

Dublin UNESCO City of Literature, designated in 2010

Membership Monitoring Report for 2018 - 2021

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Lord Mayor's Message

It's over 11 years since Dublin received UNESCO status as a city of literature. This coveted achievement complements the vision for our city as being dynamic and sustainable with a vibrant cultural life.

Dublin's literary heritage continues to expand in the 21st century supported by festivals, organisations and the city's public libraries promoting ever emerging talent.

Through the Local, Economic & Community plans over the last 4 years, the city council has implemented the UNESCO sustainable development goals to promote equality and diversity which has helped to strengthen the local creative economy.

While the pandemic proved challenging for Dublin's citizens, the creative sector to their credit has found innovative ways to engage with artists and audiences during this time, a crucial factor to sustaining well-being.

As Dublin emerges from this period, we are committed to honouring our literary heritage and promoting our thriving literary scene. Our membership of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network can only enhance our status through sharing and learning with other Cities of Literature.

**Alison Gilliland,
Lord Mayor of Dublin City**



1. Executive Summary

Dublin was first designated as a UNESCO City of Literature in 2010 and has achieved a lot in the intervening years. Dublin City Council invested in creating an office for the designation and this office now has a team with five members, including two who administer the Dublin Literary Award.

The director is a member of Dublin City Libraries' management team reporting to the city librarian, Mairéad Owens, who is responsible for the management of the city libraries network of 21 branches including the Dublin UNESCO City of Literature office.

As with all cities, the period of 2018 to 2021 saw great change and challenge, as much of this time was spent adapting to the pandemic situation and the many ways in which it affected the literary sector and wider society. The office of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature is very proud of how we managed to continue with annual projects in many different guises, and to bring literature to the people of Dublin, and far beyond, through our great efforts to be innovative.

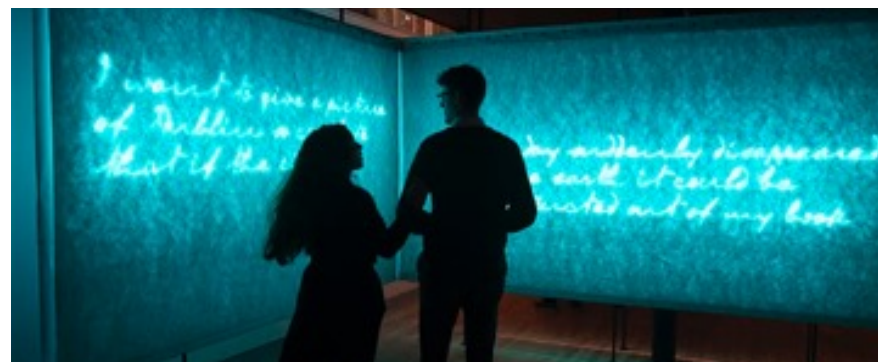
This period saw the development of a special three-year strategy, as the team moved to respond to the pandemic, to make stronger commitments in the area of representation and diversity, as well as support for living writers and marginalised groups.

September 2019 saw the opening of the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), an extremely ambitious project to bring a far reaching and influential new resource to the people of Dublin and visitors to our literary city. This museum now provides a myriad of services and features including Radio MoLI, resources

for teachers and school children, lifelong learning, a writer's bursary, as well as the very important work of showcasing Irish writing from past and present. The enormous financial commitment to making this project happen (undertaken by the National Library of Ireland and University College Dublin) shows how seriously Dublin takes its status as a City of Literature.

The Irish Government's Department of Culture showed its faith in the City of Literature office by continuing to financially support our programmes and projects and we thank them sincerely for this great endorsement. The next four years are set to see further creativity, innovation and hard work, with a new Director for the City of Literature office appointed at the end of 2021. We look forward to continuing to be an important and committed member of this network and to serving the people of Dublin into the future.

Alison Lyons, Director, Dublin UNESCO City of Literature
dublincityofliterature.ie



Viewing Dear Dirty Dublin, an exhibition at Museum of Literature Ireland, Dublin

2. General Information

City

Dublin

Country

Ireland

Creative Field

Literature

Date of Designation

2010

Date of Submission

December 2021

Entity Responsible for this Report

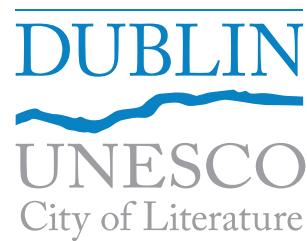
Dublin City Libraries, Dublin City Council

Previous Reports and Submission Dates

UNESCO Monitoring Report 2014 - 2017

Focal Point of Contact

Anne-Marie Kelly, Director, Dublin UNESCO city of Literature



"In Dublin, writers are everywhere and have always been everywhere. They are part of the fabric of the city. If you want to be a writer, the tracks are there, all you need to do is step into them"

Christine Dwyer-Hickey, author.

3. Contribution to the Programme's Global Management

Dublin has played an active role in the activities organised by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and has made a significant contribution to developing the network

<p>3.1 Participation in Annual UCCN Conferences</p>	<p>Dublin has attended conferences in person at Iowa City and Krakow in 2018, Fabriano and Norwich / Nottingham in 2019.</p> <p>Due to the pandemic, the office attended conferences online at Prague in 2020 and Reykjavik in 2021.</p>
<p>3.2 Hosting of a previous or future UCCN Annual Conference</p>	<p>Dublin last hosted the Cities of Literature annual meeting in 2016</p>
<p>3.3 Hosting and working / coordination meeting</p>	<p>Dublin did not host a working or coordination meeting in this 4 year period.</p>
<p>3.4 Hosting of international conference or meeting</p>	<p>Dublin did not host an international conference or meeting on specific issues salient to Creative Cities Network.</p>
<p>3.5 Financial and/or in-kind support</p>	<p>Salaries of the office of Dublin UNESCO City of Literature, amounting to in the region of €800,000 in this four year period, which have contributed to the strengthening of the work of UNESCO, support of the SDGs and dissemination of the positive message of the Creative Cities Network.</p>
<p>3.6 Serving as cluster co-ordination or deputy co-ordinator and period</p>	<p>The Director finished per term as deputy coordinator in 2018 following the Krakow meeting.</p>
<p>3.7 Participation in the Evaluation of Applications</p>	<p>The Director led the working group who evaluated the three Membership Monitoring Reports submitted to UNESCO in 2020. The director is fully involved in the evaluation of all applications every two years (eg. all eleven were evaluated by Dublin in 2021).</p>

4. MAJOR INITIATIVES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL & CITY LEVEL TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE UCCN

4.1 ONE DUBLIN ONE BOOK PROGRAMME

The Dublin One City One Book reading campaign began in 2006 as a project to encourage a love of reading for pleasure among the citizens of Dublin. It has featured some wonderful titles relating to Dublin over the years, from *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, to *The Country Girls* by Edna O'Brien. The campaign includes free public events, library book club meetings and a whole assortment of collaborative work by partner organisations throughout the city, from book shops to universities, to museums and galleries. The project benefits readers, writers, publishers, book sellers, venues and creatives and is one of the largest undertakings of the City of Literature team. Inclusivity is at the heart of Dublin One City One Book, with the title being available in as many formats as possible each year, including audio and Braille.

In response to UN SDG 5, Gender Equality, the City of Literature office moved to redress the gender imbalance in featured books and authors over the project's history, and in 2018 chose a book of thirty short stories by Irish women (*The Long Gaze Back*, edited by Sinead Gleeson.) All of the available living authors were invited to participate in the month-long event programme and to have their work showcased to a wider audience. Dublin City Libraries purchased additional copies of all of their extant publications and this year marked a new beginning for Dublin One City One Book, where diversity would become a strong consideration in choosing titles.

In 2021 a decision was made to re-brand the campaign as 'One Dublin One Book' to underline a sense of togetherness of the people of Dublin.

During the pandemic, the need to get the message out about the book became more important than ever, so great efforts were made in 2020 and 2021 to use on-street promotion such as digital screens and large fabric banners wrapping buildings. Social media was used to great effect to engage ever more readers and participants and the Irish print media and radio really came on board to support the campaign.



Edna O'Brien interviewed by author Colum McCann, April 2019

In 2021 there was a postcard initiative to complement that year's title Leonard and Hungry Paul by Rónán Hession, with free copies of the book delivered to hospital workers across the city, along with postcards to enable people to send their reviews of the book back to the City of Literature team.

The campaign was bigger and better than ever in 2021, though very different from the pre-pandemic era. The numbers of people engaged in online activity and book borrowing were larger than ever. Over 5,000 copies of the book were sold following the April campaign, which is an important aspect of the project, fulfilling its aims to support the publishing and bookselling sectors.

onedublinonebook.ie



Cover of Tatty on Liberty Hall, April 2020, Dublin

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This programme helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services

Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

4.2 CITYWIDE READ FOR CHILDREN

This reading project for children has been running since 2012 with the aim of promoting reading for pleasure for children of primary school age.

