

(CONTINUE TO)  
**MAKE INROADS:**

AN ARTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
FOR KILDARE LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES  
2012 - 2016

CURATE

MENTOR

BROKER

RESPOND

INSPIRE

'Carpet for the Irish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale' by Sarah Browne. Kildare County Council's Municipal Art Collection





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## MISSION STATEMENT

To further develop an arts service for Kildare which engages and inspires citizens and places the arts at the centre of the economic, social and cultural development of the county.



Band on an Island performing at Platform 5 Oxegen Battle of the Bands 2011

## FOREWORD

Since its establishment in 1991, Kildare Local Authorities Arts Service has championed arts provision throughout the county. Through its initiatives, supported and enabled by the arts community, the social, economic and cultural fabric of the county has been enriched. Over the course of Making Inroads: An Arts Development Plan for Kildare County Council 2006-2011, significant developments took place in the areas of arts and health, youth arts, social inclusion, support for professional artists and capital infrastructure.

While previous plans have identified art forms and areas for development, the Arts Plan 2012-2016 (Continue to) Make Inroads repositions the Arts Service. At a time of immense flux in local government this plan articulates the diverse roles in which the Arts Service and the Local Authority engages with the citizens of the county to **curate, mentor, broker, respond** and **inspire**.

In these roles, the Arts Service seeks to provide equitable access to quality arts practice for practitioners, participants and audience members. This applies to work in all disciplines and all contexts; voluntary, community and professional.

**Cllr. Micheál 'Spike' Nolan**  
Mayor of Kildare

**Mr. Michael Malone**  
County Manager

**Cllr. Séamus Langan**  
Chairperson of Community  
and Culture Strategic  
Policy Committee



Funzo performing at Platform 5 Oxeigen Bottle of the Bands 2011

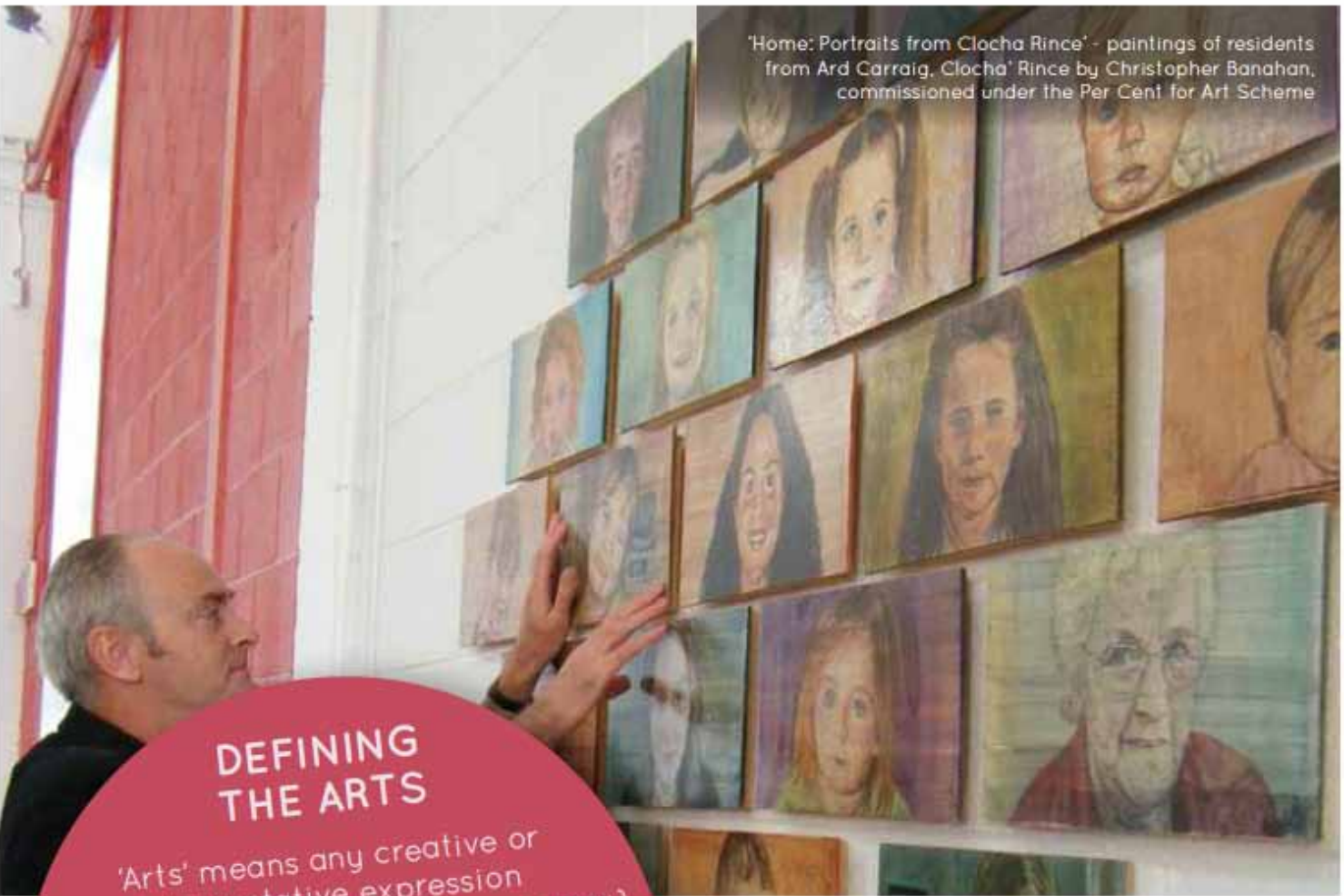
"I have started this letter often only to find that I am writing a novel. I find it hard to express in mere words the wide range of emotions that is 'the experience' of visiting the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. I am also aware that none of these experiences would have been possible without the generosity of Kildare Arts Service.

