

To the Chair and each member of the Cultural SPC

Report on recent workshops to consider the recommended strategic investment priorities identified for the delivery of the Limerick Cultural Strategy in 2018

It was agreed at the Cultural SPC of 16th January 2018 that a workshop would be held to consider the strategic investment priorities from the Limerick Cultural Strategy for 2018.

Two workshops subsequently took place;

1. Monday 29th January 2018
2. Monday 5th February 2018

At the workshops, investment policy priorities in 2017 were reviewed and the percentage of overall investment allocated per objective discussed. Investment policy priorities for 2018 were considered and weighted, with the overall amount allocated per objective agreed for recommendation. Specific activities under five of the 8 objectives were identified for investment in 2018 and are for recommendation to the Cultural SPC (table below).

The criteria for decision-making was discussed and the following points recorded;

- Policy activity which is established and working well (delivering on stated objectives) needs to be sustained through continuity of funding
- Policy activity that has the potential to be amplified or strengthened through continuity of funding
- Appropriate balance of opportunity across city and county
- Appropriate balance of investment in creative product development and public engagement initiatives (which are visible and have immediate impact) as well as process-based work and capacity development (which may be less visible or with less immediate impact)

As a newly established committee, it was agreed that there is scope to recap on the strategic priorities of the national bodies such as The Arts Council Making Great Art and Creative Ireland and other national programmes and bodies to gain a shared understanding of the context in which culture may best be advanced in Limerick, maximising opportunity and impact. Following best practice, the objectives of the Limerick Cultural Strategy may be reviewed in 2019 to take account of developments/changes in local, national and international contexts.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FOR DELIVERY OF THE LIMERICK CULTURAL STRATEGY IN 2018

Total investment available : €500,000

Objective 1

To grow Limerick's cultural capacity by retaining and attracting creative practitioners to live and work in Limerick

Activity	Amount
(i) Travel and Training Awards (open call)	€7,000
(ii) Bursaries to provide opportunities for creative practitioners to make new work (open call)	€60,000
(iii) Strategic Fund to enable leveraging of funding from other sources for cultural and creative activity	€28,000

Total amount (19% of total investment)	€95,000
---	----------------

Objective 2

To grow the physical and human resources, infrastructure and support for staging large scale interventions, performances, festivals and productions

Activity	Amount
Open Call Festival and Special Events (F&E) Fund including collaborative and community based projects**	
<i>Strand 1 – Delivery and programming of small & community focused F&E</i>	€65,000
<i>Strand 2 – Delivery and programming of medium and large scale F&E</i>	€205,000
Technical assistance (e.g. for panels, workshops and includes €12,500 towards cancellation costs in respect of NYE festival)	€35,000

** some specific allocation towards local, non-political commemorative events

Total amount (61% of total investment)	€305,000
---	-----------------

Objective 3

To support and grow innovative and creative collections in Limerick

Activity	Amount
	€0

Objective 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

Activity	Amount
	€0

Objective 5

To place culture at the heart of economic growth and regeneration of Limerick

Activity	Amount
Decision that spend in this area is required but detail of activity to be further considered and agreed. May include animating the city, use as a response/contingency fund for opportunities that arise throughout the year or for specific community activities that enhance the positioning of culture in Limerick	€40,000

Total amount (8% of total investment)	€40,000
--	----------------

Objective 6

To engage citizens through involvement in culture

Activity	Amount
To support engagement from new audiences, new communities/social inclusion initiatives	€25,000

Total amount (5% of total investment)	€25,000
--	----------------

Objective 7

To become a centre for active research and problem-solving in culture that will have local, national and European significance

Activity	Amount
	€0

Objective 8

To increase/support the role of creative industries

Activity	Amount
To support those working in the cultural and creative industries through practical provision such as the development of creative spaces or hubs	€35,000

Total amount (7% of total investment)	€35,000
--	----------------

Sheila Deegan

Culture and Arts Officer