

Muineachán Monaghan

Straitéis Chultúir agus
Chruthaitheachta 2018–2022

Culture and Creativity
Strategy 2018–2022



Ábhar

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Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh

Cathaoirleach Foreword

IS CÚIS MHÓIR áthais domsa, mar Chathaoirleach Contae Mhuineacháin, fáiltiú roimh ‘Straitéis Chultúrtha agus Cruthaitheacht Contae Mhuineacháin 2018–2022’. Cuirfidh an creat spreagúil seo athrú cló ar ár bplé lena chéile maidir leis na healaíona, cultúr, oidhreacht agus leas idir dhaoine aonair, an pobal agus ar bhonn náisiúnta. Beidh meas againn ar chruthaitheacht ag gach leibhéal, nasctar ealaíon agus gnéithe eile na cruthaitheachta le pobail agus tionscail. Is í aidhm na straitéis ná dúshlán na ndaoine agus cumainn a thabhairt is iad a chothú i dtreo tionchar dearfach ar Mhuineachán idir dhaoine aonair agus ag leibhéal sóisialta is eacnamaíoch. Ar na tosaíochtaí aitheanta sa straitéis seo tá taiscéalaíocht agus clár bunaithe ar dhaoine is áiteanna, leanaí is daoine óga, bonneagar agus fiontar cruthaitheach.

Tá deis anois againn smaoineamh ar chultúr agus cruthaitheacht as an nua mar chaithimh aimsire nó gairm beatha. Féadfar athrú a chur ar ár gcur chuige maidir lenár gcreat saoil, oibre agus sochaí. Conas a dhéanfar a leithéid? Mar bhonn faoi Mhuineachán Ildánach glactar leis go mbaintear amach leas iontach idir shóisialta is eacnamaíoch ach deis a thabhairt do dhaoine plé lena gcruthaitheacht féin. Má bhíonn misneach againn spreagfar sinn i dtreo cur chuige difriúil, rud éigin nua a thriail nó dul i bhfiontar. B’shin mar a tharla sna léiriúcháin chomórtha 1916 anso i Muineachán. B’iad an pobal a stiúraigh na hócáidí, bhí orainn dúshlán ár n-aitheantas, ár stair, an am i láthair agus an todhchaí a thabhairt. Cheistigh pobail an dearcadh a bhí acu maidir leo féin. Chuir mórán daoine acmhainní agus scileanna i gcomhar le chéile, iad ag cur aithne ar dhaoine agus páirtithe nua. Trín gcomóradh meabhraíodh dúinn, mar chontae, go mbaineann nuálaíocht agus comhoibriú linn, b’fhéidir toisc go bhfuil teorainneacha geografaíoch agus polaitiúla thart timpeall orainn.

IT IS MY great pleasure as Cathaoirleach of County Monaghan, to welcome Monaghan County Council’s ‘Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018–2022’. This transformative framework will encourage our creative imaginations through collaborative engagement with arts, culture and heritage promoting individual, community and national wellbeing. We will value participation in creativity at all levels, connecting artists and creatives to communities and industry. The strategy sets out to nurture and challenge our population and societies, resulting in a range of positive impacts for wellbeing in Monaghan, at individual, social and economic levels. Priorities identified in this strategy relate to creative explorations and programmes around people and places, children and young people, infrastructure and creative entrepreneurship.

This is an opportunity to completely re-think culture and creativity as optional pass-times or occupations. It is an opportunity to change the framework of how we approach life, work and society in Monaghan. How will we do this? Creative Monaghan works on the premise that when individuals are given the opportunity to engage with their creativity, the wellbeing, social and economic benefits are vast. Confident creativity inspires us to take a different approach, look at something from another perspective, trying something new, or take a risk. This was demonstrated in our 1916 commemoration celebrations in Monaghan. Events were people led, prompting us to challenge our identity, our history, our present and our future. Communities explored varying perspectives of themselves. People pooled resources and skills, collaborating in new ways with new people and partners. These celebrations reminded us how, as a County, we are an innovative and collaborative people, arguably as a result of centuries surrounded by geographic and political borders.

Straitéis chinnte is ea Muineachán Ildánach chun ár gcruthaitheacht a chothú, a fhorbairt agus chun cur léi ar fud na n-earnála ar fad. Déanfaidh Meitheal Cultúrtha Contae Mhuineacháin an mhonatóireacht agus beidh deis againn féachaint ar chur chuige agus páirtíochtaí nua ar fud na n-earnála go léir.

Tagann an straitéis seo lenár bpolasaithe straitéiseacha uilig agus trasnaíonn iad (pleananna forbartha, oidhreacht, músaeim, leabharlainne, corparáideacha, pobail, tacaíse, diaspora, turasóireachta) á nascadh agus ag éascú breis comhoibrithe. Is iad an Meitheal Cultúrtha a d’fhorbair an plean tar éis an-chuid comhairliúcháin phobail agus le páirtithe leasmhara. Páirteach sa mheitheal tá saineolaithe de chuid Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin a bhaineann le leabharlann, ealaíon, oidhreacht, músaeim, turasóireacht, fiontar, pobal agus óige.

Sa straitéis seo cuirtear an chruthaitheacht mar chuid lárnach de shaothar an Údaráis Áitiúla. Cuireann lenár bPlean Forbartha Contae a mhíníonn ról na n-ealaíon, leabharlanna, oidhreacht, timpeallacht agus áiseanna cultúrtha. Baineann ár bPlean Aitiúil Eacnamaíoch agus Forbairt Pobail le daonra a bhfuil suim acu sa bhfiontar agus a oibríonn le chéile. Iarrtar ‘leas agus cáilíocht beatha saoránaigh agus pobail a chur chun cinn’. Tá spriocanna lárnacha sa Phlean Gnímh Náisiúnta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe mar infheistíocht sna healaíona cruthaitheach faoin gClár Éire Ildánach trí na húdaráis áitiúla. Luaitear go háirithe na Moil Ildánacha, smaoineamh a mhínítear i dTosaíocht 4 den Straitéis seo. Sa Phlean Forbartha Contae Mhuineacháin 2019–2025 freisin féachfar ar fhéidearthachtaí maidir le háiseanna cultúrtha agus ealaíon a fhorbairt ar fud an chontae.

