



ARTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2016-2020

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County Council
Arts Development Strategy
2016–2020

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Message from the Mayor Councillor Guss O'Connell

The adoption of this five year arts development strategy by South Dublin County Council marks another step towards the development of an arts service that is inclusive, accessible and sustainable.

Through its policies and the commitment of public resources, it contributes to the development of the cultural vitality of the county. It recognises that the arts play an essential role in the lives of our communities. Over the next five years, South Dublin County Council will introduce new initiatives while also strengthening existing programmes and supports. These supports will help to cultivate

an environment where creative talent can develop and thrive. In this strategy, South Dublin County Council continues to give expression to the rich traditional cultural and arts native to these shores, and sets out to further blend these with the new and emerging expressions of arts and cultures of the one hundred and twenty different nationalities that are now make up in our community.

Pathways of progression, cultural diversity and audience development continue to be key concerns that the Council has begun to address and will continue in this new arts strategy. Early Childhood Arts will be given particular encouragement, as will a number of Arts in Health, Arts and Disability and Arts and Older People strategic initiatives. The Arts Office will work in partnership with the County Library Services across a number of programme strands.

This strategy has been developed in close consultation with the community. It is a framework that enables creative initiatives, while emphasising the role of the arts sector, professional, amateur and voluntary arts, in the delivery of arts services across the county. The role of the Council is to provide leadership in the cultural development of the county, to enable opportunities for all whatever their age, background or ability, to enable each engage with a quality arts experience, to support and value the artist and to promote the cultural identity of the county.

I would like to thank all those who have helped shape this arts strategy providing policy direction over the next five years.





Foreword from Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin

South Dublin County Council invests significantly in the arts in the context of supporting the quality of life of our citizens.

This investment is informed by the Council's five year arts development strategy. Funding is only part of the equation. The other parts of the arts landscape are the artists, the participants and the audiences who bring the arts to life.

In keeping with our recent Arts Strategy significant resources were dedicated to local arts development particularly in relation to young people and music education, film and

dance. We supported local arts organisations and venues to deliver programmes and individual artists to create and present new work through bursary awards and partnership projects.

Its legacy is a more connected cultural place with greater dialogue between venues, organisations and artists. There has been a significant increase in participation in quality arts programmes and a significant

platform created for the voice of creative young people in the county.

This new Arts Development Strategy confirms the continuing contribution of the arts to county.

It encourages everyone to experience the arts, and values the artistic contribution of people in all stages of life. It aspires to stimulate new arts programming in participation, further opportunities for artists and audience development.

The Strategy presents a strong basis for continued partnership, building a collaborative and sustainable arts environment based on our strengths and achievements. I look forward to its implementation and the progression of South Dublin as a county where artistic possibility is unlimited.

I wish to compliment Mayor Guss O'Connell and the Elected Members of the Council together with the Members of the Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries Strategic Policy Committee, under the chairmanship of Councillor Dermot Richardson, for their role in the formation of this Arts Development Strategy.





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Introduction

*South Dublin County Council is the primary agency engaged in local arts development within the county of South Dublin. It is committed to working collaboratively and co-operatively with others to ensure consistency in leadership, approach and delivery of arts services throughout the county.**

This arts strategy, along with the County Developments Plan and the plans of other Council departments and sectors, provides strategic direction for the future of South Dublin County and its communities. It has been produced as a result of consultation, evaluation, research and review.

Formation of arts policy is led by the Council's Strategic Policy Committee on Arts, Culture, Gaelige, Heritage and Libraries. It is driven by the Council's mission statement which is to: 'provide open, effective, inclusive and participative local democratic processes together with best quality services, facilities and supports which sustain, improve and promote the social, cultural

and economic fabric of South Dublin County for all who live, work and visit here.'

