

**FESTIVAL
MAKERS**

**Festivals
Conference**

**11-12.05.23
Galway City**

The Changing Landscape of Festival

The Arts Council in partnership
with Drama and Theatre Studies
at the University of Galway and
Creative Europe Desk, Ireland.



Co-funded by
the European Union



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

EVOLUTION
ADAPTATION
CELEBRATION

#FestivalMakers23

A red banner with the word 'Welcome' in white, slanted upwards from left to right.A pink banner with the word 'Welcome' in white, slanted upwards from left to right.A black banner with the word 'Welcome' in white, centered.

I am delighted to welcome you to FESTIVAL MAKERS 2023; the second edition of the Arts Council's biennial conference for festival organisations, festivals stakeholders and artists making work in a festival context. This year, we have increased our ambition and expanded the programme to deliver a number of discursive events, networking opportunities and presentations which we hope will further support and strengthen the vibrant and diverse festival ecology in Ireland, acknowledging the range of festival models. Over two days in Galway, we will welcome over 250 delegates and 50 contributors who will share their insights and expertise.

Over the last number of years we have witnessed the resilience of festivals; you have faced into an unprecedented pandemic, pivoting to digital programmes, and scenario planning in the face of changing public health restrictions, and now, you play a central role in returning audiences to in-person programmes and events. The terrain in which festivals

currently operate is one that continues to change and challenge us as we all consider the impact of our work on the environment and how we can be more inclusive and representative, celebrating the diversity in Irish life. In this regard, we hope that the conference programme will provide opportunities to debate how festivals navigate the current landscape in which they operate but establish a greater understanding of festival practice and support festival capacity building into the future.

We are thrilled that our keynote speaker, Kim Cook, Director of Creative Initiatives, Burning Man Project in Nevada, will be with us in person. Kim's experience will provide rich insights and reflections on how festival programmes reflect the communities they serve and the role they play in placemaking and storytelling. Burning Man is one of the most recognised and celebrated festivals in the world which continues to inspire audiences and artists from around the globe.

Sincere thanks to our conference partners, Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Galway, and to Creative Europe Desk, Ireland who, through their support and generosity, have made it possible to provide additional supports and an expanded programme. We are also grateful to the curatorial team who have demonstrated such care and attention to shaping the programme and to Milestone Inventive for their expert conference delivery.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank festival organisations across the country who have worked tirelessly to support artists and audiences during recent challenging times. We now look together to brighter futures ahead.

We look forward to meeting you in Galway.

Maureen Kennelly,
*Director, Arts Council /
An Chomhairle Ealaíon*

Festival

Conference

Partnership

The Festival Makers conference is an Arts Council initiative in partnership with Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Galway and Creative Europe Desk, Ireland. The Festival Makers conference is produced by Milestone Inventive.

Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

The Arts Council /An Chomhairle Ealaíon is the Irish government agency for developing the arts. We work in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life. The Arts Council is guided by its Strategy "*Making Great Art Work*".

Our function is to:

- stimulate public interest in the arts;
- promote knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts;
- assist in improving standards in the arts;
- advise the Minister and other public bodies on the arts.

We do this by:

- providing financial assistance, mainly, but not exclusively, to artists and arts organisations; we also support others who develop and promote the arts;
- offering advice and information on the arts to Government and to others;
- publishing research and information as an advocate for the arts and artists;
- undertaking a range of projects to promote and develop the arts, often in partnership with others.

In Festivals, the Arts Council's role is to advocate for and support the development of a diverse and varied arts-festival ecology and to provide a suite of supports which deliver quality arts experiences for audiences, and support the development of artists, and artforms.

▶ [artscouncil.ie](https://www.artscouncil.ie)

University of Galway

The University of Galway is one of the oldest and largest universities in Ireland. Beginning with just 68 students, our campus community now numbers over 21,000 students and staff, and our 120,000 strong alumni network is located in over 100 countries across the world. From humble beginnings, today we are counted among the Top 300 universities in the world according to the most prestigious rankings, positioning us in the top 2% globally.

The Discipline of Drama and Theatre Studies was established at University of Galway in 2014 and is part of the School of English and Creative Arts.

Drama and Theatre Studies builds on the University of Galway's long history of excellence in the performing arts – a history that pre-dates the establishment of Drama as a discipline. The university also has formal partnerships with several arts organisations, including the Abbey Theatre (Ireland's national theatre), the Galway International Arts Festival, Druid, the Gate Theatre and others.

Our research and teaching strengths include modern and contemporary Irish theatre and performance, playwriting, producing and creative arts management, applied theatre and practice-as-research methodologies.

▶ universityofgalway.ie/drama/#

Creative Europe Desk, Ireland

Creative Europe is the European Commission's flagship programme to support the culture and audiovisual sectors. Creative Europe invests in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors.

**Our Aims
Information**

- We provide information on European funding, support and opportunities for the audiovisual and culture sectors. As part of our remit, we also support and promote diversity, inclusiveness, and sustainability.

Develop and Advise

- We give you tailored advice on how to access EU funding and help with the development of your funding applications.

Network and Collaborate

- We host webinars, workshops and events on Creative Europe funding calls and policies. An important part of our work is to encourage cross-border cooperation within the cultural and creative sectors.

Promote

- The desk promotes Creative Europe funding opportunities and successful Irish projects via our newsletters, website and social media platforms. Presentations and Case Studies from successful Irish projects funded by Creative Europe often feature in our webinar and events.

▶ creativeeuropeireland.eu/



Conference

Programme

Day 1

* Delegates choose one of the electives
** Event takes place at Galway Rowing Club

+ Side Bar Upstairs limited to 30 participants
++ Studio Side Bar limited to 50 participants

Day 1

Town Hall Theatre, Galway

10:00am – 10:45am

Registration and Information Stands

- Association of Irish Festivals and Events (AOIFE)
- Drama and Theatre Studies, University of Galway
- Irish Arts Festivals Archive
- Safe to Create, Irish Theatre Institute
- Curated Place, UK
- Festivals and the Digital Experience, TU Dublin,
- Creative Europe Desk, Ireland
- Failte Ireland
- The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Native Events
- Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network (ISACS)

10:45am – 11:05am

Welcome Address



Professor Rebecca Braun,
Executive Dean, College
of Arts, Social Sciences &
Celtic Studies, University of
Galway



Professor Kevin Rafter,
Chair – Arts Council/ An
Chomhairle Ealaíon

11:05am – 11:15am

Introduction to Keynote



Maureen Kennelly,
Director – Arts Council/
An Chomhairle Ealaíon

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11:15am – 12:45pm

Keynote Address / Q&A



Kim Cook,
Director, Creative Initiatives,
Burning Man Project

12:45pm – 2:00pm**

Networking Lunch and
Information Stands

Delegates and contributors are provided time to network and meet with each other.

2:00pm – 3:15pm

Taking Action: Moving
towards sustainable
festival futures

Across society there is a growing awareness of the need to take immediate action to reduce environmental damage caused by the carbon fuelled activities of mankind. This panel will look at efforts being made by festivals and festival support organisations in Ireland, Scotland and continental Europe to reduce their environmental impact and move towards circular, future proof models of operation.



Chair:
Patrick Lonergan,
University of Galway



Romane Boyer,
Creative Carbon Scotland



Panel:
John Crumlish,
Galway International
Arts Festival



Marin de Boer,
Oerel Festival Netherlands

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ** Event takes place at Galway Rowing Club

- + Side Bar Upstairs limited to 30 participants
- ++ Studio Side Bar limited to 50 participants

3:15pm – 4:00pm

Information Sessions*–
Presentations on projects
in support of the
festival ecology

Presentation 1:
Impact Measurement in Festivals



Anne Rackow,
Quality Matters



Monica Corcoran, Arts
Council/An Chomhairle
Ealaíon

Presentation 2:
Irish Arts Festival Archive



Dr Lucy Collins,
UCD



Ursula Byrne,
UCD

Presentation 3:
Event Management Educators Ireland



John Carty, Atlantic
Technological University

Side Bar 1*

Safe to Create++
Developing safer, respectful, inclusive
working conditions for festival workers.

