People With Intellectual Disabilities, Kildare Local Enterprise Office (LEO), Kildare Local Sports Partnership, Slaintécare Healthy Communities, Túsla, Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committees (KCYPSC), Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board (KWETB), St Vincent's Hospital HSE, The Alternative Project, Extern Youth Diversion Project, The Shackleton Museum.

Aguisín: 2

Appendix: 2

Daoine a cuireadh faoi agallamh don taighde seo
People Interviewed in for this research

Eilish Langton – Comhordaitheoir, Áiteanna Ildánacha Bhaile Átha Í, (i láthair, an 13 Meitheamh 2024)
Eilish Langton – Coordinator, Creative Places Athy, (In person, June 13th 2024)

Damien McGlynn – Stiúrthóir, Create (an 28 Meitheamh 2024)
Damien McGlynn – Director, Create, (June 28th 2024)

Susan Bookle, Comhordaithoir Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Chill Dara, Comhairle Contae Chill Dara agus Maria Healy - Pobail Shláintiúla Sláintecare, (i láthair, an 4 Iúil 2024)
Susan Bookle Local Community Development Committee Coordinator, Kildare County Council and Maria Healy - Sláintecare Healthy Communities, (In person, July 4th 2024)

Patricia Berry – Oifigeach Cúnta Foirne, an Rannóg Pobail, Comhairle Contae Chill Dara (i láthair, an 4 Iúil 2024)
Patricia Berry – Assistant Staff Officer, Community Section, Kildare Count Council (In person, July 4th 2024)

Eláine Donnelly – Oifigeach Ealaíon (gníomhach), Seirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara (i láthair, an 4 Iúil 2024)
Eláine Donnelly – Arts Officer (acting), Kildare County Council Arts Service (In person, July 4th 2024)

Paula Phelan (go cianda, an 9 Iúil 2024)
Paula Phelan (Remotely, July 9th 2024)

Mark Durkan (go cianda, an 9 Iúil 2024)
Mark Durkin (Remotely, July 9th 2024)

Leisa Gray – Comhordaitheoir, Áiteanna Ildánacha Bhaile Thiobraid Árainn (go cianda, an 17 Iúil 2024)
Leisa Gray – Coordinator, Creative Places Tipperary Town, (Remotely, July 17th 2024)

Evelyn O'Rourke – Stiúrthóir, Cumann Cathaoireacha Rothaí na hÉireann, Baile Átha Í (i láthair, an 23 Iúil 2024)
Evelyn O'Rourke – Director, Irish Wheelchair Association Centre, Athy, (In person, July 23rd 2024)

Lucina Russell, Oifigeach Ealaíon (sos gairme), Seirbhís Ealaíon Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara (i láthair, an 29 Iúil 2024)
Lucina Russell, Arts Officer (career break), Kildare County Council Arts Service – (In person, July 29th 2024)

Rose Doyle, éascaitheoir ceardaíochta agus gníomhaí pobail (i láthair, an 31 Iúil 2024)
Rose Doyle, craft facilitator and community activist, (In person, July 31st 2024)

Mary Jo Gilligan, Ealaíontóir Cónaithe, Bodastóic (i láthair, an 31 Iúil 2024)
Mary Jo Gilligan, Artist in Residence, Woodstock (In person, July 31st 2024)

Bríd Brophy – Cathaoirleach, Ionad Ealaíon Pobail Bhaile Átha Í (i láthair, an 7 Lúnasa 2024)
Bríd Brophy - Chairperson, Athy Community Arts Centre (In Person, 7th Aug 2024)

Dave Ryan, Bainisteoir Seirbhíse Óige InSync (i láthair, an 7 Lúnasa 2024)
Dave Ryan, In Sync Youth Services Manager, (In Person, 7th Aug 2024)

Carmel Day, ceoltóir agus comhordaitheoir imeachta ealaíon (i láthair, an 7 Lúnasa 2024)
Carmel Day, musician and arts event coordinator, (In Person, 7th Aug 2024)

Colm Walsh, léiritheoir agus gníomhaí ceoil (go cianda, an 11 Meán Fómhair 2024)
Colm Walsh, music producer and activist, (Remotely, 11th Sept 2024)

James Mahon, grianghrafadóir agus Cathaoirleach, Cumann Grianghrafadóireachta Bhaile Átha Í (i láthair, an 28 Lúnasa 2024)
James Mahon, photographer and Chairperson, Athy Photographic Society, (In Person, 28th Aug 2024)

Ciara Chapman, ealaíontóir (go cianda, an 10 Meán Fómhair 2024)
Ciara Chapman, artist, (Remotely, 10th Sept 2024)