Creative Monaghan is a focused strategy, specifically to nurture, further develop and draw on our creativity across all sectors. It will be overseen by Monaghan County Council Culture Team and is an opportunity to look at new approaches, new collaborations and new partnerships across all sectors.

This strategy complements and runs across all of our strategic policies (development plans, heritage, museum library, corporate, community, age friendly, diaspora, tourism) linking them and opening the way for even more collaboration. The framework plan has been developed by the Culture Team after considerable public and stakeholder consultation. The team comprises experts from Monaghan County Council on library, arts, heritage, museum, tourism, enterprise, community and youth.

This strategy sets creativity as a core component of work across our Local Authority. It complements our County Development Plan that outlines the role of the arts, our libraries, our heritage and environment and cultural facilities. Our Local Economic and Community Plan refer to a particularly entrepreneurial population whose strength is collaboration. It seeks ‘to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities’. The National Action Plan for Rural Development includes in its key targets, investment in the creative arts, under the Creative Ireland Programme through local authorities. It refers specifically to Creativity Hubs, an idea explored in Priority 4 of this Strategy. The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019–2025 will also explore possibilities for the promotion of cultural and arts facilities across the county.

Straitéis cúig bliana is ea Muineachán Ildánach ag a bhfuil tosaíochtaí cinnte don soláthar i ngach áit sa chontae, ag tacú leis an bpobal a mianach a bhaint amach sa chruthaitheacht. Saothar uaillmhianach is ea é sin, ach tuigtear ó léiriúcháin chomórtha 1916 go bhfuilimid in ann smaoine, meon agus deiseanna nua a bhreith chuig ár gcontae. Tuigimid nuálaíocht agus comhoibriú sa chontae seo de bharr ár stair agus oidhreacht. Tabharfaidh Muineachán Ildánach ár ndúshlán díriú air sin agus dul níos doimhne isteach i ngníomhaíochtaí pobail chun leas cách ar deireadh.

Is mór agam an tacaíocht agus cúnamh ón Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta chomh maith leis An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil. Is mian liom buíochas a ghabháil le meitheal Muineachán Ildánach as na pleananna bliantúla gnímh a fheidhmiú don straitéis seo agus táim ag súil le plé cultúrtha agus cruthaitheach go ceann na cúig bliana atá romhainn.

Gabhaim buíochas le cách a chuir leis an straitéis seo.

An Comhairleoir Cathy Bennett
Cathaoirleach,
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin

Creative Monaghan is a five-year Strategy with clear priorities set around delivery into every part of our community, supporting individuals to reach their creative potential. It is an ambitious task, but 1916 centenary celebrations showed us what we are capable of, by drawing on our imagination to bring new ideas, perspectives and opportunities to our County. We are an innovative and collaborative county, our history and heritage has made us this way. Creative Monaghan will challenge us to channel into this and further explore creative opportunities at all levels of society activities, reaping the benefits this brings.

I welcome the support and assistance from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to implement the annual action plans for this strategy. I wish to thank the Culture Monaghan team, in the preparation of the strategy and look forward to the next five years of cultural and creativity engagement.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Strategy.

Councillor Cathy Bennett
Cathaoirleach,
Monaghan County Council



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Réamhrá an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh Chief Executive Foreword

MAR PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin tá ríméad orm ár gcéad Straitéis Chultúrtha agus Cruthaitheacht do Chontae Mhuineacháin 2018–2022 a chur i láthair. Lárnach sa straitéis seo tá páirtíocht, comhoibriú agus dúshlán. Tugtar ár ndúshlán dul i dteagmháil lenár gcruthaitheacht ar bhonn pearsanta agus pobail araon, rud a chuirfidh le leas sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch do dhaoine aonair agus don chontae. Saibhríonn plé cruthaitheacht saol gach éinne.

Cé gur cuid de Straitéis na hÉirann um chultúr agus cruthaitheacht an straitéis seo, is le Muineachán amháin a bhaineann an clár a mhíniú anso. Tá sé seo an-oiriúnach ar fad mar tá tírdhreach cultúrtha uathúil dár gcuid féin againn idir chultúr agus oidhreacht. Rinne an Meitheal Cultúrtha an-chuid comhairliúcháin poiblí chun an plean seo a leagan amach. Sa Straitéis áa cúig cinn de thosaíochtaí le cur i gcrích thar na cúig bliana atá romhainn. Chun go n-éirí linn ní mór a bheith solúbtha, beidh athbhreithniú, measúnú agus dúshlán cuspóirí aitheanta ar bun ag an Meitheal Cultúrtha ar bhonn leanúnach.

Tá tuairimí sa phlean ó shaoránaigh a bhí páirteach sna comhairliúcháin phoiblí, mar bhonn freisin faoi tá riachtanais agus ceisteanna aitheanta ag páirtithe leasmhara agus eile ag a bhfuil ionadaithe ar an Meitheal Cultúrtha. Bunaítear an plean ar roinnt fíricí a léiríonn cé chomh luachmhar is atá cultúr agus ealaíon i saol an phobail, agus an ceart atá ag cách a bheith páirteach i saol cultúrtha na tíre. Baineann cultúr agus cruthaitheacht go dlúth lena chéile agus cuireann plé leis na healaíona ar bhonn leanúnach le scileanna cruthaitheacht agus leas an duine. Is minic a luaitear cruthaitheacht an duine mar an acmhainn eacnamaíoch is luachmhaire dá bhfuil ann. Dá bhrí sin bainfear leas daoine agus an phobail as Muineachán Ildánach agus feabhsófar an geilleagar chomh maith.

AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE of Monaghan County Council, I am delighted to introduce our first Culture and Creative Strategy for County Monaghan 2018–2022. Collaboration, co-operation and challenge – these are at the heart of our strategy. This new strategy challenges us to connect to our creativity in a personal and community context with resulting wellbeing, social and economic benefits for us as individuals and as a county. Creative engagement with culture can enrich all of our lives.

While this strategy is part of a nationwide Creative Ireland Strategy, the programme described in these pages is unique to Monaghan. This is only fitting, as we in Monaghan have our own unique cultural heritage landscape. With extensive public consultation, the Culture Team has overseen the formulation of this plan. The Strategy sets out five priorities to be implemented over the next five years. Flexibility is the key to success, and the Culture Team will review, evaluate and challenge identified objectives on an on-going basis.

