

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Cultural Strategy
2016–2021



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Introduction

This Cultural Strategy was prepared collaboratively across multiple Departments within Dublin City Council, as well as with arts and cultural organisations and with the citizens of Dublin. It was adopted by Dublin City Council in 2015, and signals our intent to deliver on the themes and ambitions expressed by our citizens.

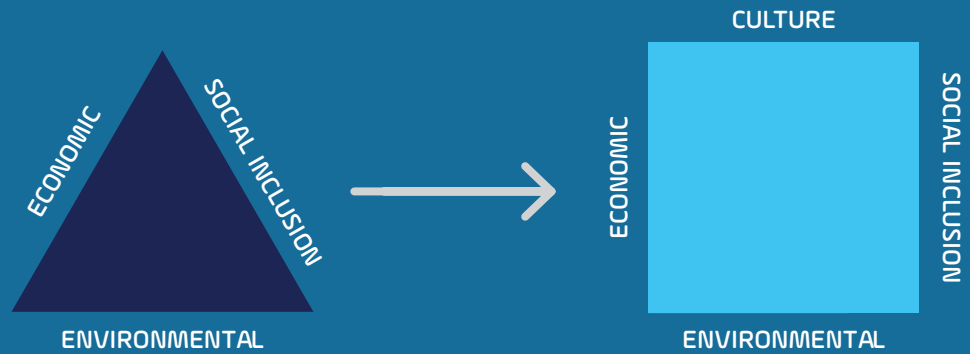
The implementation of this Strategy will continue over a number of years, with collaboration across the City Council, and with citizens, businesses, cultural organisations, as well as others in Dublin.

This strategy was developed initially as part of Dublin's bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020. The Bid created new connections across the City and within the Council itself, and highlighted areas of the City and of our work where Culture Strategy could make a significant contribution.

A sustainable City is based upon the foundations of, and the interactions between, Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability, Social Inclusion, and Culture. This new Cultural Strategy and its implementation through Dublin Culture Connects signals the central roles that Culture plays in the daily lives of all who work, live in or visit Dublin.

Owen P Keegan,
Chief Executive,
Dublin City Council

Squaring the Triangle: Making a Sustainable City



Culture is positioned as a pillar of Dublin's corporate strategy for a sustainable city and community.

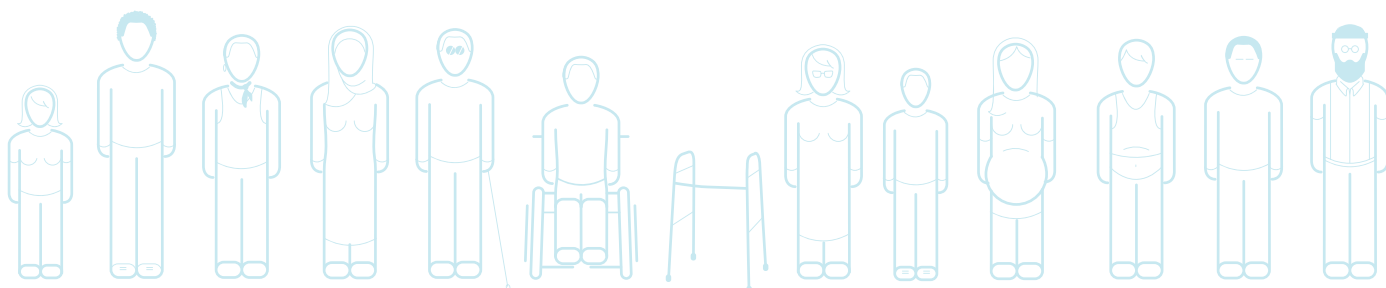
Preamble

This Strategy acknowledges the change, diversity and the divisions that define Dublin today. It will facilitate the emergence of the next stage in the City's cultural expression, creating a new identity from the lives, the creativity and the ambitions of the current population.

This Strategy acknowledges that Dublin is a city with a rich cultural heritage that is now in a period of great change. That change is driven by major technological advances, by demographic shift, and by new forms of social participation and cultural expression. These forces can underline the historical divisions of a city and create new ones.

