

Tipperary A Place for the Arts

Tipperary Arts Strategy 2023 - 2027



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council



CONTENTS

SECTION 1 A PLACE FOR THE ARTS	P.9
SECTION 2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK	P.17
SECTION 3 OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES ARISING FROM THE CONSULTATION PROCESS	P.25
SECTION 4 VISION, MISSION AND CORE PRINCIPLES	P.31
SECTION 5 STRATEGIC APPROACH AND PRIORITIES	P.35
SECTION 6 DELIVERING THE ARTS STRATEGY AND FUNDING; EVALUATION AND REVIEW	P.53
SECTION 7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	P.59

Foreword

Our recent past has clearly demonstrated the value of the arts in all our lives and has underlined the need for ongoing support for opportunities to engage with each other creatively, socially and as a community. The value of creativity in a modern, technological era is well understood as we face many new global challenges.

This new Arts Strategy for Tipperary, through which we will IMAGINE, INSPIRE and INVEST in the future of the arts, has been developed through conversation and dialogue with the sector and the communities on which it will impact in the coming years. We are grateful to all who contributed to its development through engagement with our arts team.

The arts have an important role to play across many of our local authority and development functions and contribute significantly to the social and economic fabric of our county, contributing to the health, well-being and quality of life of our communities and citizens.

A vibrant arts and cultural sector contributes to building strong and resilient communities and contributes to the local economy through enhanced opportunities for cultural tourism and through the development of the creative industries. The arts can also play a role in regeneration; enhancing and creatively responding to challenges identified through urban planning and design. As outlined in our planned strategic approach to arts development, we look forward to working in partnership with others in making Tipperary a better place through the arts.

Our recently published Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 identifies the importance of the preservation and evolution of local cultural identity and distinctiveness. Investment in the ideas emanating from the county, in the development of artists, cultural producers and arts organisations is crucial in building creative communities and individuals and in ensuring *A Place for the Arts* in Tipperary.

Cllr Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach
Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive



Yonit Kosovske's Rocking project.
Photographer: Lucy Dawson.

Section 1

A Place for the Arts



Tipperary County Council's second all-county Arts Strategy (2023 – 2027) builds on a strong legacy of over two decades of arts provision in the county and aims to maximise opportunities for arts development in the years ahead. The Arts Office has worked consistently since its establishment to support and develop programmes and practices which enable artists, cultural producers, organisations and communities to realise their artistic ambitions, with a view to making Tipperary a better place through the arts.

This is achieved through Local Authority investment, which supports the arts infrastructure to deliver access to the arts across the county, and the provision of grant aid through a range of arts grant schemes which support groups and organisations to engage with the arts. In addition, directly managed, developmental, annual arts programmes address gaps and identified needs in arts provision.

Working with a range of partners and stakeholders, Tipperary Arts Office aims to improve the artistic life of the county by integrating the arts into the County Council's overall cultural, social and economic development policies to ensure the arts are central to civic life.

The arts and creativity in a society are an expression of our culture, distinctive local identity and our people. Often presented in a range of forms and contexts, the arts can be fluid, responsive, challenging, thought provoking, enjoyable, enabling and transformative. The arts also have an important role to play in contributing to the health, well-being and quality of life of citizens.

The first Tipperary Arts Strategy developed a new working model for a new administrative area following the merger of North and South Tipperary County Councils in 2014. A strategic partnership-based approach to arts development was adopted, where points of alignment exist between the Council and other agencies. This approach will continue to guide the work of the Tipperary Arts Office in the coming years to creatively support the broader development work of the local authority and to harness the potential for attracting increased investment in the arts and in community engagement.



This second strategy has been developed as we emerge from an unprecedented period of flux and uncertainty created by the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic highlighted the value of the arts to society in people's need to turn to film, literature, music, and the arts generally, for comfort and solace and as an expression of our humanity through difficult times. We have seen needs shift rapidly and have had to be responsive and creative in our thinking and approaches to new models of delivery, communication and expression. While the challenges faced by the arts sector were enormous, some opportunities also emerged, which we can build upon in the years ahead. We have delivered new all-county networking opportunities via zoom, out of necessity, but which have borne fruitful collaborations in a county of this size; we have worked with the commercial music sector in the county in rolling out Department funded Covid-19 supports which has fostered new working relationships; we have re-connected with nature and the outdoors which has provided positive opportunities to develop new outdoor spaces for the arts and a new willingness to engage in more outdoor arts activity.

Tipperary – A Place for the Arts provides a roadmap for Tipperary County Council to continue its work to support an environment where the arts can flourish to the benefit of artists, cultural producers, local communities and visitors to the county.



Above: Children from Gaelscoil Thiobraid Arann, during the filming of *TRIBE*, a film by Jazmin Chiodi, Alexandre Iseli, Lucy Dawson and Shane Vaughan (2021).
Photographer: Alexandre Iseli.

Below: Big Bang Drumming Workshop, Culture Night 2022, Tipperary Museum of Hidden History.
Photographer: John Kelly.

Tipperary County

Tipperary, with a population of 167,661 is one of the most populated rural counties nationally. The landscape, which includes a range of densely populated urban areas in addition to more geographically dispersed rural locations, presents challenges in how arts provision is considered and delivered across the county.

6th

largest County by area

14,000

over identified as a nationality other than Irish

TIPPERARY RESIDENTS

11th

largest by population

62.7%

live in rural areas

4,282km²

2016 census

37.3%

live in urban areas

167,661

2021 census



Section 2

Legislative and Policy Framework

The arts as defined in the Arts Act 2003, incorporate “any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and including in particular, visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture and includes any medium when used for those purposes.”¹

Section 6 of the Arts Act 2003 requires Local Authorities to prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within their functional areas. In doing so, Local Authorities may provide financial or other assistance in respect of activities, projects or undertakings for the purposes of stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting knowledge appreciation and practice of the arts or improving standards in the arts within their functional area.

1 Arts Act 2003, Section 6



Above: Print Workshop with Suzannah O’Reilly at Loreto Secondary School Clonmel. Photographer: Suzannah O’Reilly.

Below: Craig Mullins Drawing Workshop, TUS Clonmel, Culture Night 2022. Photographer: Dr. Marie Walsh.

2.1 NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media provides the resource, policy and legislative framework to support the stimulation and development of the Arts in Ireland.

The goal of the Department’s Arts Division is to enhance access to and to recognise the social and economic role of the arts, culture and film sectors in Ireland by promoting and encouraging artistic expression, cultural awareness and participation, through an appropriate policy, legislative and resource framework.

