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Making Inroads Making Inroads

An Arts Development Plan for Kildare County Council 2006-2011

'Making Inroads'*: An Arts
Development Plan for Kildare
County Council 2006-2011'
maps a particular time frame for
arts development in the county,
informed by fifteen years of Arts
Service provision for Kildare
County Council and by the
strong arts community that are
part of the fabric of Co Kildare.

Kildare is a county rich in local arts development – Award winning drama and musical societies and theatre companies providing a year round repertoire of performances; active literary groups, with readings and workshops countywide; Visual artists and local arts groups working in traditional and contemporary practices, individually and collectively; Singer-songwriter and traditional music seisiuns take place countywide, with a demand for performance platforms for young people, against a strong classical music provision.

Kildare is a county in transition, on the borders of the capital city. The changing landscape of North Kildare, with the increase in population and new communities, is gradually spreading across the county. At the same time, however, many parts of the county remain rural and isolated. A major challenge for this Arts Development Plan, is how to provide a relevant, inclusive, culturally diverse programme that accesses the indigenous population and new communities.

The strategic objectives for the delivery of key development areas set out in this document and the commitment to evaluation and reflection, create a plan that is interactive, flexible and responsive to the citizens of Co Kildare

Kildare County Council regard the partnership approach set out in 'Making Inroads', as fundamental for sustainable arts development. We look forward to affirming existing relationships and developing new partners.

'Making Inroads' also serves as a photographic reference, archiving significant multi-disciplinary arts practices and initiatives across the county.

Elected members and the Local, Urban, Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee are committed to the Strategic Objectives set out in this plan. Kildare County Council will support Arts Development in the County, through financial provision and other assistance.

We acknowledge the ongoing contribution of elected members, LURD SPC, staff and citizens who have informed this plan.

Cllr Fiona O'Loughlin

Chair of the Local, Urban, Rural Development Strategic Policy Group

Cllr Fionnuala Dukes

Mayor of Kildare

Niall Bradley

County Manager,
Kildare County Council

Des Page

Director of Services, Corporate, Cultural and Environmental Affairs

^{*&#}x27;Making Inroads', an essay by Sally Timmons, curator of Temporary Foray critical debate series and Lucina Russell, Kildare Co Arts Officer Visual Arts Newsletter (VAN) summer 2006

Setting The Context

15 years of **Arts Service provision** for Kildare County Council

The provision of a formal Arts Service for Kildare County Council began in 1991 with the establishment of the post of County Arts Officer, within the Library service. Since then, a steady expansion in the arts development programme has occurred.

The objectives of the first arts plan 1996-2000 were to:

- Explore the feasibility of a Strategic Arts Management (SAM) structure in administering and co-ordinating projects of an artistic nature throughout the County.
- Confirm the Local Authority's identity as the recognised agency for arts development.
- Encourage and promote good arts practice within new and existing professional, amateur and community groups throughout Kildare.
- Confirm the Arts Officer's role as a facilitator for such groups i.e. to give advice and channel information.

- Promote and encourage potential within groups who would not otherwise have access to the Arts, thus taking into account social as well as geographical barriers. A main focus for the first three-year period – disadvantaged groups, women's groups, youth groups. A community arts festival to be organised based on same.
- In-keeping with the theme of Community Development, to explore the potential of Community Employment Schemes whose primary focus will be on Arts Development.
- Develop an Arts apparatus infrastructure throughout the County.
- Act in an advisory/ facilitatory capacity to festival committees throughout the County, the main objective being to empower the groups themselves.

- Explore new ways of developing the Arts in the western part of the County.
- Explore the feasibility of an Arts/Cultural Centre in Co.
 Kildare, thereby exploiting the considerable tourism potential of the County.
- Explore and redress the underutilisation of the resources of Maynooth, both in terms of the College amenities and also in terms of using the Arts as a primary tool in community development.

Since this plan, much has been achieved.







INFRASTRUCTURE

- Strategic Arts Management Ltd (SAM) was established. The key task for SAM was to devise a development plan for a County Arts Centre, to secure capital and programme funding and to over see the building of Riverbank Arts Centre. Riverbank, with a 200-seat theatre, two galleries, workshop and coffee shop opened its doors in September 2001.
- The gallery spaces in Celbridge and Newbridge Library were enhanced.
- A dedicated arts space in Rathangan Library was created.
- A purpose built Library and Arts Centre for Leixlip, with gallery, performance and workshop space opens in 2006. The facility includes purpose built music rehearsal rooms.

DANCE

- A three year Dance-Artist in Residence programme with Cathy O'Kennedy, took place, with initiatives in primary and secondary schools in the county
- The accredited Laban Guild Community Dance Leaders Course, Level 1 commenced in 2002-2003, attracting dancers, artists, teachers and community workers from across Ireland. A second Level 1 course commenced in 2006.
- The Kildare Dance Summer School at NUI, Maynooth was established as a bi-annual event, taking place in 2003 and 2005.
- The intermediary Community Dance Leaders (choreography) course, Level 2 took place in 2005
- Louise Costello, dancer and recent award recipient of Laban Guild award for dance writing, was commissioned to document relationship between Kildare County Council and the Laban Guild in 2006.
- Arising from the Dance Summer School, AMICI dancer, Colm Gallagher hosts a Dance with Disability programme in Moore Abbey, for service users and staff in Health care settings

LITERATURE

- A variety of Writer in Residence programmes for adults, including Poetry, Short Story, Novel Writing, 'Getting Down and Dirty with the Locals: Writing from the Ground Up' workshops countywide took place. This has supported the professional development of writers, and the consolidation of writers groups, with group publications, public readings and recitals.
- The literary workshop repertoire was extended to include Writing for Film
- Adopting the co-ordination of the Cecil Day Lewis Short Story and Poetry Competition
- The establishment of the Cecil Day Lewis Adult Literary Bursary Award

VISUAL ARTS

- With the support of Kildare County Council, The Leinster Printmaking Studio procured and refurbished a new studio and gallery facility in Clane, which supports 50 visual artists in the Leinster area.
- A year long Visual Artist in Residence programme 'Guth on bPortach', in West Kildare. The success of this residency affirmed the need for enhanced infrastructure in the area – a new library and arts facility was opened in Rathangan in 2003
- Kildare County Council's Municipal Visual Art collection was restored, catalogued and new works for the collection were purchased.
- Two exhibitions from the Municipal Collection, 'A Collection Uncovered', 2005 and 'A Collection Becoming', 2006, curated by Paul Mc Kinley took place in Riverbank Arts Centre
- An annual International Artists Symposium Temporary State was launched in 2006
- The Critical Debate series, 'Temporary Foray' was of particular interest to Visual

Artists in the County. The series presented international speakers on contemporary arts practice.

MUSIC

- Annual funding for the County Orchestra was established, now having a membership of 70 young people and adults.
- The Music Outreach development programme 2001-2004 expanded – with yearlong programmes in 20 schools county wide and a Master Class Series.
- A Musician in Residence programme,
 Platform1, providing opportunities for
 emerging musicians to engage with Irelands
 leading singer-songwriters was established
 in Leixlip Library
- Facilitated by Frankie Lane, a mentoring/ recording programme for traditional musicians 'Ceol Galore', in South Kildare was established in 2006

FESTIVALS

- The Library and Arts Service supported Artastic Street Theatre Company in its incubation stage, with grant aid and mentoring
- The Tzipora Children's Music Festival, in Goffs, a three-year initiative, hosted performances by over 1,000 children.
- The Bealtaine Arts Festival in Newbridge was supported, in its development stages, greatly enhanced by the input of Artsquad, an Arts training programme based in Riverbank.
- Advocacy, advice and support for festivals county wide, including the Bealtaine Arts Festival and Gerard Manley Hopkins International Summer School
- A Festival Grant scheme was developed by the Community and Enterprise Department





ARTS IN LIBRARIES

- Arts in Libraries programmes developed significantly, to include an annual countywide programme for children includes series of arts programmes for children, namely EasterFest, SummerFest, HalloweenFest
- In 2004, Crooked House Theatre Company were commissioned to produce 'Spellbound', a three phase Theatre programme for children.
- A year long Storyteller in Residence programme was established in 2005
- A three year Storyteller in Residence programme was devised in 2006
- In 2005, Threading Tales, an arts based reading development initiative with parents from the Curragh schools and textile artist, Kathleen Delaney was devised. Following its success, a further Threading Tales programme was devised with the Athy Travellers Group.
- Arts Appreciation lectures series, with local and national interest were devised
- The Creative Writing Series were greatly supported by the library service

EDUCATION

- Artist in Education programmes included Theatre in Education, Writer in Residence, Visual Artist in Residence, Dance in Education and the Music Outreach programme. An academic research project, assessing Kildare County Council's Arts in Education programme was carried out in 2002.
- In 2004, the annual 'If I Had an Artist for a Day ...' multi-disciplinary programme was launched and offered to every primary school in the County.

