

PLACES MATTER

An Arts Council / Local Government
Conference arising from
A Framework for Collaboration
agreement

27 and 28 March 2019
Bailey Allen Hall, NUI Galway

#PlacesMatter2019

BUILDING INCLUSION IN THE ARTS

A welcome from the Arts Council and Local Government

This conference is the second in a biennial series being held under the auspices of the Arts Council / Local Government agreement, *A Framework for Collaboration*.

It is an important and timely opportunity to further demonstrate the unified and strategic approach the Arts Council and Local Authorities are taking in supporting and developing the arts across Ireland.

The title, *Places Matter: building inclusion in the arts*, speaks to a key common purpose and vision for arts development: that arts and culture should be accessible to everyone, irrespective of origin, place of residence, religious beliefs, economic or social background.

Our national and local policies recognise that arts and culture have an important role to play in promoting tolerance, inclusivity and social cohesion in our increasingly diverse society. Today we will ask, what does this look like in practice?

This conference is intended to provoke, challenge and inspire us all, policy makers, arts organisations and artists. We have a collective responsibility to ensure the arts in Ireland are relevant to and animated by the diversity of our society.

This biennial series of conferences offers an important national platform for discussion, learning, understanding and reflection. We warmly welcome your presence and your participation and we hope that you will leave inspired and informed to make a difference.

Orlaith McBride
Director, Arts Council

Jackie Maguire
Chairperson, County and City Management Association
Chief Executive, Meath County Council

“As the agency tasked with the development of the arts in Ireland, it is crucial that the Arts Council takes a proactive and focused approach to guaranteeing a basic human right: ensuring that everyone who lives in Ireland has the opportunity to engage with, and participate in the arts¹.”

“We commit to taking actions over the course of the next five years to actively deepen our understanding of inequalities in the arts and develop substantive ways to address these inequalities. We recognise that our policy must be embedded from the outset in our own institutional structure and practice and we will work towards ensuring that our board, staff, advisers and panellists, best reflect and represent the diversity of contemporary Ireland.”

Arts Council, Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy 2019

1 Basic human right – UN Declaration Article 27.

(1) Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Programme

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH

- 13.30–16.00** OF/BY/FOR ALL Workshop with **NINA SIMON, Director of Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History**. A free event for leaders in Irish arts organisations, venues and local authorities
The Cube and Stage, NUI Galway
-
- 18.00–20.00** Launch of the Arts Council Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy and screening of short films illustrating diversity and equality
Pálás Cinema, Galway
-

THURSDAY 28 MARCH | BAILEY ALLEN HALL, NUI GALWAY

- 9.15** Arrival and registration
-
- 10:20** Welcome from the Arts Council and County and City Management Association.
ORLAITH McBRIDE, Director Arts Council and
ANN DOHERTY, Chief Executive, Cork City Council
-
- 10.30** Opening Address by **Dr SINDY JOYCE**
-
- 10.40** Introduction by Conference Chair **Dr RONIT LENTIN**
-
- 10.50** **NINA SIMON, Director Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History**
The story of a struggling cultural facility and its transformation into a dynamic community institution, deepening and diversifying its offering and its audiences and how the OF/BY/FOR ALL global movement aims to increase relevance and sustainability
-
- 11.30** **DENISE CHAILA** | artistic intervention
-
- 11.40** Break
-
- 11.55** **ABID HUSSAIN, Director, Diversity, Arts Council England**
Making the creative case for diversity; policies and programmes that have made a significant impact to diversifying the arts and cultural landscape in England
-

12.15 A conversation on the creative case for diversity moderated by **Dr RONIT LENTIN**.
4 X 5 minute provocations followed by panel discussion

- **LORRAINE MAHER** | activist
- **NITA MISHRA** | poet
- **ROSALEEN McDONAGH** | playwright
- **KUNLE ANIMASHAUN** | academic and theatre practitioner
and **ABID HUSSAIN**

13.05 **GLORY ANUMUDU, TOUCHÉ** and **PETUSULO** | young Irish voices

13.20 **Lunch**

That's Life present In Flow, project combining Javanese Gamelan, improvisation and electronic music.

This ensemble from Galway has been working for the past year composing and developing a new approach to using improvisation on Gamelan in collaboration with facilitator and jazz musician Aengus Hackett.