Through South Dublin County Council Arts Development Strategy 2016-2020, new initiatives will be introduced in addition to the supporting of the existing programmes and infrastructure under the themes of:

Sustainability

Public Engagement, Learning and Participation

Infrastructures and Points of Access

Developing the Arts Service

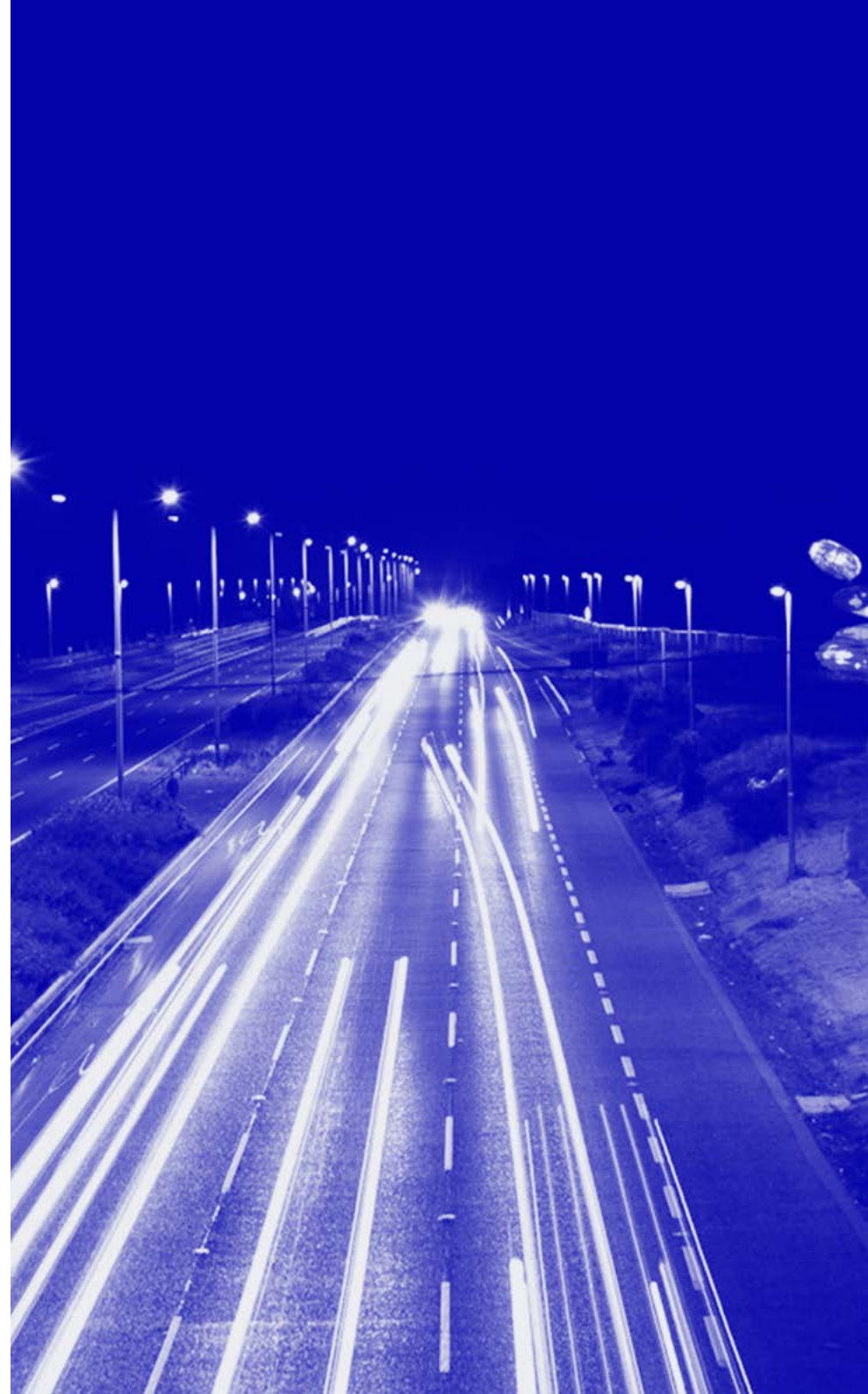
Under these themes a number of key priority areas have emerged including:

Greater access and participation for children, people with disabilities, older people;
Providing opportunities for germinating and showcasing new work for a diversity of audiences; working in partnership as a means of improving quality, extending programme reach and achieving sustainability.

All programmes are based on the core principals of Quality, Creativity, Inclusion, Learning and Partnership

** Artistic activity as interpreted in the Arts Act 2003, defines art as any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes.*

For the purposes of this report art includes arts education, arts instruction, art collection, community arts, public art, arts training, arts facilities/venues and arts service programs. It includes production, presentation, distribution and dissemination activities.