INFORMATION, ADVICE, SUPPORT

 A key element of the work of the Arts Service is the sourcing, collating, disseminating and provision of information. Increasingly, the Arts Service provides mentoring and guidance for groups and individuals. A challenge is ensuring that people have access to information.

COMMISSIONS

- The Per Cent for Art Scheme has been re-energised, with commissions for Housing schemes county wide, Wolfe Tone commemoration, Famine Sculpture trail, Mary Leadbetter, Kildare Town By Pass, Monasterevin/The Heath By Pass, N7 Road Widening and Kildare Fire Stations.
- A perpetual flame for Kildare Town was commissioned under the Urban Regeneration scheme
- Commissions of new work include the novel 'Brigit of Kildare', by Ann Egan to mark the opening of Riverbank and new contemporary dance work by Fluxusdance.
- Visual art works have been commissioned, including 'Dreaming' by Liza Kavanagh for Naas Library

ENQUIRY AND DEBATE

- Temporary Debate, an annual Critical Debate series was established, with presentations from national and international artists and arts organisations
- Temporary State, an annual Artists
 Symposium was established in 2006, with
 international artists leading a residential
 programme, with Kildare artists
- Over a two year period, the Arts Service hosted two Certificate in Community Arts for Community Development courses, accredited by NUI, Maynooth

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Integral to the work of the Arts Service is collaboration with key partners. The extent of the engagement varies - from advise, provision of direct grant aid, assistance to apply for grant aid, collaborative projects, sharing resources, provision of training programmes and influencing of arts programme content. Key partners are

INTERNAL

Architects, Library Service, Environment, Housing, Planners, Community and Enterprise; associated projects - RAPID, Kildare Community Network, Riverbank Arts Centre

LOCAL

Moore Abbey, St. John of Gods, services for people with mental health issues; Health Board; Primary schools, Youth Services, VEC, NUI, Maynooth; Voluntary and Amateur groups and organisations, including drama groups, Visual arts, film and creative writing collectives; Professional artists, County Orchestra; Strategic Arts Management Ltd.

NATIONAL

Arts Council; Department of the Environment and Local Government; Association of Local Authority Arts Officers, IRMA Trust

INTERNATIONAL

Laban Guild and other dance organisations and individuals; Individual artists, presenting their work through Artist Symposia and Critical Debate Series; Adult Educators, Eastern Europe

GRANT AID

The Arts Service has increased and extended the grant aid and award opportunities available to artists, arts groups and development agencies for the arts.

Furthermore, the Arts Service regard the grant aid process as a very useful information finding exercise, with applicants providing valuable information about their core practices and interest in the arts.

Mission Statement

To further develop an Arts Service for Kildare County Council, which engages and inspires citizens of the County, placing the arts at the centre of the economic, social, cultural development of Kildare

DEFINING THE ARTS

'Arts' means any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, 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)

Ways of working

ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE COUNTY ARTS SERVICE

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

- (a) stimulate public interest in the arts
- (b) promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts
- (c) improving standards in the arts, within its functional area.'

Taking cognisance of this statement, Kildare County Council Arts Service sees its role as the fostering, promotion and development of the Arts in Co Kildare

FUNCTIONS

- To formulate arts development policy for Kildare County Council and to implement the Arts Development Plan
- To provide an advocacy, advice, information and support service for the Arts
- To promote and encourage participation in the arts as maker, participant, audience
- To devise, implement, manage, monitor and evaluate an arts development programme in Kildare to include
- Professional development and training opportunities for artists
- Artists in Residence programmes
- · Commissioning of new work
- Promote models of good practice and artistic excellence in Co Kildare
- Advise on and support the development of cultural capital projects
- The management of Grant aid and other arts award opportunities



Ways of working

RESOURCES

The Arts Service is placed within the Library Services, under the Directorate of Corporate, Cultural And Environmental Affairs and is supported by other Departments within Kildare County Council.

Over the course of the five-year Arts
Development Plan, Kildare County Council
will enhance 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 County Council
revenue funding, Department of the
Environment and Local Government Per Cent
for Art schemes, Development Contribution
Scheme. Trans national funding opportunities
will be explored, in the context of the Artists
symposium, Critical Debate series and artists
exchange.

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

In order that arts development is sustainable, a strategic approach, which recognises the common goals, shared by Kildare County Council and its partners must be advanced. Kildare County Council Arts Service is committed to the further development and consolidation of strategic partnerships, internally within Kildare County Council, locally, nationally and trans nationally.

Formal and informal groups, voluntary, amateur, professional organisations, such as steering committees for Arts in Education, Youth Art and Per Cent for Art; Comhairle na nOg, Leinster Printmaking Studio, Kildare County Orchestra, Strategic Arts Management Ltd., Association of Local Authority Arts

Officers, Arts Council, Laban Guild Dance will be used to initiate, to advise, to influence arts development in the County. The Local, Urban, Rural Development Strategic Policy Group will act as a formal mechanism for negotiating partnership projects.

The ongoing contribution of artists in Kildare, on projects such as Temporary Foray Critical Debate series, has proved to be an effective way to gather their thoughts and views, in an structured, but informal manner.

It is intended to formalise this information garnering through the establishment of an arts forum, which will inform arts policy for Kildare County Council.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Kildare County Council's Corporate Plan aims 'To undertake research and provide baseline information on the economic, social and cultural development in the County'. Within this, the task of monitoring and evaluating the Arts Service is a multi-faceted and complex task

- The complexity of evaluating both the intrinsic and the instrumental impact of the arts is acknowledged. A key difficulty in evaluating the arts is that current evaluation methods often rely on 'anecdotal evidence' rather than quantitative data.
- Within the Performance Management and Development System, the Performance Indicator for the Arts Service is 'Number of Arts Grants Paid'.
- The responsibility to facilitate and nurture cultural inclusion initiatives and to monitor, evaluate and report on progress against agreed Social Inclusion targets and objectives.

In this context, the Arts Service will, over the course of the Arts Development Plan embark on a series of initiatives to

- · map, record, monitor and evaluate work; and
- question, debate and test evaluation methods

The process of evaluation will commence in early 2007.

With the support of the Community and Enterprise Department, a GIS Mapping system for the Arts will be explored. Concurrently, informal evaluation will take place on an ongoing basis. Methods include verbal feedback, questionnaires, customer requests, monitoring and profiling of audiences.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Kildare County Council Arts Service will be responsible for the implementation of the Making Inroads: Arts Development Plan 2006 –2011. The Plan is structured, with specific Strategic Objectives applied to Key Development areas and Art form Development areas over the five-year period. Within this structure, an annual Operational Plan allows for flexibility and responsiveness on arts development programme content and delivery.

Setting the Context

for the Kildare County Arts Development PLan 2006-2011

'The arts can be powerful instruments in assisting the local authority to achieve social, economic and cultural objectives. These range from community development in urban and rural contexts, economic regeneration, urban planning, the inclusion of marginalised people into society and the creation of a quality physical environment '(Arts Council, 1998, 2.1).







"There of the Dipressed"

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'.

'Making Inroads: Kildare County Council Arts Development Plan 2006-2011' is a statement of the philosophy of the Council in relation to the arts, its strategic objectives and how it proposes to achieve them. The Plan is developed with cognisance for national policy, including the Arts Council Council 'Partnership for the Arts 2006-2010', and local policy, particularly 'Kildare 2012; An Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for Kildare' and Kildare County Council's Corporate Plan 2005-2009. Informed by these policy documents, Kildare County Council embraces a philosophy of

- Cultivating a place for artistic excellence
- Exploring cultural diversity and innovation
- · Generating critical debate
- Developing a significant body of research

Within the Arts Development Plan 2006-2011, Kildare County Council Arts Service has prioritised key areas for development, both within the Council itself, and in partnership with relevant agencies. The areas for development span across art forms and aim to promote excellence and innovation in Public Art; Inclusion through the Arts; Arts in Health; Arts in Education and Youth Arts.