This Strategy acknowledges that a diverse, inclusive and collaborative cultural expression can reconcile these divisions, and develop a city that is welcoming, tolerant and economically resilient; and further acknowledges that cultural unity depends on the equal recognition of all forms of culture.

This Strategy has been informed by public consultation and was developed in parallel with the Framework National Cultural Policy of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

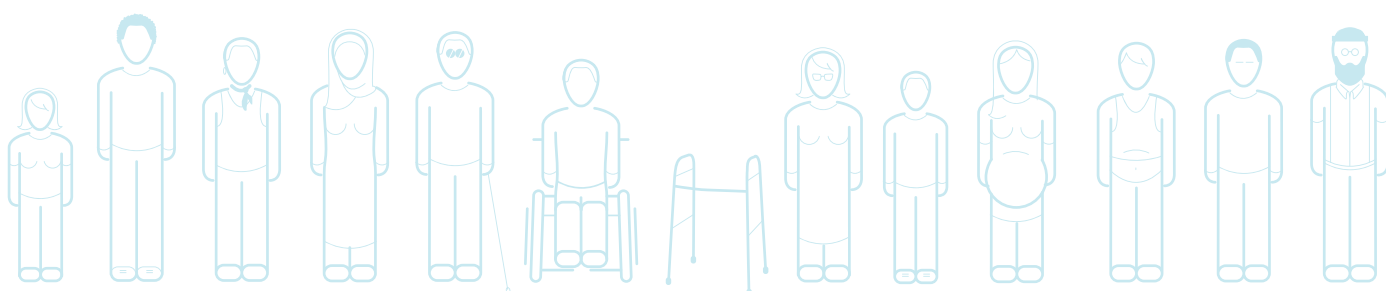


A Definition of Culture

Dublin City Council has adopted the Unesco definition of Culture, namely that Culture is:

“The set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature, but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”.

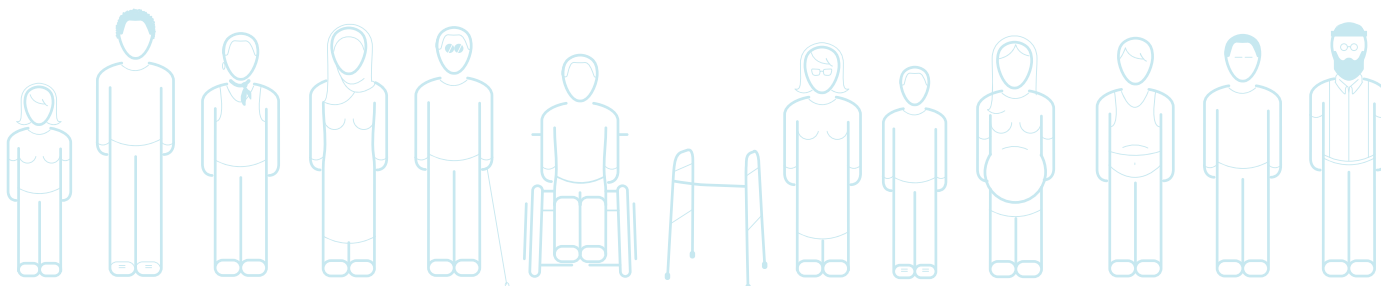
(Unesco 2001)



Vision

The Cultural Vision of Dublin City Council is that:

-  Culture is central to human development, central to Dublin's quality of life and its relationship with Ireland, Europe and the rest of the world.
-  Cultural diversity and equal respect for all cultural expression confronts division and exclusion, and honours tradition while embracing the future.
-  Dublin is, and will be, a city in which to make, experience, and share culture.
-  Culture builds community, develops the economy, and empowers people, enabling change through imagination and creativity.
-  Leading, developing and working in partnership, Dublin City Council will create and support opportunities for all citizens to equally engage in inclusive and diverse cultural experiences.