The Department is coming to the final stages of its first National Cultural Policy - *Culture 2025* - which clearly articulated the important role of culture in Ireland, and set out a road map for the cultural sector for the 10 years leading up to 2025. The broader aims of *Culture 2025* have also been taken into consideration in framing programme actions.

Government policy initiatives which are relevant to the Tipperary Arts Strategy include:

CREATIVE IRELAND

Established in 2017, Creative Ireland understands that participation in cultural and creative activity promotes the wellbeing of individuals, the community and the nation and that to be effective, it must be at the heart of public policy. Creative Ireland is a five-year programme which connects people, creativity and wellbeing. Through partnerships with local and national government, cultural and enterprise agencies and local enterprise, Creative Ireland creates pathways and opportunities for people and communities to unlock their creative potential. Creative Ireland Tipperary is co-ordinated by the Heritage Office with support from the Cultural Team of Tipperary County Council.

BASIC INCOME FOR THE ARTS PILOT SCHEME

The Arts and Culture Taskforce, established by the Department in September 2020, produced the Life Worth Living Report to include recommendations on how best the arts and culture sector could adapt and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The first recommendation from the taskforce report was to pilot a Basic Income scheme for a three-year period in the arts, culture, audio-visual and live performance and events sectors. This scheme was rolled out to 2,000 artists in September 2022.

Government funding for the arts is generally channelled through the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon which is the national agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. The Arts Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to our evolving society. Established in 1951, to stimulate public interest in and promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, the Arts Council is an autonomous body, which is under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The Arts Council works in partnership with artists, arts organisations, public policy makers and others to build a central place for the arts in Irish life.

The Arts Council is in the final years of its current ten-year strategy *Making Great Art Work 2016-2025*, which identifies the following priorities:

- » **THE ARTIST:**
Artists are supported to make excellent work which is enjoyed and valued
- » **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**
More people will enjoy high-quality arts experiences
- » **INVESTMENT STRATEGY:**
Public monies are invested effectively to realise priorities
- » **SPATIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING:**
Well-planned arts provision to benefit people across the country
- » **DEVELOPING CAPACITY:**
Building knowledge, skills and inventiveness to realise this strategy

In 2016 the Arts Council and the City and County Managers Association (CCMA) published a *Framework for Collaboration*. The purpose of the agreement is to highlight the value and clarify the position of the strategic partnership between the Arts Council and local authorities nationwide, and to set out a vision and broad goals for what is to be achieved by the partners.

Through the *Tipperary Framework Agreement (2018 - 2025)*, Tipperary County Council and the Arts Council work in partnership across a range of shared strategic priorities for arts development in Tipperary. By working closely together, Tipperary County Council and the Arts Council aim to strengthen the arts, improve public participation in the arts and enhance the sustainability of those working in the arts. The Tipperary Arts Office makes an annual funding application to the Arts Council to support this programme of arts development work.

The provisions of this strategy are fully aligned with the stated priorities of the Arts Council / *An Chomhairle Ealaíon* arts strategy *Making Great Art Work (2016 - 2025)*.

Changes in government policy and wider shifts in the arts and cultural landscape at national level will have an impact on the environment within which the arts operate at county level over the course of this Strategy.

In The Open | Faoin Spéir programme,
Inside Out: Stay Curious, Laura
O'Mahony. Led by South Tipperary
Arts Centre.
Photographer: Kevin O'Donnell.



2.2 LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

The Tipperary County Council Arts Service is located within the Planning and Development, Emergency Services and Emergency Planning, Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity Directorate. Led by the Director of Service the Cultural Team is made up of the Arts Officer, County Librarian, Heritage Officer and Museum Curator. The Cultural Team works collaboratively to support the cultural sector and to maximise and enhance opportunities for access to cultural activity and services in Tipperary.

This Arts Strategy is closely aligned to and integrated effectively with the key existing strategies across Tipperary County Council and with strategies currently being developed more widely.

The *Tipperary County Development Plan 2022 – 2028* was published in July 2022 and is the second of its kind for the entire county. The plan acknowledges that the arts have a significant role to play across many of the Council’s service areas, particularly in areas of social, economic and cultural development, and in the promotion and development of the county as a unique place in which to live and to visit. The Council recognises the potential of the arts to enrich people’s lives and sees the importance of the preservation and evolution of local cultural identity and distinctiveness. Strategic Objective Eight relates specifically to arts and culture and sets out the vision of the council to “support, value and protect our artistic, cultural and built heritage for future generations and to recognise its key role in our economy”. The arts also have a potential role to play in meeting a number of objectives of the County Development Plan through the cross cutting advocacy and partnership work within Tipperary County Council. Strategic Objective Three supports town and village regeneration in which the arts have a key role. The development of active, connected and socially inclusive communities as outlined in Strategic Objective Four is a focus of many of the Council’s arts programmes. Support for innovation and creative talent has the potential to feed into the ambitions outlined in Strategic Objective Five.



Hair and Hand series I-VII
 Drawings from the 2022 series
 Aideen Barry (c) 2022.
 Created at the YADDO
 residency in New York.



Slieveardagh NS Artist in Primary School
 Scheme with artist Katy Goodhue.
 Photographer: Katy Goodhue.

The *Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024* sets out four strategic themes for which strategies have been developed that will deliver the Council’s vision and ensure the improvements of Council services and infrastructure over the period of the plan. The Strategic Statement “Our Community” is particularly relevant to this strategy in its ambition to “Continue to develop Tipperary as an attractive place to live” and to “build strong and confident communities with a sense of pride that are inclusive, equal and informed” and in “supporting the Arts and Lifelong learning, to create a rich and diverse heritage and culture”.

The *Tipperary Strategic Tourism Marketing, Experience & Destination Development Plan 2016 – 2021* showcases the vast abundance of excellent visitor experiences that the County has to offer and outlines a plan of action on how to market and develop destination Tipperary so that it gains significant traction on the domestic and international stage. This plan, which has been extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, identifies the need to work together with the tourism providers in the county and the key agencies to coordinate support for the tourism sector in County Tipperary.