Kildare County Council has identified key Art forms for development within the Making Inroads Arts Development Plan 2006-2011. However, the Plan takes cognisance of the multi-disciplinary nature of contemporary arts practice, and the use of new technologies. It recognises the changing definitions and 'language' of the arts. Art form development areas are Visual Arts; Dance; Literature; Music; Film: Theatre and Architecture

Strategic Objectives for Making Inroads:

Arts Development Plan 2006-2011 have been identified to implement the work in the areas for development





notes





Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

Redefining ways of working

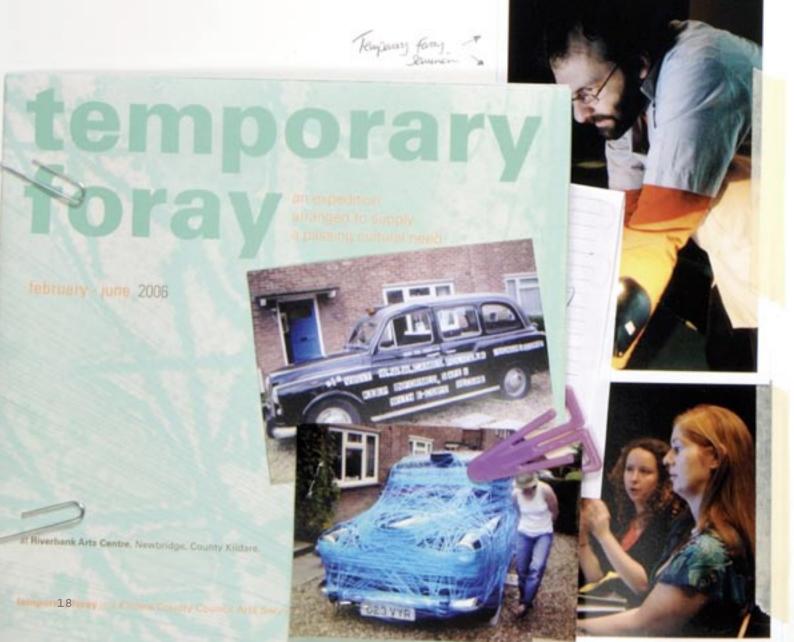
Documenting the arts

Promoting best practice

Commissioning new work

Capacity building in the arts

Development of arts infrastructure



Key Areas For Development

Public Art
Inclusion through the Arts
Arts in Health
Arts in Education
Youth Arts

Public Art
Inclusion throu
Arts in Realth

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Public Art

Perpetual Motion, the sculpture created by Remco De Rouw and Rachel Joynt in 1996, is one of the most significant pieces of public art in the Irish landscape. Kildare's public art portfolio has developed significantly in recent years, through commissioning of permanent art works, through the Per Cent for Art scheme and other initiatives.

The possibilities of commissioning innovative temporary, performance based and site specific work, across art forms has yet to be fully exploited. Taking cognisance of how to engage with and respond to the local community remains a key issue for Public Art commissions.

Guiding policy

Kildare County Council will maximise opportunities in the County, to undertake Per Cent for Art schemes and other Public Art opportunities and to utilise such schemes, to their full potential.

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Kildare County Council will explore the full potential of the Per Cent for Art scheme, with consideration for all art forms and including new technologies and temporary work.

Redefining ways of working

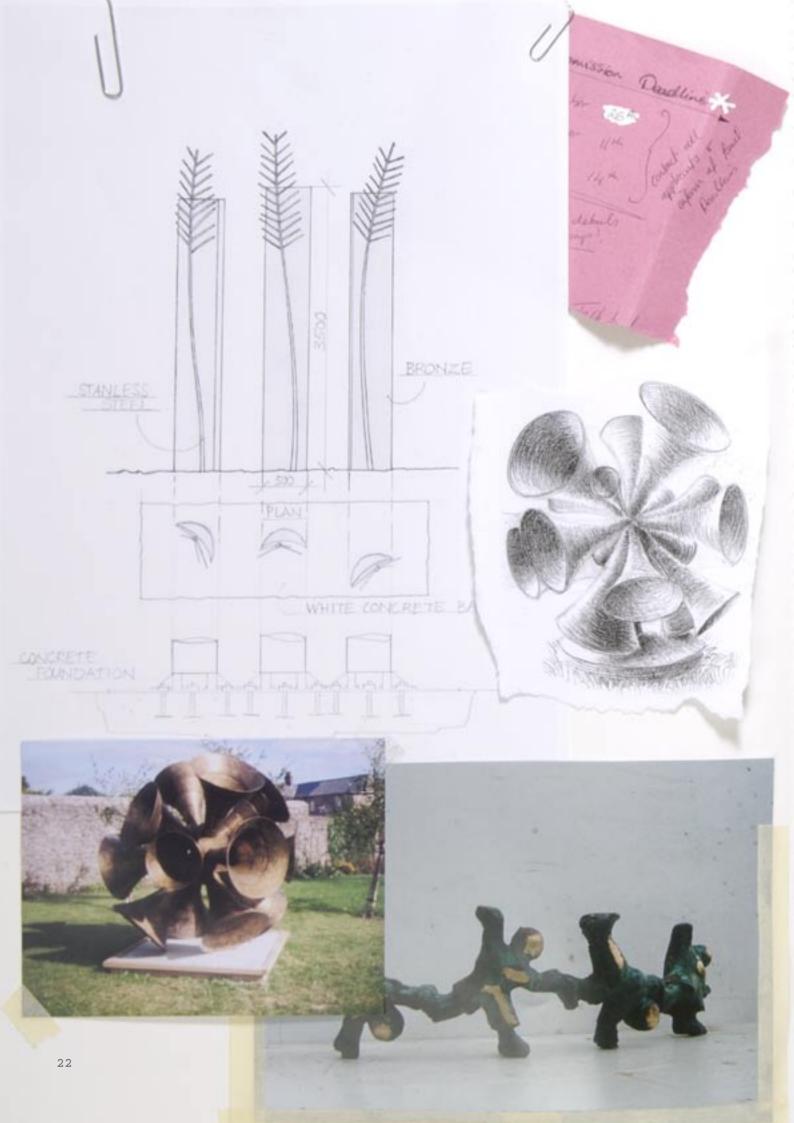
- The Per Cent for Art scheme for Kildare County Council shall be managed under the supervision of the Kildare County Arts Officer
- The Arts Service will establish a code of practice for the procurement, commissioning, management and implementation of Per Cent for Art schemes

- Each Department in Kildare County
 Council will designate an individual to take
 responsibility for Per Cent for Art commissions
 and will present periodic reports to the
 County Arts Officer
- The Arts Service will identify opportunities for Per Cent for Art commissions outside of the local authority (e.g. Dept of Education and Science, Health Board capital projects) and support the undertaking of opportunities.

Documenting the arts

• Develop an interactive guide to include an on-line archive and database of public art initiatives in the county







Promoting best practice

- Establish a steering group for the development of public art policy and practice for Kildare County Council, for the consideration of the Local and Urban Development Strategic Policy Committee.
- Provide support for agencies in relation to the undertaking of Public Art opportunities

Commissioning new work

Kildare County Council will explore
the potential of opportunities for
commissioning permanent, site specific and
temporary work, under the Per Cent for Art
scheme, to enhance the repertoire of art
work / archive of the county

Capacity building in the arts

- Provide information/ training opportunities for Kildare County Council staff and members in relation to the procurement of Public Art opportunities
- Provide information, support and feedback for Kildare based artists in relation to Public Art opportunities.

Development of arts infrastructure

- With the Community and Enterprise
 Department of Kildare County Council,
 scope, map, archive and review the current repertoire of permanent sculptures in County Kildare, in the context of further development.
- Review the County Public Art repertoire in consideration of the establishment of a county arts trail.





Guiding policy

The Arts Service acknowledges the attachment of the arts to both social and economic agendas

- Arts as an engine for local economic development
- Arts as a tool to promote social inclusion Furthermore, the Arts Service acknowledges the intrinsic value of engagement in the arts.

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

Kildare County Council will advocate for and facilitate and deliver inclusive arts development programmes, to encourage equality of access to and participation in the arts.