Priorities

1. Culture and Creativity

To position culture, creativity and creative industries as central to Dublin's global competitiveness and reputation as a modern European city.

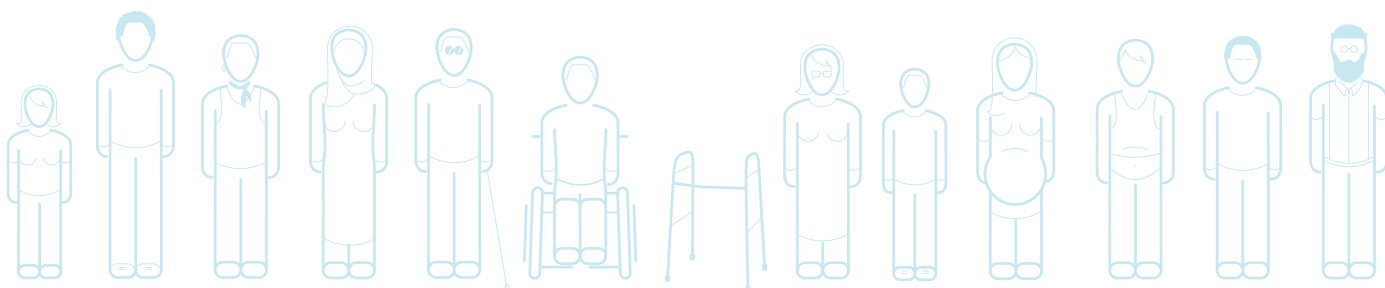
2. Participation and Practice

Increase cultural participation and practice through:

- a. Partnerships in formal and informal education
- b. Planning and delivering improved cultural infrastructure in the City and its neighbourhoods

3. Social, Economic and Tourism

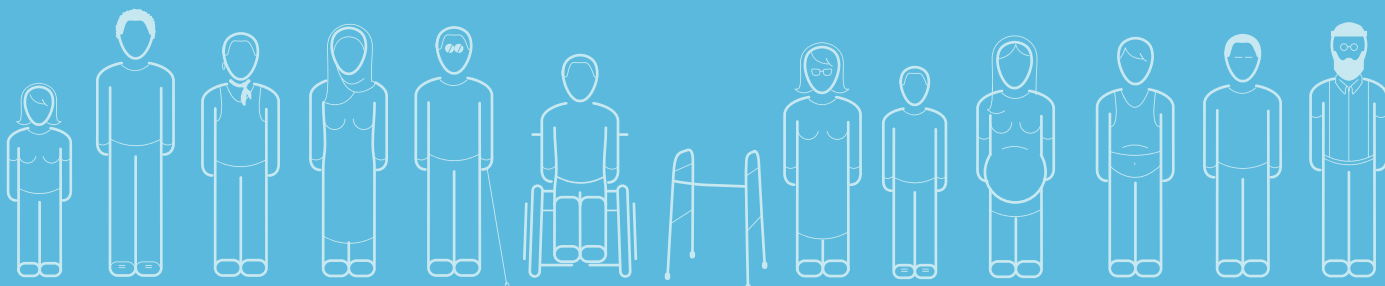
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Priority 1

Culture and Creativity - Actions

- 1 Embed and prioritise the culture and creative industries in the Dublin City Development Plan.
- 2 Work with other Dublin City Council departments to develop a specific response and commitment to this Strategy to be presented to its Culture Special Purpose Committee. A template to facilitate and guide the response will be provided, based on the outcomes of 1, above.
- 3 Commission comprehensive research to make explicit the relationship between tourism, economic development, creativity, cultural and creative industries, and community, and provide a coherent baseline for ongoing research.
- 4 Convene an inaugural conference for the creative and cultural industries to upskill all stakeholders, build international networks, attract thought leaders in the field, and position Dublin as leader in creative and cultural industries' thinking and practice. Reconvene this conference annually or bi-annually as appropriate.