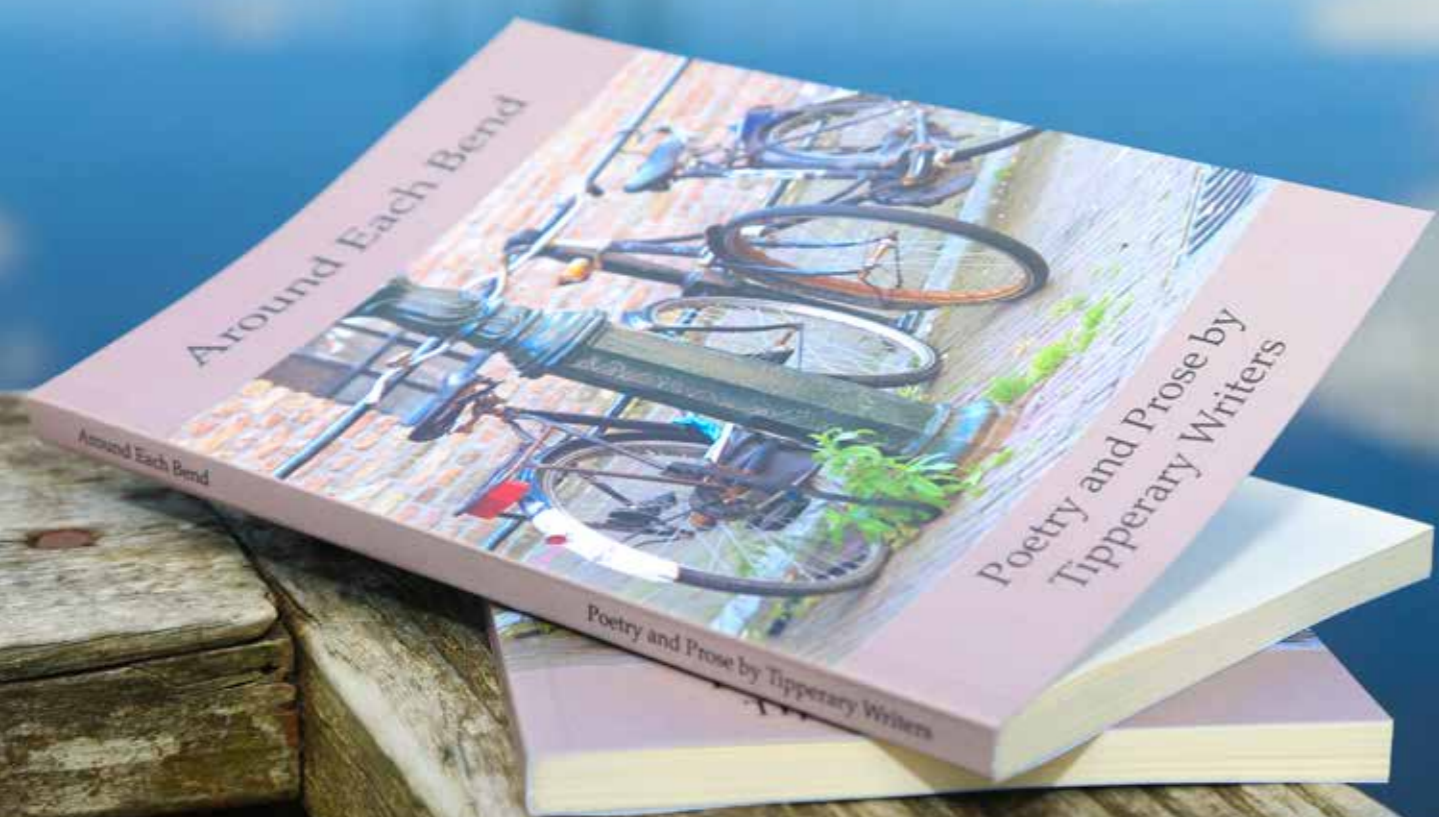
The *Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)* is an integrated plan to guide development in the county from an economic, community, cultural, sporting and recreation perspective. A new LECP is currently in development.

Section 3

**Opportunities
& Issues arising
from the
Consultation
Process**

Tipperary County Council's Arts Strategy, *Tipperary – A Place for the Arts (2023 – 2027)* was prepared following consultation with artists and cultural producers, arts organisations, venues and festivals, interested members of the public, elected representatives and Tipperary County Council staff.

Around Each Bend publication.
Photographer: Debbie Hickey.



PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AND ADOPTING THE SECOND ARTS STRATEGY:



This new arts strategy for Tipperary has provided a timely opportunity for conversation and consultation with the arts sector across the county. We know from our work that we have a dynamic, committed and talented sector contributing to the advancement of the arts in the county.

The arts sector in Tipperary consists of an active community of practicing artists, cultural producers, a network of arts organisations, arts festivals and arts venues, amateur and voluntary arts practitioners and groups who are critical to our experience of a vibrant artistic offering in Tipperary.

Tangle Around 2022, Thurles – performer Sadbh Grehan.
Photographer: Eoin Considine.



In the development of the strategy, we undertook a wide-ranging consultation through arts surveys, meetings and discussions to which we had a strong and positive response. These conversations and engagements, added to our working expert knowledge of the arts sector and the county, have assisted in identifying the issues facing the sector. The consultation and review process also assisted in recognising and highlighting the successful strategies and achievements of recent years for further development and implementation as we strive to meet our aim to support Tipperary as a place where the arts can flourish.

Through the strategy planning process, a range of developmental and investment needs emerged, and it was clear that a number of challenges remain. Strategic responses to these issues will be prioritised over the timeframe of this second Tipperary Arts Strategy 2023 - 2027.

A core issue raised during the consultation process was the need for a broader range of infrastructural developments such as appropriate spaces for the creation, rehearsal, production, performance, dissemination, engagement and consumption of art across artforms. This was particularly the case in the main population centres of Nenagh and Clonmel. Funding and staffing of venues remain a key issue across the county. A strong desire for artists' networking opportunities was also articulated throughout the county.

The need to champion the implementation of national arts policy around Paying the Artist across organisations and groups receiving support from Tipperary County Council was raised and will be prioritised.

Other high priority issues to emerge focused on the development of opportunities for participation and creative engagement by diverse communities across the county, particularly in the areas of youth participation, in arts and health contexts and with new communities. The need for and funding of increased socially engaged arts programmes and outreach initiatives was highlighted, with a particular need for initiatives to address rural access.

In light of the impacts of and learnings from the Covid-19 pandemic on the arts and live sectors in particular, modes of engaging with audiences through rapidly developing and changing digital technologies was highlighted as a challenge for the future. The wider issue of attracting and engaging audiences for the arts and of re-engaging audiences post-covid also featured strongly.

A range of national and global issues, such as the cost of living and increasing cost of insurance, climate change, environmental impact, and biodiversity loss were highlighted. These will have an impact on the years ahead and will inform our thinking and planning for the future of the arts in the county.

Section 4

Vision, Mission & Core Principles

Vision

Making Tipperary a better place through the arts.

Mission

Supporting an environment where the arts can flourish to the benefit of artists, creative practitioners, local communities and visitors to the county.

IMAGINE

INSPIRE

INVEST

Core Principles

The Arts Office core principles are:

IMAGINE

Be creative in our vision and ambition for the arts in the county. Harness the creative expertise of the arts office team; create, develop and implement strategies to continue to make Tipperary a creative place to live, work and visit.

INSPIRE

Collaborate with artists, creative practitioners, arts and community organisations and agencies to realise a shared vision for the arts in Tipperary; advocate the importance of the arts.

INVEST

Support artists, cultural producers, organisations and communities to realise their artistic ambitions through a range of funding and developmental actions.

Section 5

Strategic Approach & Priorities

This section outlines a Strategic Approach and identifies four Strategic Priorities. The objectives underlying each of these are set out in the following pages, together with a series of actions, which will be the means by which the Arts Office will deliver on the objectives.

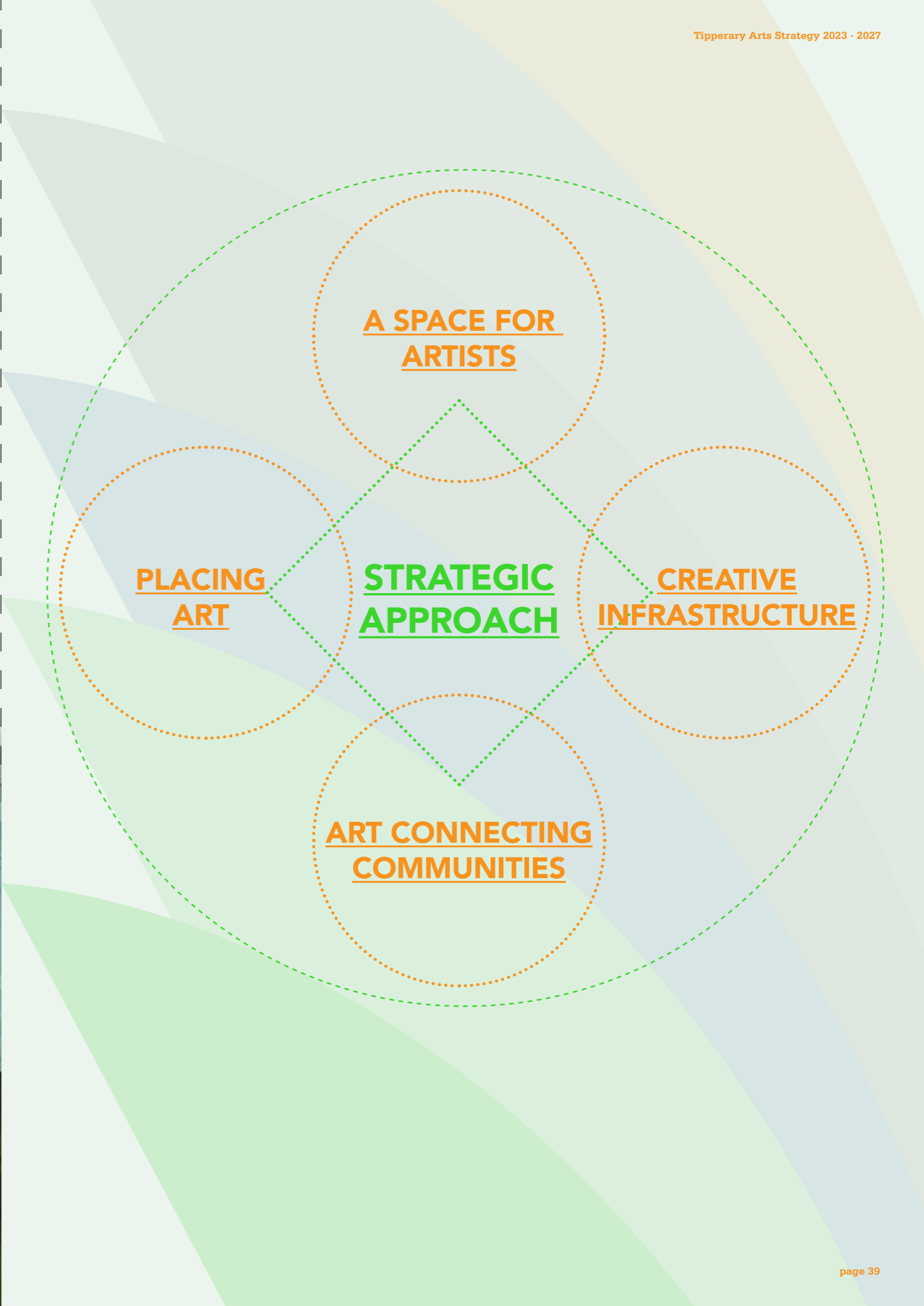


Strategic Approach

Imagining, supporting, and championing a central place for the arts in Tipperary

The work of the Arts Office requires a strategic, collaborative, and creative approach to meet its core principles of Imagine, Inspire and Invest. Tipperary County Council has developed a strong vision for the arts in the county through its desire to ensure that everyone who lives in or visits Tipperary has the opportunity to engage with and participate in the arts and enjoy a vibrant cultural life. The work of the specialist team at Tipperary Arts Office in implementing Tipperary County Council’s vision for the arts is multi-faceted and imaginative, and encompasses a wide range of services, actions, and activities. This includes provision of information and advice, advocating for the arts at a local and national level, brokering partnerships and collaborations, undertaking research and planning, seeking investment for the arts, and supporting artists, cultural producers and the arts infrastructure through the management of a range of schemes and programmes.

A number of actions outlined in this section are described in further detail under the four Strategic Priorities.



Derrynaflan Walk, Culture Night 2021.
Photographer: Debbie Hickey.