County Profile

South Dublin County is one of three new local authorities to emerge in Dublin in 1994. South Dublin County, with Tallaght at its centre, spreads out to the foothills of the Dublin Mountains, borders the edges of the city and the nearby counties of Kildare, Fingal, Dun Laoghaire and Wicklow.

The county is a place of complex identity, intersected by motorways, housing estates, and industrial parks. It's a place where the urban and rural unexpectedly meet. Green plains and higher mountains are never distant. Rivers, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, forests, trails, heaths and bogs abound. The County is an unsuspecting place of natural beauty.

Since its inception in 1994, one of the biggest challenges facing South Dublin County has been the issue of identity. With a sizable population of 278,749 and spread over 223(sq) km, its communities tend to identify locally rather than countywide.

The County is made up of the previously industrial villages of Lucan and Palmerstown,

Templeogue and Rathfarnham along the Liffey and the Dodder rivers. The villages of Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart, and Brittas in the South which retain aspects of a rural character today and the once rural villages of Tallaght and Clondalkin in the heart of the County. Most of the villages are located on sites of important Christian heritage. The seventh century Round

Tower stands tall from the centre of Clondalkin village.

The suburbanization of the County started with Tallaght from 1969 onwards. Historic villages give way to new suburbia. In 2016, 120 different nationalities live in the County. New immigrants, second generation immigrant families, the 'early settlers', everyone lives cheek by jowl in this County. Diversity abounds.

New towns like Adamstown show a strong community spirit. In new estates in North Clondalkin or West Tallaght, a sense of place, identity, belonging, community, these are key. There are 300 active community groups in the County. Community is vital and manifests locally across the County. Different communities of people and place in the twenty first century – so much social, economic and cultural diversity.*

Arts and culture in the county is characterized by the strong presence of amateur, voluntary and community arts sectors which provides significant opportunities to participate in the arts.

66% of the 180 documented arts and cultural organisations in the county, (Appendix B), are in the Amateur, Voluntary and Community sectors. 14.5% are in the Private/Commercial

sector, 13% are Professional Arts organisations, 6.5% are Festivals and Events.

The professional arts organisations, including the Civic Theatre, RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre, Tallaght Community Arts, Alternative Entertainments and Music Generation South Dublin provide access to programmes of a high quality and opportunities for public engagement. Venues provide spaces for artists to create and present work. Increasingly they have become collaborators in shaping and delivering an Arts Service in the County.

Professional artists are key to the creation of a vibrant cultural environment and the realisation of high quality creative arts practice in the county. Opportunities that allow artists to explore their creativity and produce ambitious works of art are supported by the Artists Bursary Award Scheme; In Context, South Dublin County Council's Public Art Programme and Artist Residencies.

Professional artists establish the artistic standards and quality of participatory arts experience in many contexts, including education, health, voluntary and community arts. Programming for Young People which has

been supported over the lifespan of previous arts development strategies is well established and integrated into the creative and cultural life of the county.

Historically the Library Service has played a role in providing access to the arts and in developing audiences for the arts in South Dublin County.

It continues to fulfill this role through the provision of programmed arts and cultural events, exhibitions, workshops and information.

How and where people access the arts in South Dublin County will continue to be developed in partnership with artists, local promoters, service providers, communities and individuals throughout the county.

** Adapted from In Context 4: In Our Time, Claire Power & Aoife Tunney, March 2016*





The Role of The Local Authority

Supporter

Creating partnerships with individuals and community organisations to deliver services, programs and products that have public purpose

Planner

Assisting the community to plan and implement shared visions through policy development

Developer

Helping to move the community towards empowerment and sustainability

Initiator

Sparking and assisting catalytic projects that advance the arts and serve the community in pivotal ways

Researcher

Enhancing knowledge and understanding and ensuring informed decision-making

Communicator

Disseminating information about the role and impact of the arts as well as information about programmes or projects

Partner

Working alongside artists, community, other sectors, other funders and other public service providers

Deliverer

Delivering arts programs and services in order to fill community gaps.*

Core Services of The Arts Office

- Research and Arts Policy Formation
- Support for Programme Development
- Infrastructure Development
- Information and Communication
- Provision of Resources and Support
- Creating Linkages

* Ottawa 2025



Arts Development Strategy

2016-2020

Primary Objectives of the Arts Development Strategy

The Council recognises that the arts contribute substantially to a county's growth and viability and makes an essential contribution to local quality of life. It also recognises the need to create conditions that sustain a concentration of artists, creative people and arts organisations within its boundaries.