The plan is informed by the citizens who directly participated in the public consultations, by the needs and issues identified by the sectors represented on the Culture Team and other stakeholders. This plan is based on a set of beliefs that refer to the intrinsic value of culture and arts in our lives and communities, and the right of all to participate in the cultural life of a nation. Culture and creativity are inextricably linked and on-going engagement with the arts is beneficial for building creative skills and enhancing wellbeing. Human creativity is often described as the ultimate economic resource. Creative Monaghan therefore has benefits not just individually and socially, but economically as well.

Sainmhíniú leathan atá againn ar chultúr agus cruthaitheacht, bealach luachmhar chun cur le todhchaí inmhharthana in Éirinn trí pholasáí eacnamaíoch agus pobail. Féadfadh freisin Éire a léiriú don domhan. Trí Mhuineachán Ildánach méadófar ar dheiseanna do shaoránaigh a bheith páirteach, go háirithe dóibh siúd nach mbíodh páirteach roimhe seo nó atá ar an imeall nó díomhaoin ar bhonn cultúrtha. Cinnteofar go mbeidh an cultúr mar chuid lárnach den saothar ar fud an Údaráis Áitiúla. Sa straitéis seo freisin aithnítear an méid a dhéanann an earnáil deonach anso i Muineachán agus tacaítear leo. Sa bhfis seo bíonn páirtíocht agus rochtain an-thábhachtach ar fad. Gné eile atá lárnach chun ár bhfis a chur i gcrích is ea ealaíontóirí agus cruthaitheoirí eile a nascadh leis an bpobal.

Is iad Meitheal Cultúrtha Mhuineacháin a dhéanfaidh maoirsiú ar chórais chun an Straitéis a chur i gcrích. Tá maoiniú ag teacht ó Éire Ildánach agus cuirfidh Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin leis sin. Feidhmeofar tosaíochtaí na straitéise seo freisin trí pháirtíocht le foinsí eile maoinithe a aithint.

Ní bheidh aon dubailt ar bun ag Mhuineachán Ildánach ach cuirfear le pleananna atá cheana féin ann i dtreo iad a fheabhsú. Leanfar den athbhreithniú agus measúnú trí nascadh le straitéisí eile na Comhairle. Go háirithe, tacófar leis na pleananna céanna i gcomhthéacs cruthaitheacht agus leas an phobail, ionas go bhfeabhsófar Muineachán mar ionad cónaithe idir shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch do na glúnta atá romhainn de bharr cumhacht cultúir agus cruthaitheacht chun athrú mór a chur i bhfeidhm.

Our definition of culture and creativity is wide ranging, providing a valuable way of creating a more sustainable future in Ireland by embedding it in economic and social policy. It is also a worthy way of presenting Ireland to the rest of the world. Creative Monaghan will create opportunities for increased citizen participation, especially for those who to date have been culturally excluded or inactive. It will ensure that culture is seen as a core component of work across our Local Authority. The strategy also recognises and supports the cultural contribution of the voluntary sector in Monaghan. Participation and access are central to the vision. Connecting artists and other creators to communities is also regarded as essential to realising our vision.

The delivery mechanisms for this Strategy will be overseen by the Monaghan Culture Team. The strategy is financed by Creative Ireland and supplemented by Monaghan County Council. The priorities outlined in this strategy will also be realised by identifying collaborations with other funding partners.

Creative Monaghan will not duplicate existing plans but will complement and enhance them. Review and evaluation will be on-going, as it links to existing Council strategies. Particularly, it will support and build on these plans in the context of creativity and wellbeing, so that socially and economically, the transformative power of cultural creativity makes Monaghan a better place for us all and the next generations.



Is mian liom buíochas a ghabháil lenár Meitheal Cultúrtha as an bplean seo a chomhordú agus a ullmhú. Tá an t-ádh linn foireann a bheith againn atá beo bríomhar, nuálach, gníomhach agus lán d'fhuinneamh.

Eamonn O'Sullivan
Príomhfheidhmeannach,
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin

I wish to thank our Cultural Team, for the coordination and preparation of this plan. We are very fortunate to have a team of staff who are dynamic, innovative, proactive, energetic and enthusiastic.

Eamonn O'Sullivan
Chief Executive,
Monaghan County Council

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Próifíl Cultúrtha Mhuineacháin Monaghan Cultural Profile

IS MINIC A LUAITEAR tírdhreach droimníní Mhuineacháin mar chiseán uibheacha – ciseán ag cur thar maoil leis na cnoic bheaga cruinne in uachtar ar íor na spéire i ngach aon treo. Pé áit a bhfuil cnoc, is dócha go bhfuil gníomhaíocht chultúrtha de shaghas éigin ar bun ann.

Bíonn raidhse ceiliúrtha agus féilte idir cheol, ealaíon, ceardaíocht, rince, drámaíocht agus scannáin. Bíonn baint ag mórán imeachtaí le hoidhreacht, stair agus tírdhreach, thart ar na lochanna, portaigh agus seandúichí i measc na ndroimníní. Bíonn baint tábhachtach anois ag teicneolaíocht digiteach leis an gceiseán cultúrtha. Bíonn baint fós ag an seó talmhaíochta leis – uibheacha acu siúd freisin – agus ag carúis.

Ach chun cur síos ar chultúr Mhuineacháin ní mór tosú le file áirithe ó Inis Caoin. Níl baint níos dlúithe ag aon fhile eile lena chontae fhéin trí chúpla focal is atá ag an bhfear seo. Luaigh a ainm aon áit a dtagann Gaeil le chéile agus, mar a bheadh freagra sailme ann, cloisfidh tú an nath "stony grey soil".

Go minic ní bhíonn fiú an dara líne ag an té aduirt, ach ar son Mhuineacháin ní haon díobháil é sin. Bhíodh idir ghrá agus gráin i gceist ag Patrick Kavanagh maidir lena chontae dúchais, luíonn *Stony Grey Soil* leis an ngráin. Mar sin féin thuill an líne úd clú agus cáil mhór ar Mhuineachán thar aon rud eile a scríobh sé.

