



CHAPTER 9

## ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM

EALAÍONA, CULTÚR AGUS TURASÓIREACHT



### 9.0.0 Introduction

Arts and culture underpin quality of life for individuals and communities in addition to forming part of urban value systems. They underpin city identity and are important in how cities project themselves, develop profile and compete in the international arena for investment.

As a leading European capital Dublin needs to have a high standard of cultural and arts infrastructure in order to maintain its attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. There is a need to make provision for the accommodation and development of culture and the arts, to foster cultural diversity and to provide for arts and culture both at citywide and local community level. The importance of providing for contemporary and emerging forms of cultural expression, such as film, dance, contemporary music and modern art, in addition to more traditional forms must also be recognised.

Dublin city already possesses a range of arts and cultural institutions including museums, art galleries, libraries, theatres and public buildings. In recent years there has been considerable investment in major institutions, including the extension to the National Gallery, the expansion of the National Museum to a new campus at Collins Barracks, refurbishment of City Hall and the National Library and developments at the Hugh Lane Municipal Art Gallery and Chester Beatty Library. It shall be a key objective of this Development Plan to develop a Museum of Dublin during the lifetime of the Plan. New developments in the outer city have included the Helix Theatre at Dublin City University and new arts centres at Ballyfermot and Ballymun. Dublin City Council Arts and Cultural Strategy 2004-2009 sets out strategic goals to be achieved through defined strategies and key recommended goals. These include the need to acknowledge the value of arts and culture to the city, supporting established and emerging artists, ensuring equality of access, participation and inclusion, developing a sustainable infrastructure and capacity and branding Dublin as a city of arts and cultural excellence. The policies and objectives of the Development Plan reflect the key responsibility of Dublin City Council in the implementation of the Strategy.

### 9.1.0 The Arts

#### 9.1.1 Arts Infrastructure

Dublin City Council recognises the contribution made by artists, including visual and performing artists, to the city's cultural life. Emerging artists in particular often experience difficulty securing both living accommodation and working space when competing on the open market. It is recognised that Dublin City Council has a responsibility for direct provision of infrastructure to meet their needs. This can mean providing for studio and exhibition space in addition to rehearsal and performance space. Urban regeneration can provide opportunities for the provision of such spaces in formerly vacant buildings or as part of new mixed use developments.

#### 9.1.2 Public Art

Dublin City Council is committed to the development of art within the public realm and the provision of art through the Percent for Art scheme. Large mixed use schemes can also provide opportunities to ensure the provision of public art through the development control process. The exhibition of artistic features on a temporary basis in public places will also be encouraged.

#### 9.1.3 Arts and Culture at Local Level

Access to arts and culture may be limited for certain groups within the population, by reason of lack of disposable income, lack of mobility or lack of arts infrastructure at local area level. Dublin City Council has developed facilities for arts and culture in a number of suburban locations including Ballyfermot and Ballymun. The provision of such facilities, which could include studio space, exhibition space or venues for the performing arts, will be encouraged in Prime Urban Centres and may be an integral part of civic or community buildings.

Dublin City Council will seek to develop, as an extension of its Arts Strategy, a structural response to the leisure/recreation needs of young people through arranging clusters of schools around arts infrastructure so that children/young people can capture fun, excitement and the sense of enjoying and celebrating their own creativity and self development afforded by engaging in music, dance, drama, mime etc.. It is envisaged that these initiatives will be an integral part of plans to put the arts, sport and participation in cultural activities generally, at the centre of more broadly based leisure/recreation lifestyle that young people can readily access.

**POLICY ACT1**

Dublin City Council recognises the unique role of the city centre in providing a focus for the performing arts, including drama and music, and the extent to which these contribute to the vitality of the city centre. To this end, Dublin City Council will encourage and facilitate the development and retention of high quality cultural amenities, including theatres, concert halls and other performance venues, in the city centre and will seek to achieve the siting of the Abbey Theatre on O' Connell Street.

**POLICY ACT2**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to ensure that all of the city's residents, including those in disadvantaged areas, have access to cultural amenities including the arts, theatre and music. Dublin City Council will actively encourage and support the provision of local arts, theatre and music centres in each of the five district areas of Dublin city.

**POLICY ACT3**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to add to the cultural diversity of the city by facilitating the provision of space for artists to live, work and exhibit.

**POLICY ACT4**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to promote the provision of public art, including temporary art and sculpture, through such mechanisms as the government supported Percent for Art scheme and the development control process.

**POLICY ACT5**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to promote the exhibition of sculpture and other works of art in parks, open spaces and other focal points in the city.

**POLICY ACT6**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to facilitate street theatre and outdoor performance by the development or enhancement of appropriate public spaces with the necessary lighting, surfaces etc.

**POLICY ACT7**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council, in the provision of space for the arts, to meet the needs of disabled and mobility impaired persons.

**POLICY ACT8**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to identify areas around the city where carnivals, circuses etc., can perform on an annual basis, thus adding variety and colour to the local area.

**POLICY ACT9**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council, to seek the conversion of No.16 Moore Street into a museum, which will be owned, run and administered by Dublin City Council. This museum will serve both a commemorative and an educational role.