As a young artist (but mature in years) time is something I am always fighting for. Snatched hours during the day or at night limit the physical work of my art. Many ideas are formed in the head or stored in note books - but are not actualised. Fourteen days of concentrated time in Annaghmakerrig resulted in these ideas being worked upon. I was allowed uninterrupted time to engage, reinterpret, manipulate or discard on-going ideas, until finally the art itself was distilled to form the beginnings of a body of work.

There is so much more to add, the sense of freedom, the emotional experience, the history of past visitors that emerged from every available space, all of which combined to supplement the intensity of the work itself.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a simple 'thank you'."

**Letter from recipient of  
Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursary Award**

A man with grey hair, wearing a black shirt, is looking at a wall covered with numerous small, framed portraits. He has his hands raised towards the portraits. The portraits are arranged in a grid-like pattern on a white wall. To the left, there are red curtains. The overall scene is an art installation or gallery.

'Home: Portraits from Clocha Rince' - paintings of residents from Ard Carraig, Clocha' Rince by Christopher Banahan, commissioned under the Per Cent for Art Scheme

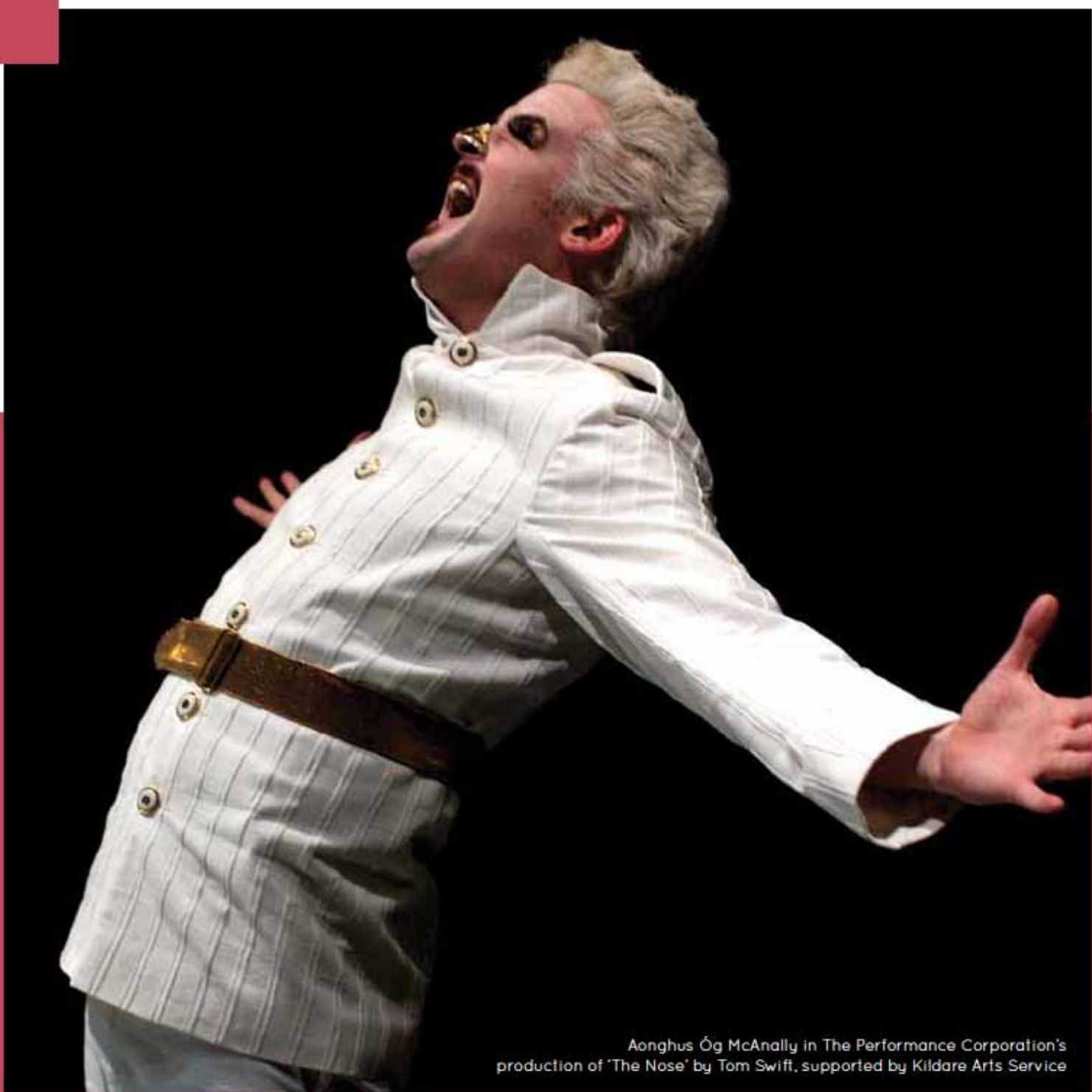
## DEFINING THE ARTS

'Arts' means any creative or interpretative expression in whatever form, and includes (whether traditional or contemporary) in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes.

(Arts Act 2003, part 2, section 6.1)

The Arts Act 2003 states that 'a local authority may provide such financial or other assistance as it considers appropriate to such persons or in respect of such activities, projects or undertakings, for the purposes of:

- stimulating public interest in the arts
- promoting knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts
- improving standards in the arts 'within its functional area.'



Aonghus Óg McAnally in The Performance Corporation's production of 'The Nose' by Tom Swift, supported by Kildare Arts Service



## FUNCTION OF THE COUNTY ARTS SERVICE

- To formulate arts development policy for Kildare and to implement the arts development plan