In Flow is supported by the Arts Council, Galway City Arts Office and That's Life. A 20 minute performance will take place over lunch.

14.15 **RUSANGANO FAMILY** | artistic intervention

14.30 **Dr. WILLIAM SCHABAS**

The place for equality, human rights and diversity in our everyday places, cultural expressions, communities and conscience

14.50 A conversation on making a difference moderated by **Dr RONIT LENTIN**
5 X 5 minute provocations followed by panel discussion

- **Dr ZOE O'REILLY** | researcher
- **UNA CARMODY** | cultural consultant
- **HELEN MARRIAGE** | Creative Director Galway 2020
- **MELATU UCHE OKORIE** | author *This Hostel Life*
- **GOD KNOWS** | musician and tutor

15.50 Conference sum up **Dr RONIT LENTIN**

Conference contributors



KUNLE ANIMASHAUN is a theatre practitioner who lives in Dublin where he is currently completing his PhD at Trinity College and runs the theatre company Camino Productions. Throughout 2014, Kunle was the Artistic Director in Residence at Tallaght Community Arts which was facilitated by the Arts Council, South Dublin County Council and Rua Red. He received the Samuel Beckett Studentship in 2013 awarded jointly by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Trinity College Dublin.



GLORY ANUMUDU is an 18 year old poet from Portlaoise, writing and performing spoken word pieces personally inspired and drawn from observations of the world around her. Glory addresses topics around racism, colonialism, sexism, LGBTQ rights, individualism, and domestic abuse. Her talent has been developed through her involvement in groups and open mic nights at Youth Work Ireland Laois. She has performed at the Dunamaise Arts Centre and Electric Picnic.



ÚNA CARMODY is a cultural consultant, working primarily in the area of marketing and audience development. She acts as Audience Adviser to the Arts Council, and clients have included the National Museum of Ireland, the Central Bank and others. Úna has worked as CEO of The Helix, as Cultural Manager of Temple Bar Properties and with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon.



DENISE CHAILA is a Zambian-Irish rapper, singer and poet hailing from Chikankata (Zambia) and based in Limerick. Her music blends spoken word and rap to give voice to the sound of a transatlantic odyssey from the heart and mind of a diasporan dreamer. She uses her hyphenated identities to weave a narrative exploring identity, belonging and home.



ABID HUSSAIN is Director, Diversity at Arts Council England. With over 15 years of experience working in the arts and cultural sector, with a particular interest in leadership, talent development and philanthropic giving, Abid is actively involved in a number of initiatives across England to advance opportunities for artists from working class backgrounds and improve social mobility across the arts and cultural sector.



Dr RONIT LENTIN was an associate professor of sociology at Trinity College, Dublin. She was born in Haifa prior to the establishment of the State of Israel and has lived in Ireland since 1969. She is a political sociologist and a writer of fiction and non-fiction books. Ronit was head of Department (2009–12) and director of the MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict (1997–2012), Department of Sociology, and co-founder of the Trinity Immigration Initiative, Trinity College, Dublin.



Dr SINDY JOYCE is a human rights activist, and doctoral graduate of the department of sociology at University of Limerick. Her research interests include both direct and indirect forms of racism, ethnicity/identity, social/political constructions of Irish Travellers and the production of space related inequalities. Cindy was successful in winning the prestigious Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme with a score of 95.5%.



LORRAINE MAHER is the founder of #IamIrish, a project that celebrates and challenges perceptions of Irish identity in the 21st century. She has developed pioneering creative projects that place hidden voices at the heart of their vision. Lorraine has spent the best part of her career working within the arts and social justice. Her work is rooted in the belief that creativity changes lives.



HELEN MARRIAGE is the Director of Artichoke, one of the UK's most significant creative companies, and the Creative Director of Galway 2020. Previously she was Director of the Salisbury Festival which was described by *The Times* as a 'miracle of modern British Culture'. In 2012 she was awarded a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard Graduate School of Design, acknowledging the impact Artichoke has made on the way mass public art events are negotiated and staged. She was awarded an MBE for services to the arts in the New Year's Honours list in 2016 and was made a Fellow of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2018.