- Create open and socially inclusive access to and participation in a process of cultural and artistic

expression that is of the highest standard.

- Optimise participation in the arts and audience development through strategic partnership initiatives with artists arts providers and other agencies
- Develop an environment that allows artists to explore their creativity and produce innovative and ambitious works of excellence.
- Promote the creation of a strong cultural identity for South Dublin County.

Themes

1. Sustainability

2. Engagement, Learning & Participation

3. Infrastructure And Points Of Access

4. Developing The Arts Service



Theme 1: Sustainability

Strategies

1.1 Promote and support the County's arts and cultural providers including organisations and individual practitioners

- Commission and support research projects that directly assist arts development in the county.
- In conjunction with arts and cultural organisations in the county identify initiatives, and events that attract new audiences.
- Identify new opportunities for artists through multiparty initiatives, residencies and commissions.
- Foster the development and presentation of artist-led projects and programs that are, accessible and open to the public.

1.2 Ensure that Council programs continue to support and build on existing relationships with other arts service providers

- Develop complementary activities with key cultural organisations in the county including the Civic Theatre, Tallaght Community Arts, RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre, Alternative Entertainments, South Dublin Libraries, the National Centre for Arts and Health and Áras Chrónáin.
- Support the Civic Theatre and RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre in providing opportunities for artists and producers to present in a professional environment; and in providing inclusive public access to a range of quality arts experiences.

- Support the continuing development of Tallaght Community Arts and Alternative Entertainments and to remain open to supporting new organisations and initiatives through a new Strategic Initiative Scheme.
- Promote synergies with South Dublin Libraries programme.

1.3 Offer opportunities for the improvement and development of skills and the expansion of professional practice

- Facilitate access to skills development and mentoring for artists to ensure the quality and consistency of artistic experiences.
- Sustain the Council's Individual Artist Bursary Award which supports career and practice development for artists of all disciplines.
- Support Peer led networks in the County, and provide opportunities for networking and the sharing of practice



Theme 2:

Engagement, Learning and Participation

Strategies

2.1 Assist audiences to access a broad range of arts and cultural experiences

- Support the development of arts and cultural initiatives that respond to the needs of young people through the NOISE South Dublin on line and off line platform and the youth focused programmes of Contact Studio i.e. Suburban Sounds, Big Picture TV and Animakers.

- Support the development of Ruaille Buaille Lucan Childrens Music Festival which provides exposure to professional and community performances in a number of music genres.

- Support the literary strands of Red Line Book Festival, in providing a platform for emerging writers and in public engagement.

- Support funded organisations to explore culturally diverse audience development.

- Encourage the development of projects which activate the public realm.

2.2 Building Creative Capacity

- Promote the establishment of relationships between schools and local arts venues, arts organisations to enable visits to local arts venues for workshops/events.

- Explore ways to support quality arts practice within formal education contexts through artist residencies, teacher and curriculum support and by encouraging communities of practice amongst teachers.

- Engage with the National Centre for Arts in Health to introduce a Dance in Health programme within the hospital context.

- Promote Arts in Health practice by supporting the National Centre for Arts and Health seminar series.

- Host an annual exchange and networking opportunity between arts practitioners in the county.

2.3 To provide opportunities for children and young people to explore their creative potential and expand their experience of the arts

- Provide or support quality arts experience for children and young artists through creative learning initiatives such as Tallaght Young Filmmakers (Film), Creative Campus (Visual Art), Tenderfoot (Theatre), Suburban Sounds (Music) and Music Generation South Dublin (Music Education).

- Pilot a Young Writers Initiative in conjunction with South Dublin Libraries.

- Provide opportunities for performance and exhibition through events such as Noise Dance, Noise Flicks, Ruaille Buaille Lucan Childrens Music festival and support other arts initiatives that provide such opportunities for young people.

- Support youth based initiatives through the Council's Grant and Bursaries programme.

- Raise awareness of training opportunities, pathways for progression and career opportunities for young people.

- Support the development of the Youth Arts Network.

- Introduce Early Years (under 6years) programming across a range of artforms and settings in collaboration with South Dublin County Childcare Committee, South Dublin Libraries and other partners.