- To provide an advocacy, advice, information and support service for the arts
- To promote and encourage the making of art, participation in the arts and consumption of the arts
- To devise, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate an arts development programme in Kildare to include:
  - Continued professional development and training opportunities for artists and community organisations
  - Artists in context residency programmes
  - Commissioning new work, including Per Cent for Art and other public art programmes
  - Promoting models of good practice and artistic excellence in County Kildare
- Advising on and supporting the development of cultural capital projects
- Managing grant aid and arts award opportunities

'Another Season' by Eamonn O'Doherty,  
commissioned under the Per Cent for Art  
Scheme 2008, Ottomy Heights, Clane



## WAYS OF WORKING

### Resources

The Arts Service is placed within the Library Services, under the Directorate of Housing, Community and Culture and is supported by other departments within Kildare County Council and in conjunction with town councils in Leixlip, Naas, Newbridge and Athy.

Over the course of the five-year Arts Development Plan, Kildare County Council will fully support the resources (human, physical, financial) available to the Arts Service to maximise the potential for arts provision in the county. Funding for the arts programme will be secured from Arts Council revenue and project funding, Kildare Local Authorities revenue funding, Department of the Environment and Local Government Per Cent for Art schemes, the Development Contribution Scheme and income from the Arts Service programme.

An annual operational plan will be devised for specific art forms as defined in the Arts Act 2003 as well as key areas for development:

- Youth arts
- Arts and health, specifically:
  - Mental health
  - Health of older people
  - Children experiencing chronic illness
- Arts and disability
- Arts and education
- Integration and inclusion

The Arts Act 2003 states that 'A local authority shall ... prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within its functional area and shall, in so doing, take account of policies of the Government in relation to the arts.'