Irish Theatre Institute – Information session,
introducing Safe to Create with discussion
on appropriate working conditions for
artists and arts organisations.

Side Bar 2*

Thinking about Arts & Disability
in festivals+

Arts & Disability Ireland – Information
session introducing the work of Arts
& Disability Ireland and discussion on
potential festival training supports.

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ** Event takes place at Galway Rowing Club

- + Side Bar Upstairs limited to 30 participants
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4:00pm – 4:30pm

Tea/Coffee break and Information stands

Delegates and contributors are provided time to network and meet with each other.

4:30pm – 5:30pm

Festival Bulletins*
Festival sector announcements, developments and shared learnings.

- **'Festival Audiences and the Digital Experience'** – FADE, TU Dublin
- **'EDI Toolkit for Festival Makers; data collection and diversity in programming'** – Trad Fest, Temple Bar
- **'Place making through Festivals'** – Architecture at the Edge
- **'Naturally Wild festivals'** – First Fortnight on behalf of the Naturally Wild Festival Consortia
- **'Artist Residencies Matter'** – ISACS
- **Children's programming in festivals: 'Child participation in practice' and 'Nurturing Diversity among makers'** - Bualadh Bos Children's Festival, Lime Tree Theatre and Baboró International Arts Festival for Children
- **'Festival Crèche – mentorship in festivals'** – Cavan Arts Festival
- **'Developing arts audiences in partnership'** – Clonmel Junction Arts Festival on behalf of Clonmel Arts Partnership.

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4:30pm – 5:30pm

Side Bar 3*

How to measure your festival's impact+

Quality Matters – Information session on how festivals can use the Arts Council's Outcomes Measurement Guidebook to understand the impact of their work.

6:00pm – 9:00pm**

Creative Europe Reception:
Networking event for festivals
and artists

Creative Europe Desk Ireland - Culture Office Ireland invites artists and festivals to explore the value of connecting via European Networks. Connecting with a European cultural network can open doors to new opportunities, co-creation, learning, information sharing, new ideas as well as support the professional development of festival organisers.

Artistic Directors Petal Pilley and Hillary Kavanagh of Galway based Blue Teapot theatre company will discuss their Creative Europe funded project (Na Line Festival) and the establishment of both national and international partnerships. Aoife and

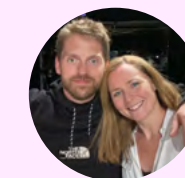
Mark Carry from Twisted Lane Productions discuss their residence at Cairde Sligo Arts Festival as part of the European Festival Association grant. This will be followed by a networking event for artists and festival delegates to encourage further collaboration.



Petal Pilley,
Blue Teapot



Hillary Kavanagh,
Blue Teapot



Aoife & Mark Carry,
Twisted Lane Productions



Host:
James Riordan,
Brú Theatre



DJ Set: Electric Dreams
(That's Life – Galway).

The background features a light pink gradient with a cluster of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of pink and red on the right side. These shapes are irregular polygons, some resembling triangles and others more complex polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

Conference

Programme

Day 2

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ◆ Workshop limited to 25 participants

- ◆◆ Workshop limited to 40 participants
- ◆◆◆ Workshop limited to 36 participants

- ▲ Event starts at the Spanish Arch

Day 2

O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway

8:30am – 9:15am

Tús Maith with Moth and Butterfly ▲

Artists from Galway's Moth and Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling & Improvisation invite you to grab a coffee and join them for a 'tús maith / good start' song

and story, before taking a scenic stroll along the river to the O'Donoghue Centre, in time for the second day of the conference.

Some local coffee options open by 8.00am: Espresso 44, Gourmet Tart, Cafe Nero

9:00am – 9:30am

Networking tea/coffee

Delegates and contributors are provided time to network and meet with each other.

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ◆ Workshop limited to 25 participants

- ◆◆ Workshop limited to 40 participants
- ◆◆◆ Workshop limited to 36 participants

- ▲ Event starts at the Spanish Arch

9:30am – 11:00am

Workshops and panel discussions*

*Delegates choose one of the five electives

Workshop 1 – Good Governance and Planning◆

How to deliver effective planning within capacity and resources; considering responsibilities, questioning structures and developing actionable plans.



Facilitator:
Dr Ali Fitzgibbon,
Queens University Belfast.

Workshop 2 – Valuing and Developing Volunteering◆◆

How to recruit, support and sustain volunteering in a changing landscape. Includes good practice tips and support.



Facilitator:
Stuart Garland,
Volunteer Ireland.

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ◆ Workshop limited to 25 participants

- ◆◆ Workshop limited to 40 participants
- ◆◆◆ Workshop limited to 36 participants

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9:30am – 11:00am

Workshop 3 – Festival Sustainability 101◆◆◆

Presentation on writing a sustainability strategy, engaging your festival team, communicating your sustainability story, followed by a Q&A.

Native Events is Ireland’s leader in climate action for the events and the cultural sector. This practical, hands-on workshop will

include a 'how-to' on the development of a sustainability plan for your organisation, and take a look at the importance of integrating circular economy principles into your festival's operations, as well as sharing some practical tips and tricks from behind the scenes.



Facilitator:
Megan Best,
Native Events (Founder)

Panel 1 – Building Partnerships in Festival Practice – How partnerships can sustain and develop festival models?

The values of partnership building and collaborations are key in realising artistic and organisational aims. Partnerships can allow organisations to develop new programmes and/or strengthen existing ones. Working with partners with different approaches, or from different sectors can influence an organisation to expand its programming and audience reach, however there are challenges and barriers to building, and more importantly, sustaining partnerships. This panel will examine the different models of partnership across a range of festival contexts. Consortia, local authority partnerships, community

partnership, co-production, international partnership models are examined with panelists.



Chair:
Kath Gorman,
Promenade



Panel:
Tara McGowan,
Cairde Sligo Arts Festival



Andy Brydon,
Curated Place UK



Aislinn O'hEocha,
Baboró International
Arts Festival for Children



Gerardette Bailey,
Meath County Arts Officer

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**Panel 2 –
Language, People, Place and
the role of the festival**

How does the celebration of linguistic and cultural diversity enhance artistic opportunities available to festival makers in the areas of place-making and community building? Does paying attention to linguistic and cultural diversity open new creative possibilities for festivals and their audiences? Are we really listening?

Arts festival models play an important place-making role in how people engage with the communities and places they call 'home'. Placing arts festivals at the heart of our communities, challenges festivals and festival-makers to meaningfully reflect the

diverse voices, cultures, concerns, stories and languages of our population. The panel discussion aims to interrogate how festivals fit into our cultural and geographical landscape and how through festivals we can celebrate the diversity of our communities through informed and innovative programming choices and partnerships, as well as through brave creative projects.



Panel:
Justyna Cwojdzinska,
Polish Arts Festival



Majella Ní Chríocháin,
IMRAM



Dr Ríonach Ní Néill
ciotog.ie



Nora Corcoran,
Misleór Festival



Chair:
Marianne Ní Chinnéide,
University of Galway

11:00am – 11:15am

Tea/Coffee Break

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ◆ Workshop limited to 25 participants

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- ▲ Event starts at the Spanish Arch

11:15am – 12:45pm

Workshops and panel discussions*

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Workshop 1 – Good Governance and Planning◆

(Repeat from earlier)

How to deliver effective planning within capacity and resources; considering responsibilities, questioning structures and developing actionable plans.



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Workshop 2 – Valuing and Developing Volunteering◆◆

(Repeat from earlier)

How to recruit, support and sustain volunteering in a changing landscape. Includes good practice tips and support.



Facilitator:
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(Repeat from earlier)

Presentation on writing a sustainability strategy, engaging your festival team, communicating your sustainability story, followed by a Q&A.