Each year a book is chosen by Dublin City of Literature - one that is engaging and will appeal to readers, reluctant and keen, and hundreds of copies are made available in Dublin City Libraries. Along with reading the book, children meet the author in person at events in their local library. There are also free events in galleries and other city centre locations.

This programme is a partnership between teachers, librarians and children, co-ordinated by staff in Dublin CoL. Between 2018 and 2021 over 4000 children attended organised events connected with the chosen book, and the Citywide Read title is always one of the most borrowed books of the year in Dublin City Libraries.

In 2018 the Citywide Read author Erika McGann was invited to the Canadian city of Shawinigan for their Passeport Pour L'Irlande, an annual programme of exhibitions and events around art, music, dance, history and literature, focusing on a different country each year. She took part in events in schools.

In 2019 the campaign ended with a high-profile event in Dublin's Merrion Square, part of St. Patrick's Festival. In 2020 the main event with the author and illustrator took place on World Book Day with 300 children from schools across Dublin attending, each bringing home a signed copy of the book (Boot by Shane Hegarty, illustrated by Ben Mantle) A special Boot activity booklet was produced and donated, along with bookmarks, to 'St. Vincent de Paul WordPower Initiative', which donates book packs to families in need. In 2021, due to Covid-19 restrictions the campaign went online which meant even more classes were able to participate in the zoom events with the author and illustrator.

"Citywide Read brings stories and the gift of reading to so many Dublin children, while reminding us that a library is at the heart of its community." Shane Hegarty, 2020 Citywide Read author

"This is my first time I saw an author and it's amazing!" (child attending event with Patricia Forde, Phibsboro Library, January 2019)



Erika McGann, city wide read author in 2018 at Pearse St. Library, Dublin

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This programme helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

4.3 DUBLIN BOOK FESTIVAL

The Dublin Book festival promotes Irish writing and Irish publishing, north and south of the border, and takes place every year in November, usually with in-person events though with a digital format in 2020 and hybrid in 2021. DUCoL director Alison Lyons has been a festival board member throughout this period and shares in the planning and programming of the festival every year. The audience has evolved over the years, with new partnerships being developed each year and existing ones nurtured and expanded. The festival worked with new venues to attract new audiences during the last four years, such as EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, The Science Gallery, National Botanic Gardens, and Dublin Port. Annual family events at the National Botanic Gardens are always fully subscribed, drawing an audience of 160 each year – showing a huge appetite for free literary family events in the city. All other children's and school events booked out in Smock Alley and the public library branches who were involved. The inclusion of children, families and schools is a crucial part of the festival every year as it works to grow new interest in reading among pre-school and school children and their families.

Every year the Dublin Book Festival includes a 'Reader's Day' series of author interviews and panels, sponsored by Dublin UNESCO City

of Literature. Writers of national and international reputation, such as John Boyne and Lesley Pearse, have taken part over the last four years, with great enthusiasm for this well-supported public event.

dublinbookfestival.com



This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

Improving access to and participation in cultural life

4.4 BOLD GIRLS GUIDE

Dublin UNESCO City of Literature was a major funder for this very important initiative in partnership with Children's Books Ireland.

To mark the centenary of women's suffrage in Ireland in 2018, Children's Books Ireland's BOLD GIRLS project got underway in late 2017 to celebrate strong, confident, intelligent, brave women and girls in children's books, giving them much needed visibility alongside their male counterparts.

The project comprised The BOLD GIRLS Reading Guide, an 88-page publication reviewing 122 children's books (in English and the Irish language) which feature strong women and girls, for readers aged 0–18. The guide is divided by age range, including non-fiction, poetry and books in the Irish language.

Each artist wrote a piece on becoming a 'BOLD GIRL'. The guide was made available to librarians, teachers, parents and anyone interested in children's books and reading throughout Ireland. We were very proud to be part of this project, which the director presented at the annual meeting in Krakow / Katowice in 2018.
childrensbooksireland.com



Bold Girls Guide & books at Ballyfermot Library, Dublin

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network Aim:

Improving access to and participation in cultural life

4.5 CHILDREN'S READER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

The Reader-in Residence programme is an innovative and exciting way of providing opportunities for positive engagement with reading and libraries for children living in inner-city Dublin.

Three experts in children's literature were employed in 2017 to undertake these valuable roles using funding from our partners in the North East Inner City Initiative. The programme continued on throughout 2018, with many positive results.

The project encouraged reading for pleasure by introducing children to a wide variety of high-quality, age-appropriate books from a range of authors and genres, in a very hands-on and intensive way. Two Readers were assigned to primary schools and one to work with teenagers in youth club settings.

Collectively the Readers have worked in 18 different venues across the north east inner city and delivered the programme to more than 1,400 children. Children have benefitted from being given the space and time to enjoy books and reading; from being introduced to authors and themes by experts in the area of children's and young adult literature; and in many cases

from being allowed to express a new found love of literature. It is hoped that all of these positive influences will lead to improvements in attitude to and appreciation for the written word and confer advantages on children and their wider families and communities.



Lord Mayor Nial Ring awards a young reader at Charleville Mall Library

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network Aim:

Improving access to and participation in cultural life in particular for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals

4.6 WORDS ON THE STREET

This event is a showcasing and celebration of European literature in translation and particularly honours the work of the translator. It is a unique event, involving a trail around different parts of the city each year, programmed in 2018 and 2019, with readings in a selection of interesting venues.

Typically the Trail is held across six venues in the Dublin city centre area, using places such as the National Library, Royal College of Physicians, Alliance Francaise, National Gallery and Instituto Cervantes. Literature in translation from nine countries is featured, with readings done by actors and broadcasters, including a very special translation into the Irish language each year.

Short biographical notes of all of the translators involved appear in each year's brochure, giving them equal attention with the originators of the various novels as a way to celebrate their work.

The total number for attendance at readings averaged 1,036, showing there is quite an appetite for literature in translation in the city, coupled with the opportunity to visit the various cultural venues.



On the Words on the Street Trail, 2019

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network Aims:

Strengthening the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

4.7 SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Over the course of the last four years, our Small Grants Programme has contributed to many literary projects in Dublin city with grants ranging from €500 to €7,000. Here is a selection from 2018 to 2021:

- The New Theatre, new writing programme for young emerging playwrights
- Swan River Press Ghost Story Festival
- Dublin Art Book Fair, organised by Temple Bar Gallery
- Production of Irish Women Writers' souvenir cards by At It Again!
- Children's Books Ireland book clinic scheme
- Raheny Writers' Group publication of creative writers' work
- Loco Por Lorca project by Cormac Breathnach with Granada City of Literature
- Five for Fifty play at the Dochas Centre Women's Prison
- Words That Bind Us at the St. Patrick's Festival
- Dante Festival 2019 with the Italian Cultural Institute
- Irish College Leuven, Belgium, writers in residence programme
- Poetry jukebox at EPIC
- Read Books from Ireland with WordWell
- Author lecturing trip to Sao Paolo

- An Urban Sketcher's Dublin
- Words Ireland mentoring programme for new writers
- Samhain children's Halloween festival of storytelling and crafts
- Water in a Time of Climate Change, artist project



Words that Bind Us poetry trail, St. Patrick's Festival, 2019

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Strengthening the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

5. Main International Initiatives

5.1 DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD

The DUBLIN Literary Award, with prize-money of €100,000, is presented annually for a novel written in English or translated into English and is the largest and most international project undertaken by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature.

The Award promotes excellence in world literature and is solely sponsored by Dublin City Council, and administered by Dublin City Libraries. Nominations are submitted by libraries from cities throughout the world. The award is now entering its 27th year and over the last four years in particular greater efforts have been made to increase the geographical spread of the nominating libraries.

Thanks to the UCCN, we have recently added Slemani UNESCO City of Literature as a contributor to the Award, along with Barcelona, Bucheon, Nanjing, Quebec City, Seattle and many others, with more to be added. Great care is taken each year to select judges from a diverse range of nationalities, cultures and areas of experience.

In February 2020, to mark 25 years of the Dublin Literary Award, a special event was held in Georgetown University, Washington DC featuring Emily Ruskovich, American author, and Colum McCann, Irish author who were previous winners of the Award. Deputy Lord

Mayor of Dublin, Tom Brabazon accompanied Dublin City Librarian, Mairead Owens and Director, Alison Lyons to this celebration and attended a reception at the Irish Embassy in Washington hosted by His Excellency, Dan Mulhall.