(Continue to) Make Inroads: An Arts Development Plan For Kildare Local Authorities 2012 - 2016 is a statement of the philosophy of Local Authority in relation to the arts, its strategic objectives and how it proposes to achieve them. It reinforces and augments the ambition of Making Inroads, the 2006 - 2011 Development Plan. This plan takes cognisance of national arts policy, including 'Developing the Arts in Ireland: the Arts Council Strategic Overview 2011- 2013' and local policy, particularly 'Kildare 2012; An Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for Kildare' and 'Kildare County Council's Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014'.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The Arts Service will build an approach that not only develops an evidence base but also informs the future development of work in this area. Evaluation strategies will be developed which:

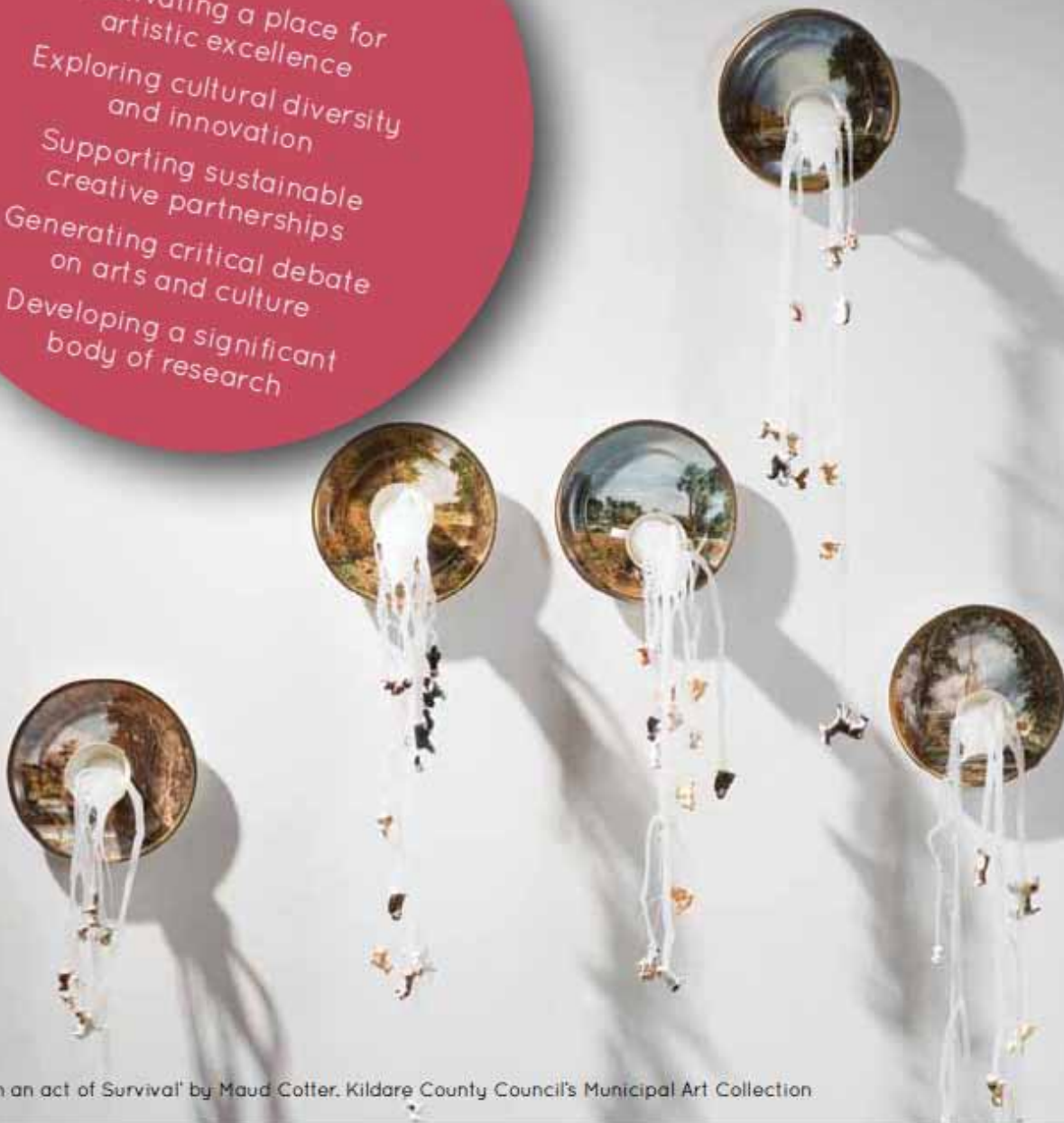
- Apply a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Reflect the evaluative purpose
- Meets the needs of stakeholders
- Match the objectives and audiences for the project
- Consider the use of formative as well as summative evaluation
- Comply with best practice and ethics regarding confidentiality and informed consent

