Fingal County Council embraces Creative Ireland initiative

Enabling creativity in every community is a core pillar of the Creative Ireland Programme, an ambitious five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which will place Ireland’s strongest assets – our culture and creative communities - at the centre of public policy.

Having demonstrated in 2016 its unique capacity to activate and support community engagement and participation in marking the Centenary year through a wide range of arts, culture and heritage initiatives, Fingal County Council is now set to embrace the Creative Ireland programme and take responsibility for the roll-out of creativity within the community.

Fingal County Council’s Director of Housing and Community, Margaret Geraghty, will chair the Creative Ireland Fingal group which is made up of representatives from different departments and sections within the Council. It has been tasked with enabling creativity in every community within the county. Eithne Mallin, who led Fingal’s 2016 Commemoration Programme, has been appointed as the Creative Ireland co-ordinator for Fingal County Council.

Announcing the appointments to the Creative Ireland Fingal group, Paul Reid, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: “Enabling Creativity in every Community is the primary instrument for delivery of the Creative Ireland programme objectives by local authorities throughout the country. It is recognised that local authorities are the leaders of community engagement and that we have a particular capacity for programme delivery especially in the context of citizen engagement. Fingal County Council is looking forward to challenge of stimulating creativity throughout the county over the next five years.”

Creative Ireland will lead the development of a dedicated Culture and Creativity plan for Fingal, based on the premise that participation in cultural activity drives personal and collective creativity, with significant implications for individual and
societal wellbeing. For 2017, there will be a special focus on children and young people with the specific objective of fast-tracking the Charter for Arts in Education, which will significantly increase access and participation for children in high quality arts and culture experiences.

In addition, all the agencies of Government, including national cultural institutions, state agencies, Government Departments, organisations, individuals and communities will be activated to embed creativity across all aspects of their work – and use that creative potential to foster collective wellbeing and social cohesion.

Fingal County Council and Creative Ireland will host an open meeting on Monday, April 24 from 7pm to 9pm in the Carlton Hotel, Old Airport Road, Cloghran to share details about the Programme and to explore opportunities to increase access, engagement and collaboration in the local arts, creative industries and community activities in Fingal. Anybody interested in attending the open meeting is requested to register at Eventbrite before Tuesday, April 18. Enquiries can be submitted by email to creativefingal@fingal.ie or by calling 01 8905097

Eithne Mallin, Fingal County Council’s Creative Ireland Co-ordinator said: “Creativity comes in many different forms and is all around us even if we don't recognise it. One of our key tasks will be to make people aware of the creative things they already do and inspire them to become even more creative. Anybody who interested in exploring the opportunities to stimulate creativity within Fingal and who is prepared to think outside the box should come along to our open meeting on April 24.”

Full details of the Creative Ireland Programme are available at creative.ireland.ie

Ends

Notes to Editors:

Creative Ireland is the Government’s legacy programme for Ireland 2016. It is a five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It is built around five strategic pillars:

1. Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child
2. Enabling Creativity in Every Community
3. Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure
4. Making Ireland a Centre of Excellence in Media Production
5. Unifying our Global Reputation

Full details of the Creative Ireland Programme are available at creative.ireland.ie or on Facebook (CreativelIreland) and Twitter (@creativirl).