The Award has pivoted successfully to cope with the pandemic crisis and managed to continue without a break during 2020 and 2021. Due to the winners in 2020 and 2021 being resident outside of Ireland,

the City of Literature office reached out to colleagues from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and collaborated on award ceremonies in London and Washington DC, creating very special online events to mark these occasions and include as wide an international audience as possible.

dublinliteraryaward.ie
ilfdublin.com

Dublin Literary Award winners during the last four year period:

- 2018 – Solar Bones by Mike McCormack (Ireland)
- 2019 – Idaho by Emily Ruskovich (United States)
- 2020 – Milkman by Anna Burns (Northern Ireland)
- 2021 – Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli (United States / Mexico)

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



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Strengthening the creation, production, distribution and dissemination of cultural activities, goods and services

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broaden opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

5.2 ABUJA PARTNERSHIP

UNESCO requested volunteer cities in 2021 to work within a partnership framework with aspirant Creative Cities and Dublin volunteered to work with Abuja, Nigeria. This has led to very fruitful results regarding new relationships between the two cities and great plans for the future. DUCoL director, Alison Lyons, made connections with the Irish Embassy in Nigeria, which led to new relationships being formed on the ground in Abuja as embassy staff were very enthusiastic about reaching out to local creatives involved with the project to join the network.

This partnership has led to the inclusion of the National Library of Nigeria in our nominating library network for the Dublin Literary Award. This is a great achievement for the Award which, up until now, only had involvement from South African libraries, due to the difficulty with making meaningful connections with library colleagues at such a far remove. The Dublin Literary Award has also benefited by Professor Emmanuel Dandaura joining the judging panel for the 2022 Award. This is a positive move in the direction of greater diversity in the book shortlisting process, as the Award continues to seek judges from a broader range of countries and cultures.

The two cities plan for a strong Nigerian component in the 2022

International Literature Festival Dublin and DUCoL has applied for funding for its plans to bring Nigerian authors to the festival, which will be a great coup for the festival programme, and a strong driver of further inclusion when it comes to Dublin audiences attending events.



Online event between Dublin UNESCO COL & Abuja, Nigeria (applicant city in 2021).

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

5.3 SEODA (Irish for Jewels): LITERATURE IRELAND INTERNATIONAL TRANSLATION PROJECT 2021

This is a virtual translation residency where work by Irish authors in the English language is translated into Korean, Portuguese, Canadian French and Icelandic by translators of the chosen cities of literature, funded by Dublin UNESCO City of Literature. The cities were free to use any method they wished for choosing their translator, by competition or commission, with the final decision being entirely up to them. Dublin chose short stories by renowned Irish writers for translation.

This project was begun in 2021 and is to conclude in 2022 with the online publication of the finished stories, with further plans to print these in hard copy as chap books for dissemination at international book fairs by our partners in Literature Ireland.

literatureireland.com



Wendy Erskine, from Belfast whose short story will be translated into Icelandic by Ingunn Snaedal

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

5.4 ISLA FESTIVAL

Dublin UNESCO City of Literature is involved in the Irish Spanish and Latin American festival every year, in partnership with the Instituto Cervantes, Dublin. This is long standing partnership with the Instituto and an ideal way in which to work together to bring the literature of the Spanish speaking world to Dublin. DUCoL sponsors literary panel events annually with writers and speakers visiting from Latin America and Spain every year, and helps in the promotion of the festival with our social media, website and through the network of Dublin City Library branches.

Irish writers who featured on ISLA online 2021 included Patrick Freyne, Louise Nealon and Catherine Dunne. Featured Spanish language authors included Bruno Lloret, Olga Merino and Victor Andresco.

dublin.cervantes.es



This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



Project 5.4 helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services

Improving access to and participation in cultural life

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

5.5 POETIC ENCOUNTERS

This special book was produced to mark the XII UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) meeting in Krakow and Katowice in 2018. 'Poetic Encounters', initiated by Heidelberg UNESCO City of Literature and Fabriano UNESCO City of Crafts and Folk Art, is a specially bound and printed anthology celebrating literature and its vital place in world culture. 51 poets from 28 UNESCO Cities of Literature came together to celebrate the collaborative spirit which lies at the core of the UCCN and to support linguistic diversity through poetic expressions from around the world.

Ireland's Professor of Poetry (2016-2018), Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and fellow Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill were invited to come to the Reading Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, to reproduce a poem in their own handwriting on handmade paper from Fabriano. It was important to choose one poem in the Irish language in order to mark Bliain na Gaeilge (Year of Irish) 2018. The poems on the handmade paper were posted to Heidelberg, where they were then bound into the World Poetry Book before being presented to Krakow City of Literature at the annual conference of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in June 2018.