Concurrently, informal evaluation will take place on an ongoing basis. These strategies will be used to gather four levels of information: reactions and feelings, learning, changes in skills and effectiveness.

The methods used to collect data may include questionnaires, interviews, ongoing project documentation, observations, focus groups, case studies, artist diaries, video vox pops, drawings, digital images, conversations, end of project celebrations and other methods that fulfil evaluation objectives.

## GUIDING VALUES

- Cultivating a place for artistic excellence
- Exploring cultural diversity and innovation
- Supporting sustainable creative partnerships
- Generating critical debate on arts and culture
- Developing a significant body of research



'Objects in an act of Survival' by Maud Cotter. Kildare County Council's Municipal Art Collection.

## A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

In order that arts development be sustainable, a strategic approach recognising the common goals shared by Kildare Local Authorities and their partners will be advanced. Kildare Arts Service is committed to the further development and consolidation of strategic partnerships, locally, nationally and trans-nationally. The Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Group will act as a formal mechanism for negotiating further partnership projects.



KILDARE ARTS  
SERVICE WILL CURATE,  
MENTOR, BROKER,  
RESPOND AND INSPIRE  
TO ADVANCE EFFECTIVE  
PARTNERSHIP





CURATE

'Oisín Caught in a Timewarp' by James Mc Kenna.  
Kildare County Councils' Municipal Art Collection



Kildare Arts Service sees its role as curator as crucial to the delivery of its service. In this role it can provide professional artists and arts organisations with opportunities to maximise their development.

There is a balance between serving the public at large and being loyal to the artist, between encouraging participation and enjoyment and deepening understanding of the arts. The Arts Service will act as editor, aspiring to guide an arts programme to the benefit of artist and audience, while serving the past and the future as well as the present.





Still from 'Billy & Chuck' (2010) Rank Outsider Productions, part-funded by Kildare Arts Service

## ACTIONS

- Continue to cultivate artistic excellence in the county through the provision of a quality arts programme across a variety of art forms
- Continue to commit resources to augment the potential of professional arts organisations in County Kildare
- Continue to challenge the public's perception and understanding of contemporary arts practice by using new media and technology in arts programming
- Continue to generate critical debate and exchange on the arts with pop up conversations, conversation cafes and 'speed dating' opportunities for skills exchange
- Continue to support the development of arts infrastructure in the county through capital investment and other means
- Continue to provide commissions for professional artists in many art forms
- Continue to invest in the municipal visual arts collection to support artists and to enhance the physical environment in the county
- Devise a series of architecture/heritage interactive educational projects to highlight the rich heritage and vernacular architecture of the county

Such a buzz of words  
a twang of guitar  
a clatter of crockery  
a touch of the master's hand  
a turning of pages  
a flicking of hair  
a collection of smiles

a table of books - black  
books full of pure treasure

a twitter of genuine joy  
The great talent in a completed book -  
and smiles - oh such  
smiles of pure delight

@ Kildare Readers Festival 2011

Mae Leonard.



MENTOR

Installation of artwork from The Green Room Project,  
Rotunda Hospital 2008, commissioned by Kildare Arts Service

"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." John C. Crosby



Mentoring provided by Kildare Arts Service supports and encourages individual artists and arts organisations to maximise their potential, develop their skills and achieve their goals.

This service is provided through one-to-one encounters, group discussion, arts programmes that question and challenge, informal and formal training, education programmes and development structures. Supports in this area should assist in the promotion of best practice.