Seachas ainm an chontae ba bhreá leis na logainmneacha áitiúla mar "Mulahinsha, Drummerril, Black Shanco", an stair faoi cheilt sa chód faoi chraiceann Ghallda. Trín leas a bhain Kavanagh astu siúd sna dánta, rinne sé rud ealaíonta díobh: i bhfírinne maidir le *Shancoduff* atá ina "Matterhorn" i véarsa amháin leis.

THE DRUMLIN LANDSCAPE of Monaghan has been famously likened to a basket of eggs – a very full basket, with those little rounded hills dominating the horizon in all directions. And for every hill, probably, it is a cultural activity of some kind to match.

The county abounds with fetes and festivals, involving music, art, crafts, dance, drama, and film. Many events celebrate heritage, history, and landscape, around the lakes, bogs, and old estates that nestle everywhere between the drumlins. Digital technologies now have an important place in the cultural basket. So, still, have agricultural shows – complete with actual eggs – and jamborees.

But any overview of culture in Monaghan must begin with a certain Inniskeen poet. For no other county has been so defined by one of its writers, and in so few words, as this one. Mention its name in any Irish gathering and, as if in a responsorial psalm, someone in your audience will echo the phrase "stony grey soil".

In many cases, that may be the only line they recall, which for Monaghan's sake might be no bad thing. Patrick Kavanagh's relationship with his home county ranged between love and hate, and *Stony Grey Soil* veers towards the latter end of the spectrum. Even so, that in particular, and Kavanagh in general, put Monaghan on the map in a way nothing else had before.

It wasn't just the county's name he immortalised. He revelled in local place-names too – "Mullahinsha, Drummerril, Black Shanco" – with their coded histories hidden under a veneer of Anglicisation. Kavanagh mined these in his poems and, so doing, elevated them into art: almost literally in the case of *Shancoduff*, which becomes the "Matterhorn" in one of his verses.

Téama a bhíodh ag Kavanagh arís agus arís eile ab ea go bhfaightear uilíochas i gceantar beag, bhí an domhan iomlán ar fáil laistigh den pharóiste. I ndán an-chailiúil leis, *Epic*, cuimhníonn sé ar achtrann áitiúil faoi theorainneacha talún agus luann an tuairim gur as eachtra da shórt a scríobh Homer an *Iliad*.

Bhí áilleacht faoi cheilt in ainm tuathalach an bhaile fearann mar a rugadh Kavanagh, Mucker (ón nGaeilge a chiallaíonn "áit na muc"). Sa dán úd *Kerr's Ass*, a scríobhadh i Londain, beirtar an file siar is é ag cuimhneamh ar ghnáthrudáí a óige atá anois an-speisialta. Seo atá ar intinn aige: "Until a world comes to life – / Morning, the silent bog, / And the god of imagination waking / In a Mucker fog."

Is fíor gur bhog sé go Baile Átha Cliath in aois fir, á bhréagnú fhéin mar sin ar shlí, cé gur luaigh sé blianta ina dhiaidh gurbh é sin an botún ba mhó aige. Ar aon nós, bhronn sé oidhreacht doscrista ar Mhuineachán, fiú muna raibh ann ach go raibh sé chomh tábhachtach le gach aon áit eile agus in ann ealaíon a spreagadh chomh maith.

Mar a tharla, fear a bhain leis an nglún a d'imigh roimhe ab ea an tiarna talún Evelyn P. Shirley a scríobh saothar próis an-thábhachtach dar teideal *History of Monaghan*. Liostáil sé logainmneacha an chontae maraon le míniú orthu agus scéalta. Ach chun réamhrá fileata a chur i dtús an leabhair bhí ar Shirley dul go hAlban agus Sir Walter Scott. Tamall ina dhiaidh sin ní bheadh ar staraithe an méid sin a dhéanamh.

It was Kavanagh's recurring theme that in the parochial one could find the universal – that the village contained the world. Hence another of his best-known poems, *Epic*, in which he remembers a local row over land boundaries and suggests it was from something similar that Homer wrote the *Iliad*.

Even in the inelegantly named townland of Kavanagh's birth, Mucker (from the Irish for "a place of pigs"), beauty lurked. In the poem *Kerr's Ass*, written from London, Kavanagh is transported by the memory of things that were once very ordinary to him but now again seem exotic. He names them in his head: "Until a world comes to life – / Morning, the silent bog, / And the god of imagination waking / In a Mucker fog."

It's true that he moved to Dublin in adulthood, thereby somewhat contradicting himself – although he did also claim in later years this had been his biggest mistake. In any case, he bequeathed Monaghan an indelible legacy, if only by proving it mattered as much most places do, and could inspire art as well as anywhere.

A generation before him, incidentally, in his *History of Monaghan* – itself a landmark work – the landlord Evelyn P. Shirley had done in prose something similar to Kavanagh: listing all the county's place names, with their meanings and other lore. But when choosing a suitable poetic prologue for his book, Shirley had to look to Scotland, and Sir Walter Scott. Later historians would not need to go that far.

Níl baint chomh mór san ag Muineachán le saothar beirt scríbhneoir mór eile ó Chluain Eois, Eugene McCabe agus a chomhainmneach Patrick. Mar shampla lonnaigh Eugene an dráma *King of the Castle* i Liatroim agus an t-úrsceál mór *Death and Nightingales* i bhFear Manach. Ach tá na stráicí talamhiata ar an dteorainn thart ar Chluain Eois agus an dúthaigh máguaird rithábhachtach don bheirt scríbhneoir úd, rud nach dtuigeann lucht lasmuigh i gcónaí.

In agallamh leis an Guardian tráth, óna bhaile i Sligeach ag an am, fuair Patrick McCabe locht ar iriseoiri ar cuairt toisc tionchar barúlach an bhaile úd air a lua. I ndáiríre “ní raibh aon bhaint ag Sligeach leis an scéal”, a mhínigh sé, “Ní luaitear an fharraige ar chor ar bith sa tsaothar agamsa”.

Bhí spéis ag McCabe sna tailte intíre i measc na ndroimníní agus ior na spéire á cheilt acu. Bhí an bua aige go bhféadfadh sé aiteachas an tsaoil ann a scaoileadh amach gan choinne, rud nár áiríodh mar ábhar litríocht fhaiseanta lena linn sin. Más rud é nach iad a ghreanntraigéidí dorch a bhunaigh an seánra dar teideal “gotach an phortaigh”, is cinnte gur ghlac siad chuige féin é.