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include a 'how-to' on the development of a sustainability plan for your organisation, and take a look at the importance of integrating circular economy principles into your festival's operations, as well as sharing some practical tips and tricks from behind the scenes.



Facilitator:
Megan Best,
Native Events (Founder)

11:15am – 12:45pm

**Panel 3 –
Producing models for festivals
and festival makers**

How can festivals best support the changing landscape of new work development for artists and how do festivals adapt their resources in response? What are the challenges and opportunities? A closer examination of residency models, guest curation and co-producing.

Where does producing sit in your festival organisational model? Is the notion of a presenting festival outdated given that the way artists are making work is different? Are there different producing models that can assist in the delivery of your festival programme or support the development of particular artforms?

As festival makers, independent producers and artists making work in a festival context, with very different approaches to producing, panellists will attempt to define what producing can be in a festival context as well as speak to their own professional experiences. This panel will attempt to look to the future of producing in a festival context and explore how creating new work can best be supported and resourced.



Panel:
Lynette Moran, Live
Collision/Field Arts Festival



Paul Brown,
Earagail Arts Festival/
Féile Ealaíne an Earagail



James Riordan,
Brú Theatre



Gwen Van Spÿk,
Cue Performance



Chair:
Monica Spencer

- * Delegates choose one of the electives
- ◆ Workshop limited to 25 participants

- ◆◆ Workshop limited to 40 participants
- ◆◆◆ Workshop limited to 36 participants

- ▲ Event starts at the Spanish Arch

11:15am – 12:45pm

**Panel 4 –
'Festival Making' as
a creative act**

A group discussion with delegates exploring the curatorial practice in festivals, the role of the citizen artist and the practice of festival making.

Following the 2020 Change Makers festival conference, the Arts Council revised its Festival Policy to recognise "the complex and special nature of 'festival-making' as a creative act and its curatorial role in the development of artistic programming". In this session Dr Bernadette Quinn, with the help of a panel of festival makers and attendant delegates, will examine the myriad conversations that underpin the

practice of festival making, and the role festivals play in democratising arts practice and empowering artist citizen engagement.



Chair:
Dr Bernadette Quinn,
TU Dublin



Panel:
Lorraine Maye,
Cork Midsummer Festival



Alan James Burns
Independent Artist



Dominic Campbell,
Creative Ageing
International



Harry Hughes,
Willie Clancy Festival

12:45pm – 1:00pm

Sandwich Break

Delegates are encouraged to take their refreshments into the next session to continue their discussion.

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Conference Final Thoughts

A Final gathering for delegates to hear each other's insights, reflect on the two days and the changing landscape in festivals.

Delegates may bring their lunch to this session, a feast for debate and discussion.

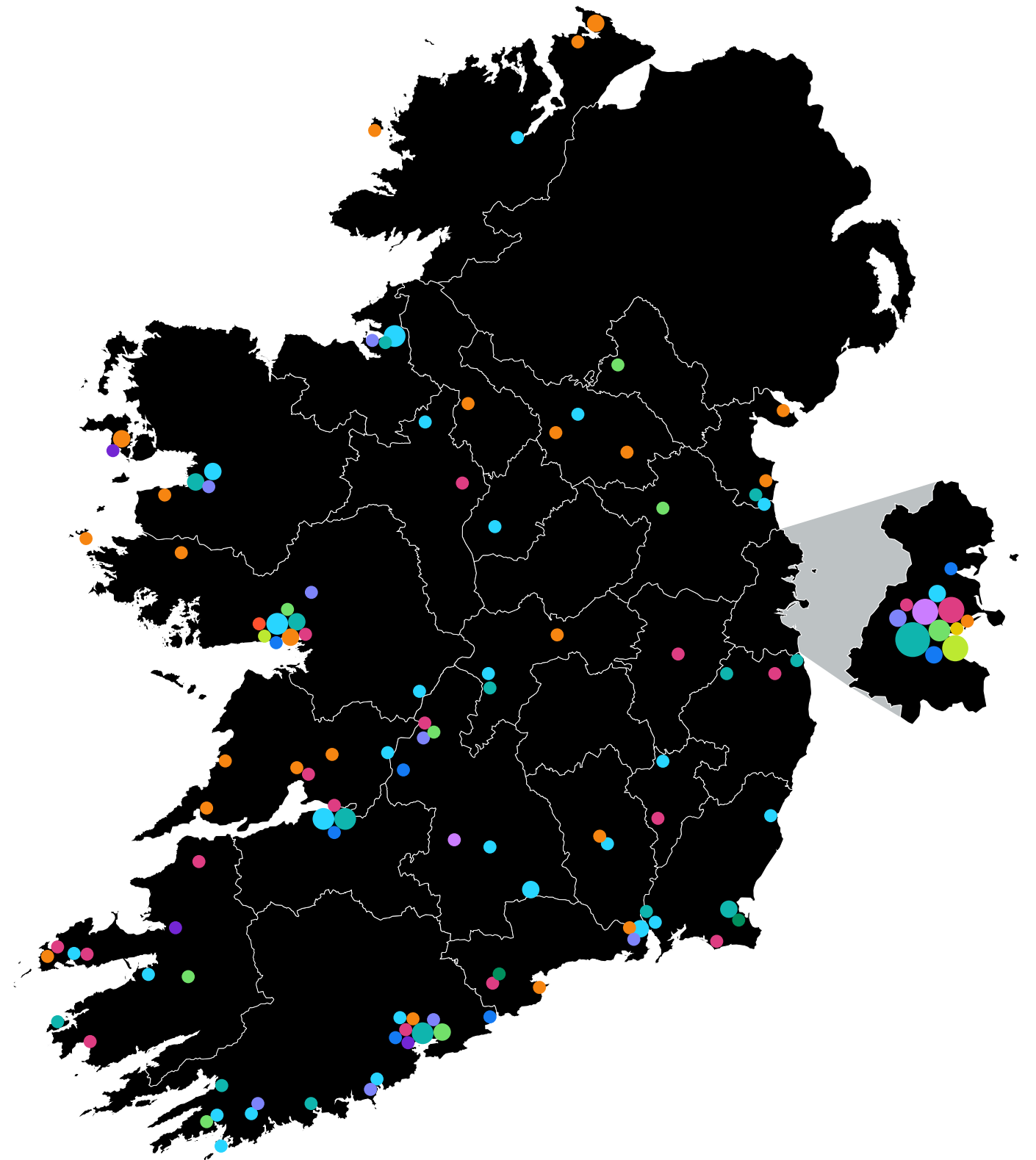


Facilitator:
Fiona Neary

Mapping the landscape of festival practice

A map of festivals funded by the Arts Council for 2021 by artform and region.

- Music
- Multidisciplinary Arts
- Young People Children and Education
- Literature
- Theatre
- Film
- Traditional Arts
- Circus Street Arts & Spectacle
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Opera
- Arts Participation
- Architecture