ROSALEEN McDONAGH is a playwright, performer and columnist. She is a member of Aosdána and a board member of Pavee Point and the Project Arts Centre. Her theatre work includes; *The Baby Doll Project*, *She's Not Mine*, and *Rings*. *Mainstream* was produced in 2017. Rosaleen has an MPhil in Ethnic and Racial Studies and an MPhil in Creative Writing from Trinity College Dublin. She is currently a PhD candidate in Northumbria University. She is a frequent contributor to Sunday Miscellany, RTÉ Radio1.



THEOPHILUS (THEO) NDLOVU also known as Touché is a 22 year old Zimbabwean songwriter, rapper and a producer based in Galway. He has been DJing and making music from the age of 15. Theo believes music is a journey of the mind and environment as one drifts through a sea of inspiration driven by everyday experiences and individual tales moulded into one sound. Touché will be joined by his collaborator Petusulo Ndlovu.



Dr. NITA MISHRA is a development researcher, tutor, and part-time lecturer at University College Cork. Her poetry, first published in 2012, reflects the future of Irish feminism. Her poems are used in university classrooms, migrant narratives, and policy documents on 'inclusion and diversity' to investigate and understand the intersection of race and gender, and the 'new Irish'.



MELATU-UCHE OKORIE was born in Enugu, Nigeria and has been living in Ireland for 12 years. She has an MPhil in Creative Writing from Trinity College Dublin. Her work has been published in *Dublin: Ten Journeys One Destination*, *Alms on the Highway* (New Writing from the Oscar Wilde Centre), *LIT Journal* and *College Green Magazine*. Her debut collection, *This Hostel Life*, was published in May 2018. She is currently working on a novel.



ZOË O'REILLY is a researcher, writer and visual ethnographer. Her work straddles the space between practice-based research and socially engaged collaborative art practice, with a particular interest in cultural diversity and the subjective experiences of migration and cultural difference. She is currently preparing a book for publication with Palgrave, entitled *The In-Between Spaces of Asylum and Migration: a participatory visual approach*.



RUSANGANO FAMILY are God Knows, MuRli and mynameisJohn. Based in the West of Ireland, and wearing their hip-hop and electronic influences proudly on their sleeves, the trio aren't an act willing to conform to the styles associated with their respective backgrounds. Rusangano Family have performed at festivals around Ireland, including Body & Soul, Other Voices and Hard Working Class Heroes, as well as internationally. Their debut, *Let the Dead Bury the Dead*, was awarded the 2017 RTÉ Choice Music Prize for Album of the Year.



WILLIAM A. SCHABAS is professor of international law at Middlesex University in London. He is also professor of international human law and human rights at Leiden University, emeritus professor of human rights law at the National University of Ireland Galway and honorary chairman of the Irish Centre for Human Rights.



NINA SIMON has been called a museum visionary by *Smithsonian Magazine*, and Santa Cruz County Woman of the Year for her innovative community leadership. She is the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History and the founder of the OF/BY/FOR ALL movement. Nina is the best-selling author of *The Participatory Museum* (2010), *The Art of Relevance* (2016) and the popular Museum 2.0 blog.



THAT'S LIFE arts program at the Brothers of Charity Services, Galway, supports people with intellectual disabilities to engage in the arts both as art makers and audience members. Opportunities are developed to discover and realise their artistic talent through working with established artists and participating in high quality arts programmes (music, physical theatre and visual arts).

Cultural Diversity and the Arts: Final Report

“It is sometimes presumed that ‘diversity’ is a ‘new’ challenge for a society that was previously homogeneous. This in turn gives rise to an understanding of cultural diversity as something to be negotiated by internally-coherent identity blocs, chief among them being ‘the Irish’, who are identical in terms of ethnicity, culture and faith. Whilst cultural diversity may be a recent area for arts policy formation in Ireland, Ireland has always been a diverse nation, with a range of ethnic, cultural and faith-based communities whose presence has been of sufficiently long standing to be considered permanent.” P.30

“The main prerequisite to establishing a cultural diversity and the arts policy is the need to be open to attitudinal change that dislodges majority-minority discourse and a conceptualisation of arts practice that is singularly founded on a perceived Western tradition.” P.67

From the report *Cultural Diversity and the Arts*, 2009, written by Dr Daniel Jewesbury, Jagtar Singh (Change Institute) and Sarah Tuck (Create).
This report is available on www.artscouncil.ie

Similar but different, life's rituals and beliefs

"When I began to work in the Tullow Road of Carlow town my approach was never about parachuting in cultural activities for the community, but to look at what already existed; the things people did and the things that they never considered worthy of interest. I began to build friendships and trust, slowly unravelling aspects of local people's lives and experiences.

I discovered the private tradition of keeping a piece of straw from the Christmas crib in Askea church in purses or phone cases in the hope that the keeper would always have money during the year. We then discovered the Polish locals did something almost identical; they kept a scale of the fish which they traditionally eat at Christmas Eve in their purse with the same hope. Now many local Polish women are keeping a piece of straw in their purses as a result of their native Irish neighbours.

We resurrected the May Bush, which many remember putting up as children on the first of May to welcome the summer, a tradition claimed to be uniquely Irish. Young and old in the community came out to help and a Slovakian local asked 'Why are you practicing a Slovakian tradition here in Carlow?'

Many older locals remembered an old Easter tradition of bringing potatoes and eggs to the church to get blessed. Long forgotten, it was only remembered after they noticed the Polish community bringing baskets full of painted eggs and food to the local churches. As a result, the children of the native Carlow people are painting egg shells at Easter influenced by their local Polish neighbours.

The wonderful thing is that these customs and rituals are alive and ever changing in front of our very eyes. Rituals are not from an old dusty folklore archive; this is full-colour and I luckily get a chance to be an active part in helping document, shape and celebrate our many similarities and differences."



Michael Fortune is an artist and folklorist from Wexford. He works as part of the Take A Part Carlow project that is managed by Carlow County Council Arts Office and was initially funded under the Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration Scheme.

Speaking without words

"If you believe dance is only a movement of the body, a hobby and sport that only girls can practice, maybe you have never really danced. Dancing is not just moving arms and legs is more than that, dancing brings out the soul in people, show emotions, tell us histories.

I was really inspired when I went to the workshop in Maynooth; 75 year old Anne doing the moves it left me saying WOW I wanna do like her, I wanna be like her.

When I dance I feel free, alive, complete, energetic and emotional, I forget all my cares and troubles, I feel so graceful and light and I can even imagine that I'm the best dancer on this earth. It makes me feel in control of my body and it's the only thing that makes me happy lately when I'm bored, angry, depressed, stressed, sad, confused or feeling lonely. It's like speaking without words. I feel confident and even perfect, I feel like I become more beautiful when I dance. Hopefully one day I'll be able to teach some dancing too."

Blessing Sibindi



Blessing Sibindi takes part in the dance summer school in Maynooth University. She is a resident of Eyre Powell Direct Provision Centre in Newbridge. The programme is funded by Kildare County Council and the Arts Council and forms part of their Partnership Agreement.

Attendance, Participation & Engagement with the Arts in Ireland 2018

In 2018 the Arts Council commissioned Behaviour & Attitudes (B&A) to undertake a national public survey on arts attendance, participation and engagement.

The 2018 survey, of over 1,000 adults from across Ireland, is the first of a new multi annual Arts Council initiative to capture the public's perspective on the arts in Ireland. It follows in the footsteps of previous research such as the Arts in Irish Life and the Public and the Arts.

The research looks at attendance, participation, behaviours and attitudes from the perspective of the public. Who attends and who does not attend arts events? What are the drivers and barriers to taking part? What do people value about their participation?

For example the survey tells us that new nationals are more likely to participate in the arts 32%, than nationals 28%

The answers to these and other questions will help us to:

- be well informed and evidence-based in driving Arts Council policy development on public engagement;
- shape and inform performance indicators on participation, attendance and attitudes;
- provide insight and analysis that supports the arts sector to grow and diversify audiences;
- tell the story of public investment in the arts.

Over time this research will build up a picture to inform our breadth and depth of knowledge about the arts in Ireland and ensure that we are effective as the national development agency for the arts.

http://www.artscouncil.ie/uploadedFiles/wwwartscouncilie/Content/Arts_in_Ireland/Strategic_Development/Arts-Council-National-Survey-2018.pdf

The Asylum Archive

The Asylum Archive is an ongoing art, activist and academic platform and documentation of direct provision centres throughout Ireland. Initiated by Vukašin Nedeljković, it is an inclusive platform for dialogue and discussion about sociological and geographical displacement, social trauma and violence. It is an act of solidarity with and justice for people who have come to Ireland to seek protection.

