PRESS RELEASE

July 28, 2017

Fingal to benefit from additional Arts Council Funding

Fingal County Council will benefit from two recent awards by the Arts Council which amount to €35,000 in additional funding.

The allocations include €15,520 for an east coast arts and biodiversity project (with Dublin City and Wexford County Councils) and €20,000 to commission an Indecon report (with Kildare, Leitrim and Limerick County Councils).

The Indecon Report represents a strategic intention by the local authority partners, who all work in different contexts, to examine their work practices and better understand their changing roles, inform future policy development and meet the future sector and public needs. Fingal's Art Officer, Rory O'Byrne will collaborate with his colleagues in Kildare, Limerick and Leitrim County Councils on research, which will led by Indecon, on the evolving role of the arts service within the local authority.

His Arts Office colleague, Public Art Co-ordinator Caroline Cowley will be collaborating with the Wexford Arts Officer, the Public Art Manager for Dublin
City Council along with the three Council’s biodiversity officers on *An Urgent Enquiry* which is a research project that will give focus to the effects of climate change along the east coast and how themes arising from this research can be communicated through public art.

The Arts Council confirmed the award as part of their ‘Invitation to Collaboration’ scheme aimed at Local Authorities, which promotes unique collaborations through working better together and promoting access to and engagement with the arts.

Both projects were deemed to be of strategic and national interest as well as having an impact on how they deliver meaningful and relevant arts and cultural services to the community across Fingal.

Speaking at the launch on Friday, July 21, in the dlr Lexicon, Director of the Arts Council, Orlaith McBride, said: “We recently put a call out to local authorities across the country looking to support ambitious ways of collaborating and engaging communities in arts projects. I am delighted to confirm that Fingal County Council was successful in two projects and I am confident this funding will help foster a distinctive strategic, artistic and environmental collaboration within and among local authorities, which will result in unique public engagement opportunities.”

Fingal Arts Officer, Rory O'Byrne, said: “*We are delighted with the two awards and excited about the potential outcomes from these collaborations*. The Arts Council acknowledged that the projects awarded were of both local and national interest and will greatly contribute to the development of policy well into the future.”

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