The changing landscape of small and voluntary festival models

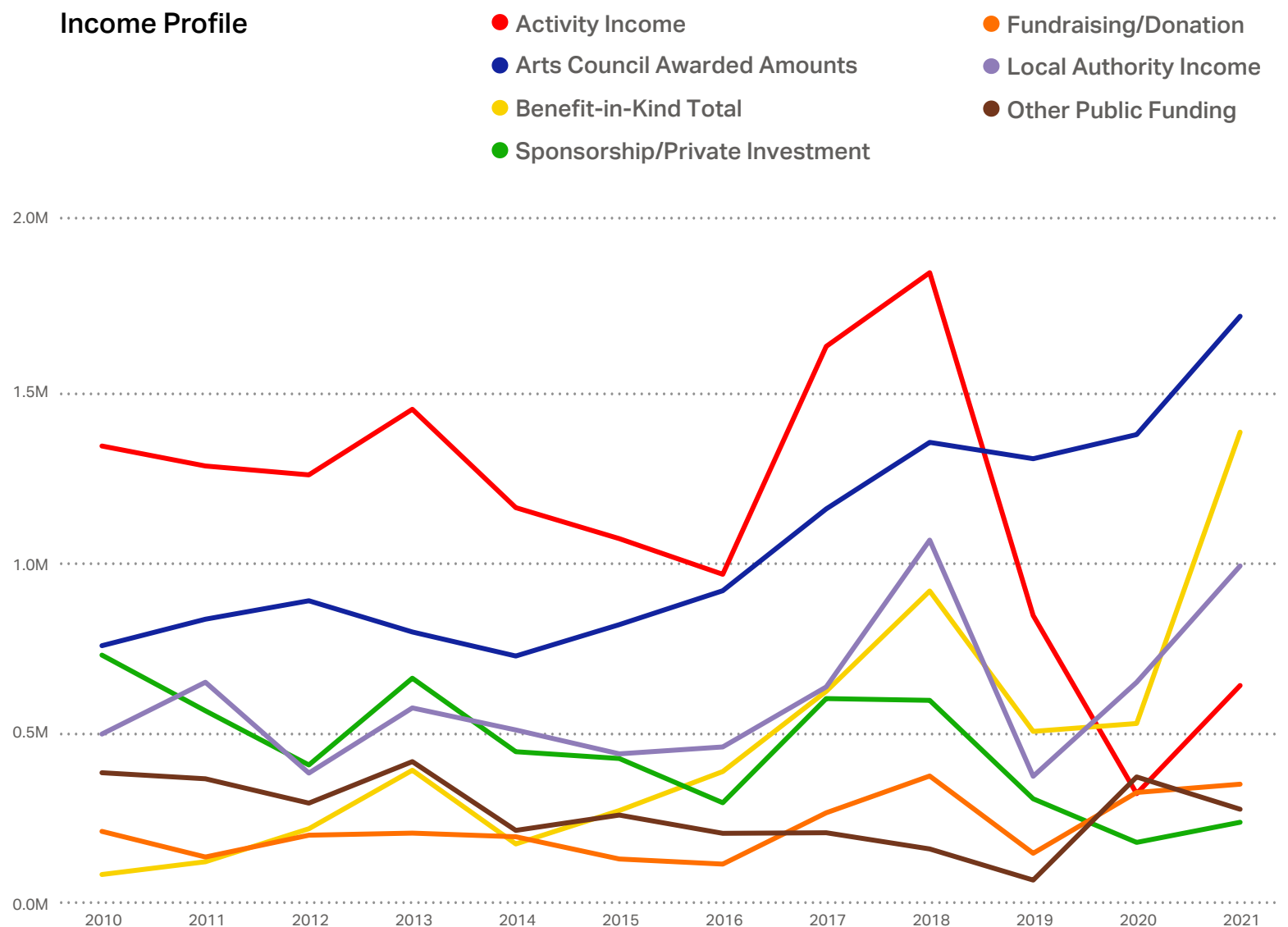
The Arts Council shares reporting insights from festivals supported through the Festival Investment Scheme.

- Small festivals demonstrate an ability to diversify income streams over the period. Between 2010-2018 activity income remains the highest source of income in small festival programmes. In 2020 most income streams see a downward trend due to the pandemic; activity income falls from €1.8 million (29%) in 2018 to a low of 229,803 (8.8%) in 2020.

- While income streams show improvement in 2021, the income profile changes: benefit-in-kind rising to a value of €1.3 million; local authority supports also increasing significantly during this year; activity income shows signs of recovery here.
- In 2021 the Arts Council's funding represented €1.75 million (31%) of the total income.

COMPARISON PROFILES	2018	2021
Total Income	€6.3 million	€5.6 million
% of public subsidy	41%	53%
% of activity income	29%	11%
% of private investment/ fundraising	15%	11%
% of benefit-in-kind	15%	25%

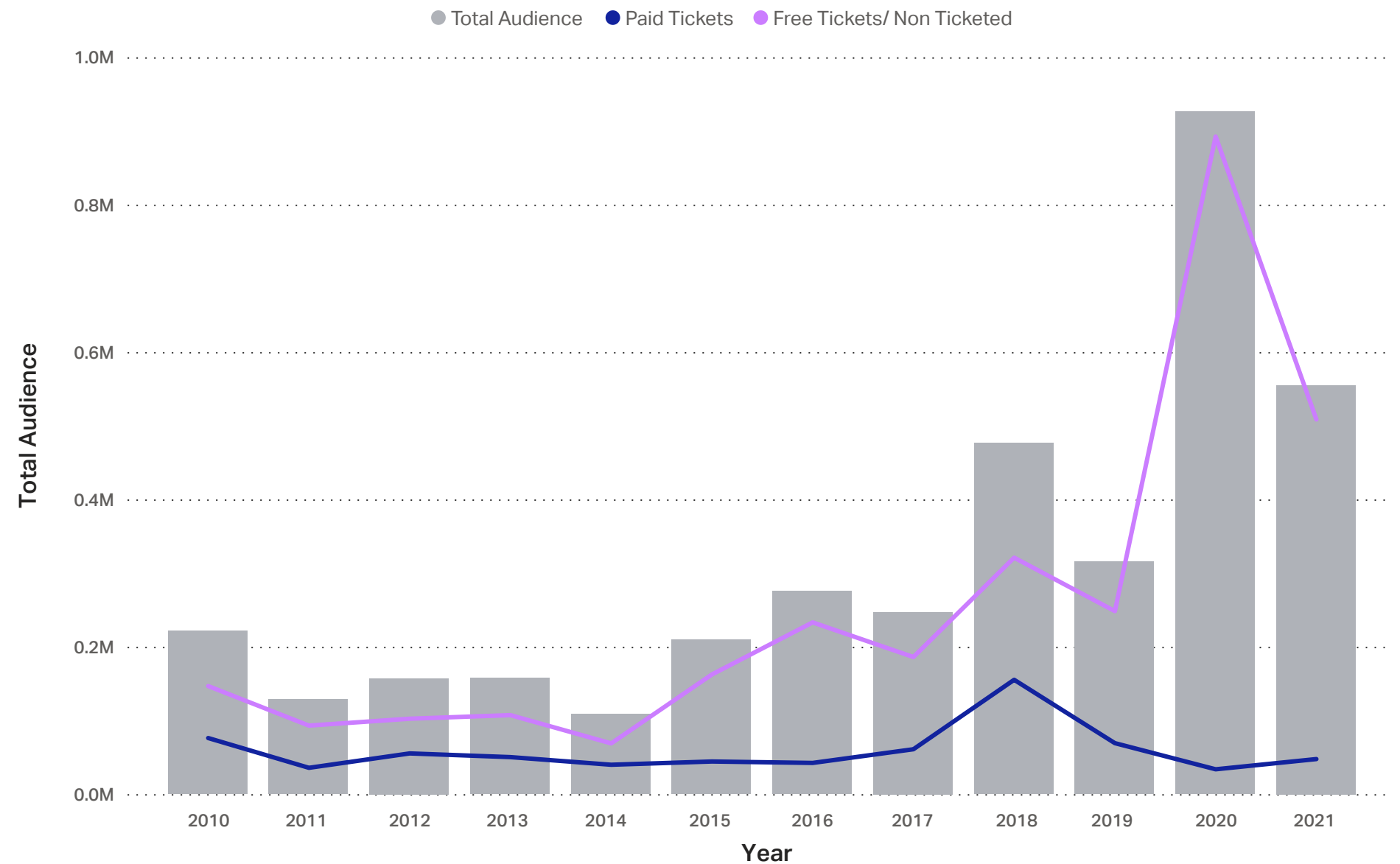
Income Profile



Audience attendance and ticket sales 2010-2021

- Audience attendance and ticket sales have followed a similar trend over the period. In 2020 free audience attendances rose by 194% from 315,000 to 926,172 as festival programmes pivot to digital transmission during the pandemic; paid attendance declines to a record low of 8.5% (47,612). A return to in-person programmes from 2020 sees free audience attendance fall by 40% (508,476) in 2021; a small recovery in paid attendances in the same year.
- Breakdown of audience attendance from a total viewership of 550,000 in 2021: online attendances 495,000 (90%), in-person attendance 55,000 (10%).
- From 2018 the audience profile in attendance type changes with a decline in paid audiences and a growth in free attendances; a reversal of this trend takes place in 2021 as in-person attendance improves and online reduces.