From April 2007 to November 2009, Vukašin was housed in a Direct Provision Centre in Ballyhaunis while seeking asylum. The Asylum Archive grew from that experience: "I kept myself intact by capturing and communicating with the environment through photographs and videos. This creative process helped me to overcome confinement and incarceration."

Vukašin Nedeljković holds a Masters in Visual Arts Practice at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Arts, Design and Technology and is a PhD candidate at Dublin Institute of Technology. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally. His recent contributions include *Reiterating Asylum Archive: documenting direct provision in Ireland*, 2018 and *Asylum Archive: an Archive of Asylum and Direct Provision in Ireland*, 2016, 2017. He was awarded the *Arts and Activism* bursary from the Arts Council managed by Create in 2017 and has recently published the *Asylum Archive* publication.

The Asylum Archive is on exhibition in the Source Arts Centre in Thurles from 5 to 25 April 2019. www.asylumarchive.com



Railway Direct provision Centre, Kiltimagh | Photo Vukasin Nedeljković

Inclusion, Diversity and Difference

The British Council is on the ground in over 100 countries. We open up conversations with people in the UK and around the world, provide people with educational opportunities that can transform their lives, and work with local cultures and political realities to shape and contribute to positive cultural, educational and social change for safer, more secure, prosperous and inclusive societies.

In Ireland, the British Council works with partners in culture, education and science to strengthen relationships between Ireland, the UK and the rest of the world. Deepening understanding of inclusion, diversity and difference is one of three Ireland specific programme priorities for 2019–2023.

We seek out partners who share their commitment to diversity and values of inclusion. Each collaborative partnership is unique, built on understanding, mutual benefit and respect. In 2019, they will work with Triskel Arts Centre, Gaze Film Festival, axis Ballymun, EUNIC Network and Dublin UNESCO City of Literature, EVA International, Dublin Fringe Festival, Galway 2020, St Patrick's Festival, Project Arts Centre, and Cork Midsummer Festival among many others.

"We are very proud to have been a part of many outstanding projects in Ireland in past including The Hijabi Monologues and #IAMIrish. As we approach our 30th anniversary in Ireland, we will continue to bring ambition and passion to our work. If you have an idea you would like to discuss with us get in touch with our team."

Mags Walsh, Director, British Council Ireland.



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www.britishcouncil.ie

www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilIreland/
[@ieBritish](https://twitter.com/ieBritish)

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/how-we-work/equality-diversity-inclusion>



Hijabi Monologues | April 2013 |
Performed by Mæve Fitzgerald, Orla
McGovern and Yameena Mitha |
Script Facilitator Deirdre Kinahan
| Performance Director Declan
Gorman | Creative Producer Niamh Ni
Chonchubhair | Photo Marc O'Sullivan

Cairde

Cairde Sligo Arts Festival has a strong track record in building inclusion and diversity in their programmes and partnerships; bringing together people from different cultural backgrounds to share, learn, celebrate and enjoy various aspects of each other's culture through conversation, theatre, food and music. Festival Director Tara McGowan explains why this work is so important to them

“Celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion are the cornerstones on which our festival has been built. It is very important to us that we involve communities who may not have a voice and that we celebrate the richness of our culturally diverse communities, particularly as that landscape has changed so dramatically in Ireland over the past 15 to 20 years, and continues to change.

We are interested in reducing barriers to participation in the festival and we find that meaningful engagement is the best way to achieve this. We partner with professional artists who have a strong reputation for working in socially engaged contexts such as Brokentalkers, who are developing a theatre performance with the residents of Globe House, the direct provision centre in Sligo. The resulting performance, which has been funded by The Arts Council and in collaboration with The Hawk's Well Theatre, will be premiered during our 2019 festival”

Cairde Sligo Arts Festival July 6th to 13th 2019 www.cairdefestival.com



Hilary Nyakura and
Magaly Mutombo Mujinga | Cairde
Sligo Arts Festival | Photo Val Robus