Poet Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill



Poet Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



Project 5.5 helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services

Improving access to and participation in cultural life

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

5.6 BOOKCITY MILAN

DUCoL was invited to bring a small delegation to Milan for the annual BookCity festival, which encompasses 1,400 events across a host of varied locations in the city. Milan is our sister City of Literature and the organisers wished to invite another city from the network as part of its theme for 2018. Dublin was chosen as the first city to be included and the delegation comprised of Director, Alison Lyons, along with Sinéad MacAodha from Literature Ireland and Mike McCormack, author of *Solar Bones*, the winner of the 2018 International Dublin Literary Award. Writer Sara Baume was also present for an event, as was Renata Sperandio from the Istituto Italiano di Cultura. There were other events during the festival themed around Irish poetry and writing in general. The visit was a great success, with Alison presenting on the work of DUCoL to an interested audience in the Laboratorio Formentini.

Exchanges like this help to strengthen the connection between cities of the network and build on relationships.



Alison Lyons, Director of DUCOL, at BookCity Festival, Milan, 2018

This project contributes to the advancement of the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:



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Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services

Improving access to and participation in cultural life

Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

6. ACTION PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING MID-TERM PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS

6.1 MAIN INITIATIVES AT LOCAL LEVEL

Within the Literature Creative Field:

6.1.1 We will continue to organise the popular annual One Dublin One Book reading initiative celebrating writers and reading and reflective of diversity and inclusion. This civic programme celebrates a contemporary writer, supports publishing industry and contributes to the creative economy and cultural life of Dublin.

6.1.2 We will develop projects to encourage teenagers to read and write for pleasure. The office will explore connections with second-level schools in disadvantaged areas of Dublin liaising with school librarians, educators and the local writing community. These projects will improve access to and participation in cultural life for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and will foster youth engagement and gender equality.

Connection with another Creative Field:

6.1.3 We will research and deliver a self-guided literary trail using principles of art, design and technology promoting Dublin's high literary value to local and international audiences. Liaising with Dublin local authority's smart technology unit, art and design creatives and innovation hubs, this action will strengthen the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services.

6.2 MAIN INITIATIVES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

6.2.1 Now, in its 27th year the Dublin Literary Award is known for its reader centred perspective and is a bridge to connecting readers from around the globe. We will continue to grow and develop the Dublin Literary Award to include a wider spread of cities nominating books, with the help of the Creative Cities Network and our Dept. of Foreign Affairs contacts around the world. We will aim to add a minimum of three libraries in new cities each year.

6.2.2 Dublin City's local authority has plans to renovate the ancestral home of George Bernard Shaw. This new literary space will welcome writers from other countries through residencies. We will aim to include writers from under represented countries in the Network through programmes and projects.

6.2.3 Most importantly, we will continue to play an active role in the network by helping with working groups, meetings, plans and strategies that help further the aims of the Creative Cities Network.



Birthplace of George Bernard Shaw, Synge Street

6.3 ESTIMATED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

These figures are estimates only, as budgets from both our funders are allocated on an annual basis, at the beginning of each calendar year. Because the Irish Government has made provisions for the Arts during the pandemic, we expect not to have a reduction in funding, based on recent figures for 2020 and 2021. Salaries for the City of Literature team are paid in full by Dublin City Council, who also provide office space, funding for business travel, and all of the infrastructure required to run the designation. This amounts to a substantial in-kind sum.

Programming Budget:

Funder	Amount per year	Total for 2022 - 2025
Dublin City Council	€100,000	€400,000
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	€85,000	€340,000

6.4 PLAN FOR COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Our website dublincityofliterature.ie has served us well but we feel it is now time to reinvigorate this resource and update its look and usability. This project will be undertaken in 2022.
- Our colleagues in Dublin City Libraries have recently instated a new communications team, who work closely with our City of Literature team to disseminate news about the work of our office to all stakeholders and wider audiences. They use the various social media channels at their disposal as well as regular newsletters outlining recent achievements, events and happenings in the literary world. We plan to grow audiences and increase numbers subscribed to the newsletters.
- We will develop our relationship with the International Literature Festival Dublin (ILFD) in the context of the Dublin Literary Award and use this partnership to widen audience participation in online award events.
- We will work with our City of Literature colleagues to further develop all communications plans, especially relating to international designated days of celebration and any other opportunity to share the news of the work of our network.

ANNEX

[1. STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2022](#)

[2. LITERARY DUBLIN IN FOCUS:](#)

[Highlights from literary venues in Dublin City from 2018 - 2021](#)

2. LITERARY DUBLIN IN FOCUS 2018 - 2021

International Literature Festival Dublin (ILFD)

ILFD, an initiative of Dublin City Council, is one of the leading cultural events in Ireland. It has run over 24 editions, and its mission is to create life-changing experiences through the power of words and ideas and reaches diverse audiences of all ages. ILFD celebrates Dublin's UNESCO City of Literature designation with globally renowned and outstanding new authors, thinkers, activists, translators and artists. As the festival has grown, it has developed dynamic programming partnerships that are both locally relevant and globally connected, including with the world-renowned Dublin Literary Award, with the winner being announced during the festival from 2020 onwards.