OBJECTIVES

Develop and implement policies and strategies to continue to make Tipperary a creative place to live and work

Support artists, organisations and communities to realise their artistic ambitions

Collaborate with a range of relevant agencies to realise the shared vision for the arts in Tipperary

Advocate for the funding and developmental needs of the arts in Tipperary at a national and local level

Support artists, organisations and communities to consider and adopt best practice in their work with regard to global challenges such as climate, environment and biodiversity

Recognise the impact of digital technology on the changing landscape of the arts

Offer equality of access, opportunity and outcomes regardless of gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community, or socio-economic background

ACTIONS

» Continue to provide and improve access to arts information and advice to the arts community, key stakeholders, and the public through specialist advisory meetings, the arts newsletter, social media and online resources, information and training initiatives

» Continue to provide funding supports to artists and organisations within available resources in a targeted, strategic, and responsive way at a time of changing environments
 » Identify points of alignment across the Cultural Team in Tipperary County Council to leverage shared opportunities and optimise collaborations

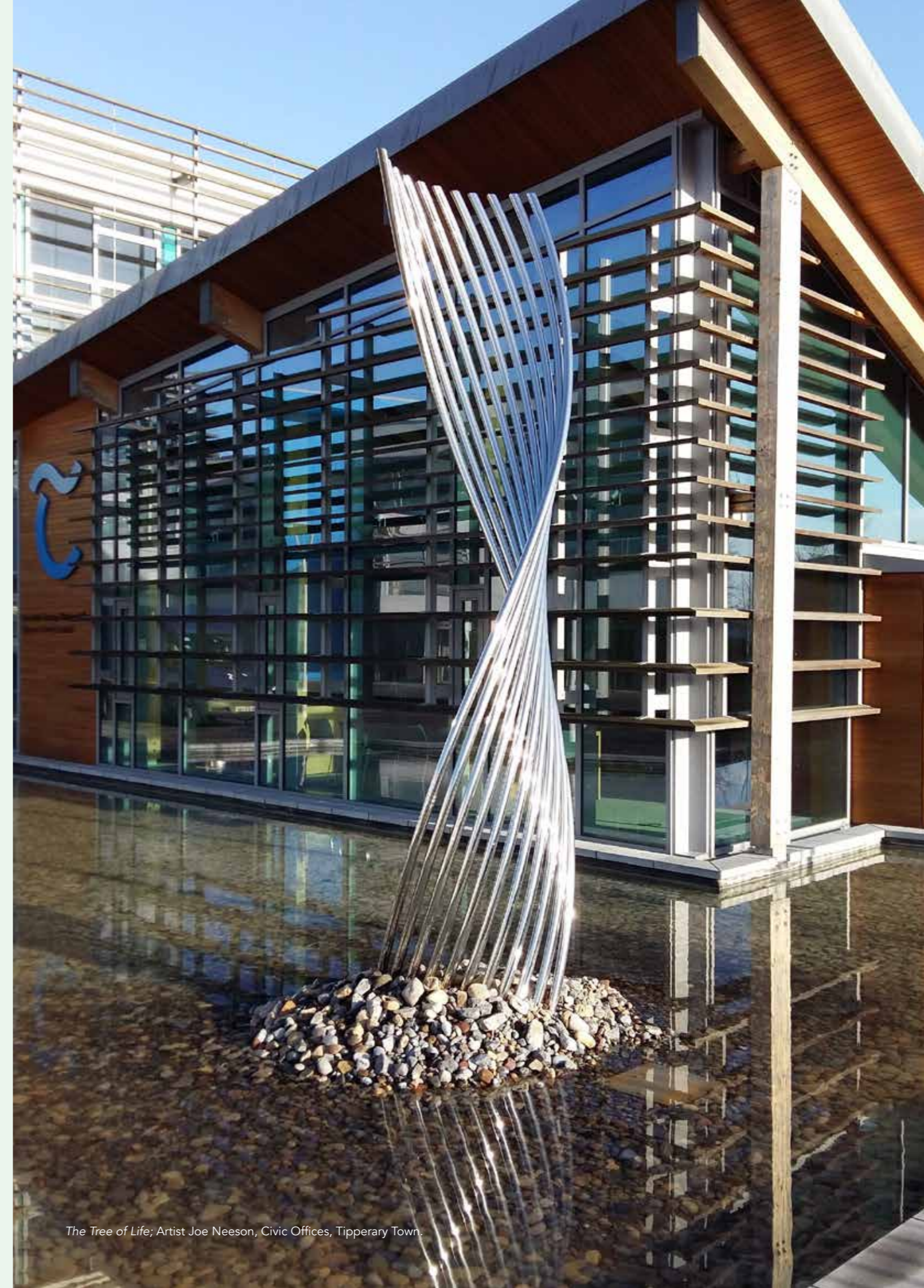
» Continue to broker and develop inter-agency partnerships and collaborations to advance the arts in Tipperary
 » Support national agencies (Arts Council, OPW, Government Departments, etc.) in the delivery of funding and programming initiatives at local level

» Support other TCC departments where arts and cultural projects intersect with civic, tourism-related, and other programmes, capital developments and funding applications
 » Continue to undertake and commission research into needs, best practice, and other developments, with a view to supporting and planning for the arts in the county

» Adopt best practice with regard to the Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024) and ensure that the Arts Office complies with the relevant measures and guidelines
 » Support the arts sector through information, awareness-raising and training to adopt best practice in their work

» Consider the appropriate use of digital resources and technologies for the delivery of the work of the Arts Office
 » Research mechanisms to identify and support the needs of the arts sector in the creation, production, performance and dissemination of digital content

» Ensure that all funding and other opportunities invite diversity and are proactively inclusive
 » Take positive actions to address any identified imbalances in any areas



The Tree of Life; Artist Joe Neeson, Civic Offices, Tipperary Town.

Strategic Priority 1

A space for artists

Tipperary County Council has long recognised the central role of the artist and creative practitioners in arts development locally.

The aim of this strategic priority is to support artists and creative practitioners across all artforms, at all stages of their careers and from all backgrounds to develop their practice and enable them to engage in and contribute to the arts, cultural and social development of the county.

UP-CLOSE by Monica Muñoz, a Tipperary Dance Commission (2021).
Photographer: Alexandre Iseli.