Dance and Movement Summer School,  
a biennial event at NUI, Maynooth,  
developed with the Laban Guild

## ACTIONS

- Continue to advise individual artists and arts organisations of the resources and supports provided by the Arts Service
- Continue to provide an information, advice, support and networking service for individual artists, arts organisations and community groups
- Provide guidance to arts facilitators on issues related to child protection, Garda vetting, insurance cover and so on
- Assist in the management of expectations after short-term projects end, including devising exit strategies and signposting towards further development of work
- Initiate advice clinics on Kildare Local Authorities arts grants and award schemes
- Provide guidance for arts organisations on governance relating to company law and other statutory obligations
- Provide work placement programmes for third level graduates of arts and arts administration courses
- Continue to provide professional development opportunities for artists
- Continue to provide development opportunities for non-artists administering arts programming



Detail 'Objects in an act of Survival' by Maud Cotter, Kildare County Council's Municipal Art Collection

- Continue to devise quality arts and health programmes, particularly in the areas of mental health, older persons and children experiencing illness
- Working with our partners, continue to provide relevant and appropriate programmes for service users and staff in the arts and disability sector
- Continue to support Riverbank Arts Centre programmes that provide mentoring for artists
- With our national partners, continue to support the professional development of artists working in educational contexts
- With a countywide steering committee, support the professional development of primary school teachers in relation to arts in education
- Create a panel of artists for community-based projects, with in-built mentoring and peer mentoring structures.
- Create a 'reflect lab' to reflect on practice
- Create opportunities for artists and non-artists to engage and to establish mutual areas of interest
- Continue to develop the 'If I Had an Artist for a Day ...' programme, responding to feedback from artists and schools
- Initiate an annual Cecil Day Lewis Writer in Schools bursary award scheme
- Continue to support schools and other agencies in the implementation of Per Cent for Art and other schemes



BROKER

Participants of Luisne - Dawn's Light intergenerational community arts project  
by Nás Na Ríogh Housing Association, part funded by Kildare Arts Service

Using the local authorities networks and resources and garnering its arts expertise, Kildare Arts Service will support, advise and negotiate on behalf of individual artists, arts organisations and community groups to create sustainable and strategic partnerships and quality arts programming.

## ACTIONS

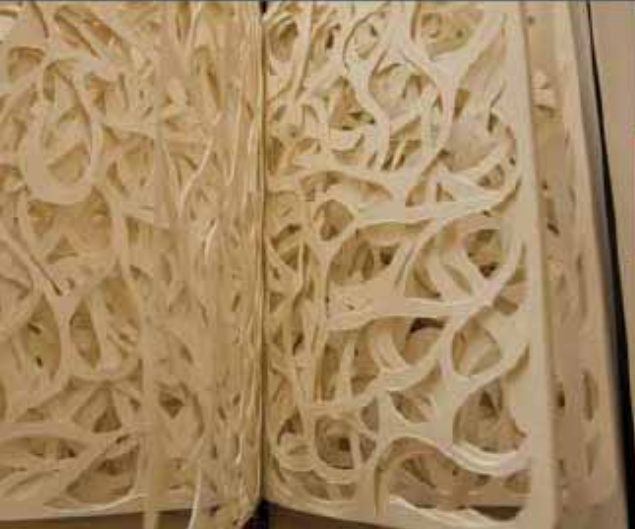
- Continue to work with other agencies to incorporate quality arts initiatives within their programmes
- Continue to work with the business community, including Chambers of Commerce, to create strategic relationships which:
  - Support quality arts programmes and business mentoring opportunities for artists
  - Promote County Kildare as a place to live, work and do business
- Work with other departments in Kildare Local Authorities to encourage the inclusion of the arts within their education and outreach programmes
- Continue to work with local partners in the Library Service and the K Partners coalition to develop quality cultural programmes in areas that have been prioritised for intervention
- Assist and act on behalf of artists and arts organisations to seek the use of vacant and temporary space for work, exhibition and performance
- Assist artists and other arts organisations to procure funding and other resources from other agencies
- Use Culture Night and other promotional opportunities to work with cultural institutions to increase awareness of and engagement with cultural resources in the county
- Continue to explore opportunities for shared resources particularly in the area of arts administration and technical services



They Came From Another Dimension, a collection of sci-fi radio plays, recorded by youth arts groups from County Kildare



RESPOND



'Responding readily to some stimulus or influence; sympathetic; impressionable'

While the Arts Development Plan creates a framework for a five-year period, Kildare Arts Service has made provision within that to 'plan for the unplanned'.