In 2018, ILFD presented one of its most successful festivals to date, with a high media profile and record box office numbers for two headline events with Neil Gaiman and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The diverse international programming continued into 2019, with an expanding range of partnerships, alongside new writing commissions.

The Covid-19 pandemic instigated our first online festival in 2020, a highly successful programme that featured events with Ai Weiwei, Roxane Gay and a celebration of Tim Robinson, alongside enhanced audio content including podcasts and audio walks. This continued with another fully online edition of the festival in May 2021, for which we welcomed a new Children and Families Programmer, Janet Smyth, and an expanding global reach for our events.

lfdublin.com



Asking author Elizabeth Strout a question at OFF the page event , Nov. 2019

The Joyce Centre

The aim of the James Joyce Culture Centre is to promote the life, literature and legacy of one of Dublin's and the world's greatest writers, James Joyce. The centre is open daily to visitors who can tour the beautiful Georgian townhouse located in Dublin's north City Centre and see its permanent collection of Joyce artefacts, furniture, artworks and photographs. There is also a temporary art exhibition space for Joyce themed exhibits. Walking tours of Joyce's Dublin hosted by guides from the Centre is very popular. The centre hosts academic lectures and performances, courses, reading groups, student group tours and Joycean summer schools. The James Joyce Centre also runs the Bloomsday Festival each June to celebrate the date, June 16th on which Joyce's novel Ulysses was set.

From 2018/2019 all activities took place in the James Joyce Cultural Centre. The focus was on international visitors to the centre and for walking tours and small domestic audiences for lectures, reading groups, courses and performance events. For the Bloomsday Festival, it partnered with cultural and tourist organisations throughout the city.

During 2020/2021, Irish government covid restrictions meant that nearly all activity went online and was created in digital format. This was a difficult transition to make and required increased funding and staffing. However, accessibility for both our domestic and international audiences greatly increased. Online courses meant that participation could increase from 20 to 80 students.

In 2020, our Bloomsday festival audience participation went from 18,000 to 85,000. Our 3 part spring lecture series went from 60 people in-house to over 1,400 online live participants and those who accessed our new digital archive. It has given the James Joyce

Centre an opportunity to look towards greater domestic audience engagement and in particular outreach programs with local schools

for primary and second-level students and partnerships with Dublin City Libraries. A greater online focus has meant widening of the reach of the centre to a global audience for Joyce and has increased the importance of our work as an international hub for Joycean activity.

jamesjoyce.ie



Enjoying a tour outside the James Joyce Centre

Irish Writers Centre

The Irish Writers Centre is the national resource organisation for writers on the island of Ireland. Since 1991, we have provided courses, information and resources to meet the needs of writers from all forms and genres. Our mission is to support, promote and inform writers at all stages of their development, through creative writing courses, membership, professional training, information, mentoring and networking.

XBorders means across borders, and also, no borders. Unique to the Irish Writers Centre, XBorders is a collaborative programme for 18 emerging writers north and south to come together in Dublin and other locations, participating in a facilitated process where they are mentored, exposed to new content ideas, and are guided towards writing and performing to professional standards. Nollaig na mBan is Irish for “Women’s Christmas”. In Ireland, where women traditionally put up their feet on January 6th and let their husbands cook and clean! We, at the Irish Writers Centre, in a subversion of this scene of domestic bliss, invite women writers to rant their commissioned pieces from a soapbox, swop books and drink wine. This is a much-loved IWC event, which takes place in Dublin each year.

Writing For A Change is an Irish Writers Centre initiative which raises attention to climate change. Over the years, we’ve partnered with the National Botanic Gardens and others to invite the creation and performance of new Irish and English language pieces which address environmental issues and encourage positive climate action in writing.

Women XBorders, an adjunct to XBorders, invites over 100 women from all corners of our island to come to the Irish Writers Centre Georgian building in Dublin to celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8th of each year with readings and workshops, so that women writers of all types and talents can meet, share and network.

irishwriterscentre.ie



Women's Christmas at Irish Writers Centre 2019

Literature Ireland

Literature Ireland promotes Irish writers and writing abroad. Established in 1994, it runs a translation grant programme, coordinates the Irish national stand at the London and Frankfurt book fairs, publishes a range of promotional materials – including the New Writing from Ireland catalogue, three series of Irish author portraits and its Talking Translation podcasts – collaborates on international literature projects, supports the participation of Irish writers at events and festivals around the world, and offers professional development opportunities to literary translators.