Cathy Callan, ealaíontóir (go cianda, an 10 Meán Fómhair 2024)
Cathy Callan, artist, (Remotely, 10th Sept 2024)

Aguisín: 3

Appendix: 3

Anailís LLDB ÁIBÁÍ

Láidreachtaí

- **Naisc** a dhéanamh;
- **Tacú** le healaíontóirí ag céimeanna éagsúla dá ngairmeacha;
- **Rannpháirtíocht** idir ealaíontóirí agus grúpaí forbartha pobail a éascú;
- **Solúbthacht** chun freagairt do dheiseanna;
- Feasacht **a mhúscailt** faoi shaibhreas an phobail chruthaithigh áitiúil agus faoin ról tábhachtach a ghlacann siad i gcreatlach sóisialta agus **cultúrtha Bhaile Átha Í;**
- Na **bunchlocha** a chruthú le haghaidh fás agus forbairt leanúnach;
- **Tiomantas** Sheirbhís Ealaíon Chill Dara do ÁIBÁÍ.

Laigí

- **Níor cuireadh** aidhmeanna agus cuspóirí an tionscadail in iúl go soiléir do pháirtithe leasmhara;
- Cruthaíodh **srianta** tríd an gclár Áiteanna Ildánacha a bheith leabaithe i gcreat institiúideach Oifig Ealaíon an Chontae;
- Cé gur leanadh treoirlínte na nÁiteanna Ildánacha, **bhí seachadadh ÁIBÁÍ níos frithghníomhaí ná straitéiseach;**
- **D'fhéadfadh torthaí a bheith curtha** in iúl ar bhealach níos fearr.

Bagairtí

- **Ionchais neamhréalaíocha** a chruthaítear leis an gcistiú;
- An **clár** a bheith faoi cheangal ama;
- **Cailliúint ioncaim** d'ealaíontóirí agus d'eagraíochtaí ealaíon nuair a chríochnaíonn clár ÁIBÁÍ trí bliana;
- An dochar don iontaoibh a tógadh le linn an chláir nuair a thagann **deireadh le tacaíochtaí** ÁIBÁÍ.

Deiseanna

- Cruthaíodh an comhthéacs don **idirphlé faoi na healaíona,** faoina dtábhacht don cheantar agus faoina bhfuil ag teastáil dá n-inbhuanaitheacht;
- **Neartaíodh** an pobal cruthaitheach i mBaile Átha Í trí eolas a fhorbairt, scileanna a fheabhsú agus naisc a dhéanamh, rud a fhágann go bhfuil sé i riocht maith chun forbairt ar **bhealach dearfach**;
- **Bunaíodh naisc** leis an earnáil Forbartha Pobail a fhéadfaidh leanúint den fhorbairt agus den fhás;
- Spreagtar an pobal **cruthaitheach** chun é féin a bhunú mar fhéiniúlacht chomhchoiteann tríd an deis a bhaineann le cistiú leanúnach.

Aguisín: 3

Appendix: 3

CPA SWOT analysis

Strengths



- Making **connections;**
- **Supporting** artists at different stages in their careers;
- **Facilitating** engagement between artists and community development groups;
- A **flexibility** to respond to opportunities;
- Raising **awareness** of the richness of the local creative community and the important role they play in the social and **cultural fabric of Athy**;
- Creating the **foundations** for continued growth and development;
- **Commitment** of Kildare Arts Service to CPA.

Weaknesses



- Aims and objectives of the project were **not clearly communicated** to the stakeholders;
- Having the Creative Places programme embedded in the institutional frame of the County Arts Office created **constraints**;
- While following the Creative Places guidelines, CPA delivery was **more reactive than strategic**;
- **Communication of achievements** could have been better.

Threats



- **Unrealistic expectations** created by the funding;
- The **time** bound nature of the programme;
- The **loss of income** for artists and arts organisations when the three-year CPA programme ends;
- The damage of trust built up during the programme when CPA **supports finish**.

Opportunities



- Created the context for **dialogue about the arts**, their importance to the locale and what is needed for their sustainability;
- **Strengthened** the creative community in Athy through building knowledge, enhancing skills and making connections, leaving it well placed to evolve in a **positive way**;
- **Established links** with the Community Development sector that can continue to **evolve and grow**;
- The **opportunity** of follow up **funding** invites the creative community to establish itself as a collective identity.



Creative Places Cumas Ceantar

Creative Places Athy is part of the national Creative Places programme developed and funded by the Arts Council.

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council