Audience Attendance and Ticket Sales in Small Festivals: 2010–2021



A Greener Conference

Informed by the Arts Council’s new Climate Action Policy, the FESTIVAL MAKERS Conference 2023 will adopt the following approaches to reduce its environmental impact. The following will form conference commitments; actions by which we will benchmark our evaluation.

	Conference Commitments	Conference Actions
Venue and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Arts Council will encourage and incentivise conference attendees to use public transport and will select a venue with public transport links. ● The Arts Council will encourage and support carpooling and private transport sharing to attend the conference as well as the use of electric vehicles. ● For international visitors (where possible) the Arts Council will provide the option of slow travel - where this is not possible, carbon offsetting measures will be employed or virtual attendance will be considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publish comprehensive public transport information and options for delegates and contributors visiting Galway. ● Provide inter-city transport information including Galway City bike scheme (TFI bikes) for those whose accommodation may be further than walking distance from the venues. ● Ensure air travel represents no more than 10% of total contributor travel. ● Provide virtual attendance as an option for International contributors. ● Organise event pooling with other conference providers to ensure keynote travel is reduced; this includes onward-routing. ● Until such alternatives are provided, make a carbon offset contribution for international travel.
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For those overnighing the Arts Council will select local providers in close proximity to the venue (walking distance) with a commitment to environmentally friendly practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritise accommodation providers that offer electric charging points for electric vehicles. ● Contributor accommodation is provided in walking distance of conference venues.
Food and catering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Arts Council will provide locally sourced food to reduce emissions used during transportation. ● The Arts Council will ensure the catering provider avoids the use of plastics and non-recyclable materials and has a commitment to the reduction of food waste. ● The Arts Council will ensure that unused food products are composted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Caterer provides locally sourced menu. ● Provider demonstrates commitment to sustainability in catering practices. ● Provider will not use non-recyclable or plastic materials. ● Catering bookings organised in advance to avoid food waste. ● Delegate e-pack includes details of the Galway City water refill scheme and other opportunities for minimising impact on the environment. ● Delegates encouraged to bring reusable receptacles for drinking to reduce one-use materials.

	Conference Commitments	Conference Actions
Materials and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through the approach of reduce-reuse-recycle, the Arts Council will minimise waste and prioritise sustainable solutions. This includes reduction in paper printing, taking smart approaches to design to ensure reuse of any materials and ensuring there are recycling stations at the conference venue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Screens and projections will be used where possible in place of corriboard or PVC print materials for information signage. ● Prioritise digital materials over paper. ● Any printed materials to be recycled or reusable. ● Recycle stations available at venue. ● Communication to delegates to reuse conference materials (lanyards, totes) and to bring water bottles and keep cups to minimise waste. ● Water refill stations made available to delegates at the venue. ● Sufficient WiFi and charging stations for mobile phones and computers will be provided at venues to enable full access to the e-pack at all times.
Vendors and contributors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Arts Council will outline that sustainability is a shared value. The Arts Council will ensure that during procurement of services that vendors and contributors are required to re-use, recycle and engage in environmentally friendly practices in preparation of, during and in the wrap up of the conference event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide all vendors and contributors with greener conference actions document. ● Select vendors (where applicable) that align with the Arts Council's 'greener conference actions'.
Cloud-based and virtual platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CBP's will be used in event management and coordination to ensure the event is committed to paper reduction and sustainability practices. Web-based communication platforms such as Skype, FaceTime, You Tube/Facebook live streaming will be used to provide broader access to the event and to reduce carbon emissions through travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritise CBP's in event management to ensure paper reduction. ● Encourage web-based communication such as Skype and Zoom for international contributors. ● Provide conference content via live streaming, social media and digital platforms.

INFORMATION STANDS

Irish Arts Festivals Archive
 Safe to Create, Irish Theatre Institute
 Curated Place, UK
 Festivals and the Digital Experience,
 TU Dublin,
 Creative Europe Desk, Ireland
 Failte Ireland
 The Arts Council/An Chomhairle
 Ealaíon
 Native Events
 Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle
 Network (ISACS)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Kim Cook**

*Director, Creative Initiatives,
 Burning Man Project*

Kim is a change-maker and strategist working on the frontier of collaborations that extend Burning Man culture into the world. Drawing on a deep and varied well of experience in creative placemaking, performing arts, and nonprofit finance, Kim successfully builds urban, regional, national, and international projects that increase mutual understanding, advance civic well-being, elevate cultural engagement, and further the aesthetic design elements of communities.

TAKING ACTION: MOVING TOWARDS
SUSTAINABLE FESTIVAL FUTURES**Patrick Lonergan (Panel Chair)**

University of Galway

Patrick Lonergan is Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Galway, and is Chair of the Board of Galway International Arts Festival. He has published many books about Irish theatre and literature.

**John Crumlish**

Galway International Arts Festival

John Crumlish is CEO of Galway International Arts Festival. During his tenure, the festival has developed into one of Ireland's best-known cultural enterprises. It is now a major European festival and is also a producer of new work in theatre and visual arts which it tours both nationally and internationally.

TAKING ACTION: MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FESTIVAL FUTURES



Romane Boyer

Creative Carbon Scotland

Romane Boyer has a background in environmental sustainability (MSc in same from University of Edinburgh), specialising in circular economy and the arts sector. Previously she studied peace and conflict in Sweden where she focused her final thesis on environmental peace building and chaired the Education Interest Group at the Environmental Peacebuilding Association for two years. In her role at Creative Carbon Scotland (CCS), she leads our Green Arts Initiative facilitating a community of cultural organisations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and support the Edinburgh Festivals in their ambitious strategy to reach net-zero.



Marin de Boer

Oerol Festival

Marin de Boer is curator at Oerol Festival in the Netherlands. She creates the Expedition program, which focuses on the relationship between humans and nature by programming visual and performative art and scientific projects that investigate and question our climate and our future planet. By putting together an ecological compass, she and her team are working towards an environmental working method.

INFORMATION SESSIONS



Anne Rackow

Quality Matters

Anne is an impact measurement specialist who is passionate about helping individuals and organisations define, achieve, and measure their goals and impact. Over the past 12 years, Anne has facilitated over 75 organisations to implement evaluation processes. This includes co-developing the Arts Council's Outcome Measurement Guidebook and supporting several Arts organisations to measure their outcomes. Anne is one of eight accredited social return on investment practitioners in Ireland.



Monica Corcoran

Arts Council

Monica works in Strategic Development at the Arts Council, and has over 30 years' experience in arts management and development. She has supported and led on policy development in several areas including the Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy and Strategy (2019) and the Place, Space & People (2021) spatial policy. She is now leading on measurement and evaluation work, having initiated the pilot with local government partners that led to creating the Arts Council's Outcomes Measurement Guidebook.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

**Dr Lucy Collins**

Irish Arts Festival Archive (IAFA)

Lucy Collins is an associate professor in the UCD School of English, Drama and Film, where she teaches and publishes on modern poetry and poetics. She is co-founder of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive and the Irish Arts Festival Archive, both based at UCD Library.

**Ursula Byrne**

Irish Arts Festival Archive (IAFA)

Ursula Byrne, a senior manager in UCD Library, is the project lead on the James Joyce Library Capital Development Programme. Formerly Head of Development and Strategic Programmes, she is a co-founder of the Irish Poetry Reading Archive, which preserves the voices of Irish poets, and the Irish Arts Festivals Archive, which captures and preserves the rich and diverse landscape of festivals held across Ireland.