2.4 Sustain Local Arts development

- Co-ordinate the implementation of the arts development strategy, the strategic allocation of resources, project development and the promotion of Arts events.

- Support participation in the arts at all levels through inclusive access to arts spaces and expertise.

- Improve the quality and delivery of community festivals, activities and events through the provision of grant funding.

- Sustain grant investment to the amateur, voluntary and community arts sector which is critical to the arts community in South Dublin County.

- Provide information and advisory support services.

Theme 3: Infrastructure and Points of Access

Strategies

3.1 Provide opportunities for artists as part of Council's infrastructure, built and natural environment enhancement /redevelopment projects

- Implement the Council's current public art strategy 2016-2019 under the Per Cent for Art Scheme, In Context 4: In Our Time and undertake the commissioning of new artworks.
- Work in an integrated way with Council departments charged with the planning and delivery of capital projects and incorporate cultural provision into Local Area Plans and capital budgets.
- Support planning services to ensure a high quality public realm through the commissioning of public art in private development as per the 2007 Guidelines for Public Art in Private Development.

- Work in an advisory capacity to support other public art commissioning agencies and organisations in the county to ensure consistency in approach.

3.2 Promote the Councils expanding Public Art Collection and its reflection of the unique context of South Dublin County

- Promote the Councils publicly accessible public art database South Dublin County Public Art www.southdublin.ie/artsworks/ and develop this resource of existing public art and documentation as a tool for education and research purposes.
- Create links with national databases such as PublicArt.ie and with local tourism and heritage websites.

3.3 Encourage greater use of public spaces, facilities and venues

- Work with festivals, events and arts and community organisations to facilitate the use of a variety of Council and non-Council owned spaces, facilities and venues including Community Centres and Libraries.
- Provide spaces for productions, exhibitions and process-based activities and workspaces for a diversity of organisations and artists.





Theme 4:

Developing the Arts Service

Strategies

4.1 Working in partnership to ensure the development of a dynamic cultural environment

- Work in partnership with key professional venues and cultural organisations, to develop arts resources and deliver common objectives.
- Initiate a Strategic Initiatives Fund to support: culturally diverse audience development; engagement with older people; and Arts and Disability initiatives.
- Sustain support for dance and dance artists in collaboration with key local and national partners.
- As Lead partner progress the development of Music Generation South Dublin in conjunction with the Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB, Dublin West Education Centre, and other partners

- Introduce service level agreements to include the regular provision of information and data regarding audiences and participation, and the documentation and evaluation of all Council directly funded projects and programmes.

4.2 Research and Development

- Continue to map and make available information on the range and distribution of arts activity in the county.
- Encourage the voice of children and young people in cultural planning and recognise their role as cultural initiators, participants and audiences.
- Cultural Diversity and Early Years Arts have been identified as two key areas for strategic development within the arts services in terms of policy, appropriate cultural services, models of engagement & best practice.
- Initiatives will be supported that engage Older People with the Arts, and Arts & Disability in the County
- Commission a feasibility study to examine the potential for the development of arts infrastructure in the county.
- Work towards achieving a flexible policy with regard to planning gain, which would allow the development of working and living spaces for artists.

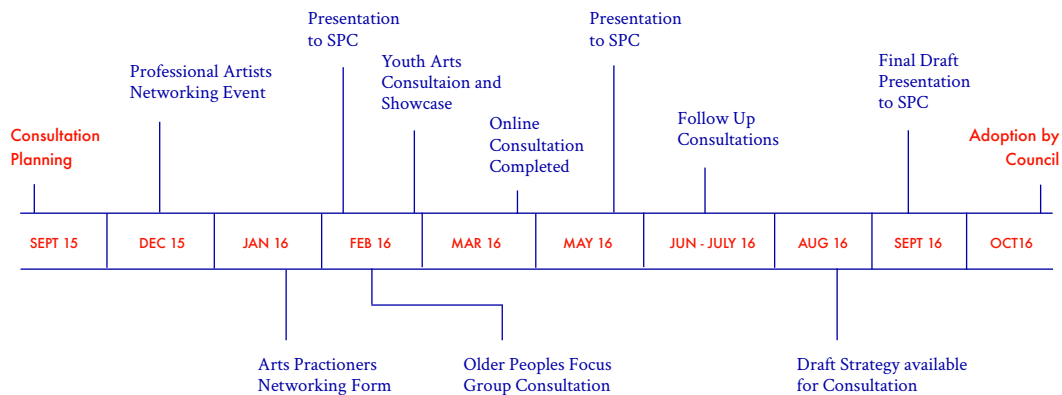
- Draft Guidelines for Developers regarding the feasibility of proposed arts facilities arising from planning gain.