Redefining ways of working

- Appoint a Cultural Advocacy Officer, with specific responsibility for accessing nontraditional audiences, through targeted promotion, marketing and other means
- With RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning Investment and Development), the Arts Service will examine current practice, and support the co-ordination and closer integration of Arts Development initiatives, with other Government Departments and State Agencies
- Taking cognisance of the challenges for the intrinsic versus the instrumental rationale for the arts, the Arts Service aims to develop quality development initiatives that target young people in designated RAPID areas

Documenting the arts

- Ensure that information and publicity material is circulated to specific targeted audiences experiencing exclusion
- Based on international and national research, and using the findings of the NESF work on broadening access to

Promoting best practice

- Continue to provide an inclusive arts development programme, in terms of its content and audience/ participation
- Debate issues relating to 'cultural inclusion' through its annual critical debate series
- Continue to engage international and national artists and speakers on issues relating to cultural inclusion
- In the acknowledgement of the lack of absolute evidence-based measurements of the value of the arts, continue to
 - explore mechanisms for evaluation

Commissioning new work

- Encourage the commissioning of issue based work that identifies, stimulates, challenges notions of difference
- Encourage the sharing on art work in nontraditional arts spaces to maximise audiences for the arts

Capacity building in the arts

- Continue to build relationships with key artists addressing social inclusion e.g. Julian Boal, Theatre of the Oppressed
- Continue to provide professional development opportunities for artists and key workers that allows for skill development and opportunities to reflect on practice
- Target individuals or communities experiencing disadvantage to participate in arts development initiatives

Development of arts infrastructure

 Continue to develop partnerships with key agencies with responsibility for social and cultural inclusion

Arts in health

The term 'Arts in Health' is used broadly to describe arts interventions that take place through agencies working in the field of intellectual and physical disability, mental health, services for elderly people, and young people at risk. There are many examples of quality work in the field of Arts in Health, in the county, which enriches lives and which challenge notions and broadens understandings.

While there are a variety of agencies involved in excellent work in the field in the County, there are currently few opportunities for inter-agency work throughout the county to exchange ideas, to exemplify good practice and to bring projects into the wider community.









Kildare County Council will continue to identify, advocate for, influence and provide support for artists and agencies involved in art and health practice.

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

- In consultation, consider definitions and understanding of Arts in Health practice in its broadest sense e.g. Mental Health, Age and Opportunity.
- Continue to work with artists and key workers to enrich their experience and understanding of the arts

Redefining ways of working

- Identify key agencies and the breadth of health care services provided in Co Kildare.
- Within this, identify key departments and personnel to develop a policy for Arts in Health in County Kildare.
- Appoint an Arts Officer with specific responsibility for Arts in Health

Documenting the arts

- Commit to the on going recording, evaluating and archiving of Arts in Healthcare projects in Co Kildare
- Disseminate information about Arts in Health programmes to relevant agencies and services

Promoting best practice

- Continue to source, liase and work with agencies experienced in the delivery of quality arts in health initiatives
- Agree a common protection policy for children and vulnerable people, relating to arts practice.

Commissioning new work

- Extend the arts development programme to include Memory Box initiative
- Encourage the use of the Per Cent for Art scheme and other opportunities to
- Enhance physical environments in Healthcare settings
- Commission relevant issue based work in all art forms

Capacity building in the arts

- Increase participation in and awareness of the national Bealtaine arts programme for older people
- Continue to provide training opportunities for artists, key workers and service users in all art form areas, including accreditation, where possible
- Continue to provide bursary awards for key workers and service users on key professional development programmes, particularly in the field of Dance
- Evaluate and re-in vision the Arts Act Grant Scheme, as it applies to Arts in Health

Development of arts infrastructure

 Promote inter agency development of Arts in Health programmes, through the establishment of a County wide Arts in Health steering group



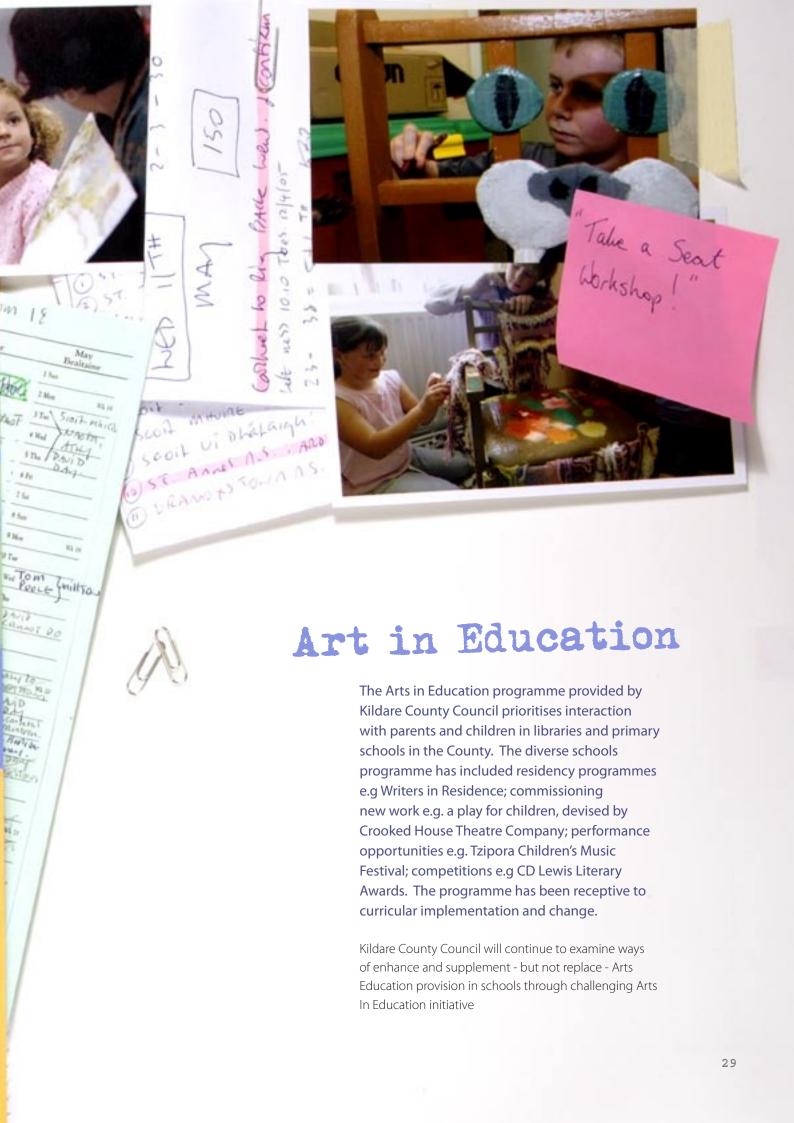


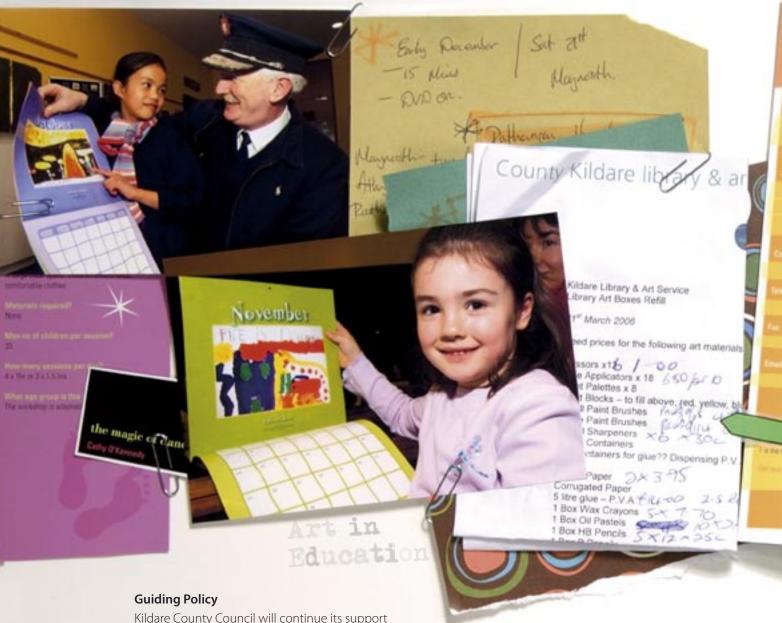
Artsfest

Kildare County Council present ArtsFest 2005

- EasterFest Toes 29th March Frid 1st April
- SummerFest Toes 12th July Fri 15th July
- HalleweenFest Tues 1st Nov Friday 4th November







Kildare County Council will continue its support for quality Arts in Education in formal and informal education settings, including libraries

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

- Extend the Arts Service development programme to include research and projects around Creative Spaces for Play
- Consolidate Kildare County Council's role as advisor, advocate in relation to Arts in Education
- Re affirm and clarify definitions of 'Arts in Education' as distinct from 'Arts Education'.
- Ensure that artists working in educational contexts are familiar with the 'language' of the sector, i.e. Primary School Curriculum

Redefining ways of working

- Appoint a Play Specialist in Residence in libraries
- Kildare County Council will carry out an internal audit; and define and categorise education programmes or other services provided to schools.
- The Arts Service will establish an in-house committee to assist the procurement, commissioning, management and implementation of Per Cent for Art scheme
- Continue to monitor, evaluate and rework the annual 'If I Had an Artist for a Day ...' scheme





- Commit to recording and disseminating information about Creative Spaces for Play initiative
- With key artists, produce and publish quality information relating to ongoing Arts in Education programmes.