**John Carty**

Event Management Educators Ireland (EMEI)

Dr John Carty is a lecturer and researcher at the Galway International Hotel School, Atlantic Technological University. He teaches marketing, public relations, strategy and policy to Event Management students. John is a member of the Event Management Educators Ireland (EMEI) which aims to develop synergies between Event Management educators and the wider event and festival industry.

SIDE BAR 1: DEVELOPING SAFER, RESPECTFUL, INCLUSIVE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR FESTIVAL WORKERS



Niamh O'Donnell

Safe to Create

Director of Irish Theatre Institute since 2022, Niamh O'Donnell is an experienced arts professional and a passionate advocate for the arts.

She is a member of the working group for SAFE TO CREATE, a collaborative programme to create safer working conditions for arts and creative workers established and funded by the Department of Arts (TCAGSM) and managed by ITI in partnership with the Arts Council, Screen Ireland and Minding Creative Minds.

SAFE TO CREATE provides supports to combat harmful behaviour in the workplace, including information, training, resources, research, specialist counselling and legal advice.

► safetocreate.ie

SIDE BAR 2: THINKING ABOUT ARTS AND DISABILITY IN FESTIVALS - ARTS & DISABILITY IRELAND WORKERS



Pádraig Naughton and Adrian Colwell

Arts & Disability Ireland

Pádraig Naughton became Executive Director of Arts & Disability Ireland in 2005. Working strategically in partnership with the arts sector ADI champions the creativity of artists with disabilities and promotes inclusive experiences for audiences with disabilities. In 2022 Pádraig graduated with an LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy from the University of Galway, also that same year The Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., recognized his lifetime achievement with an Excellence in Accessibility Leadership Award.

Adrian Colwell joined ADI as Arts Administrator and Communications Manager in September 2022, taking on the role of Access & Training Officer in January 2023.

A graduate from IADT Dun Laoghaire with a BA Hons Degree in Visual Arts Practice and an MB in Cultural Event Management, Adrian has worked for numerous different organisations on the Irish arts scene including the Arts Council of Ireland, Visual Artists Ireland and the Irish Visual Artists Rights Organisation.

Adrian has also independently produced arts events and initiatives underpinned with an ethos of accessibility, diversity and inclusion.

FESTIVAL BULLETINS

**Enya Moore**

Festival Audiences and the Digital Experience (FADE)

Dr Enya Moore is a researcher, writer and educator whose work focuses on design, arts, and cultural festivals and their role within wider social, political and economic contexts. Moore completed her PhD thesis *Design Encounters: A critical analysis of design events 2018-2022* at University Technology Sydney in 2022 and is currently working on the Irish Research Council funded project *Festivals, Audiences and Digital Experience (FADE)* at Technological University Dublin led by Dr. Bernadette Quinn and Dr. Brian Vaughan.

**Emma Grove**

Trad Fest, Temple Bar

Emma Grove is an equity, diversity and inclusion officer with the Temple Bar Company specialising in equitable programming at TradFest. She is also a doctoral candidate at the University of Edinburgh, researching sexuality and belonging in Dublin's music scenes. Her work centres around the role of music in fostering community and social cohesion.

**Frank Monaghan**

Director, Architecture at the Edge, (AATE)

Frank is a cultural producer and arts educator based in Galway and trained as an architect in the UK. With a long-term interest in the critical potential of design he established 'Architecture at the Edge', in 2017, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of architecture as culture, for which he has since been its director.

AATE has been the recipient of awards from the Thornton Education Trust in recent years, and is an associate member of the LINA, the new European architecture platform.

**Grace Kelly**

First Fortnight Festival on behalf of the Naturally Wild Festival Consortia

Grace Kelly is General Manager at First Fortnight, Ireland's Mental Health, Arts and Culture Festival. First Fortnight is a charity that challenges mental health prejudice through arts and cultural action. Today, First Fortnight are presenting on behalf of the Naturally Wild Festivals consortium, which is a collection of nine arts and cultural festivals in Ireland.

FESTIVAL BULLETINS

**Lucy Medlycott****ISACS**

Lucy is Co-founder and current director of the Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network, a membership organisation which aims to celebrate, advocate, grow and sustain these collective art forms. Prior to this she cofounded and established Bui Bolg Carnival Arts Company in Wexford. Lucy has been chair of the County Wexford Community Forum, member of the steering committee of Circostrada, held a position on the County Wexford Development Board, the County Wexford Economic Dev & Enterprise SPC and is a current member of the Royal Society of Arts.

**Liam McCarthy****Bualadh Bos Festival**

Liam McCarthy is a playwright. He is curator of the Bualadh Bos Children's Festival, Limerick and facilitates the Bualadh Bos Children's Panel, incorporating child participatory practices into the curation and delivery of the artistic programme. He is a Meitheal artist with Branar Theatre. His play Mam and Love and Woo won the Wilde Irish Writer Bursary at Dublin Fringe in 2020. Liam was previously Engagement and Participation officer at The Ark Children's Cultural Centre. He recently completed a residency at the Centre Cultural Irlandais, Paris and is currently Artist in Residence at Mary Immaculate College. He studied Drama and English at Trinity College, Dublin and at UC Berkeley, California.

**Rachel Baltz****Baboró International Arts Festival for Children**

Originally from New Mexico, Rachel Baltz began working at Baboró in 2020, offering cross-departmental support. She moved into the new role of Artist and Programme Coordinator in 2022, working closely with the artistic director and producer to plan and organise year-round and festival programming and production. She also coordinates and co-manages Baboró's artist development support schemes. She holds an MA in Theatre Practice and Production, and has 10 years' experience working in the arts sector.

**Kim McCafferty****Cavan Arts Festival**

Kim Mc Cafferty is the founder and director of Cavan Arts Festival (2018-present) and has worked as creative producer for The National Circus Festival of Ireland (2014-2020). In her day job Kim is an artist, performing and making street arts and site-specific physical theatre work merging dance, theatre, circus and film.

FESTIVAL BULLETINS

**Cliona Maher**

Clonmel Junction Arts Festival

Cliona Maher is the Artistic Director of Clonmel Junction Arts Festival, with over 30 years' experience working in the arts in Ireland, the US and France. On returning to Ireland in 2017, she was Artistic Director of South Tipperary Arts Centre, where she co-founded the Finding A Voice concert series, before moving to her current job in April 2019.

SIDE BAR 3: HOW TO MEASURE YOUR FESTIVAL'S IMPACT

**Anne Rackow**

Quality Matters

Anne is an impact measurement specialist who is passionate about helping individuals and organisations define, achieve, and measure their goals and impact. Over the past 12 years, Anne has facilitated over 75 organisations to implement evaluation processes. This includes co-developing the Arts Council's Outcome Measurement Guidebook and supporting several Arts organisations to measure their outcomes. Anne is one of eight accredited social return on investment practitioners in Ireland.

CREATIVE EUROPE RECEPTION: NETWORKING EVENT FOR FESTIVALS AND ARTISTS

**James Riordan**

MC

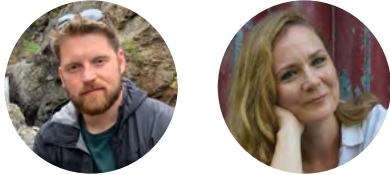
James (he/him) is an interdisciplinary theatre maker and artistic director of Galway based Brú Theatre, creating bilingual performance at the intersection between contemporary theatre practice and the languages, landscapes and literatures of the West of Ireland. His practice uses a variety of disciplines including virtual reality, drag, lament and mask, and his work tours nationally and internationally.

**Petal Pilley and Hilary Kavanagh**

Blue Teapot Theatre Company

Blue Teapot are a bold, diverse, Irish theatre company working with artists with intellectual disabilities. They work to radically transform theatre practices by telling stories through the lens of disability, paving the way for inclusive practices to become the norm. By pushing the boundaries of what is possible, they celebrate creativity and challenge the narrative about intellectual disability.