Luaitear an focal “dorch” le scríbhinní Eugene McCabe freisin. Tar éis dó cáil a bhaint amach go príomha mar dhrámadóir, cuireadh an aidiacht “gotach” leis an gcead úrsceál mall uaidh *Death and Nightingales* (1992). Ach thairis sin, tá sé sin an-dhifriúil ar fad seachas aon rud scríofa aige féin ina óige ná fiú ag éinne eile. Dúirt Colm Tóibín go raibh sé “ar cheann de mhórsaothair na hÉireann”.

I saothar den chéad scoth ag Patrick McCabe *The Butcher Boy*, léirítear an chruthaitheacht ag ag méadú. I measc rudaí eile, rinne Neil Jordan scannán de faoin dteideal céanna agus chuir sé Cluain Eois ar léarscáil scannánaíochta an domhain. As san arís d’eascair Féile Scannán Chluain Eois mar a mbíonn léargas ar ghreann an leabhair trí leagan áitiúil de na Oscar—na Francies.

Monaghan is less of a literal presence in the work of the two great Clones writers, Eugene McCabe and his namesake Patrick. The former’s play *King of the Castle* is set in Leitrim, for example, his great novel *Death and Nightingales* in Fermanagh. But the land-locked borderlands of Clones and its hinterland are crucial to both writers, a point outside critics have sometimes missed.

In an interview with The Guardian once, from his then home in Sligo, Patrick McCabe chided visiting journalists for always mentioning that town’s supposed influence on him. In fact, Sligo had “absolutely nothing to do with [it],” he pointed out: “There is no mention of the sea in my work”.

McCabe’s speciality lay inland, among the horizon-blocking drumlins. His talent was to reveal the unexpected strangeness of life there, hitherto overlooked as the stuff of cutting-edge literature. If his dark tragicomedies did not invent the genre known as “bog gothic”, they certainly made it his own.

The word “dark” is often used of Eugene McCabe’s writings too. And after making his name mainly as a playwright, he also attracted the adjective “gothic” for his belated debut novel, *Death and Nightingales* (1992). But otherwise, the latter is very different from anything the younger McCabe, or anyone else, has written. Colm Tóibín has called it “one of the great Irish masterpieces”.

The Butcher Boy, Patrick McCabe’s classic, is a prime example of how creativity breeds creativity. Among other things, it inspired Neil Jordan’s film of the same name, shot locally, and thereby put Clones on the world cinema map. This in turn led to the Clones Film Festival, whose version of the Oscars—the Francies—reflects the book’s humour.

Ar an dul céanna bhronn *The Butcher Boy* an teideal The Garage Theatre i Muineachán. Nuair a bhíonn máthair Francie Brady tinn téann sí go dtí “an garáiste” chun “í féin a dheisiú”. Ba é Ospidéal Naomh Damhnait “an garáiste” agus sa bhliain 1992 bunaíodh amharclann i seanbharda ann nach raibh in úsáid, b’shin é an fáth gur tugadh an t-ainm sin uirthi. An-oiriúnach ar fad, ba é an chéad dráma a léiríodh inti ná Frank Pig Says Hello, leagan drámatúil den úrsceál.

Ba é Patrick McCabe an inspioráid freisin do cheann de na hócáidí chultúrtha ba neamh-choitianta dar tharla riamh i Muineachán (ná in Éirinn fiú): b’shin an Fhéile Flat Lake a bhíodh ar siúl ar feadh roinnt blianta go dtí 2013 i dtailte Páirc Hilton.

Bhíodh sé seo as an gnáth agus uaireanta ainrialta, idir ócáidí galánta litríochta a bhain le Seamus Heaney nach maireann agus drámadóir na SA Sam Shepard agus léiriú bríomhar ceolmhar le Lily Allen agus Crystal Swing. Fiú is é thart, bhí an cuma ar an scéal go dtiocfadh an ócáid ar ais in ómós mar fhéile “Son of Flat Lake”. Faraor níor tharla agus níl anois againn ach na cuimhní.

Ní haon ionadh go mbíonn cúlra an cheoil go minic i leabhair Patrick McCabe. Ar aon dul le athair Francie Brady, sheinneadh a athair fhéin an trumpa. Sheinn Patrick féin méarchlár i seobhanna sna 1970idí. Lena linn sin bhí an méid sin baint ag Muineachán le ré na seobhannaí gur glaoth “Nashville na hÉireann” ar an gcontae.

Is dócha gurbh é an duine ba mhó i ngach aon slí ná “Big Tom” McBride, tugadh rí “an cheoil tíre agus an iarthair” air ach anois ní thugtar ar an ngné úd ach “ceol tíre”. Bhí an cur síos úd oiriúnach sa chás seo mar cé go mbíodh

In similar vein, *The Butcher Boy* legacy includes The Garage Theatre in Monaghan, a name inspired by a poignant joke. Whenever Francie Brady’s mother has a break-down, she goes to “the garage” to “get fixed”. The garage was St Davnet’s Psychiatric Hospital. So when a disused former ward there became a theatre in 1992, there could be only one name. Aptly, the first play it hosted was Frank Pig Says Hello, a stage version of the novel.

Patrick McCabe was also the inspiration behind one of the more unusual cultural events ever held in Monaghan (or indeed Ireland): the Flat Lake Festival, which ran for several years until 2013 in the grounds of Hilton Park.

An off-beat and sometimes anarchic affair, it ranged from highbrow literary events involving the late Seamus Heaney and US playwright Sam Shepard, to a short but unforgettable musical mash-up between Lily Allen and Crystal Swing. Even when it ended, it looked for a time like being reborn as a tribute “Son of Flat Lake” festival. Alas the plans came to nothing and it now lives on only in fond memory.

Music is a constant backdrop in Patrick McCabe’s books, which is no coincidence. His real-life father was a trumpet-player, as is Francie Brady’s. The writer himself was played keyboards in a 1970s showband. And back then, Monaghan in general was so steeped in the showband era that Castleblayney was called the “Nashville of Ireland”.

Probably its biggest name, in every sense, was “Big Tom” McBride, a man acclaimed as the king of what used to be called “country and western” music but is now just “country”. That change of description was apt in his case,

an-chuid amhránaithe in Éirinn ag déanamh aithris ar chanúint Nashville, chan Big Tom mar fhear ó Bhaile na Lorgan.

