

6/11/2017

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Recommendations on the proposed 2017 allocation of €600,000 for actions to support the implementation of the Limerick Cultural Strategy – A Framework 2016 - 2030

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

Introduction

The Limerick Cultural Strategy framework guides future action and investment and examines:

- existing and new work within the cultural sector
- the organisations that are active in the cultural and creative economy

More specifically, it integrates:

- The ideas and discussions that became apparent through the Limerick 2020 bid process and more recently the Cross Party Culture and Arts Working Group
- The strengths and opportunities for culture and its development in Limerick
- The roles that culture may play in the wider economic and social development of the city region, including the Limerick Economic and Spatial Plan 2030 and the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (2016-2021)

It also:

- Highlights programme areas and flagship ideas
- Identifies organisations to work with in partnership who could deliver the objectives of the cultural strategy
- Looks at how impact will be created and also evaluated
- Sets out legacy plans
- Offers a roadmap for how culture will be developed between 2017 and 2030

As we move forward with the Limerick cultural strategy and plans to build a strong cultural life for Limerick, it will be important to consider what success will look like. A set of KPI's will help plan and develop cultural activity and investment, as well as help manage and evaluate the activity and impact.

We have developed a set of outcomes and impacts via a set of KPI's which will be used to guide our work. These are a starting point and will be developed further with the new Cultural SPC, with indicators to judge success.

Outcomes

Through our investment and activity, we will work to ensure that culture makes Limerick stronger

and benefits

local people. The commissioning of independent evaluation work, which will bring additional data and reflection, will help realise the aims and ambitions of the duration of Limerick Cultural Strategy. Below are an initial set of outcomes which describe the change which culture will make to life in Limerick.

- A strengthened, European class cultural network and infrastructure is created.
- Throughout the period leading into 2030, we will support citizens to work together to share ideas, troubleshoot problems and continuously evaluate how well we are meeting Limerick's cultural aims and ambitions.
- Improving the quality and capacity of the cultural system.
- Improving the social fabric.
- A stronger economy with a particular emphasis on the cultural and creative industries and visitor economy.
- More local people consume and enjoy culture but are also producers and advocates for culture.
- People feel more positive about living in Limerick.
- Levels of active participation in culture grow from 2017 – 2021.

Impacts

We will also look for a range of impacts that will be created in Limerick for the longer term as a result of the activity and outcomes created. They will be in line with the Creative Ireland initiative and The Arts Council 'Making Great Art Work' policies. The impacts will explore how culture can continue to drive change and promote individual community well being. They also explore how culture can influence other areas of life in Limerick. We see two sets of impacts:

- **Intermediate impacts** which should happen as a result of successful activity and outcomes being created.
- **Longer term impacts** which set a future ambition to work towards. These are usually changes which take more time to achieve.

Intermediate impacts

- Increased capacity in the cultural and creative economy.
- Creative industries grow and employ more local people.
- Tourism contributes more to local economy as result of cultural development.
- Local civic pride is developed and articulated through culture.
- Cultural ambitions are achieved.

Longer term impacts

- A dynamic and innovative economy in Limerick with culture and creativity at its heart.
- An urban and rural environment integrated with a rich heritage, attracting tourists and young people to a thriving Limerick.
- Inclusive, dynamic, innovative society.

The following recommended funding allocations are for the delivery of key actions to be implemented in 2017/2018 to support the 8 objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy Framework and the 5 pillars of Creative Ireland.

1. To Grow Limerick's Cultural Capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick	
<i>Professional development opportunities for artists</i>	
(i) Travel and Training Awards – open call announced	€ 5,000.00
(ii) Open Call for all Bursaries including Theatre, Film, Music, Literature, Visual Art, Circus to provide opportunities for creative practitioners to make new work	€ 50,000.00
(iii) Strategic Fund to allow bidding for projects to leverage funding from other sources for culture and arts organisations seeking to deliver larger projects	€ 30,000.00
Open call for Co-production and Commissions. Due to short lead in time in 2017 the investment will be in a NYE event in Limerick City	€ 50,000.00
2. To grow the physical and human resources, infrastructure and support for staging large scale interventions, performances, festivals and productions	
Open Call Festival and Special Events (F&E) Fund including collaborative and community based projects – Three strands in the open call have been completed; Strand 1 – Delivery and programming of small & community focused F&E Strand 2 – Delivery and programming of medium and large scale F&E Strand 3 – Festival development and sustainability	€ 270,000.00
Technical assistance to deliver all schemes	€ 42,000.00
Creative Schools as part of Creative Ireland. Work with the Higher Education Institutions, cultural organisations in Limerick and the Arts Council to design a new Creative Schools initiative to enable the creative potential of every child across Limerick City and County	€ 30,000.00
3. To support and grow innovative and creative collectives in Limerick	
Support and grow innovative and creative collectives that will unify and bring the sector together and stimulate productive partnerships	€ 10,000.00

and co-operation for the delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy, Limerick's Heritage Plan, Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Plan, Public Libraries Strategy	
4. To foster multiple examples of imagination, innovation and integration in Limerick and to use creative approaches to help citizens and visitors to re-imagine Limerick	
To support the development of cultural networks. Build and strengthen networks of cooperation including local partnerships as well as regional, national, European and international networks, to develop new cultural opportunities for communities, cultural practitioners and organisations.	€ 10,000.00
World Recipe Exchange – The project concept emerged from the consultations with new communities and was also informed by consultations with professionals working in the field of migration and integration (members of Doras Luimní and the Integration Working Group). The research aspect of the project is supported by the European Cultural Foundation R&D. This is for the delivery of the project including Culture Night in September, Celebrating Traditions in November and a further event in the new year.	€ 10,000.00
5. To place culture at the heart of economic growth and regeneration of Limerick	
Business planning - Let's be Culturally Smart. Develop a business case to identify the needs for space for culture in Limerick to inform future planning and development including a policy on temporary use of buildings.	€ 10,000.00
Cultural Mapping Initiative in partnership with Creative Ireland. Mapping cultural and creative resources in Limerick as well as identifying needs to support the development of new physical cultural infrastructure and facilities for the production, exhibition, presentation and consumption of cultural activity	€ 10,000.00
Moving Beyond the Transaction – Business Mentoring for individuals and cultural organisations. There is a recognition that to attain growth in the cultural sector a strong, compelling and connected vision is required including a joined up and coordinated approach to professional development for the continued delivery of events of scale.	€ 10,000.00
Public Art Policy for Limerick City and County Council that takes on board the interrelationship between the artist and the artwork, the context (location – site, social, geographical aspects) and the public. There is a need to pursue a co-ordinated policy on public art that identifies and brings together the resources available with Limerick	€ 5,000.00

City and County Council to develop a vision for a public art programme with the clear artistic aims and objectives and a clear commissioning process	
6. To engage citizens through involvement in culture	
Friars Gate Integration Project - The project will engage with 6,000 students in schools, using a drama methodology to combat racism and raise awareness of the benefits of legal migration. It will produce 1,000 accompanying anti racism resource packs for teachers. The project will establish an International Youth Theatre for 50 TCN young people, performing integration themed films and plays for the public that promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. With the support of the ETB, the project will provide language and employability skills courses for 70-90 TCN adults. Using established educational networks, participants will be referred and self-selected.	€ 18,000.00
Build Volunteer Capacity - Foster the development of greater partnerships with community groups and voluntary sector including organisations involving young people, older persons, women's and men's groups, marginalised groups and disability groups through a volunteer policy for LCCC across departments.	€ 10,000.00
7. To become a centre for active research and problem-solving in culture that will have local, national and European significance	
Examine the potential of hosting cultural conferences	€ -
School of Spectacle – Creative Europe Project with Fidget Feet. Over 6 days the creative practitioners will be trained in outdoor arts for night time events, including introductions to fire technique and performance, mass movement and working with aerial artists, lanterns, illuminated costume. On Saturday 18 th of Nov at 20:15pm the trainees will put together a small 'scratch' performance titled Glean Áine Alight with the community of Hospital Co. Limerick at the grounds of the Hospital/Herbertstown GAA Club. This performance is free to the public and will showcase the skills learnt by participants during the 6 day school including aerial dance, fire-drawing, lantern making and mass movement.	€ 25,000.00
Invitation to Collaborate Research Project – independent report by Indecon. The arts services Leitrim, Limerick, Kildare, Fingal have come together to undertake a research project compiling samples of best practice, common data collections, learning resources and	€ 5,000.00

documented experiential learning to evaluate the role and function of Arts services providing recommendations to meet the sector's needs.	
8. To increase and support the role of the creative industries in Limerick	
Incubation space for cultural and creative industries	€ -
New uses for retail space	€ -
STEAM ED Project	€ -
	€ 600,000.00

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Cllr. Stephen Keary
Mayor of The City and County of Limerick
Chair of the Culture and Arts Working Group