Integration takes place at a local level

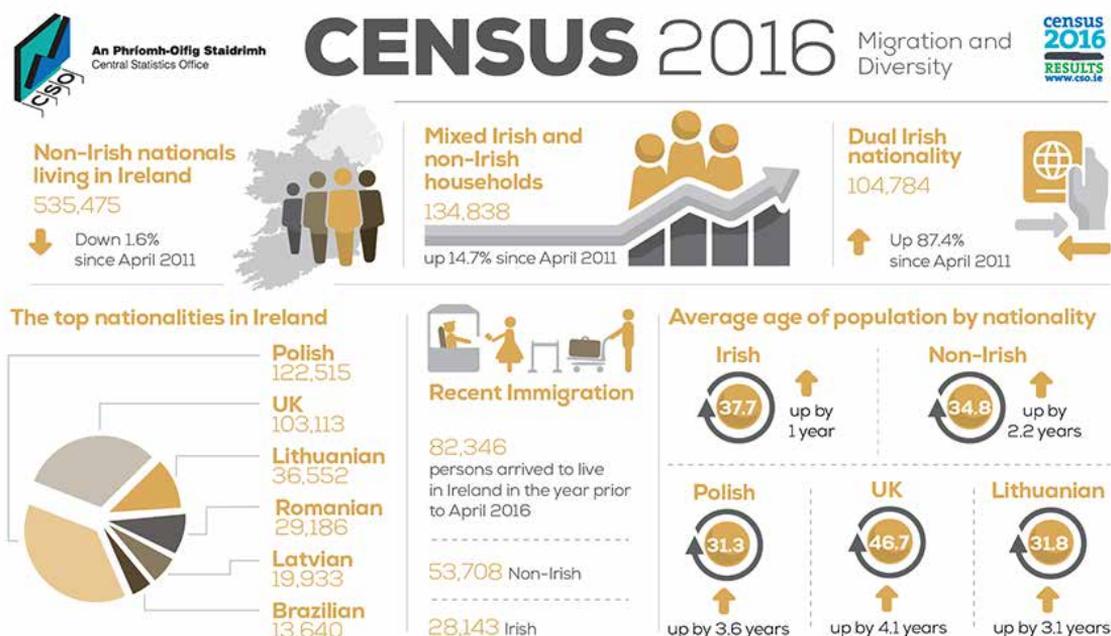
The increasingly permanent nature of migration in Ireland means researchers and policymakers working on integration need to think carefully about whose outcomes they are measuring and how they do this. P.99

Many studies have stressed that integration takes place at local level, and understanding neighbourhoods and their composition plays an important role (Casey, 2016). National and ethnic concentration within neighbourhoods is a major topic in international research (Massey and Mullan, 1984; Charles, 2003), but has received less recent attention in Ireland. An investigation of how national/ethnic groups are distributed across localities in Ireland using Census data is now underway, and should significantly enhance our understanding of the experience of integration at local level in Ireland. P.100

Quotes from the *Monitoring Report on Integration 2018*, Economic and Social Research Institute, and Department of Justice and Equality, Frances McGinnity, Éamonn Fahey, Emma Quinn, Samantha Arnold, Bertrand Maître, Philip O'Connell.

Further research and reports are available to download from www.esri.ie

The Central Statistics Office is a rich source of data on national and local demographics. www.cso.ie



Acknowledgements

Places Matter is the product of many months of brain-storming, planning, collaboration and coordination. The Arts Council and County and City Management Association wish to acknowledge the contribution of the members of our Management Liaison Group and Working Group in the development of this programme. We also wish to thank our Galway steering group, James Harrold, Siobhan Mulcahy, Sharon O'Grady, Sarah Clancy, Gary McMahon, Brian Barrett and the Galway 2020 team for their advice and support.

We extend our appreciation to conference chair Dr Ronit Lentin and to all of our speakers. We would also like to thank our performers, Rusangano Family, Touché, Petusulo, Denise Chaila, Glory Anumudu and In Flow.

The conference has been managed by Davis Events Agency and hosted by NUI Galway.

Creative Europe

Desk Ireland

Culture Office

Creative Europe 2014–2020
is the EU's main funding
programme for the culture
sector and provides financial
support for inclusion in the arts.



Creative
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