2018 First Lines: Photographer John Minihan was commissioned to take portrait photographs of Irish writers to showcase the wealth of contemporary Irish writing when promoting authors abroad. The authors featured include Mike McCormack, winner of the 2018 Dublin Literary Award, Sally Rooney, winner of the Book of the Year at the British Book Awards, Colin Barrett, recipient of the 2014 Guardian First Book Award, Lisa McNerney, winner of the 2016 Bailey Women's Prize for Fiction, and Danielle McLaughlin, recipient of a 2019 Windham-Campbell Prize.

2020 Talking Translations: A Podcast of Irish Literature in Translation to ensure that the work of Irish writers continued to reach audiences around the world during the pandemic, in 2020 Literature Ireland developed its Talking Translation series of podcasts. Each podcast pairs an Irish writer reading a recent piece of work with an established literary translator reading from a specially commissioned translation of the work. The first series was launched in July 2020 and featured Mary Costello, Wendy Erskine and Sara Baume, translated respectively into Spanish, Danish and German by Isabel Puente Lozano, Sara Koch and Anna-Nina Kroll. Since then, the podcasts have gone on to include an exciting range of writers – including Kevin Barry,

Caoilinn Hughes, Philip O'Ceallaigh, Niamh Campbell, Rónán Hession, Rosemary Jenkinson, John O'Donnell, Lucy Caldwell, Adrian Duncan and Michelle Gallen.

2021 Summer Translation Workshops

As the pandemic and related restrictions continued into 2021, Literature Ireland was unable to run its usual programme of translator residencies. In order to continue providing professional development opportunities for international translators, it established a pilot summer school programme for literary translators in 2021, featuring expert tutors delivering a week-long series of workshops in four languages: French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Run over Zoom, the workshops were attended by newly qualified or early career literary translators as well as by more experienced translators looking to refocus their work on Irish literature and proved popular with positive feed-back.

literatureireland.com



Author, Tadhg Mac Dhonnagáin reads Uinseann Donn with Sadhbh Devlin and Wang Yanli for Chinese New Year 2019

The National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland shares the story of Ireland with the world through its unique collections, offering unparalleled access to literary collections onsite and online. These are explored through tours, workshops, readings, talks and performances for audiences of all ages, often in partnership with programmes such as One City One Book. During pandemic-related closures in 2020 and 2021, much of this activity pivoted online, reaching new audiences world-wide.

In 2018, the National Library opened the exhibition Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again, at a new venue at the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre in the heart of Dublin. Séamus Heaney, poet, won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1995.

In 2019, a partnership between the National Library and University College Dublin created the Museum of Literature Ireland on St Stephen's Green. These new award-winning venues complement the National Library's existing exhibition Yeats: The Life and Work of William Butler Yeats, and have welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors.

nli.ie



*Listen Now Again , Seamus Heaney Exhibition , National Library Ireland
(Credit Photo : Andrew Lee)*

Poetry Ireland

Poetry Ireland connects poetry and people. We are committed to achieving excellence in the reading, writing and performance of poetry throughout the island of Ireland. Poetry Ireland receives support from The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon and The Arts Council of Northern Ireland and we enjoy rewarding partnerships with arts centres, festivals, schools, colleges and bookshops at home and abroad.

Since 2018 Poetry Ireland have particularly focussed on primary and post-primary schools throughout the island of Ireland via our extensive education programme. In October 2019 Catherine Ann Cullen was appointed as Poetry Ireland's inaugural Poet in Residence. The Poet in Residence role is part of an exciting neighbourhood project which engages with the many communities throughout Dublin's north inner-city.

In 2020 Poetry Ireland partnered with the Poetry Foundation, to support collaboration between our organisations to enhance services for poets, artists, children, young people, and audiences and to better connect respective communities.

In September 2021 Poetry Ireland launched one of its most ambitious projects to date, Poetry Town. The ambition was to make poetry the beating heart of community life in 20 'Poetry Towns' across the island of Ireland. The people and communities of each Poetry Town celebrated poetry in their everyday lives and surroundings, created communal experiences, and celebrated the pride, strength, and diversity of each town.

In 2022 Poetry Ireland with the Irish Heritage Trust will embark on ambitious and innovative plans for the redevelopment of our expansive Georgian townhouse to house the Poetry Ireland Centre; a resource centre dedicated to celebrating, supporting, and promoting poetry in all its forms.

poetryireland.ie



Creative Writing Workshop with a Second Level school



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media