

South Dublin County Council Arts Office – programme updates

Report prepared by Meabh Butler, Assistant Arts Officer: Early Years, Children and Young People

Seedlings - early years and children's programmes

SPLAT! – a 12-week pilot creative programme at the Abberley Hotel

The programme **Sensory Explorers** came to an end in December 2024. Overall, it was well received. Numbers grew each week, when word got around that there was creative activity taking place.

Doulab Circus will begin classes in February 2025. Participants will play circus games for confidence, trust, teamwork, coordination & physical preparation, learn how to make their own juggling balls, and take classes in a mixture of circus disciplines.

Sensory



Feathered Friends, led by Michelle Brown and Bronwen Barrett with JADD (Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency)



The arts office funded 8 week programme Feathered Friends ended in December. Manager of JADD, Thomas Gibson noted that the programme was a success and that they would love to continue it in 2025. Currently working towards an application to the Arts Council for their Arts in Early Years settings scheme in March 2025, with support from the Arts Office.

MAD MAG, an 8-week creative writing programme with St Thomas' JNS, 2024



The MAD Mag creative writing programme in St Thomas' ran from October – December. This pilot programme was a huge success.

The theme of the 8-week programme was 'Heroes and Villains'. All children completed a piece of writing which will be published in the MAD Mag and launched in late January / Early February (please see samples of writings and drawings in Appendix 1). Teacher Catherine Gleeson said about the programme 'My classroom loved it and I saw great development of the characters and stories. I think it was brilliant that it was a relatively long running project so they could keep working on it but also had a break from it at the same time. Mine absolutely loved that they weren't constrained creatively and could share their work using images and words and I thought that was the perfect way to differentiate for the needs of the class'

The MAD Mag will continue in 2025 under the new theme of **Sidekick Secrets: Tales of Friendship and Adventure**

Story? A collaborative art project with Connect 4, artist Kevin Bohan, Creative Connections, SDCC Arts office and Creative Ireland



Kevin Bohan attended the Killinarden Family Spooktacular event at the invitation of Paul Perth, who at that time was one of the leaders of the Connect 4 team. Kevin was asked to paint some scary images on the exterior of the Scary Tunnel. It was the ideal opportunity for him to get to know the community better and to give the young people a graffiti demonstration. Overall, the project is progressing well. Next step is to meet with the Connect 4 Team and #RunwithRob participants to develop their proposed narrative for the Story Mural.

This will begin in January 2025

See @southdublin_creativeireland for updates

Music Generation South Dublin – A Song for Tallaght



For Culture Night 2024, Music Generation South Dublin collaborated with Damian Gallagher, a Dublin-based composer and school children from Rathcoole Hub, St Peter Apostle Neilstown Hub, Holy Rosary National School, CityWest and Saggart CNS, Scoil Aoife

‘So let our song soar high above the rooftops. Our voices raised in perfect harmony. From Greenhills to Bohernabreena Tallaght is where my heart will always be...’

A recording of *A Song for Tallaght* is currently being organised. To see a video of the event on Culture Night, please visit South Dublin Music generations Facebook page: facebook.com/MusicGenSD

The Night Belongs to Us @ The Civic Theatre in collaboration with ThisIsMe Neurodiversity

The Night Belongs to Us is a platform for young musicians aged between 14 – 18 to perform. It ran from September to December and was open to any young person to perform. The Night Belongs to Us is managed by Noise Music, an arts office initiative and SubSounds a youth music programme ran



by Alternative Entertainment. The programme is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. To date, 54 young performers and 300 in attendance at the events.

An important strand of the Night Belongs to Us is making the programme accessible to all young people. For the 2024 programme, the arts office worked with Rebecca McDermott from ThisIsMe Neurodiversity to break down any barriers neurodivergent teens may have in a participating as performers and / or audience members by creating sensory environments where they would feel comfortable and by promoting the events

to her 2000+ network of parents with Neurodivergent young people. **Link to a short video about TNBTU @ The Civic Theatre** [Night belongs to us The Civic ThisIsMe](#)

The 2025 TNBTU programme is currently being drafted. Information will be available in the coming weeks on the SDCC Arts Section and through the arts office social media channels.

CONTACT studio - A Community Recording Studio



- Based in Rua Red Arts Centre and is a resource for local artists who can access the expertise of Bryan Jardim Fleming, graduate sound engineer with the Arts Office. Work that has taken place includes:
- HANGOUTS, a weekly professional development programme opportunity for young musicians to rehearse and improve their skills working with a sound engineer. HANGOUTS – King of the Fairies - <https://youtu.be/7K-MapZXkio>
- Supports the SubSounds Youth Music programme by providing recording, editing, and mixing services <https://subsoundsdc.bandcamp.com/album/irish-love-an-ci-nas-the-silence>
- Recording of the South Dublin Stories, a podcast by South Dublin County Council Libraries, aimed at telling the story of South Dublin County through the lens of photographs, documents and objects from our Local Studies Collection.

