Taoiseach welcomes investment in creative communities at launch of 31 Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies 2018-22

Ministers Madigan and Murphy congratulate Fingal County Council on the publication of their Strategy as part of the Creative Ireland Programme

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD., was joined by Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD, and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD., on (Wednesday) for the launch of Fingal’s Culture and Creativity Strategy
2018 - 2022, as part of the all-of-government Creative Ireland Programme.

This ambitious and innovative five-year Culture and Creativity Strategy has been developed by the Fingal County Council Culture Team and local Creative Ireland Programme coordinator, in consultation with local artists, creatives, cultural and heritage organisations, community groups, the creative industries, centres of education and schools.

The Strategy aims to provide meaningful opportunities for citizens and local communities, together with local authorities, to nurture, sustain and facilitate participation in cultural and creative activities.

Some of the special initiatives prioritised as part of Fingal’s Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 - 2022 include:

- Provide financial and practical supports artists and creative practitioners to sustain their professional practice.
- Explore opportunities for funding young and emerging creative practitioners in Fingal.
- Actively promote our local artists both at home and abroad, nationally and globally.
- Support/develop creative hubs Infrastructure, studios, creative space for artists, gallery spaces, rehearsal space for bands; The Swords Cultural Quarter is a key opportunity to do this.
- Use the pop-up model for arts, culture and creative events In Fingal County Council properties such as the heritage houses, libraries, the Atrium of County Hall, Swords, artist in residence spaces, in vacant buildings, in community centres and spaces, at events like Flavours of Fingal.
- Promote and develop the Creative Fingal section of fingal.ie, which will become a one-stop shop for individuals or groups for creative and cultural information.

Speaking at the launch at the Irish Architectural Archive in Merrion Square, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, said: “Creative Ireland is all about improving access to culture and creativity in every county nationwide, to
improve public wellbeing. The Culture Teams in each local authority have been absolutely essential to fulfilling this aim. We believed that by bringing people across a range of disciplines together in our Local Authorities, we could achieve more than the sum of their individual efforts. The plans being published today are proof that these collective efforts are resulting in projects of real scale and ambition.”

Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD., said: “I would like to sincerely thank the local Creative Ireland co-ordinators, the CEO’s, Directors of Services and all the Culture Teams in our Local Authorities who have been working so hard in recent months to help us realise some of the key ambitions in the Creative Ireland programme.’

Paul Reid, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council, said: ‘As local authorities we want to see all of our communities reaching their full potential and this means more than just providing services. It’s about enabling our citizens to lead creative and fulfilling lives.

“The Creative Ireland Programme has enabled us to work right across the various sectors – working together to create more than the sum of our parts.

“We see real opportunities in the continued roll-out of the Creative Ireland Programme. It allows us the space to try new things, to be truly innovative, to build creativity into how we look at other policy areas such as health, enterprise, education and outreach.

“Fingal has the fastest growing and youngest population in Ireland. The county is ethnically and culturally diverse with 16% of the population born outside of Ireland. We have a well-educated and skilled workforce to support economic development and innovation and a vibrant and active community of creative practitioners and artists.

“Our unique community and culture are at the heart of this strategy which, guided by public consultation, provides us with a roadmap to continue to develop inclusive programmes that provide opportunities for
people of all ages and backgrounds, across the county to develop their creativity and enhance their wellbeing through engaging in culture and arts in the broadest sense.

“We firmly believe that the implementation of the Fingal Culture and Creativity strategy will lead to a better Fingal and are firmly committed to delivering an exciting and meaningful programme.”

Full details of the Fingal Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 can be found at https://creative.ireland.ie.

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Photos:

Pic 1 Caption: Local Authority Culture teams and local coordinators attend the launch of the Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies 2018-22.

Pic 2: Local authorities, including Fingal, have launched the Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies 2018-22.

Media queries:

For further information contact press@fingal.ie.

Notes to Editors:

Creative Ireland is an all of Government five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. It is built around five pillars: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child; Enabling Creativity in Every Community; Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure; Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production; Unifying our Global Reputation. Each of the 31 Local Authority Culture and Creativity Strategies are available to download at creative.ireland.ie
Since the launch of the Creative Ireland Programme in December 2016, every Local Authority has established a Culture Team which includes arts officers, heritage officers, librarians, museum and gallery curators, led by a local Creative Ireland coordinator. Contact details for the coordinators can be found at creative.ireland.ie/network. Fingal’s Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 was developed by the Local Authority Culture Team and builds on available research and best practice in local, regional and international policy as well as existing culture related strategies relevant to Fingal.

The Creative Ireland Programme has invested a total of €5.8m in 2017 and 2018 across the 31 Local Authorities as part of Pillar 2 of the Programme. This includes €1m in 2017 and €2.8m (including Cruinniú na nÓg) in 2018 from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and €1m in 2017 and 2018 from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.