OBJECTIVES

Support artists from all backgrounds with space, time, and resources to develop their practice at various stages of their careers

Provide work, engagement, and enrichment opportunities for artists across all artforms, at all stages of their careers and from all backgrounds through the arts programme and continue to seek opportunities for artists to engage in the broader social and cultural development of the county

Advocate best practice in terms of contracting and payment of artists

Provide training, mentoring and Continuing Professional Development to artists to support sustainable careers in response to identified needs

Facilitate networking and collaboration opportunities for artists

ACTIONS

- » Continue to provide financial assistance to artists through a range of established schemes
- » Over the course of the strategy, investigate possible new initiatives and ways of responding to artists' needs (including mentoring, collaborative applications, residencies etc.)
- » Work to create structures that support and include participation by artists from all backgrounds
- » Develop an annual award for emerging artists from Tipperary
- » Establish links with third-level colleges to identify and communicate with emerging Tipperary-based artists to promote the work of the arts office and to understand needs

- » Continue to provide creative work opportunities for Tipperary artists through a range of schemes, programmes and initiatives including Tipperary Bealtaine Festival, Culture Night, Artists in Primary School Scheme etc.
- » Ensure continued opportunities for artists to deliver work to communities and audiences through the support of the arts infrastructure in Tipperary
- » Make physical spaces available (where possible) to artists for the development and rehearsal of new work through the support of the arts infrastructure in Tipperary
- » Through collaboration with relevant stakeholders, investigate the availability of permanent and temporary spaces (for art making and rehearsal) in response to evolving arts and cultural needs
- » Investigate and seek new opportunities for artists (e.g., through developments such as Town Centre First, Night-Time Economy initiatives and Per Cent for Art Commissioning)

- » Ensure that national policy regarding Paying the Artist is adhered to by Tipperary County Council and those funded and supported by the Council to engage artists to work

- » Maintain the current training model and partnerships with other local authorities and partners (e.g., Visual Artists Ireland)
- » Further develop the model to address and respond to needs as they emerge

- » Deliver a range of targeted online and in-person networking, collaboration and practice sharing events to artists in the county with a view to reducing isolation, encouraging peer support and cross fertilisation of ideas, and supporting multi-disciplinary practices. Where feasible these will be designed and delivered in association with local and national arts partners

Strategic Priority 2

Creative Infrastructure

Tipperary County Council supports a strong infrastructure of professional and amateur arts organisations, festivals and venues that present and promote arts work, so that the public can enjoy a wide range of excellent arts experiences both as audiences and as engaged participants.

Creative infrastructure refers to the range of professional, amateur, and voluntary arts centres, venues, festivals, arts organisations and cultural producers that make up the fabric of the arts landscape in the county and that create a focal point for arts activity, enhancing the quality of life in our towns and villages.

The Source Arts Centre in Thurles was developed as a purpose built Regional Arts & Cultural Facility which opened in 2006. Led by the Local Authority The Source will continue to operate and be funded through the annual budget process as the County’s Regional Arts Centre.

Tipperary County Council also provides direct financial support through the annual budget process to key arts venues in the county within available resources, these are, South Tipperary Arts Centre; Tipperary Excel and Nenagh Arts Centre.



OBJECTIVES

Support the arts infrastructure in the county to provide the spaces and places where high quality arts experiences can be presented to audiences, and where opportunities for public engagement in the arts can take place

Explore the potential and feasibility for alternative venues for arts activities to address gaps in the infrastructure as identified in the consultation

Recognise the contribution of the dynamic community, voluntary and amateur sector through financial supports and through the provision of advice, information and promotion of the work of communities and organisations across the county

Support large-scale strategic initiatives in partnership with other national and local agencies to transform the arts landscape in the county in the coming years. These include Music Generation Tipperary and Creative Places in Tipperary Town

ACTIONS

- » Maintain funding and professional supports to the arts infrastructure across the county within available resources
- » Work in collaboration with venues, festivals, and organisations to seek funding support for the co-commissioning, development, and presentation of new work by Tipperary practitioners (particularly in the area of theatre)
- » Continue to coordinate the Tipperary Festivals & Events Scheme
- » Implement *The Way Ahead* – Tipperary Festivals & Events Strategy 2022 - 2024
- » Maintain partnership agreements with professionally run venues and organisations to manage and deliver a range of programmes and initiatives
- » Contribute to the application to the Urban and Rural Development Fund for the refurbishment of the Chapel@Kickham Barracks as a suitable cultural space to be managed by the South Tipperary Arts Centre
- » Work with local authority partners to develop appropriate policies and guidelines for the use of new outdoor arts spaces which have become increasingly utilised and valued since the Covid-19 pandemic

- » Engage with a range of partners and agencies across the county to identify suitable spaces with the potential to meet the needs of artists and audiences particularly in relation spaces for the creation, rehearsal and presentation of the arts
- » Seek funding to lead research into models of delivery in response to the specific venue-related issues outlined by the arts sector in Clonmel
- » Investigate options for improved exhibition facilities in Nenagh
- » Seek funding to assess the feasibility of potential options from a capital and operational perspective

- » Continue to offer the annual Arts Act Grant Scheme which is the main grant scheme through which the Council supports organisations to develop arts projects
- » Continue to provide bursaries to support professional development e.g., *Blas* and the *Tipperary County Council Local Drama Scheme*
- » Provide an annual bursary to attend the Drama League of Ireland Summer School to support issues identified through the consultation process by the amateur drama sector
- » Provide advice and training supports to voluntary and amateur arts organisations to support best practice in policy and procedures

- » Maintain funding support to Music Generation Tipperary and Creative Places Tipperary Town
- » Continue to contribute in an advisory and operational capacity to the steering groups for these creative initiatives
- » Continue to respond to further new opportunities which may enhance access to the arts for citizens of Tipperary

Strategic Priority 3

Art Connecting Communities

This Strategic Priority describes how Tipperary County Council facilitates connections, conversations and interactions between the arts and people in the county.

Through this work we seek to encourage wider participation, engagement, and enjoyment of high-quality arts opportunities, with a particular emphasis on supporting those who may meet barriers to participation.

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

ENABLING ACCESS

Address barriers to participation, proactively invite diversity and support engagement in high-quality arts experiences

- » Continue to provide financial assistance (through annual funding and a range of schemes and initiatives) to arts centres, festivals, and arts organisations to deliver access, socially engaged developmental programmes and outreach
- » Continue to champion and support access to the arts for older citizens through the Age and Opportunity Bealtaine Festival partnership in conjunction with Tipperary Libraries
- » Work internally across the Local Authority in support of increased access, diversity and inclusion through the arts
- » Aim to develop an Arts and Health programme strand with local and national partners
- » Investigate and seek to develop a range of creative partnerships with relevant agencies and community development partners to support longer term engagement programmes in collaboration with the arts infrastructure in the county
- » Explore the potential to use the network of Broadband Connection Points as centres for rural cultural access
- » Pilot the provision of arts and cultural events as an e-health initiative (e.g. in care settings)
- » Ensure the arts are integrated into broader Tipperary County Council local development policies, plans and strategies

CULTURE NIGHT

Enhance geographic access and community engagement and connection through the coordination and support of Culture Night programmes

- » Continue to work with a range of partners to programme and coordinate a vibrant Culture Night offering to ensure the widest possible engagement opportunities, impact for audiences and work for artists across the county

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A core focus of the County Arts Programme is to ensure access to the arts for Children and Young People and to assist young people in developing a language of creativity.