Promoting best practice

- Continue to advise schools on best practice, with reference to the Arts Council Arts in Education Guidelines to schools.
- Encourage the endorsement of the Kildare Education Centre for quality Arts in Education schemes provided by Kildare County Council
- With the Schools Library Service, continue to advocate and promote the ongoing Threading Tales initiatives
- Continue to source suitable artists and to provide quality Arts in Education programmes to schools
- Complete and implement a Childcare Protection Policy

- Evaluate and re-in vision the Arts Act Grant Scheme, with consideration for the commissioning of new work
- Encourage schools to avail of the Per Cent for Art and other funding opportunities
- Within the 'If I Had an Artist for a Day ...' scheme, consider the commissioning of new plays for children.

Capacity building in the arts

- Continue to provide information, advise and training opportunities for teachers in relation to Arts in Education.
- Continue to provide information, advise and training opportunities for artists working in educational settings.
- Building on the Music Outreach programme, develop an Instrument Purchase scheme in primary schools

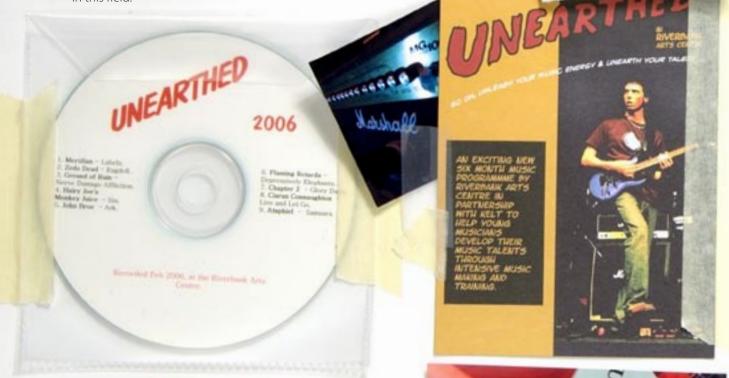
Development of arts infrastructure

 With the establishment of a steering committee for Arts in Education, consider new ways of supporting Arts in Education

Youth Arts

At its best, Youth Arts provides opportunities for young people to explore issues of significance in a safe and appropriate environment. The interest in Youth Theatre in the county, particularly, reflects young peoples connection with the work. Young musicians require opportunities to showcase their music. The UnEarthed Music Development programme, initiated by Riverbank Arts Centre and the Platform 1 project aim to address these needs and provide mentoring opportunities with professional musicians.

The level of activity in Youth Arts in the county, across art forms is varied and significant. It is necessary to consolidate relationships with key organisations and agencies, to find mechanisms that best supports work in this field.



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THE BEST ACHIEVEMENT





Guiding policy

Kildare County Council will work with key organisations and agencies to foster and promote best practice in Youth Arts practice

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Using international, national and local models, define 'Youth Arts' practice, as it applies to Co Kildare, and consider the full potential for quality arts experiences for young people.

Redefining ways of working

 Identify key agencies and personnel to develop a policy for Youth Arts in County Kildare.

Documenting the arts

- Embed recording, documentation and evaluation as part of Youth Arts Programme
- Within the Platform 1 Music Development Programme in Leixlip Library, make specific provision for the recording of music

Promoting best practice

 With Riverbank Arts Centre, examine opportunities to showcase Youth Arts practice across art forms

Commissioning new work

 Extend the Per Cent for Cent scheme to include commissions of theme-based work which would be of interest to young people

Capacity building in the arts

- Evaluate and re-in vision the Arts Act Grant Scheme as it applies to Youth Arts Development
- Make provision for facilitators in Youth Arts on existing training programmes
- Identify gaps in arts training provision for Youth workers and consider the development of programmes

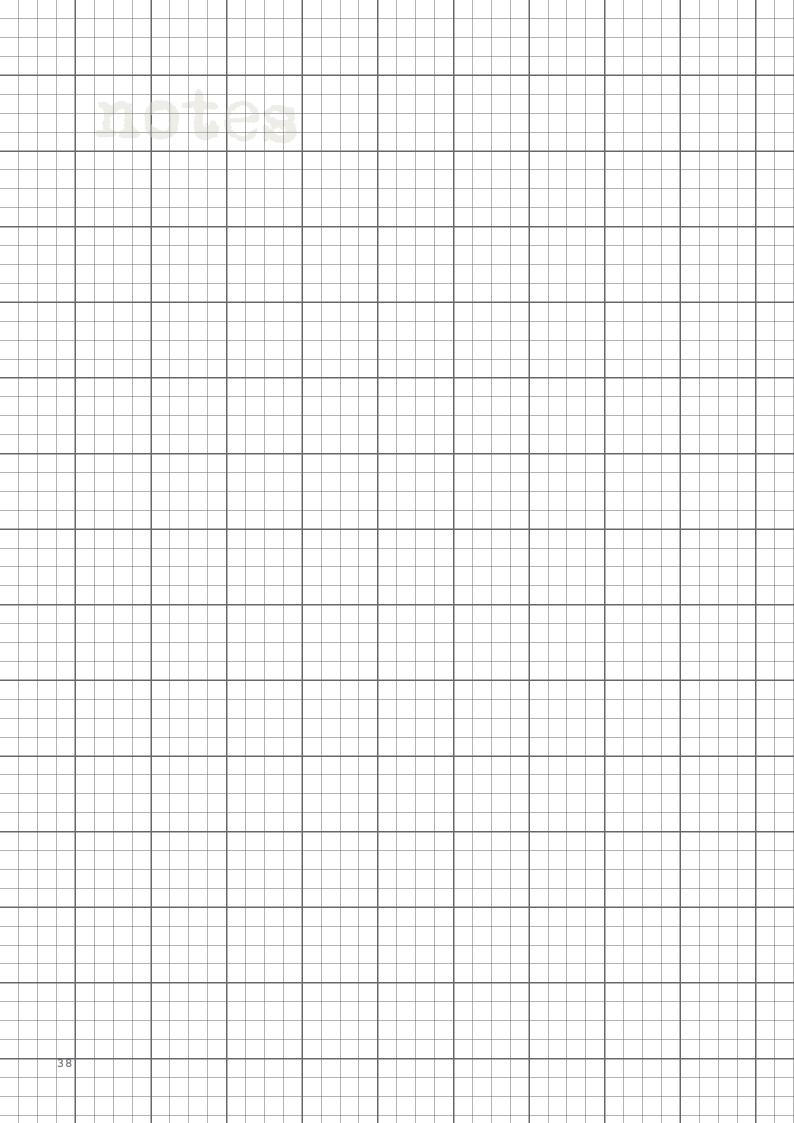
Development of arts infrastructure

- Develop and enhance the Leixlip Library and Arts Music facility as a centre for Youth Music in Co Kildare.
- With the establishment of a steering committee for Youth Arts, consider new ways of supporting Youth Arts









Artform Development

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The numerous local visual arts collectives in the county provide a vibrant and consistent exhibitions programme, which are strongly supported by the community. However, developing an audience for, and understanding of contemporary professional visual arts work is an ongoing, long-term process.

Bordering the capital city, many of Kildare's professional visual arts have looked to the city for their formal training and support of their practice. Kildare County Council will continue to engage with visual artists in the County, by providing opportunities for artists to meet, and to provide opportunities and facilities to make artwork.