CREATIVE EUROPE RECEPTION: NETWORKING EVENT FOR FESTIVALS AND ARTISTS



Mark Carry and Aoife Carry

Twisted Lane

Twisted Lane Productions is a Spectacle Theatre Company founded by Aoife and Mark Carry. We aim to excite, intrigue and astonish audiences with the highest quality, unique spectacle experiences. We have been working Internationally for companies such as Cirque Du Soleil and Franco Dragone and we are excited to bring this extensive experience into our own work and to the Irish audience.



Electric Dreams

That's Life

Electric Dreams are a diverse bunch, the band's sound sits snugly in between pop, RnB and indie, and their music comes with a message of inclusion and community. Entirely written and recorded by the band in the That's Life studio, the six track album was polished off by veteran producer Bob Macciocchi of SC Mastering, UK.

Electric Dreams are supported by That's Life; an award winning arts programme of the Brothers of Charity Services, Galway which offers people with intellectual disability opportunities to discover and realise their artistic potential through working with established artists and participating in high quality arts programmes.



Tús Maith - Moth And Butterfly

Órla Mc Govern is a performer, writer and storyteller. She has performed in and made work for spaces all around the world. She is author of two books of folk tales for children, and a member of Storytellers of Ireland. Órla is Artistic Director of The Moth & Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling & Improvisation, based in Galway.

Originally from Oregon, Niceol Blue is a singer/songwriter, writer and storyteller, now at home in the West of Ireland. A published poet, author, and a busker, she has performed from streets to intimate stages to arenas all around the world. Niceol is a member of Storytellers of Ireland and is a founding member of the Moth & Butterfly storytelling collective.

► mothandbutterflystories.com

WORKSHOPS



Good Governance and Planning
Dr Ali Fitzgibbon

Queens University

Ali is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Arts Management and Cultural Policy at Queen's University Belfast. She researches and publishes on decision-making, ethics, leadership and labour in contemporary cultural production. She has over 25 years' experience as a multi-arts producer, programmer and consultant, particularly advising on arts and cultural policy and working with companies to develop strategies in change management.



Valuing and Developing Volunteering
Stuart Garland

Volunteering Ireland

Stuart Garland, Learning and Capacity Building Manager, Volunteer Ireland. Stuart has worked in a wide range of roles in the not-for-profit sector since 1993 and has a background in youth work. He has worked on volunteer programmes for over 110 different events and festivals. Over the last seven years, he has worked extensively with many national organisations to support them in the development of their volunteer programmes.



Festival Sustainability 101
Megan Best

Native Events

Co-Founder and Director, Native Events
 Megan Best has over 15 years' experience developing sustainable solutions in the Irish events industry, including spending a decade as the Operations Manager for Body & Soul Festival, arguably the forerunner for sustainable events in Ireland. In 2017 Megan co-founded Native Events, Ireland's leader in Climate Action in the events, creative and cultural sector. With a background in forestry and environmental sustainability, Megan is also co-founder of Attention Attire – an upcycled clothing brand – and host of The Green Room on Dublin City FM.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS IN FESTIVAL PRACTICE



Kath Gorman (Panel Chair)

Promenade

Kath Gorman is the founder of Promenade, providing strategic supports and creative producing services. She has wide-ranging partnership experience including several Creative Europe projects. Past roles include Head of Participation and Engagement and Artistic Curator, Cork Midsummer Festival; Adviser for Arts Participation, the Arts Council; Director, Kinsale Arts Week; Lead Producer, BBC Blast London events; and Director, Jacksons Lane.



Tara McGowan

Director Cairde Sligo Arts Festival

Tara has been working as a cultural producer/curator for 25 years+ with many organisations including English Theatre Berlin, Blue Raincoat, The Model, Happy Days Beckett Festival and more. She is Director of Cairde Sligo Arts Festival, Sligo's major annual multi-disciplinary arts festival and has a keen interest in the facilitation of rich creation opportunities for artists, increasing access to exceptional arts experiences for all and in collaborative arts practice.



Andy Brydon

Curated Place

Andy Brydon is Creative Director and founder of international arts organisation Curated Place who has led multiple Creative Europe projects. A trained anthropologist specialising in Cultural Placemaking at a city, region and hyperlocal level. He is an established and experienced cultural strategist, festival and major events director as well as a seasoned curator, trainer and arts producer.



Aislinn O'hEocha

Baboró International Arts Festival for Children

Aislinn became Executive Artistic Director of Baboró International Arts Festival for Children in 2015. In this role she oversees all areas of the organisation, as well as curating the annual international festival in October each year, and developing supports to encourage Irish artists to create work for children. Aislinn spent several years working across programming, management and marketing in regional arts centres throughout Ireland. Aislinn's passion for performing arts for children was ignited back in 2001 when she worked with Baboró's festival team on the delivery of the festival. Aislinn is currently Chair of Theatre for Young Audiences Ireland.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS IN FESTIVAL PRACTICE



Gerardette Bailey

Arts Officer, County Meath

Gerardette is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and the College of Music Chatham Row. In her position as County Arts Officer, she advocates for and takes a leading role in strategic, sustainable development for the arts across the county. She has overseen the development and implementation of three County Arts Plans and has delivered 30+ multi-disciplinary public art projects some of which have toured internationally. She is a project lead on Kells Creative Placemaking – The Bigger Picture Project and was a project lead on the development of Solstice Arts Centre.

LANGUAGE, PEOPLE, PLACE AND THE ROLE OF THE FESTIVAL MAKER



Marianne Ní Chinnéide (Panel Chair)

University of Galway

Marianne Ní Chinnéide is a lecturer of Drama, Theatre and Performance, University of Galway. She is the Head of Production for the O'Donoghue Centre and Artistic Director of Arts in Action programme on campus. She has 25 years experience as a researcher, producer, arts manager, director and theatre-maker, focussing on Irish language and multilingual theatre and policy as well as traditional arts policies and practices. Current research projects include; the Creative Europe projects JEUNE THEATRE EUROPEEN JEUNE PUBLIC and the MAPPING Project; Ceangal/Cwlwm Conference research and artistic conference for theatre of the minoritised language communities of the Irish language, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh.



Justyna Cwojdzńska

Polish Arts Festival

Founder (2007) and artistic director of the Polish Arts Festival (PAF), theatre practitioner, translator of Polish and English, Justyna is a very active advocate of social inclusion and promotion of indigenous arts. She received an award for her work on PAF from the Polish Government, Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation TERAZ POLSKA under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland. Justyna received numerous artistic stipends and funding for her work and on the festival, especially bilingual community projects that she runs as part of the PAF.



Nora Corcoran

Misleór Festival

Nora Corcoran is co artistic director of Misleór Festival of Nomadic Cultures with Alice McDowell, hosted by The Galway Traveller Movement, since 2022.

As a Mincéir Beoure, Nora is delighted to be part of such a beautiful and unique festival, where Nomadic guests from different parts of the globe, through shared experiences of oppression, exclusion, and forced assimilation unite under the medium of artistic expression. Misleór, which means wanderer in Traveller CANT language is the only festival in Ireland that celebrates and connects nomadic cultures from around the world.

LANGUAGE, PEOPLE, PLACE AND THE ROLE OF THE FESTIVAL MAKER



Dr. Ríonach Ní Néill

Ciotog

Ríonach's work has no fixed borders in its focus on civic dialogue. She engages the public with the climate crisis through multi-disciplinary public art projects in Ireland and Sweden, including Baint an Aeir, and Hope it Rains | Soineann nó Doineann. An award-winning dance-maker, she founded Corp_Real | Galway Dance Days Festival, a platform for multi-disciplinary engagement with dance and social issues. www.ciotog.ie



Majella Ní Chríocháin

IMRAM

Majella is the General Manager of IMRAM. She has spent over 35 years working in the fields of arts, communication, culture, education, community development and rural development. She has held many cultural and arts events over the years, including arts festivals, book festivals and residencies. She has commissioned new works of art from writers, musicians, visual artists, playwrights and choreographers.