Through the Arts Office, Tipperary County Council supports children and young people's engagement in the arts through a range of schemes and funding supports, including through direct programming initiatives, funding to the county arts infrastructure, Music Generation and Creative Places Tipperary Town.

The Artists in Primary School Scheme is a key point of access to the arts for children and young people across the county. Youth arts is an important element of the work of Tipperary County Council, which engages young people as creators and audiences across the county

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS

Ensure access to the arts and enhance engagement opportunities for Children and Young People as creators and audiences

- » Provide information on opportunities for engagement for children and young people

Arts in Education

- » Maintain support to the Arts in Education programmes run directly by Tipperary Arts Office (Artists in Primary School Scheme, Print in Schools exhibition)
- » Review the Artists in Primary Schools Scheme in the context of local, national and global developments and issues to maximise its potential as a key access point
- » Conduct research into the impact of Tipperary County Council's arts in education programmes
- » Signpost online resources for the arts in education

Children and Young People; Youth Arts

- » Proactively work with the arts infrastructure to develop sustained engagement opportunities for children and young people from every background, which reflect the voices and interests of the young people involved
- » Continue to support the development of Tipperary Youth Theatre in Nenagh and Thurles in partnership with local arts centres
- » Work with local and national partners to embed and further develop the recently established Tipperary Youth Arts Hub as a mechanism for sharing best practice and information, and providing professional development opportunities to artists and youth workers with a view to increasing high quality youth arts activity and participation across the county
- » Commission youth-focused communications to provide promotional information to young people

Strategic Priority 4

Placing Art

Through this Strategic Priority the Arts Office will implement a Creative Placemaking approach. This will involve working with colleagues internally and with other relevant agencies to place the arts at the centre of planning for development and regeneration. In adopting a Creative Placemaking approach Tipperary County Council aims to enhance the quality of life of its citizens by enhancing places and spaces through the arts, ensuring the public can enjoy the arts in the local built environment, creating new opportunities for engagement between artists and the public, offering artists of all disciplines the opportunity to create artworks in a variety of public settings.

OBJECTIVES

Maximise the creative potential of our towns and villages to enhance the artistic identity of the county and the quality of life for citizens

ACTIONS

- Lead on Public Art commissioning for Tipperary County Council by:
 - » Developing links with internal departments responsible for capital development projects to ensure maximum uptake of the Per Cent for Art Scheme
 - » Establishing a cross-departmental Public Art Working group within Tipperary County Council to establish appropriate structures for planning, development, oversight, selection, and implementation of the scheme
 - » Promoting a county-wide strategic approach to Public Art Commissioning
- Civic Enhancement
 - » Contribute advice, where relevant, to new civic developments from an arts perspective on behalf of Tipperary County Council
 - » Work in support of Town Centre First policy to ensure that the arts and culture are central to development
 - » Respond to new development opportunities to ensure that creative placemaking is central to the work of Tipperary County Council



Poetry Town Carrick-on-Suir 2021.
Photographer: Pete Smith.



SWITCH Art Project, Nenagh.
Photographer: Harald Turek.

Section 6

**Delivering the
Arts Strategy
and Funding;
Evaluation and
Review**

This arts strategy provides a five-year framework of actions to be implemented by Tipperary Arts Office on behalf of Tipperary County Council. It is a strategic response to issues and needs that arose through the consultation process, supplemented by the specialist working knowledge of the Arts Office team, and provides a road map towards further development of the arts in Tipperary. An annual operational plan will set out key tasks, targets and projected outputs for the Strategic Approach and Priorities. The actions listed under the Strategic Approach and Priorities will provide the baseline for evaluation and review of work programmes.

Written at a time when the world is emerging from a global pandemic, this strategy seeks to consolidate the key developments secured by Tipperary County Council investment in the arts over more than two decades. The strategy recognises the challenges experienced across all sectors of the economy in recent years, and the new challenges the country is facing as it grapples with a cost of living crisis, concerns about climate change, and a major influx of new communities as a result of conflict.

In light of this, it is vitally important that Tipperary County Council remains ambitious for the development of the arts in the County.

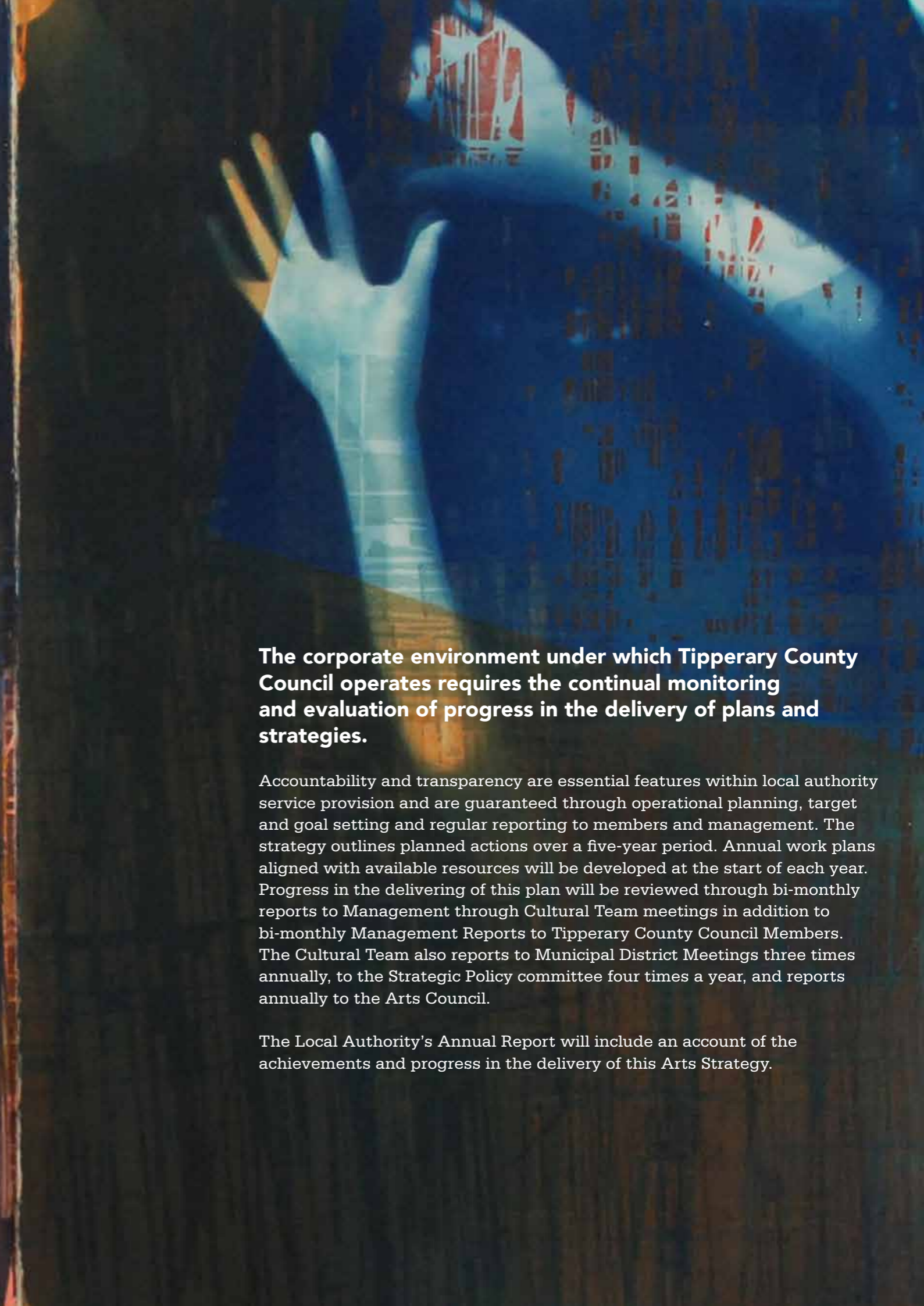
The Tipperary Arts Office will have direct responsibility for the implementation of the actions, some of which will involve working in partnership with other sections within the council and with artists, arts organisations and groups and other public agencies locally and nationally.

The Tipperary Arts Office has consistently demonstrated its pro-active approach to securing opportunities for the arts in the county, as well as its ability to adapt during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to changing needs and environments. The Arts Office will endeavour to continue to secure any additional financial or other resources necessary to ensure the plan is delivered as fully as possible.

The delivery of this strategy is reliant on the availability of resources, annual funding applications and the securing of new and additional streams of funding. However, the Council's ability to allocate funding is dependent on its own funding allocations and budgetary process. Success will also require a positive input from many agencies and groups with broad cultural, social and economic remits. Through publication of the Strategy, Tipperary County Council is showing its determination to facilitate new investment and continue to provide support for the arts and communities and, in doing so, to create a better Tipperary through the arts.

Summer Youth Project 2022, Fracture Youth Theatre.
Photographer: Jennifer Ryan Kelly.





The corporate environment under which Tipperary County Council operates requires the continual monitoring and evaluation of progress in the delivery of plans and strategies.

Accountability and transparency are essential features within local authority service provision and are guaranteed through operational planning, target and goal setting and regular reporting to members and management. The strategy outlines planned actions over a five-year period. Annual work plans aligned with available resources will be developed at the start of each year. Progress in the delivering of this plan will be reviewed through bi-monthly reports to Management through Cultural Team meetings in addition to bi-monthly Management Reports to Tipperary County Council Members. The Cultural Team also reports to Municipal District Meetings three times annually, to the Strategic Policy committee four times a year, and reports annually to the Arts Council.

The Local Authority's Annual Report will include an account of the achievements and progress in the delivery of this Arts Strategy.

Section 7

Research Methodology

Research on the second Tipperary County Arts Strategy began in mid-2022. As a first step, the actions of the previous plan were analysed to identify what actions had been addressed, which were outstanding and what additional actions had been achieved/implemented. This analysis found that 45 of the 50 stated actions of the previous arts strategy were implemented. Of the five not implemented, three related to public art, which could not be progressed due the pandemic and the two remaining were rendered obsolete due to local or national policy shifts or changes in environment. A further 18 actions not included in the original strategy were also delivered in response to opportunities which arose over the course of the strategy.

DESK RESEARCH

Arts Plans published by Local Authorities around Ireland were examined to gain a national perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing other local authority Arts Offices working within the same policy frameworks as Tipperary. Relevant national arts policies were reviewed as were Tipperary’s County Development Plan, Corporate Plan and Local Economic and Community Plan.

Tinned Stories, Bealtaine project with Age Friendly Roscrea and artist Aoife Barrett.
Photographer: Aoife Barrett.



CONSULTATIONS

A wide-ranging consultative process was designed to hear the experiences, challenges, ambitions and needs of artists, cultural producers, organisations, communities, voluntary groups, participants and audiences across age ranges and social backgrounds.

Face to face meetings were held with a range of key informants, members of the Tipperary County Council Cultural team and other key staff within Tipperary County Council. Members of the executive of the Arts Council, TETB, Music Generation Tipperary and other agencies were also consulted.

A focus group comprising professional arts managers of Arts Council funded organisations was convened, and their views sought as professionals developing, supporting, commissioning and presenting arts in the county.

Meetings were held in Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles at which professional artists, cultural producers, arts organisations, policy makers, community representatives were invited to share their first-hand experience of the arts in the county. Discussions followed a structured agenda and notes were taken by Tipperary County Council staff at all meetings. Publicly advertised public meetings were organised in Carrick on Suir, Clonmel, Nenagh, Thurles and Tipperary Town for people interested in arts practice and provision across the county, for professional artists and practitioners and for audiences for the arts.

A wide-ranging youth consultation with a range of youth groups and providers was conducted. Members of Comhairle na nÓg were also consulted via a survey during one of their events. The views of 59 young people aged between eight and eighteen were heard as part of these consultations. A number of key individuals who are actively involved in youth arts provision were also consulted in one-to-one meetings.

Four separate, bespoke surveys were made available through the Tipperary County Council consultation portal, social media, by direct email, via the Tipperary County Council website and arts newsletter, and the Public Participation Network (PPN). In total, 147 surveys were received from across all sectors. The surveys were:

- » An online survey for professional artists/practitioners, arts organisations/ festivals.
- » An online survey for amateur/voluntary organisations, community groups and members of the public. A hard copy version of this survey was distributed through the libraries, arts centres and other venues.
- » An online survey for young people in youth work settings.
- » An online survey for Comhairle na nÓg members.

Following the consultations, the findings were analysed and a new set of actions for the coming five-year period were identified. The process concluded in November 2022.

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