## ACTIONS

- Continue to promote the 'open door' policy of the Arts Service for individual artists and arts organisations to discuss ideas and proposals
- Encourage artists to register their details with the Arts Service for mapping purposes and to create equity in providing arts opportunities
- Where the Arts Service is unable to directly assist a proposal, endeavours will be made to refer applicants to other support mechanisms
- Continue to provide relevant funding strands within the Arts Act Grant Scheme and other initiatives, with an in-built review process to respond to the needs of artists and community organisations
- Create mechanisms whereby unsuccessful applications under the various awards may be supported elsewhere

"Model School" a photographic/architectural project by Robert Redmond commissioned by Kildare Arts Service 2012

A photograph of a clock face, likely a wall clock, with a white frame. The clock face is heavily covered in green moss and small pieces of debris, suggesting it is outdoors or in a neglected area. The numbers on the clock are partially obscured by the moss. A large, light pink circle is overlaid in the center of the clock face, containing the word "INSPIRE" in a dark red, serif font. The background of the image is a dark, textured surface, possibly asphalt or concrete, with some yellow and white debris scattered around the clock.

INSPIRE

### Inspire : the drawing of air into the lungs

1. a divine influence or action on a person believed to qualify him or her to receive and communicate sacred revelation 2. the action or power of moving the intellect or emotions 3. the act of influencing or suggesting opinions

A 'crystallising experience' is described as the type of experience that results in such a positive memory that the activity highlighted in that experience will be sought after repeatedly and will very likely result in a life-long love of and interest in that particular activity, perhaps even a career change. Psychologist Howard Gardner writes '*The most important moment in a child's education is the crystallising experience: when the child connects to something that engages curiosity and stimulates further exploration.*' Through its arts programme in virtual and real spaces, Kildare Arts Service aims to provide such experiences that will inspire and energise citizens in the county to participate in and appreciate the arts.

## ACTIONS


- Continue to support Riverbank Arts Centre and arts facilities countywide to provide an inspiring arts programme
- Continue to provide inspiring opportunities for artists to focus on their practice such as the Tyrone Guthrie Residency Bursary Award
- Continue to respond to suggestions from the public for alternative uses for the Platform4 Audio and Digital Media Studio in Leixlip
- With resource agencies locally, develop a digital media programme in arts and culture
- Over the course of the Arts Plan, consider ways to embrace art forms that have yet to be explored by the Arts Service, for example circus skills or opera
- Commission critical reviews for visual arts exhibitions and projects
- Extend the KRF1: Artist Notebook Project to become an annual touring event
- With the Library Service, continue to support the Kildare Readers Festival and devise the Fringe Festival programme



## SHAPING THE PLAN / CONSULTATION

(Continue to) Make Inroads was devised and shaped through a variety of mechanisms:

- Analysis of policy and strategy documents including 'Developing the Arts in Ireland: Arts Council strategic overview 2011 – 2013' and 'Arts and Culture (Practitioners) National and Interactive Strategy: Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht 2011'
- Ongoing dialogue and exchange with arts officers countrywide via the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers (ALAAO). (The Arts Officer for Kildare County Council was chairperson of the ALAAO from 2010 – 2012)
- Exchange of ideas during the 25:25 Arts and Culture in Local Development conference in Limerick, November 2010, marking 25 years since the appointment of the first Arts Officer. Conference co-organised by Arts Officers from County Kildare and Limerick and the Head of Local Arts, the Arts Council
- Exchange of ideas between ALAAO and the National Campaign for the Arts (NCFA)
- Participation on the national 'Encountering the Arts' arts and education steering group
- Participation on the editorial panel for [artsandhealth.ie](http://artsandhealth.ie), a national arts and health website developed by the Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT) and Create-national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts
- Exchange of ideas at meetings between the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee, Library and Arts Service, the Directorate of Housing, Community and Culture and K Partners
- Participation in the consultation process for North Kildare Chamber's Strategic Plan 'Our Vision for Success 2012 – 2015'
- Analysis of needs identified by professional artists and communities through the annual Arts Act grant and other award schemes
- Evaluation of the response to our ebulletin, press releases and social media
- Analysis of the written evaluations from the 'If I Had an Artist for a Day...' arts in education programme
- Feedback from audience members of 'Maynooth Film for All'
- One-to-one meetings with artists and community groups
- Participation in the development of the County Kildare Youth Hub.