PRODUCING MODELS FOR FESTIVALS AND FESTIVAL MAKERS



Monica Spencer (Panel Chair)

Monica has worked across a range of arts organisations in Limerick, Clare and Cork for over thirty years. For most of her career she has engaged with community groups building festivals in theatre, dance, music and multidisciplinary programmes. Her experience spans festival development for local authority bodies, ETBs and for small, independent organisations. She currently works full-time as Coordinator of the Local Creative Youth Partnership based at Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board where she delivers an annual youth participation festival, Call & Response. She is a board member of The GAFF, Limerick's artist-led, community focused organisation which produced an architecture festival, South & Proud in 2021 and TravFest in 2022.



Lynette Moran

Live Collision Festival / Field Arts

Lynette Moran is a Senior Creative Producer and Festival Director specialising in Live Art, Theatre, Visual Art and Digital platforms; with distinct experience of producing collaborative and socially engaged arts practice commissions. Lynette is Director and co-founder of field:arts - a creative production support pilot funded by the Arts Council. Field:arts cultivates growth, sustainability and ambition across the independent contemporary arts sector in Ireland by prioritising the fundamental relationship between the Creative Producer and Artist. In 2009 Lynette established Live Collision, Ireland's leading annual curated festival of Live Art in Ireland. Lynette has been Creative Producer with ANU productions and Louise Lowe since 2013. She is one of two core producers on all productions by the company.

PRODUCING MODELS FOR FESTIVALS AND FESTIVAL MAKERS



Paul Brown

Earagail Arts Festival/ Féile Ealaíne an Earagail

Paul Brown is Artistic Director and CEO with the annual, countywide Earagail Arts Festival. The Earagail Arts Festival now in its 35th year is hosted over 2 weeks each July presenting a multi-disciplinary festival throughout the highlands and islands of Donegal, North West Ireland.



Gwen Van Spÿk

Cue Performance

Gwen is an Independent Producer, Consultant and Mentor working across the full breadth of the live performance sector. Gwen has ongoing relationships with a portfolio of artists and companies currently including Luke Murphy's Attic Project's for whom she produced the multi award winning production of Volcano in 2021. Gwen is just completing a 3 year term as Dance Ireland's inaugural Producer in Residence.



James Riordan

Brú Theatre

James is from Galway and is Artistic Director of Brú Theatre. Brú's VR piece Ar Ais Arís, a merging of Irish language literature on immigration and visual poetry in virtual reality has been presented in 6 festivals nationally and internationally, touring to islands, airports, boats and beaches. Ologón, a VR lament for the land, premiered last year.

'FESTIVAL MAKING' AS A CREATIVE ACT



Dr Bernadette Quinn (Panel Chair)

TU Dublin

Bernadette Quinn is a Senior Lecturer in Technological University Dublin. She publishes on arts festivals, being interested in how they shape community and place identities. Currently, she is a Principal Investigator on the Irish Research Council funded project Festivals, Audiences and the Digital Experience (FADE). She recently co-edited Festivals and the City: the Contested Geographies of Urban Events (University of Westminster Press).



Lorraine Maye

Cork Midsummer Festival

Lorraine Maye is the Director of Cork Midsummer Festival, one of Ireland's largest multidisciplinary arts festivals that takes place annually in June. The Festival uses the city as the stage to present new work by Irish and international artists with an additional focus on the development and presentation of participatory projects. She has 20 years' experience in festivals and events across a variety of roles including management, producing and programming.



AlanJames Burns

Independent Artist

AlanJames Burns (they/them) is an artist, curator and emerging festival maker who is co-directing Disrupt Disability Arts Festival launching March 2024. Festivals have played a vital role in Burns' artistic development, through the commissioning of artworks by Carlow Arts Festival leading to significant international opportunities, to engaging diverse audiences across the country by exhibiting with festivals including Westival, Tread Softly and Skibbereen Arts Festival.



Dominic Campbell

Creative Aging International

Dominic Campbell is a cultural producer specialising in celebration for transformation. At Creative Aging International he works on long term strategies to align understanding of aging with contemporary experience.

'FESTIVAL MAKING' AS A CREATIVE ACT



Harry Hughes

Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy

Harry Hughes, a native of Foxford, Co Mayo, has lived in Miltown Malbay, Co Clare, for many years. In the early 1970s he founded and edited the journal DalgCais which explored the history, literature, folklore and traditional music of Clare. He was involved in the establishment of Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy of which he is now Director, he is currently chairman of Oidhreacht an Chláir, a local archive and visitor centre showcasing the traditional music heritage of the West Clare area.

CONFERENCE FINAL THOUGHTS



Fiona Neary

Facilitator

Fiona is an expert in Change Management and Facilitation and has experience in providing governance and strategy supports to public sector and charity organisations across Ireland including Galway 2020. Fiona holds a Masters degree in Community Development (University of Galway) and Bachelors degree in Psychology (NUI, Cork).

More recently Fiona was the interim director of the Linenhall Arts Centre, Co Mayo. She is a board member of Galway Theatre Festival and curator of the Galway African Film Festival.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Festival Makers conference is a result of many collaborative conversations. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the University of Galway and Creative Europe Desk Ireland for partnering with the Arts Council; thanks also to the contributors who have generously given their time to be with us over the two days. We look forward to continuing conversations with you in the future in advancement of the festival ecology in Ireland.

Thank you to all the service providers in support of delegates and contributors; your support is much appreciated.

We also extend our appreciation to all the staff and members of the Arts Council for their guidance and advice, the staff of the University of Galway, Town Hall Theatre, Galway Rowing Club and O'Donoghue Centre for their generosity and support; to our conference team (Milestone Inventive) for their skill diligence and expertise.

The conference programme would not be possible without the hard work of the curatorial committee and the festival and communication teams at the Arts Council; their professionalism, passion and dedication has been extraordinary, thank you.

Karl Wallace

Head of Festivals and Events
Arts Council /An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Festivals Officer

Regina O'Shea

Festival and Arts Centre Assistant

Martin Rochford

Festival's and Multidisciplinary Arts Assistant

Paul Lanigan

Director of Communications

Tina Leonard

Digital Marketing Manager

Joey Kavanagh

Digital Media Officer

Megan McInerney

Web Editor Officer

Jennifer Lawless

Press and Communications Officer

Sarah O'Keeffe

PR and Communications support

Andrew McSharry

Creative Europe Officer

Aoife Tunney

Conference Design

CI Studio

CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

Milestone Inventive

Milestone Inventive is a Creative Production company that has been creating large-scale, successful and memorable experiences for over a decade.

Diverse highlights among these include the national coordination of Culture Night and Cruinniú na nÓg, delivery of elements of the Arts Council at 70 programme, the Conference on a Referendum on Housing, the Playboy of the Western World - the Musical National Tour, the annual Galway International Oyster and Seafood Festival and A Nation's Voice.

Milestone also specialises in promotional film production and in research and feasibility analysis.

► milestoneinventive.com

Conference Programme Committee

The 2023 Festival Makers conference programme was designed, developed and curated by:

Marianne Ní Chinnéide

University of Galway

Katie Lowry

Creative Europe Desk, Ireland

Martin Rochford

Festival team, Arts Council

Dr David Teevan

Arts practitioner

Karl Wallace

Head of Festivals and Events,
Arts Council

#FestivalMakers23

Conference Locations:

Thursday 11th May
Town Hall Theatre,
Galway City,
H91 H3C2

Galway Rowing Club,
Galway City
H91 K072

Friday 12th May
O'Donoghue Centre,
University of Galway
H91 RTR6

The Arts Council in partnership with Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Galway and Creative Europe Desk, Ireland.

