



Arts Plan extension to 2029

Sustaining focus, achieving ambitions

Strategic Policy Committee

Thursday 18 September 2025



**This presentation makes the case to extend
Fingal County Council's Arts Plan 2019 – 2025
until 2029**



Rationale in summary

- 01 On-going relevance of current Arts Plan
- 02 Alignment with County Development Plan to 2029
- 03 Opportunity to synchronise new Arts Plan with new 2030 Development Plan
- 04 Opportunity to be informed by and respond to pending new national arts policies
- 05 Need for immediate focus on County's investment in cultural infrastructure

WITH DUE CARE AND ATTENTION TO RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES AND PUBLIC MONEY



Arts Plan 2019 – 2025

A quick recap and context



Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 | very well-informed

The Arts Plan was developed following **extensive consultation** with

- Arts, Culture, Heritage and Community Strategic Policy Committee
- elected members of Fingal County Council
- senior management within Fingal County Council
- the public
- members of the Public Participation Network
- primary and post primary schools and Comhairle na nÓg
- local professional and amateur artists, organisations or groups
- local creative and cultural practitioners



Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 | launched Nov 2019

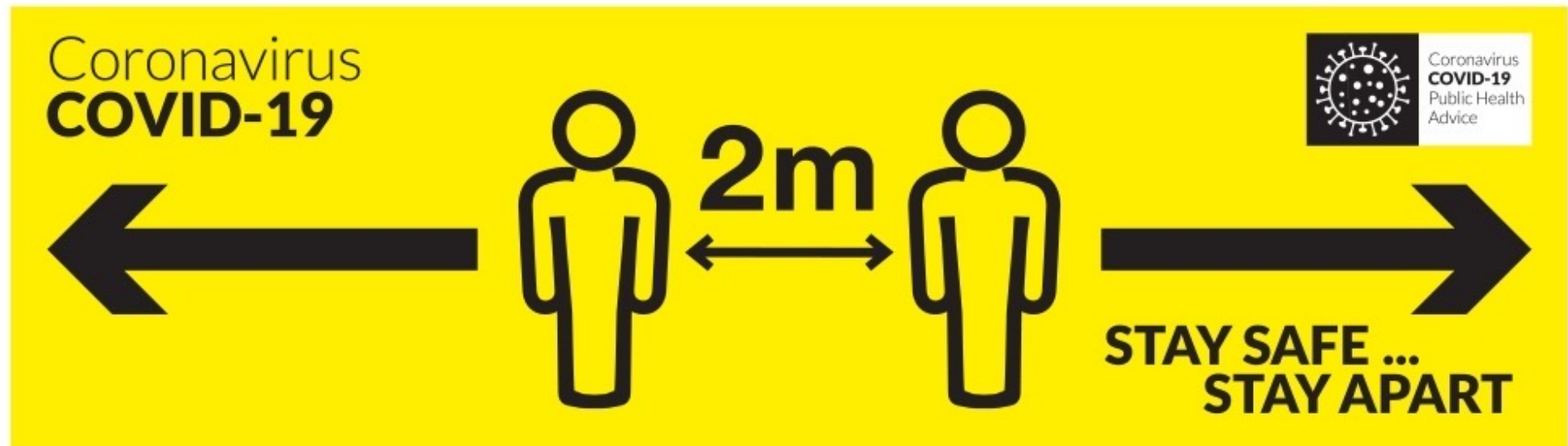


'... the arts are essential to the life and wellbeing of our community.'

We are proud of our service which continues to help shape the culture of our county and to make it a better place to live, work and visit'.

AnnMarie Farrelly, Chief Executive

Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 | and then CRISIS AND CHANGE ...



ALSO

CHANGED DIRECTORATE, **CHANGED** ARTS OFFICER,
CHANGED ARTS OFFICE CAPACITY



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

01 Ongoing relevance

01. Relevance | Purpose and vision still hold true



OUR PURPOSE

**To bring the arts to life in Fingal
and Fingal to life through the arts**

OUR VISION

**A county where the arts are valued
in people's everyday lives**





01. Relevance | Strategic goals remain County priorities

MAKING SPACE FOR ART

**CONNECTING PEOPLE
AND IDEAS**

MAKING SPACE FOR ART / CONNECTING PEOPLE AND IDEAS



01. Relevance | Strategic priorities remain County priorities



MAKING SPACE FOR ART

**CONNECTING PEOPLE
AND IDEAS**

ENABLING EXCELLENCE

DEVELOPING OUR CAPACITY



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

02 Alignment with Development Plan

Arts Plan aligned with Development Plan Vision

At the core of the vision is healthy placemaking, building cohesive and sustainable communities, where our cultural, natural and built environment is protected.