## Photography Credits

**Page 2:** Ros Kavanagh

**Page 4, 26:** Lisa Heavey and original artwork page 25

**Page 5, 6, 7, 13, 19, 20:** Michael O'Rourke

**Page 8:** Ciaran Bagnall

**Page 9, 14, 29:** Rina Whyte

**Page 10:** Michelle O'Donnell

**Page 12, 22:** Roland Paschhoff

**Page 23:** Emma Birkett

**Page 27:** Robert Redmond

**Page 31:** Tadhg Nathan

**Cover:** Artwork by participant of The Creative Well, integrated arts and health programme. Photo: Dominic Thorpe



Participants from Strange Encounters, a youth arts exploration event 2010



CURATE

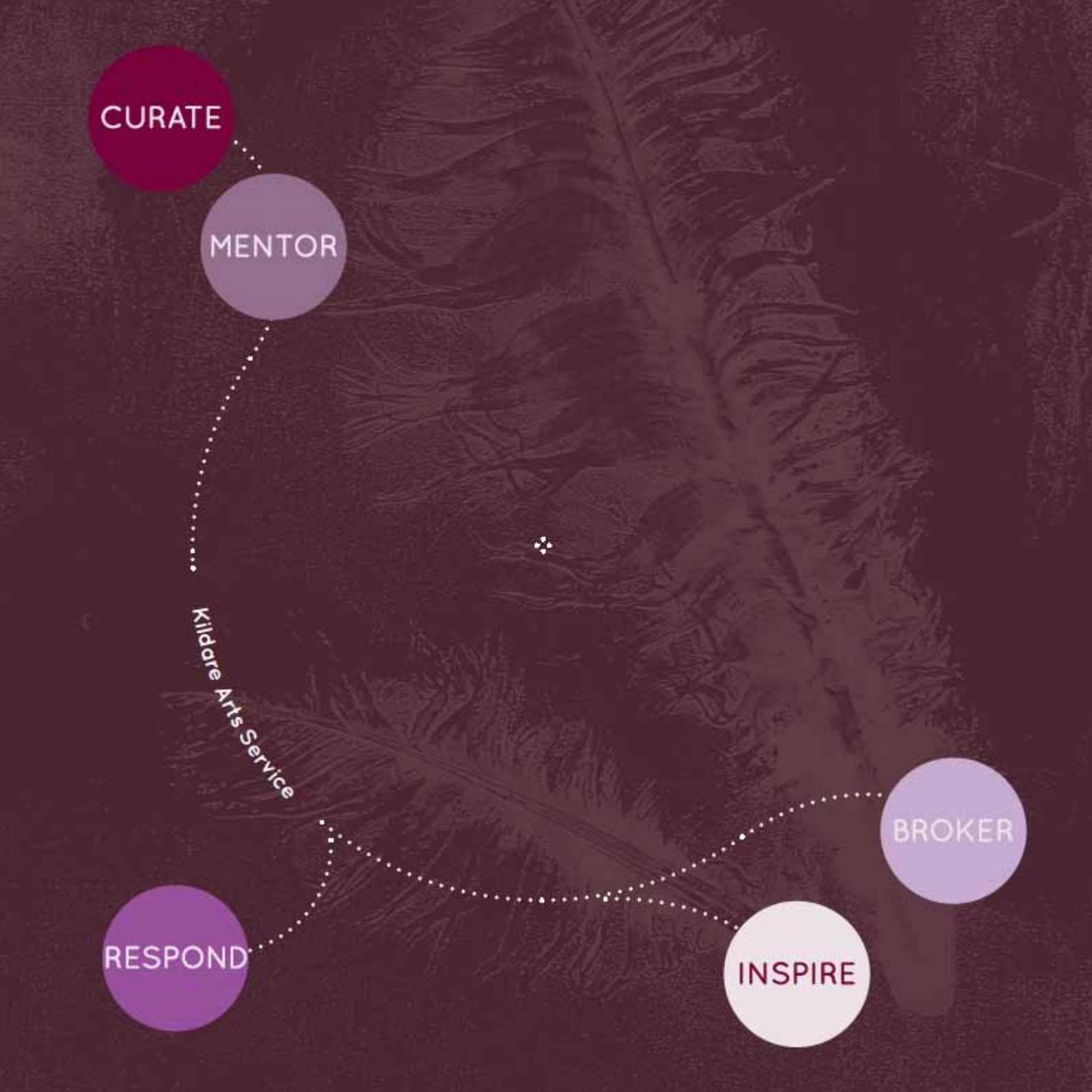
MENTOR

Kildare Arts Service

BROKER

INSPIRE

RESPOND



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