Seachas ceol tíre agus seóbhannaí, áfach, gheofa an-eagsúlacht anois i Muineachán ó thaobh ceoil de. Mar shampla tá Scoil Cheoil na Botha, scoil bhliantúil don cheol traidisiúnta i mBaile an Scotsaigh agus an fhéile seanbhunaithe *Harvest Time Blues* a chuireann dreach Deilt an Mississippi ar bhaile Mhuineacháin sa bhfómhar.

Le déanaí bunaíodh ócáid tábhachtach eile mar Fhéile Patrick Byrne thart ar Charraig Mhachaire Rois aimsir na Cásca. Déantar comóradh ar chlárseoir dall a rugadh i Machaire Cluana sna 1790idí agus a bhí chun tosaigh in iarrachtaí na nÉireannach Aontaithe ar an uirlis úd a chur chun cinn.

Duine mór le rá ab ea Byrne, d'fháiltigh an Bhanríon Victoria roimhe agus sa bhliain 1845 tógadh grianghraf de, an chéad cheann raimh de cheoltóir Éireannach. Tugadh “clárseoir mór deireanach na hÉireann” air. Cé gur athbhunaíodh an uirlis—go díreach i gclárseach na hÉireann mar atá anois againn, bhí an fhírinne sa ráiteas úd. Nuair a cailleadh Byrne in 1863, ina theannta cailleadh traidisiún a shín siar mílaois ar a laghad agus a bhronn siombal an Stáit ar Éire neamhspleách.

Ní hann anois don uirlis sreangach ar a sheinneadh sé féin agus an dream a d'ímigh roimhe (le hingne seachas méireanna) lasmuigh de shaothar scoláirí ceoil. Maidir le Byrne dearmadadh é fadó fadó ina chontae dúchais. Ach le déanaí spreag an craobh áitiúil de Chomhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann suim arís ann agus ó 2007 i leith bíonn féile bhliantúil idir cheolchoirmeacha, cainteanna agus ranganna.

because at a time when most Irish performers tried to sound if they were from Nashville, Big Tom did something revolutionary. He sang in a 'Blayne accent.

Country music and showbands aside, however, Monaghan now has an extraordinarily eclectic range of musical output, from Scoil Cheoil na Botha, the annual traditional music school in Scotstown, to the long-running *Harvest Time Blues*, which transforms Monaghan town into an outpost of the Mississippi Delta each autumn.

An important recent addition is Féile Patrick Byrne, now held in and around Carrickmacross every Easter. It commemorates a blind harper born in Magheracloone in the 1790s, who was to be a leading figure in the United Irishmen's attempts to revive that ancient instrument.

Byrne was a celebrity in his lifetime, feted by Queen Victoria and, in 1845, the first Irish musician ever photographed. He was also regularly described as "the last of the great Irish harpers". And although the instrument was to be reinvented—literally, via the modern Irish harp—this seems to have been sadly true. When Byrne died in 1863, a tradition that stretched back at least a millennium—and gave independent Ireland its State symbol—died with him.

The wire-strung harp he and his predecessors played (with fingernails rather than fingers) is now all but extinct outside the work of music scholars. As for Byrne, he was long forgotten by his native county. But the local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann has revived interest and, since 2007, commemorates him with an annual festival of concerts, talks, and classes.

Harping aside, Monaghan has inherited a long rich tradition of oral music, via its predecessor: the old Gaelic kingdom of Oriel. This was the subject of a much-acclaimed 2003

Seachas clárseoireacht, tá oidhreacht fhada shaibhir i Muineachán maidir le ceol ó bhéal a bhaineann le seanríocht Oiriaila. I 2003 scríobh Pádraigín Ní hUallacháin ó Chontae Lú leabhar iontach dar teideal "A Hidden Ulster: people, songs and traditions of Oriel".

Is fiú a lua anso go bhfuil ceoltóirí cáiliúla ó Chontae Mhuineacháin i measc an diaspora freisin. Ar aon dul le gach áit eile in Éirinn ar ndóigh, tá pobal bródúil an chontae thar sáile idir lucht imirce agus a sliocht. I measc pobal an Mhuineacháin chéanna tá dhá réalt ceoil rac, san áireamh duine des na cumadóirí is cáiliúla i stair an phopcheoil.

Garmhac is ea Paul McCartney ó Learpholl le fear darb ainm Owen Mohin (Mohan ar dtús) ó Thulach na Malradh. Bhí lucht na meán idirnáisiúnta i nGlas Locha i 2002 nuair a tháinig sé “abhaile” chun Heather Mills a phósadh i gCaisleán Leslie i 2002. Os a choinne sin ócáid phríobháideach a bhí ann i 2015 nuair a tháinig Gordon Sumner, ar a dtugtar Sting, ar cuairt chuig seanteach na mbocht i gCarraig Mhachaire Rois. In ómós dá shin-shin-shin-seanmháthair a bhí sé, Mary Murphy (Goodman ón gcliabhán) ó Inis Caoin a bhásaigh ansiúd i 1881 ach níl aon mharcáil ar an uaigh.

Bíonn foirmeacha difriúla sa léiriú cruthaitheach, ina measc tá na cinn a luaitear faoin dteideal “ealaíon agus ceardaíocht”. Áit éigin sa chatagóir úd tá caibidil an-suntasach ar fad a bhaineann le scéal Mhuineacháin—obair lása. I ndáiríre d'fhéadfá a rá, cé gur tionscal saineithneach baile ag mná amháin a bhíodh i gceist, gurbh iad na déantóirí lása a bhí mar ambasadóirí cultúrtha an chontae tráth dá raibh.

book, "A Hidden Ulster: people, songs and traditions of Oriel" by Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, from neighbouring Louth. Her scholarship reclaimed many old songs hitherto attributed to other parts of Ireland or to unknown origins.

It may be also worth noting here that the Monaghan diaspora has produced prodigious musicians too. Like everywhere else in Ireland, the county has extended community overseas, comprising immigrants and their descendants, often very proud of the link. This global Monaghan boasts at least two very famous rock stars, including half the greatest song-writing team in pop history.