4.3 Promote the value of the arts and cultural sector to residents and visitors

- In consultation with other organisations support the production and distribution of an arts and cultural data base that profiles activities and events in South Dublin County.
- Promote the arts and cultural sector using Council communication platforms
- Examine the potential with partners including Suil, which is a network of cultural organisations in Tallaght, for local awareness and arts and culture marketing initiative.

4.4 Ensure that the arts and culture are prominent across South Dublin County's activities

- Ensure that consideration of artistic and cultural impact is included in Council reports.
- Continue to develop collaborative projects with Council-provided services to increase opportunities for arts and cultural engagement as an everyday experience.



Appendix A: Arts Consult 2015-2016

Arts Consult 2016 was undertaken by SDCC Arts Office to inform the development of a new five-year Arts Strategy for South Dublin County.

The process was interactive with online quantitative and qualitative data-gathering and opportunities for face-to-face encounter.

The general public were widely canvassed from professional to amateur, from avid to infrequent audience members, from toddlers to ninety year olds. All were welcome.

Where We Engaged

A series of consultation and networking events were also held. In each case, input and insights

were sought around needs, barriers and benefits of the arts. As can happen when people are afforded an opportunity to gather, debate and share their practice the potential for future partnerships, networks and arts events arise.

Professional Artists Networking Event: 9th Dec 2015 RUA RED

Arts Practitioners Networking Forum: 27th Jan 2016 RUA RED

Youth Arts Consultation & Showcase: 14th Feb 2016 CivicTheatre

Older People's Consultation: 29th Feb 2016 Rowlagh Women's Centre

How Many People Engaged Online

An online survey was created using the free Google Forms interface. This was compiled with inputs and distribution support from local arts service providers.

It closed to submissions on Friday 18th March with 411 completed responses.

14 submissions were from/on behalf of children.

361 submissions were from young people.

33 submissions were received from adults.

Some of What People Said

- Need for greater transparency around availability and allocation of resources
- Communication of information on events, further education and opportunities in the arts
- Evaluation of funded programmes and dissemination of learning and practice
- Recognition of the National Centre for Art and Health
- Leadership and advocacy through policy and planning
- Supporting arts networking, showcasing and collaboration opportunities



Appendix B: Profile

Overview of the Arts Sector in South Dublin County

Amateur Groups	49
Community Arts	47
Voluntary Groups	23
Festivals or Events	11
Professional Arts Organisations	24
Private	26
Arts in Education - Schools engaged	84
Professional Artists	220
Total	484

Community is defined to include arts activities in contexts such as healthcare, older persons, disabled persons, ethnic minorities, religious, youth groups etc.

Analysis of Arts Activities by Artform

Film/video	4
Literature/Creative Writing	13
Dance	19
Drama	8
Music	53
Musical Drama	6
Visual Arts	34
Multidisciplinary	42
Circus/Spectacle/Street	
Performance	1
Craft	1
Total	180

Excluding Arts in Education activities and individual Artists

Geographic spread of Amateur, Voluntary and Community Arts Activities

Clondalkin	23
County	6
Lucan/ Palmerstown	14
Tallaght	48
Terenure/Rathfarnham	27
Rural Areas (Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle, Brittas)	1
Total	119





Appendix B:

Key Policy And Research Initiatives South Dublin County & National

Key Policy and Research

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2008 → Guidelines for public Art in Private Development | 2015 → Making Great Artwork (Arts Council) |
| 2010 → Noise Review | 2016 → A Framework for Collaboration (Arts Council) |
| 2010 → Research for a cultural hub | 2016 → Evaluation of Creative Campus. |
| 2011 → South Dublin Music Education Strategy | 2016 → In Context 4 – In Our Time: South Dublin County Council’s Public Art commissioning strategy under the Per Cent for Art Scheme |
| 2012 → Culturally Diverse Artistic Practices in South Dublin County and Dublin City Council Administrative areas. | |
| 2013 → Arts in Education Charter (Department of Education & Skills) | |