Bursaries and Awards

The Annette Halpin Memorial Award

The Annette Halpin award is for young musicians, composers, singers, producers living in South Dublin County Council's Administrative Area. The award is funded by South Dublin County Council and the Halpin Family. It was established to celebrate the legacy of Annette Halpin, a singer / songwriter from Tallaght widely known for her role in community activism and community development who passed away in 2009.

You must be between 12 and 25 years of age to apply.

You can apply for maximum of €1000.

Over the coming weeks, more arts awards will be announced. You will find information about these awards on the SDCC arts section and / or our social media accounts. If you have questions regarding the awards, please contact Chris Baker on Cbaker@sdblincoco.ie

Creative Ireland South Dublin Programme

Preparations are beginning for **Cruinniú nan Og 2025** which will take place on the 7th of June. Cruinniú nan Og is Ireland's National day of Creativity for Children and Young People. There is currently a call out for projects for the programme. Closing date for applications is the **17th of February**. This year, the award has 3 strands:

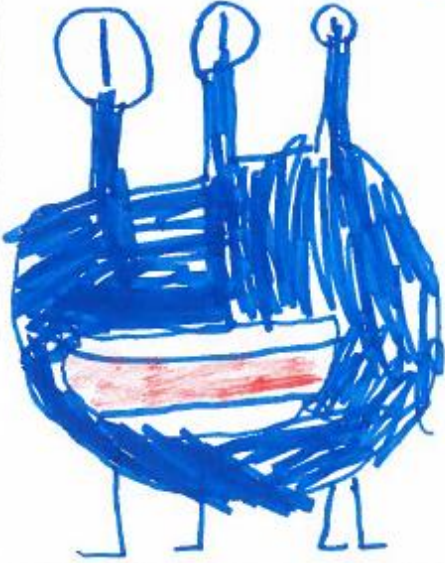
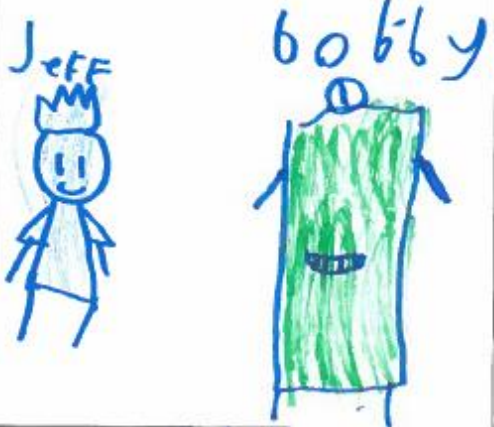
- **Strand 1: Cruinniú day** funding up to €1500
This strand is for once-off workshops taking place on Cruinniú day, with a focus on high quality, accessible, and hands-on activities.
- **Strand 2: Extended** funding up to €4000.
This strand is for a series of workshops and with a longer term development which allows for a level of immersion in the creative activity.
- **Strand 3: Neighbourhood** funding up to €10000. Proposals in this category could include mini-festivals, sharings or showcases in specific neighbourhoods with a community of interested children or young people. Proposals should have longer term developmental elements leading toward a public event on 7th June. Proposals should include how local partnerships bring their own resources to enhance and deliver the proposal. Proposals should describe how children and young people will be supported to collaborate and lead ideas and delivery of projects.

Creative Ireland South Dublin is also running the **Incubation Award**. This Award is specifically for people under 25 who live in the county. The award is to support their artistic practice and is for 5000 euro.

For more information on both of the above, please see sdcc.submit.com. If anyone has questions/ideas you can contact Eithne Swaine the Creative Ireland Creative Communities Engagement Officer on eswaine@sdblincoco.ie

Appendix 1: MAD Mag # 1 - samples of writings and drawings

~~the monsters and Jeff~~

<p>YOUR STORY CAN GO HERE....</p> <p>once upon a time there was a monster called Bob The Best. He came from Mars he was 2 when he came from Mars to Earth he is now</p>	<p>AND HERE....</p> <p>He has a best friend from Earth his name is Jeff. He is also awesome from Mars. His name is Bobby and Bob ^{they both} like to</p>
<p>WITH A PICTURE...</p> <p>this is him</p>  <p>ck ck ck</p>	<p>this is bobby and Jeff</p>  <p>ck ck</p>

cool

OR A PAINTING...

~~They~~ They always get up to
mistic. one day they pranked
miss. Karen the next day
They poured slime on mr. Knit
In the morning miss. Karen and
mr. Knit had a plan to get
him, bobby and Jeff.

They put paint all over
their heads they got mad



OR THE WHOLE PAGE!!!

They realized what
They had done. They
said to Mr. Kait and Ms.
Karen that they were sorry.

They all became friends
a few days later. Jeff
started school not last
school is big school

instead of Junnier and

Senior in Females its 1st

class so Bob the best
and Bobby are lonely!

They had to play a
game by their self.

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