Paul McCartney was the Liverpool-born grandson of one Owen Mohin (originally Mohan) from Tullynamalrow. When he came "home" to marry Heather Mills at Castle Leslie in 2002, the world's media descended on Glaslough. By contrast, it was a private occasion in 2015 when Gordon Sumner, better known as Sting, made a visit to the old workhouse in Carrickmacross, now a heritage centre. He was honouring a great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Murphy (nee Goodman) from Inniskeen, who died there in 1881 and occupies an unmarked grave.

Cultural expression takes many forms, including those lumped under the umbrella "arts and crafts". And somewhere within that latter spectrum resides one the most remarkable chapters in Monaghan's story—lace-making. In fact, despite being the quintessential cottage industry, and exclusively female, it could be argued that the county's lace-makers were once, for a period, its greatest cultural ambassadors.

Bhí agus tá fós dhá ionad lárnach don cheird: Cluain Eois mar ar bhunaigh Cassandra Hand ó Shasana scoil cróise i 1847 i lár an Ghorta agus Carraig Mhachaire Rois mar a rug bean mhinistir eile, Mrs Grey Porter, an cheird isteach (trí Dhomhnach Maighean) in 1820.

Bhí an lasa tábhachtach sa dá cheantar mar fhoinsé ioncaim le linn drochshaoil. Tráth dá raibh bhí sé mar shlí bheatha ag suas le 1,500 duine i gCluain Eois. I gCarraig Mhachaire Rois ach go háirithe sáraíodh an bunús umhal a bhí aige. Faoi dheireadh na 1800idí agus mná rialta St. Louis go príomha á bhrú ar aghaidh bhí clú ar an mbranda ar fud an domhain mar earraí galánta.

Thart ar thús an 20ú aois ní bhíodh aon phósadh i measc daoine móra in Iarthar na hEorpa gan píosa éigin Lása Charraig Mhachaire Rois sa bhfeisteas pósta ag an mbrídeog. Sa bhFrainc, de réir staraí amháin, bhíodh stíleanna difriúla ag “mná saibhre Phárais” d’ócáidí éagsúla: “guipure Charraig Mhachaire Rois do na ‘rásaí galánta capall’ agus appliqué Charraig Mhachaire Rois ag ceoldráma nó le gúna tráthnóna.” Idir an dá linn ag an Aonach Domhanda i St Louis i 1904 bronnadh bonn óir ar mhná rialta san ord céanna as a gcuid taispeántas.

Leath an rath úd lasmuigh de Mhuineachán féin. D’fhéadfadh éinne an branda “Charraig Mhachaire Rois” a úsáid agus mhúineadh mná rialta é ar fud na tíre. Ag taispeántas amháin ceardaíochta san RDS i mBaile Átha Cliath bhí 28 gcinn d’iontrála faoin aainm sin, cuid acu chomh fada le Maigh Eo agus Corcaigh.

Bhí fadhb maidir leis an iomarca táirgíochta agus an caighdeán ag titim. Bhí rabhadh san Irish Times i 1905 faoi laghdú ar éileamh de dheasca an mhargadh a bheith lán de “shaothar oibrithe neamhoilte”. B’shin toisc an “fosc Charraig Mhachaire Rois”, adúradh, ach bhíothas anois chun an tionscal a chailliúint maraon le jabanna na “gcéadta” a bhíodh ag gabháil dó.

There were, and still are, two main centres of the craft: Clones, where the English-born Cassandra Hand established a crochet school in 1847, at the height of the Famine; and Carrickmacross, where another clergyman's wife, Mrs Grey Porter, had introduced it (via Donaghmoynne) in 1820.

In both areas, lace was an important source of income in hard times. As many as 1,500 once earned a living from it in Clones. But especially in Carrickmacross, the industry was to transcend its humble origins. By the end of the 1800s, at which time the St Louis nuns had become its main promoters, it was a global brand-name, and a luxury one at that.

Around the start of the 20th century, no society wedding in Western Europe was complete without some Carrickmacross Lace in the bridal trousseau. In France, according to one historian, "the society ladies of Paris" even took to wearing different styles for different events: "Carrickmacross guipure for 'smart race meetings' and Carrickmacross appliqué for opera or evening wear." Meanwhile at the 1904 World's Fair in St Louis, the nuns of the same name won a gold medal for their exhibits.

This success was not confined to Monaghan. "Carrickmacross" was a brand-name anyone could use, and nuns all over Ireland taught it. At one crafts exhibition in Dublin's RDS, there were 28 entries featuring the name, from as far away as Mayo and Cork.

Overproduction and falling standards became a problem. *The Irish Times* warned in 1905 of reduced demand abroad because the "productions of immature workers" we're flooding the market. This was a direct result of the "Carrickmacross boom", it said, but it now threatened to kill the industry and with it the jobs of the "hundreds".

Mar a tharla thángthas tríd an gábh úd agus bhí an baol i ndáiríre ag teacht ar shlí eile. I measc mórán rudaí eile, ba bheag nár sciob an Chéad Chogadh Domhanda an déantús lása in Éirinn. Bhí an neart ann anois ina laige. Cé gurbh iad na bochtáin a bhíodh á dhéanamh, b'iad lucht na dtithe móra agus an t-uaasaicme a bhíodh á cheannach. Loiteadh na margaí úd le linn an chogaidh. Agus an daonlathas ag teacht chun cinn arís i 1918, iomrall aimsire a bhí sa lása galánta.

Pé scéal é, ní raibh iomlán na cirte ag an té a ghlaigh "deireadh lása na hÉireann mar thionscal idirnáisiúnta" ar an gcogadh. Athbhunaíodh an dá bhranda agus táid fós á dhéanamh sa lá atá inniu ann. Bíonn an-éileamh ar an scoil samhraidh don déantús lása i gCluain Eois atá ag imeacht le fada. Ina theannta san leanann Comharchumann Lása Charraig Mhachaire Rois den traidisiún atá anois nach mór 200 bliain d'aois: spreagtar é sin trí cheangal le bainiseacha ríoga, go háirithe bainis an Bhanphrionsa Diana.

Ní haon áibhéil a rá, ag aon am faoi leith, go bhfuil an líon is mó scríbhneoirí, ealaíontóirí agus clochadóirí i Muineachán thar aon chontae eile seachas Baile Átha Cliath. Sin toisc an t-ionad Tyrone Guthrie a bheith suite gar do Chúil Darach, é mar bhaile sealadach ag na mílte ealaíontóirí áitiúla agus idirnáisiúnta ón mbliain 1981 i leith.