**9.1.4 Specific Objectives**

It is an objective of Dublin City Council to examine in conjunction with the Arts Council and other relevant bodies the feasibility of:

- Establishing live work units and work spaces for artists
- Provision of a residential and studio space for visiting artists
- Development of a major group studio complex by way of public-private partnership
- Establishing a number of shared storage and rehearsal spaces for theatre, opera and the visual arts in low cost locations

**9.2.0 Culture**

Culture is a broad term which, in addition to the arts, encompasses a range of characteristics which help to define an area and its population, including customs and traditions, language and literature. A city's culture also finds expression in its architecture,



its urban design and the relationship its people have with their natural environment and the public realm.

Dublin's rich cultural heritage reflects a history which dates from Viking times to a modern vibrant society. As a capital city its culture also reflects Irish history in general. The city's culture finds expression in a range of cultural buildings and amenities, including museums, art galleries, theatres, libraries and public buildings generally, while it is also reflected in its architecture, built form and public realm.

**9.2.1 Cultural Infrastructure**

Many of the city's cultural amenities are concentrated in the area of the south city centre which includes Merrion Square, Trinity College and Christchurch. There is now increasing awareness that other areas of the city, including the Smithfield and Kilmainham areas, the Four Courts and its environs, the quays and Parnell Square, also have a rich cultural heritage.

Integrated Area Plans have promoted the regeneration of these areas and development of new cultural amenities and spaces, including the National Museum at Collins Barracks, the Jameson Distillery, Smithfield Square and the Guinness Storehouse. The identification of clusters of cultural amenities in these areas, and the development of linkages between them and the city centre, is helping to attract visitors to areas previously regarded as remote from the central core. A legibility study is being carried out in the city to identify a coherent new spatial structure based on a series of character areas located across the city centre. Cultural clusters can help give definition to these character areas. Linkages between cultural buildings can also be developed through pedestrian routes or heritage trails, which also link into the wider public realm and help to connect major public spaces. Progress has been made in the development of walking routes in four IAP areas – Liberties-Coombe, Kilmainham-Inchicore, HARP and O'Connell Street.

**POLICY ACT10**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to identify cultural and/or heritage clusters and to ensure the provision of appropriate linking infrastructure, including signage, pedestrian routes and heritage trails, to ensure that cultural and heritage buildings are linked to one another and to the wider public realm as part of a coherent spatial structure.



#### POLICY ACT11

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to ensure a high quality public domain in the vicinity of cultural and heritage buildings and, where possible, to ensure that such buildings are linked to public spaces and to the wider open space network.

#### 9.3.0 Tourism

Dublin has become a significant tourist destination with a strong profile as a European city and national capital. The city has a particular identity, urban scale and mix of attractions, with attractive natural settings and a unique small country on its doorstep. It also has a relatively compact city centre, easily negotiated on foot, incorporating two retail cores with Temple Bar as a cultural quarter in between. Dublin has been recognised as a City of Arts and Cultural Excellence in the city's Arts and Cultural Strategy. Its urban, literary and musical heritage also contribute to its attractiveness. In addition to a vibrant city core, it has a young, increasingly diverse population and growing choice of night time entertainment venues.

In 2001 Dublin city attracted 3.29 million overseas visitors with a further 1.2 million from the domestic

market (including Northern Ireland). The city has become an increasingly popular destination for the UK 'short break' market, which includes a growing number of repeat visitors, in addition to the traditional European and American markets. In recent years urban regeneration and the development of new cultural attractions and public spaces has ensured that the area visited by tourists has expanded from a relatively restricted area south of the Liffey to include Smithfield, Parnell Square and the Kilmainham/James' Street area. Appropriate infrastructure needs to be further developed, including signage, tourist information, pedestrian routes and public transport.

For many visitors Dublin's pubs and restaurants form an integral part of their experience. It is important that the character of Dublin's pubs is preserved while offering tourists a reasonable choice of places to eat and socialise. Scope also exists for the development of complementary cultural activities, including venues for live music (traditional, jazz, etc.), and the clustering of these in certain areas of the city.



**POLICY ACT12**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council, through land use zoning, policies and objectives, to protect and improve the tourism and cultural amenities of Dublin city. Dublin City Council will seek to protect the natural and built environment, which forms the basis of the city's attractiveness for tourists.

**POLICY ACT13**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to develop appropriate tourism infrastructure, including signage, information, tourist trails, cafes, toilets, public transport and car and coach parking, in the main tourist areas. In particular, it is policy to facilitate and encourage computerised information points for visitors at various locations.

**POLICY ACT14**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to avoid an over concentration of large pubs in any particular area and to encourage the provision in the city centre of a mix of entertainment venues, including traditional pubs, restaurants and performance venues for live music, theatre, film and dance.

**POLICY ACT15**

It is the policy of Dublin City Council to seek the establishment, for purposes of education, culture and tourism, of a Museum of Dublin encompassing all aspects of the heritage of Dublin city.

**9.3.1 Specific Objectives**

It is an objective of Dublin City Council to promote and facilitate the development of a National Conference Centre in a city centre location.

It is an objective of Dublin City Council to identify areas of the city which are suitable for the clustering of different types of entertainment uses including live music, drama and dance, where these could assist in the rejuvenation of an area and would not be detrimental to existing amenities.