Priority 2

Participation and Practice - Actions

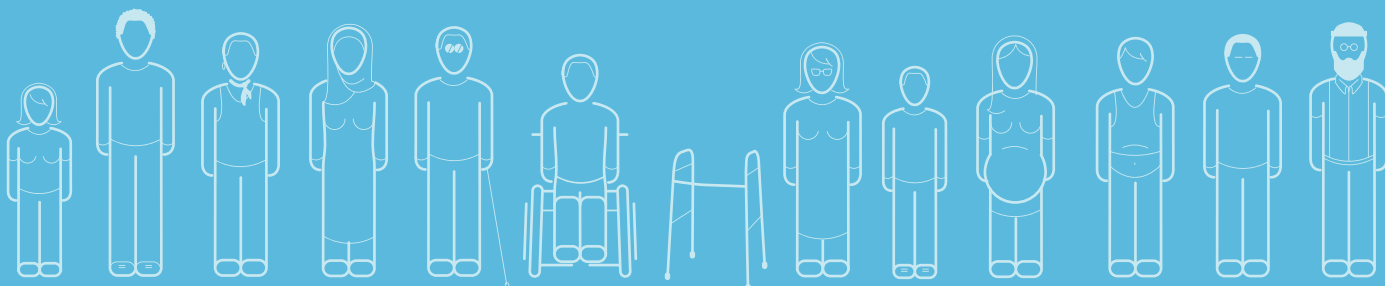
Dublin City Council recognises the importance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - Article 31

Recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

Dublin City Council will:

- 1 Perform an audit on existing strategic educational partnerships in Dublin City Council.
- 2 Establish a structure and guiding principles for these strategic partnerships in all areas of education and culture.
- 3 Foster the development of internships and apprenticeships, and best practice guidelines, between the strategic partners identified in 2, above. E.g. third level institutions and the municipality; national institutions and artists; between national institutions, artists and educational institutions.
- 4 Conduct cultural audits (qualitative and quantitative) in all city areas paying particular attention to developing cultural clusters, in the context of the revised development levy funding.



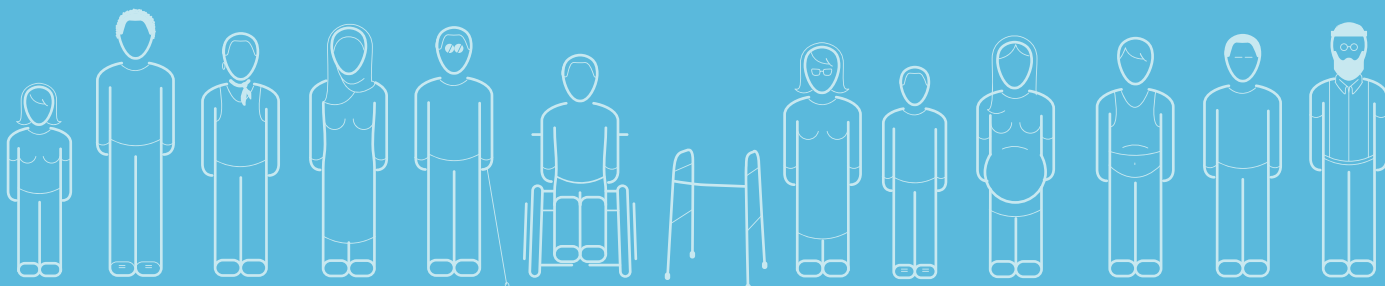
Priority 3

Social, Economic and Tourism - Actions

As part of social, economic and tourism development, Dublin City Council will endeavour to continue to increase the resources available to cultural expression through public and private investment.

- 1 Establish a sub-committee within each Dublin City Council area to develop a cultural infrastructure programme that will include the detailed cultural mapping of their areas on the understanding that infrastructure is both 'hard' (buildings) and 'soft' (networks, community organisations, programmes, histories etc.)
- 2 Seek to make appropriate increases in its annual expenditure for cultural provision based on the demonstrated proof of the economic, social, tourism and community development impact of cultural action emerging from all previous actions.

All of the above actions will be reviewed and refreshed on a yearly basis by consultation with the public and all Dublin City Council departments as appropriate.



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