Fingal will continue to be a County of **distinctive environmental, historical and cultural assets and local communities**, with sustainable development fostering **a high-quality of life for those who live, work and visit here**.

In working to deliver all of this, we are **committed to engaging with stakeholders**, including local communities and residents to develop better solutions to the complex challenges we face and provide an **improved quality of life for all**.



Arts Plan propelling action on each cross-cutting theme



- ✓ **Climate Action**
- ✓ **Healthy place-making and sustainable development**
- ✓ **Social inclusion**
- ✓ **High quality design**



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

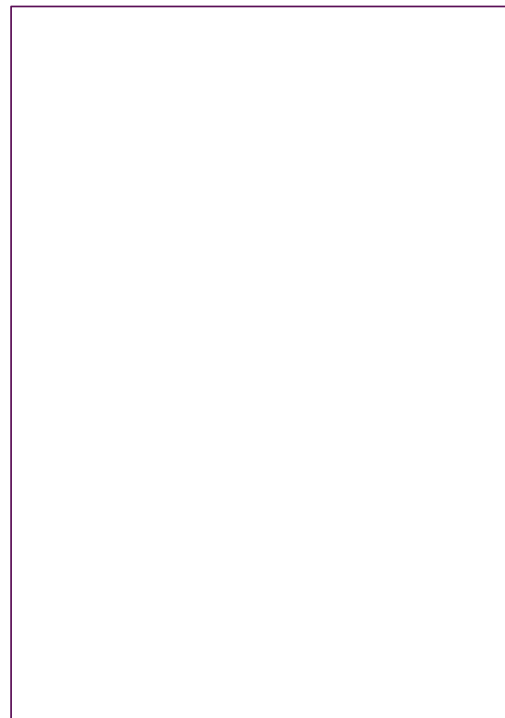
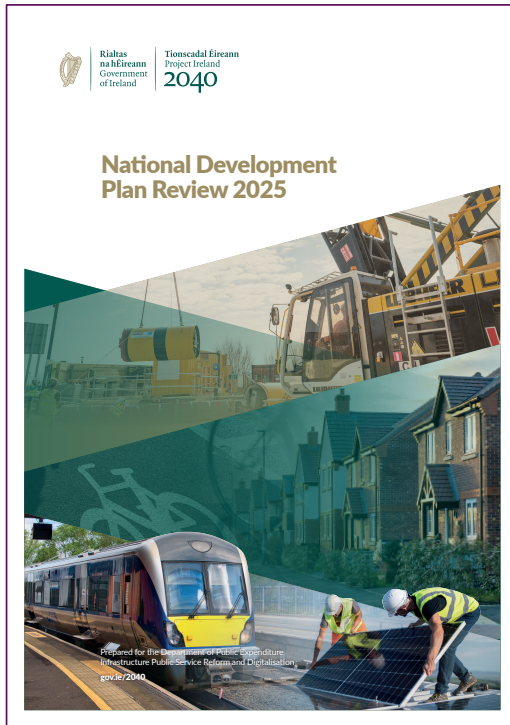
03 Opportunity to synchronise new Arts Plan and new Development Plan to ensure the vision for the County



Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

04 Opportunity to be informed by and respond to new national arts policies

National policies pending | Creative Ireland ending or evolving



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme





Extending the Arts Plan to 2029

05 Need for immediate focus on County's investment in cultural infrastructure

What matters most in the next few years



**We secure the success of Fingal County Council's
€40+ million investment in cultural infrastructure**



Also: 2 – 4 Dublin Street, Balbriggan



To secure Fingal's investment in cultural infrastructure



The Arts Office must also be builders

We must invest time, imagination and resources to build the interest and enthusiasm of the public and the capacity of amateur and professional artists and arts organisations to engage with Fingal's new cultural spaces.



In conclusion

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A decision to extend the Arts Plan to 2029 makes sense because of:

- ✓ The **on-going relevance** of the current Arts plan and its alignment with priorities of the current Development Plan to 2029
- ✓ The opportunity to **synchronise development** of a new Arts Plan alongside a new County Development Plan
- ✓ The opportunity to be **informed by and respond to** new national arts policies
- ✓ The immediate **need to focus on** the County's **investment in cultural infrastructure**



I look forward to your comments or questions

Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer