

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

Mother Tongues – Language Explorer workshops in North Clondalkin Library

Mother Tongues received a grant to run Language Explorer workshops in North Clondalkin Library. Language Explorers is Mother Tongues' flagship programme for children in the early years. The Language Explorers workshops have a strong focus on language development, parent-child communication and literacy. Workshops provide a high-quality creative experience for parent and their children based on storytelling, drama, visual arts and music. English or Irish speaking or Multilingual every family is welcome to these workshops. Workshops will take place in May and June.

MAD MAG, an 8-week creative writing programme for 7 – 12 year olds with St Bernadette's Quarryvale and Divine Mercy, Balgaddy



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 sample of writings in Appendix 1).

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

The Night Belongs to Us

The Night Belongs to Us is a platform for young musicians and DJs aged between 14 – 18 to perform. It is returning in 2025 with monthly events in The Civic Theatre, Áras Chrónáin, and Griffeen Youth Centre in Lucan. The Night Belongs To Us is funded by South Dublin County Council Arts Office.



NOISE Music runs free DJing, songwriting, music production, and performance programmes for young people aged from 11 to 18 around South Dublin County.

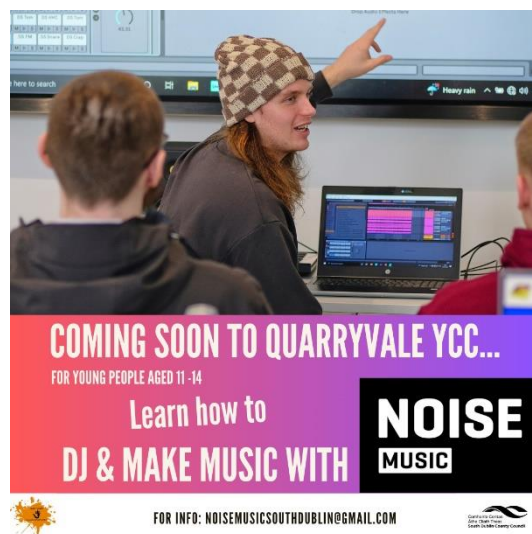


NOISE MUSIC have been working in partnership with Crosscare Lucan Youth Service for several years in the Griffeen Youth Centre in Lucan and are currently running weekly workshops in the centre, and monthly events as part of The Night Belongs To Us.

Also just agreed is a partnership programme with South Dublin County Partnership to run a six-week programme in the Child and Family Centre in Balgaddy, which is due to start at the end of April and run until the end of May. They will be working with two groups of children and

young people from Balgaddy aged 11 – 12 and 13 – 18.

NOISE Music recently established a new partnership programme with Quarryvale CYC, with weekly workshops taking place in the centre every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm for 10 weeks from the end of February to the beginning of May. This programme is part of a new Youth Drop in call The Hangout Hub, which is being supported by SDCC Community Dept, DDLETB, Crosscare Ronanstown Youth Service, and a Creative Ireland South Dublin dance project.



NOISE Music – Creative Ireland Project Award

NOISE Music also received funding from the Creative Ireland Project Award for a collaborative project in the Adamstown area. This project is a series of site-specific performances by young artists that will be filmed and exhibited in Adamstown Youth and Community Centre and on screens in public spaces throughout South Dublin County. The performances will be music, dance, and spoken word pieces – created by young people from Adamstown in collaboration with a team of experienced artist/facilitators led by NOISE Music and Go Dance for Change.

The young performers will also work with an emerging design company Timing GNSL, who are from Adamstown and are active as social entrepreneurs in the community, to create a title and visual identity for the project that will be incorporated into costumes and graphics that will be used in a social media campaign to raise awareness and build an audience for the project.

The project will be launched with a screening in Adamstown Youth and Community Centre in late 2025. Its aim is to create a legacy for young people in Adamstown - to drive the development of a community of young creatives that will continue to create and perform new work; supported into the future by NOISE Music, Adamstown YCC and The Big Tree Committee.

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 and in 2025, one awardee is from Lucan. Eimear Conroy is a singer-songwriter. She has received the award and will use it to purchase a guitar. See information about Eimear in Appendix 2.

Amateur Voluntary and Community Arts grant scheme

Ronanstown Womens CDP has applied for an Arts grant to devise and present a one Act play called 'One For Sorrow' with community theatre director Martina O'Brien and the Womens Collective of Ireland.

The group was successful in creating and presenting a play, with support under the Amateur Voluntary and Community Arts grant scheme. It is a socially engaged group that continues to explore issues of local and national relevance.

The Arts Office recommends that a grant of €640 be allocated to Ronanstown Womens CDP towards the cost of engaging a drama facilitator to devise and present a new one Act play.

ARTS OFFICE – AVAILABLE ARTS GRANTS

- *Community Arts Award:* Amateur, Voluntary and Community Arts organisations are invited to submit applications to be considered for grants of up to €3000. The scheme will primarily grant aid groups based and performing in the County but also performing at events outside the County. Groups performing in, but not based, in the County will also be eligible to apply for support under the Scheme. The activity that can be funded includes training, event subsidy, professional support, materials, project delivery and presentation. Further details on sdcc.ie or contact cbaker@sdublincoco.ie for further information.
- *Individual Artist Bursary Award:* is now open. The award is to a maximum of 5000 euro and artists of all disciplines can apply. More information on sdcc.submit.com

Creative Ireland South Dublin Programme

Artist **Alan James Burns** has been awarded *The Artist in Collaborative Practice* Research Award for their climate-based arts project, *I Clondalkin*. Alan seeks to nurture resilience, create empathy and inspire individual expression through the novel artistic approach of personification. This project will be delivered in partnership with Codema beginning in April 2025 & will incorporate public workshops and consultation in the decarbonizing zone in Clondalkin, it aims to offer fresh perspectives on participants' relationship with Clondalkin, cultivating deeper connections to place.

The workshops amplify underrepresented voices in SCD climate transition. It recognises that all parts of the SCD ecosystem - people, communities, environment, infrastructure - must be nurtured for the whole to function effectively.

Creative Ireland Artist in Collaborative Practice Project Award (2024 award)

Josue Reis was awarded the Creative Ireland *Artist in Collaborative Practice Project Award* late last year to deliver a dance and choreography project in Quarryvale community centre, this project for young people has just begun, it comprises of weekly workshops, rehearsals and performances throughout the year and will run until the end of 2025.



Creative Ireland Community Mural Award

The Community Mural Award is now open, we encourage community and organisations and clubs to apply to work with a professional artist in creating a mural artwork in their locality. Two awards of up to €10,000 are available, closing date for applications is 18th April 2025.

Link to application: sdcc.submit.com

Cruinniú na nÓg 2025:

For the first time, Cruinniú na nÓg, the National Day of Children's Creativity will take place in Lucan House on 7th June 2025. Ruaille Buaille, South Dublin mobile libraries and This Is Me Neurodiversity will offer a range of free free creative activities, including music, dance, games and more for all ages throughout the day.

IN CONTEXT 5 – Connect Public Art under the per cent for Art Scheme

The Colossus – John Conway

The launch of the socially engaged artwork *The Colossus* on the 29th of March @ 2pm

The Colossus was developed as an intergenerational project which creatively engaged young people from North Clondalkin, and worked with the testimony of mother's who have lost children to suicide, presenting a narrative on the context and aftermath of bereavement by suicide in the local area.

The Colossus is experienced as a 9 act audio documentary interspersed with augmented reality sculptures on a self-guided walking route around North Clondalkin. The walk begins and ends at North Clondalkin Library and is approximately 45 minutes duration.

John worked with students from Collinstown Community School, Crosscare, and St. Kevins Community School. The project takes place largely in the North Clondalkin Library.

Appendix 1: MAD Mag # 1 - sample of writings from St Bernadette's, Quarryvale

26/11/21

Ellen

Ellen grew up in a town called Chester town. She had lots of friends and loved it there. Then one day she was told she had to move for her dad's job. She was so annoyed. Then came the day she had to move. She packed and said goodbye to her friends. Ellen was going to miss her friends very much. They had to take a 12 hour road trip. Ellen fell asleep in the car. She was so tired. After 12 hours they made it to the new town. Ellen was creeped out because everyone looked the exact same. The girls wore pink skirts and pink T-shirts. The boys wore blue shorts and blue T-shirts. When she saw their house Ellen ran up to her new room to see what it looked like. She saw a pink skirt and pink T-shirt lying on her bed. "I'm not wearing that!" screamed Ellen. Ellen's mom and dad walked up stairs. Her mom wearing a pink skirt and T-shirt and her dad wearing blue shorts and T-shirt. "What are you guys wearing?" They didn't answer. They just walked away. Ellen was scared but she was still tired from her road trip so she took a nap. Ellen fell asleep. After 3 hours of napping she woke up wearing a pink skirt and T-shirt. "Why am I wearing this!" screamed Ellen. Her mom said, "Don't worry honey everything will be okay" said Ellen's mom with a smirk on her face. Ellen ran out of the house with fear in her eyes. After running she found a door with a sign saying do not enter! So of course she went to investigate. She walked up the long narrow stairs to see a man standing there looking at a screen with cameras. Ellen made a loud gasp. The man turned around. Ellen ran. "I will go back tomorrow!" said Ellen. The next day she got up, got dressed and went to the same place.

Ellen

She walked up the same long narrow stairs. When she looked at the same man everything made sense. The man controlled everyone! "I have to put an end to this!" said Ellen. The next day she thought and thought and thought and then she had an idea. She would break the cameras and then everyone will be free. She found a big rock that she could throw at the cameras. She threw the rock at the cameras and it broke them! The man gasped and turned around. He started to fall down. It turns out the man was a robot and the cameras was his life! She walked out of the room terrified of what she just saw. When she was outside she realised everyone was acting normal! She went home and her parents were in their normal clothes and also being normal. She was so happy she was able to fix it. THE END

Appendix 2: Eimer Conroy – recipient of the Annette Halpin Memorial Bursary Award



'My name is Eimear Conroy, and I am a 17-year-old singer songwriter from Lucan. I am a member of sub-sounds in Tallaght and have been writing and performing songs for the last 6 years. I started out playing Piano and then progressed on to acoustic guitar. I normally play solo gigs but in August last year I put together a new band with other members of Sub Sounds. I love playing music and now have a great group of friends from Sub Sounds who are very encouraging and supportive.

I have performed many gigs in the last few years including the Sub-Sounds Festival, various gigs in the Civic Theatre, Aras Chronain, Rua Red and a joint headline gig in the Soundhouse last year with Sadhbh

Keane. I have recorded in Windmill Lane and Camden Studio's, and I have had a few

songs released on Band Camp and Spotify as part of the Sub Sounds LP album. I aim in 2025 is to continue in Sub Sounds recording and performing, I hope to get another solo set at the Sub Sounds festival. I love supporting artists which I did a lot of in 2024, but I feel now I am ready to do a few more headline gigs with my bands and this is something I am going to focus on'.