

## Arts and Culture

Culture is one of the main elements in a city's identity. Through its culture a city is defined and its unique place in the world illustrated. Culture is a key factor in attracting people to live, work and visit and is an essential ingredient in local place-making and quality of life for its citizens. For many generations Irish artists, especially novelists, playwrights, poets, musicians and visual artists have been instrumental in establishing our cultural identity in the world.

Dublin City Council's policies and objectives in the next Development Plan must be strong and ambitious enough to support, facilitate and encourage investment in quality cultural infrastructure in the city, allow for the development of a leading cultural capital where the cultural needs of all citizens are met and support a city which is capable of attracting talented, international workers for the city's growing economy.

### Culture and Creative Economies

Cultural and creative economies are major sectors in Dublin City's economy and competitiveness and are key elements in creating jobs and wealth. A major challenge for the city is to

recognise the competition from other international cities in attracting talented workers and ensure that the cultural experience of the city is as rich as that of other cities.

### Cultural Facilities

Dublin City would benefit from a greater range of cultural facilities such as libraries, living and working spaces for artists, galleries, exhibition space, outdoors event spaces etc. All new developments should positively contribute to the cultural life of the city.

### The Spread of Cultural Activity

There are smaller, discrete areas in the city that are building up as hubs of cultural activity as well as larger cultural quarters. Every effort should be made to support and expand existing and emerging clusters of culture, artistic energy, innovation and knowledge throughout the city, both in the city centre, the suburbs and particularly in regeneration areas.

### Cultural Inclusion

The city is now home to about 75,000 persons of non-Irish nationality. Issues that relate to the cultural needs of the City's new communities as well as its existing citizens that are currently 'culturally excluded' should be addressed. Participation in the cultural life of the city by a wider spectrum of the city's population should be encouraged.

### The Irish Language

Efforts should be made to ensure that the Irish language features more prominently in the cultural life of the city thus allowing for a richer cultural environment in the capital.

### Public Art

Public art can improve the attractiveness of an area by creating points of interest and a sense of place in the environment. It can add to the overall quality of life of an area, gain profile for emerging artists and raise the profile of a development.

### Outdoor Festivals and Events

Outdoors events and festivals have increased enormously in the last few years in the city. Such activities need to be supported by fit-for-purpose venues, supporting infrastructure and need to be well managed, financed and maintained.

### Night Culture

Cultural activity in the evenings and at night is a key attribute of an attractive and successful city. Dublin City Council is keen to build on the success of 'Culture Night' in the City.



## Arts and Culture: The Big Picture Questions

- How can culture provision and promotion be used and enhanced to retain a talented and highly mobile workforce?
- How can the Development Plan help develop and support the growth of cultural and creative industries in the city (e.g. filmmaking, digital media)?
- Is it feasible that cultural infrastructure be provided 'as standard' in large developments? For example, to address the shortfall on library provision.
- What is the role of cultural quarters and clusters, both large and small, in the city? Should additional clusters and quarters be encouraged?
- What policies could be incorporated into the Development Plan to allow for the Irish language to feature more prominently in the cultural life of the city?
- Are the cultural needs of the 'New Irish' different than the cultural needs of the indigenous population? If so, how can planning help in meeting such needs?
- How can the Development Plan serve to support the living, working exhibition needs of artists in the city, particularly emerging artists?
- How can planning exploit the potential of culture in urban regeneration, community planning, social inclusion and place-making?
- How can we facilitate the provision of multi-functional, fit-for-purpose outdoor spaces for festivals and events?
- How can the Development Plan encourage a vibrant 'Night Culture' (e.g. Cultural Night) in the city while also ensuring that the residential amenities of adjacent areas are protected?
- How can we support educational initiatives which serve to enhance the promotion and development of cultural and creative awareness and skills?

**What do you think? Have we left out any of The Big Picture issues?**

**We want to hear your views...**