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Kildare County Council aims to create an environment for Visual Artists in the county that supports artistic excellence and innovation

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Kildare County Council will provide a challenging Visual Arts programme that extends boundaries and interpretation, to include new technologies, photography and mixed media

Redefining ways of working

- Use the emerging annual Artist Symposium to bring artists work to non-traditional arts spaces, such as train stations, shopping centres
- With the participants in the Temporary Foray lecture series, establish a Visual Arts forum, to inform visual arts policy.
- Commit to an annual purchasing, commissioning, exhibiting work which will extend the Municipal visual art collection for Kildare County Council.
- Establish a three-year residency programme that challenges traditional concepts of Visual Arts in libraries

Documenting the arts

 Create an on-line gallery and data base of the Municipal Visual Art collection

Promoting best practice

- Establish a purchasing/ acquisition policy for the Municipal Art Collection
- With key artists, devise and offer challenging Visual Arts in Education programmes to schools.
- With Library Service staff, develop models of best practice for Visual art exhibitions in libraries

Commissioning new work

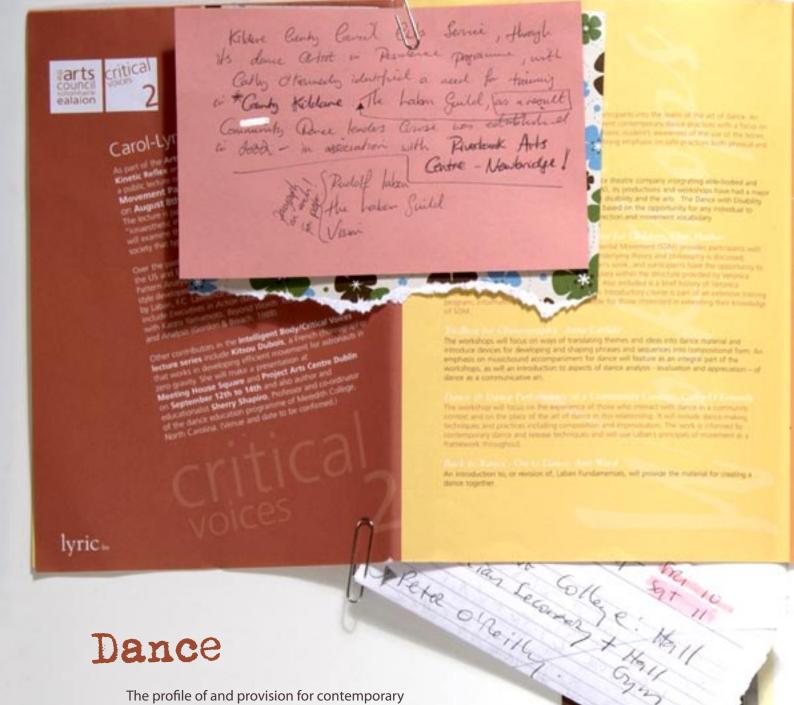
- Use the emerging annual Artist Symposium to provide new opportunities, to challenge views of contemporary Visual Arts
- Maximise commissioning opportunities within the Per Cent for Art scheme and other initiatives.

Capacity building in the arts

- With Riverbank Arts Centre, create an annual bursary award for an emerging Visual Artist from Co Kildare, to include a solo exhibition and grant aid.
 - Evaluate and restructure the support of individual artists, in the context of the Arts Act Grant scheme
 - Evaluate and restructure the support of amateur and community arts groups, in the context of the Arts Act Grant scheme

- Liase with art colleges nationally to make contact with emerging Visual Artists in Co Kildare.
- Establish a permanent gallery for Kildare County Council's Municipal art collection in Naas
- Continue the support of the Leinster Printmaking Studio, with priority for the professional development of members.
- Audit, review, maintain and improve the exhibition facilities in Leixlip, Celbridge, Naas and Athy libraries





Dance

The profile of and provision for contemporary dance in Kildare was affirmed by a joint threeyear Dance in Residence programme, for Fluxusdance, funded by the Arts Council and Kildare County Council. Building on this work, the Laban Guild Community Dance Leaders courses, Level 1 and 2 and the bi-annual Kildare Dance Summer School was established.

Providing opportunities for people to experience contemporary dance, while also supporting professional dancers and Laban Guild graduates in their practice, remains a challenge.





Kildare County Council will build on its experiences as facilitator of contemporary dance and as key provider of community dance training in Ireland

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Continue to question and challenge understanding of contemporary dance, community dance, choreography, Dance in Education, health and fitness

Redefining ways of working

- The Arts Officer with responsibility for Arts in Healthcare Settings will actively promote dance
- The Arts Service will liase with the Leisure Service,
 Sports Partnership to establish shared objectives in relation to dance development

Documenting the arts

- Continue to build an archive of film, photography and other records of dance initiatives in Co Kildare
- Publish a report documenting Kildare County Councils dance development programme.

Promoting best practice

- Continue to work with the Laban Guild to provide quality training opportunities in Community Dance
- Continue to monitor, evaluate and adapt the content and structure of the bi-annual Dance Summer School
- Continue to advocate the best practice employed by the Laban Guild
- Continue to provide quality Dance in Education initiatives to schools

Killing Party Prince & Supplies School 1888

- Privision of certified naming in Community Dance
 Labor Guild Community Dance Leaders Course, Stage 1
- Labor Gold Community Dance Leaders Courte, Stage 2.
 The establishment of the ty-annual Labor based Kildare Dance Summer School

The Labor Guild

The labor Guild is a non-profit making, international organization, founded in 1946 by Rudolf Labor. The main function of the Guild is to promote and advance the study of Labor based incorrect and dance: Individual members include dancers, teachers, scackerics, actors, therapolts and many others who wish to develop expression and

Buttoff Lables was born in Bratislaus and traveled extensively throughout Central Europe Lables was a flaconating person, an influential figure in 20th century dance and a key figure in Dadaism. He was a stancer, choreographies actor, artist, soutpath, therative producer, education, therapist, winter and advisor to industry. Lablesh gineauth led to his the body in space.

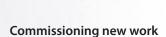
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· Commission a series of writings, in response to Kildare County Council's Dance Development programme.

• Extend the Per Cent for Art scheme to include commissions in contemporary dance

· Consider dance commissions that embrace the theme: 'A Sense of Place'

Capacity building in the arts

• Devise and formalise a support system for Laban Guild graduates, to include further training, mentoring and networking opportunities.

• Target key workers and service users of key agencies to participate in Dance training programmes

• Continue to avail of initiatives such as the Arts Council Critical Voices programme to encourage critical thinking about contemporary dance

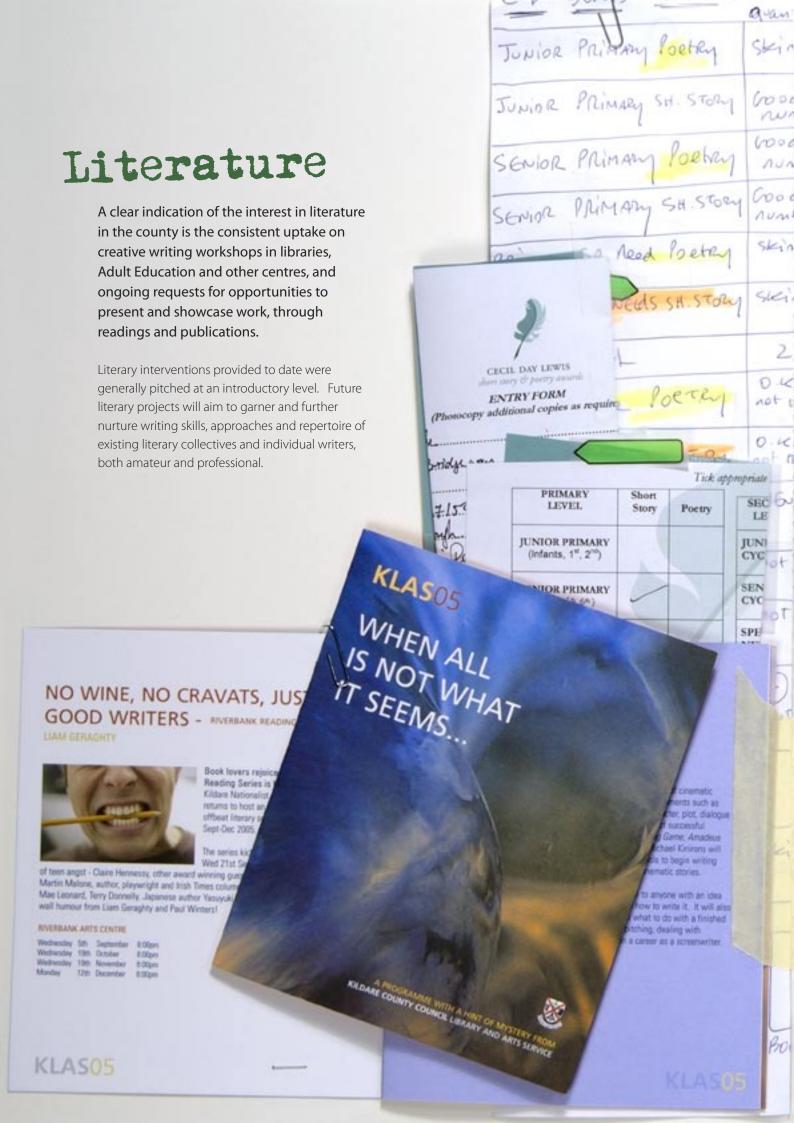
Development of arts infrastructure

• Promote interagency support of and Dance programmes, through the establishment of a County wide Arts in Health steering group.

• Forge relationships with key agencies at national level in relation to Dance Development.







Kildare County Council will nurture and develop literature as an artform, providing opportunities for writers to develop their practice and to bring their work to new audiences

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

• Extend the definition of literature, in relation to the arts development programme i.e. Writing for film, Curatorial practice, aural stories.

Redefining ways of working

• Prioritise the implementation of a Story Teller in Libraries Residence programme that focuses on parents and young children, tailored to specific local needs.

Documenting the arts

• Consider new opportunities for writers to publicly present their work

Promoting best practice

- Continue the support of the annual Cecil Day Lewis Adult Literary Bursary Award, with Athy Town Council
- Continue to support the Cecil Day Lewis Short Story and Poetry Awards for children, with Athy Heritage Centre
- · Continue to provide quality Creative Writing initiatives to schools

Commissioning new work

• Extend the Per Cent for Art scheme to include commissions in literature

Capacity building in the arts

- Based on evaluation of recent Writer in Residence schemes, devise an intermediate level Literary Development programme for participants.
- With the Library Service, review and extend the Story teller in Residence programme, according to need

- With Riverbank Arts Centre, continue to develop opportunities for writers to present their work
- Consider the potential of non-traditional arts spaces to present literary programmes.
- Use the inaugural Aidan Higgins Literary Festival in 2007 to consider the establishment of an annual programme.







Kildare County Council will embrace innovative and contemporary music initiatives, with cognisance of traditional music.

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Inform, progress and challenge understanding of music, including new music technologies through through the arts development programme

Redefining ways of working

• Establish the Music Development Suite in Leixlip Library as a hub for Youth Music in North Kildare

Documenting the arts

 Create a Music Archive collection, based in Leixlip Library

Promoting best practice

- Using the inaugural Musician in Residence programme in Leixlip Library to gather information, devise a five-year development programme for Youth Music in Kildare.
- Continue to provide quality Music in Education initiatives to schools

Commissioning new work

• Extend the Per Cent for Art scheme to include commissions in contemporary music







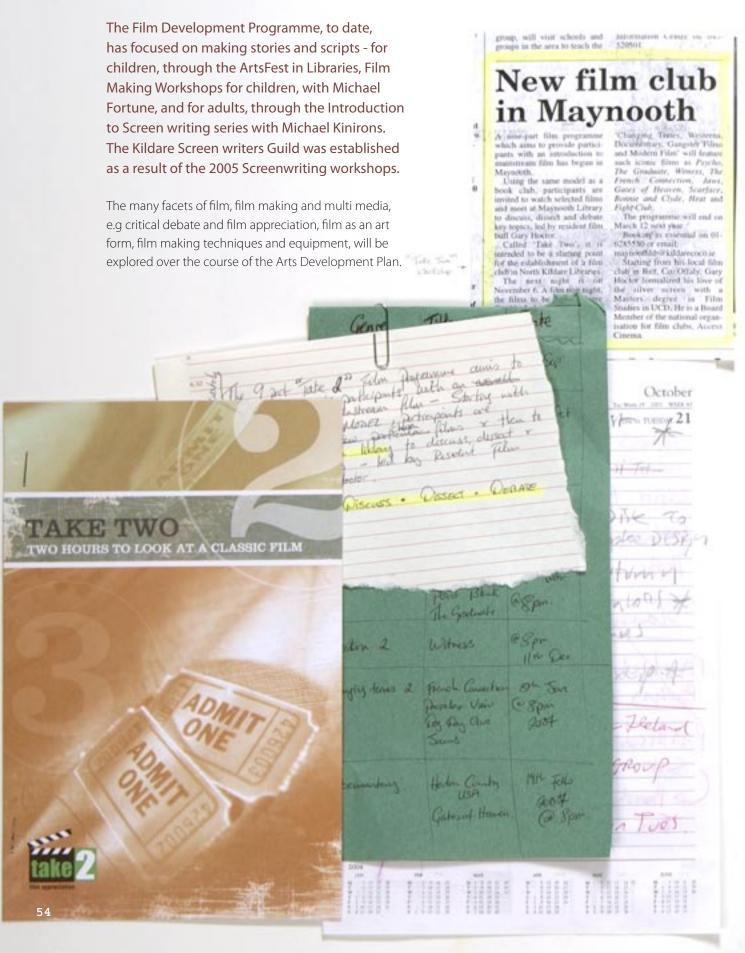
Capacity building in the arts

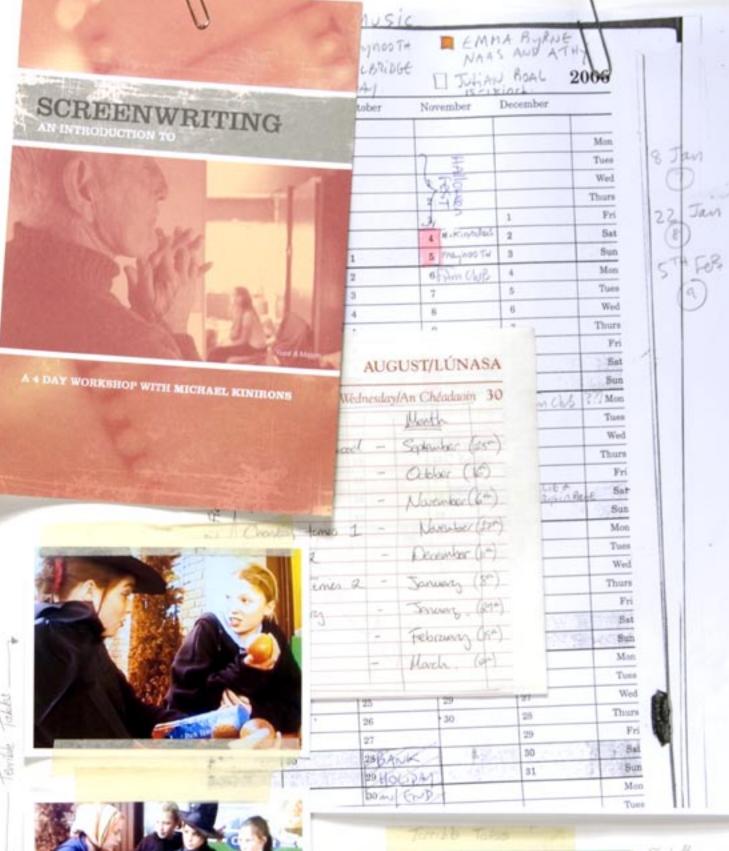
- Continue the support for the County Kildare Orchestra, with priority for
- professional development of emerging musicians
- bringing classical music to new audiences
- With music promoters and venues, provide music showcase opportunities, including Battle of the Bands programmes.
- Using the Leixlip Musician in Residence programme, provide opportunities for emerging musicians to engage with professional musicians
- To acknowledge the contribution of traditional musicians, continue to provide opportunities for them to develop their practice by engaging with professional musicians
- Extend the grant aid opportunities to include the purchase of music equipment

- Examine the possibility of the provision of a Theatre space in North Kildare
- Explore the potential of collaborative programmes with the Music Department, NUI, Maynooth
- Provide a recording studio in Leixlip Library



Film









Short Alms by Young Pople in Kildowe. Terrible Talks



Kildare County Council aims to showcase innovative and experimental film making practice in Co Kildare

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Through a series of exploratory works, the potential of Film and new technologies as art forms, its relationship to other art forms, such as Visual Arts and literature, and as a recording mechanism will be explored.

Redefining ways of working

• Extend the Municipal Visual Art collection to include works in film

Documenting the arts

 With Kildare Community Network, explore the possibility of providing film archive footage on www. Kildare.ie/arts

Promoting best practice

 Initiate and provide quality Film in Education initiatives to schools and encourage the innovate use of new technologies

Commissioning new work

• Extend the Per Cent for Art scheme to include commissions in film

Capacity building in the arts

- Using the inaugural Take 2 Film Appreciation series in Maynooth Library as a starting point, establish a Film Club for Co Kildare
- Continue to provide mentoring opportunities for Screenwriters
- Extend grant aid opportunities to include the purchase of specialised multi-media equipment

- Liase with colleges working in new technologies to make contact with emerging multi media artists in Co Kildare.
- Provide networking opportunities for emerging film makers





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A Consultyn of Four Short Films on DVD by Young People in County Kildere

Terrible Tales

Special thanks to the Library staff in Rathangan, Maynooth, Nass and Athy. Robert Corrigan in Limerick School of Art and Design and all who participated in the Storymaking Workshops.









Theatre

An annual calendar of plays and shows by amateur dramatics and musical societies, presented to packed houses, are synonymous with County Kildare. The shows rely on a strong voluntary effort and a love of live performance. The opening of Riverbank Arts Centre in 2001 has extended the platform for performance in the county.

However, developing an audience for original plays and touring professional theatre and the provision of dedicated performance spaces countywide remains a challenge, both in Kildare and nationally.



Kildare County Council will support and develop the theatre sector in Co Kildare

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

- While acknowledging the vast contribution of amateur and community theatre, continue to encourage artistic excellence in the field through a theatre development programme
- With the Youth Services, establish and agree understandings of quality Youth Theatre

Redefining ways of working

- Evaluate current mechanisms of support for amateur and community theatre i.e. Arts Grants schemes and other initiatives.
- Develop new mechanisms to support the artistic development of amateur and community theatre

Documenting the arts

- Continue to develop the database of theatre practitioners in Co Kildare
- With Riverbank Arts Centre, record and promote touring theatre

Promoting best practice

- With Riverbank Arts Centre, make provision to showcase work of excellence in amateur drama in Co Kildare
- Establish mechanisms for the dissemination of models of good practice for Youth Theatre
- Continue to provide quality Theatre in Education initiatives to schools



Commissioning new work

- Encourage playwrights to avail of the annual Cecil Day Lewis Adult Literary Award
- Extend the Per Cent for Art scheme to include commissions in directing and writing new plays
- Develop new audiences for theatre by providing theatre in non-traditional spaces

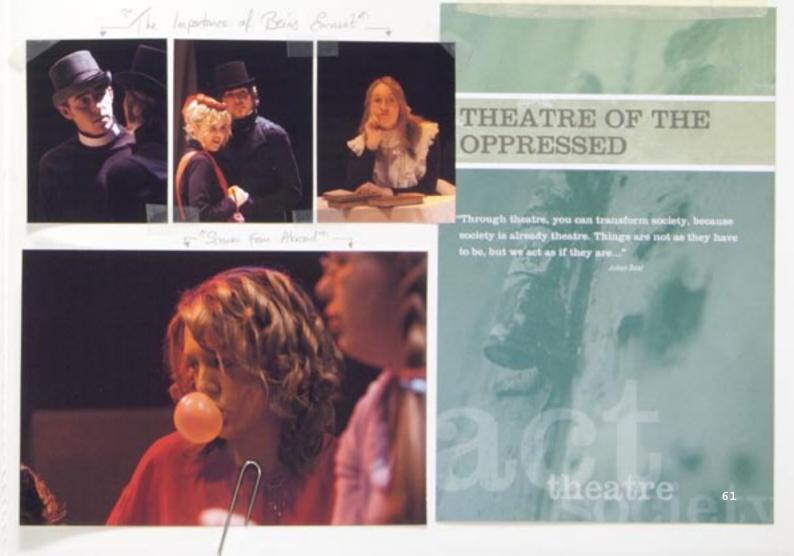
Capacity building in the arts

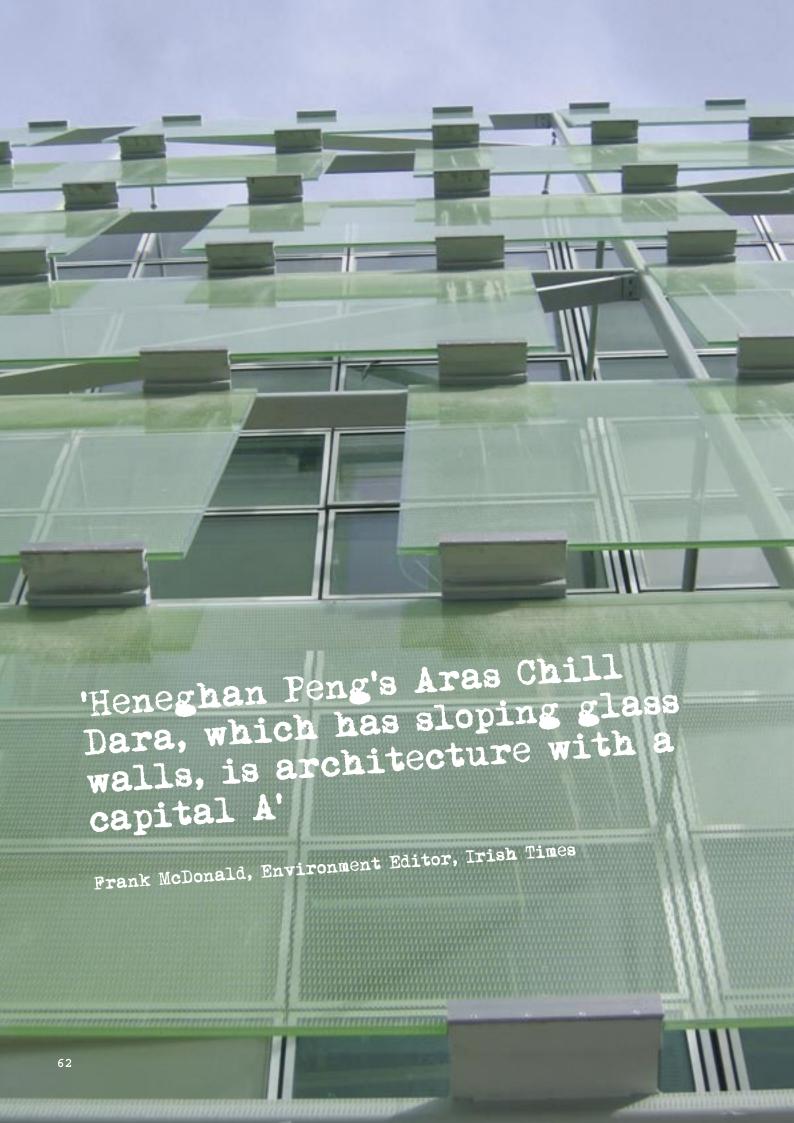
- Make provision for individuals involved in amateur drama in theatre training and information programmes
- Continue the Drama League of Ireland Summer School bursary award

Development of arts infrastructure

 With Riverbank Arts Centre, consider initiatives that will encourage audiences for Professional Touring Theatre



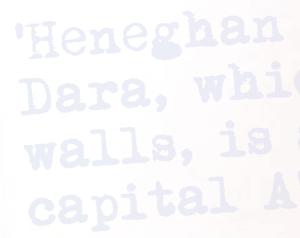




Architecture

Recent capital projects by the local authority, particularly housing developments and the Aras Chill Dara building, are statements by Kildare County Council of their commitment to creating buildings of significance.

The consideration of 'Space' as a concept – public space, alternatives spaces for making art and displaying art and raising the profile of Architecture as an art form, through critical debate, commissions, competitions and exhibitions will inform future work in this field.





Aras Chill Dara, Naas, is a monumental statement by Kildare County Council to 'lead by example' in the field of architecture. Through such work, Kildare County Council intends to strengthen visual culture, to increase public awareness and understanding and to aim for to architectural excellence.

Exploring & broadening definitions of the arts

 Kildare County Council aim to raise public awareness and to create debate around the Built Environment, and Architecture as an art form

Redefining ways of working

- The Architecture as Art form projects for Kildare County Council shall be managed under the supervision of the Kildare County Arts Officer
- Encourage the use of architectural competition as a means for commissioning work
- Encourage meaningful collaboration between architects and artists, particularly in relation to Per Cent for Art schemes

Documenting the arts

- With Kildare County Council Architects
 Department, develop an interpretive service to include an on-line archive and database of significant architecture in the county
- Document the presentations and discussions on Architecture within the Critical Debate series

Promoting best practice

- Encourage higher design standards for arts buildings in County Kildare
- Initiate an Architect in Education programme
- Initiate an annual architectural touring exhibition programme in Aras Chill Dara

Commissioning new work

• Examine the feasibility of hosting a Student Architecture competition

Capacity building in the arts

- Provide opportunities for the sharing of information and ideas between Visual artists in the County and Architects
- Provide professional development opportunities for architects regarding the potential of Public Art commissions

Development of arts infrastructure

 Carry out an audit of existing buildings and upcoming developments, in terms of potential arts facilities in the county.