Tá an t-ionad suite sna cnoic thart ar Loch Eanach Mhic Dheirg is é mar dhídean ag lucht cruthaitheach ó bhrú an tsaoil lasmuigh. B'fhíor an méid sin go mórmhór le linn na dTrioblóidí sa Tuaisceart a bhí ag titim amach gar go leor dóibh.

In the event, it survived that crisis. The real danger loomed elsewhere. As it did so many things, the First World War all but swept Irish lace-making away. What had been the product's strength became a weakness. Although lace had always been the work of the poor, its markets had been the big houses and aristocracy. Those markets were devastated by the war. In the more democratic world of 1918, luxury lace looked like an anachronism.

Happily, the writer who called the war "the end of Irish lace as an international industry" was not completely correct. Both Monaghan brands were later reborn and both survive today. Clones hosts a popular and long-established annual summer school in lace-making. Meanwhile, the Carrickmacross Lace Co-Op carries on a tradition now nearing its 200th birthday: boosted by continued associations with royal weddings, most famously Princess Diana's.

It is no exaggeration to say that, at any given time, Monaghan may have the highest number of working writers, painters, and sculptors of any Irish county except Dublin. This is because of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre near Newbliss, which since 1981 has been a temporary home to thousands of artists, local and international.

Set among the hills around Annaghmakerrig Lake, the centre is a refuge for creative people from the pressures of the outside world. This was doubly true in its earlier years, when the Northern Troubles raged not far away.

Bhí baint ag Eanach Mhic Dheirg, mar a thugtar air, leis an oileán scoilte seo a aontú. Dhá chomhairle ealaíon, thuaidh agus theas, a bhí ina bhun agus tá an córas céanna ar siúl ó shin. Ní hé an cháil is lú atá air gur léirigh sé do chathair Phárais conas cur chuig a leithéid d'fhiontar. Nuair a athraíodh Seancholáiste na hÉireann chun Centre Culturel Irlandais a bhunú, is é Eanach Mhic Dheirg a bhí mar shampla acu.

Idir é sin agus an Ionad Kavanagh, a bhronnann duaiseanna bliantúla filíochta as an oidhreacht aige, bíonn Muineachán go mór chun tosaigh maidir le gníomhaíocht ealaíonta, dúchasach agus eile. Agus arís tá sé an-oiriúnach a leithéid de mhalartú cultúrtha a bheith ar bun ann mar, i bhfad roimh Theorainn na linne seo, ceantar teorann a bhíodh anso.

Bhí baint lárnach ag Muineachán le háit seanda, mistéireach darb ainm an Cláina Muice Duibhe, ceaptar go mbíodh sé sin mar theorainn luath idir Uladh agus an Deisceart. Ach fiú nuair a ghéill seanríocht Oirialla sa 16ú haois, bhí an ceantar fós mar chríos cosanta idir an Tuaisceart agus an Pháil.

Agus an Cogadh Naoi mBliana faoi lánseol agus Aodh Ó Néill ag caint faoi shíocháin leis an Tiarna Essex, ba i mBéal Átha Claonta mar a bhuaileann Muineachán le Lú a bhí siad, Ó Néill i lár na habhann agus Essex ar an mbruach theas. Ní fios cad a tharla eatarthu ach chinn Essex filleadh ar Shasana i gcoinne orduithe, rud ba chúis len é a chur chun báis ar ball.

Bhíodh teorainn teanga ag Muineachán freisin idir Ultais agus Béarla na hÉireann trín bhfochanúint Béarla Deiscirt Uladh. Bhí coimhlint leis idir dhá theanga oifigiúla na hÉireann níos déanaí ná mar a bhí in aon áit eile seachas an Iarthar. Bhí an Ghaeilge á labhairt go forleathan i mbarúntacht Fhearnaí roimh an

Annaghamkerrig, as it's known for short, was a uniting factor on a divided island. It was run jointly by Ireland's two arts councils, north and south, and so it remains. Not least of its achievements was to show Paris the way. When the old Irish College there was reinvented as the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Annaghamkerrig was a role model.

Between that and the Kavanagh Centre, which dispenses annual poetry prizes and bursaries from his estate, Monaghan is a major generator of artistic activity, indigenous and otherwise. And it's apt that it should be a place of such cultural interchange because, long before the modern Border, this was frontier country.

Monaghan was central to the ancient, mysterious Black Pig's Dyke, sometimes considered an earlier boundary between Ulster and the south. But even when the old Kingdom of Oriel gave way to the smaller, modern county in the 16th century, the area remained a buffer zone between the North and the Pale.

During the height of the Nine Years War, when Hugh O'Neill held peace talks with Lord Essex, it was at Aclint, where Monaghan meets Louth, with O'Neill in the middle of the river and Essex on the southern bank. Nobody knows what passed between them, but it persuaded Essex to return to England, against orders, and set him on a path that eventually cost his head.

Monaghan has been a linguistic boundary too, between Ulster-Scots and Hiberno-English, via the sub-dialect of South Ulster English. It also experienced the collision between Ireland's two official languages more recently than most places outside the west. The barony of Farney was still overwhelmingly Irish-speaking until

Gorta, eisceacht ab ea í soir ón tSionainn agus í fós á labhairt ann i bhfad ina dhaidh sin. Níor cailleadh an cainteoir dúchais deireanach in Inis Caoin, Dan Tuite, go dtí 1957.

Luadh gur chothaigh na blianta fada idirghabháil idir dhá ionad cumhachta i nDeisceart Uladh líon ard fiontróirí as an gnáth. Más fíor an méid sin caithfidh go raibh tionchar ag an láthair ar an gcruthaitheacht. Níl ach thart ar 60,000 duine sa chontae, agus fiú gan na turasóirí a thagann go hEanach Mhic Dheirg, tá ionadaíocht thar na bearta anois ag Muineachán san 21ú aois maidir le cultúr na hÉireann.

Tá an-chuid scríbhneoirí ó Mhuineachán ar an stáitse náisiúnta, daoine mar Mary O'Donnell agus Evelyn Conlon. Tá na haisteoirí Ardal O'Hanlon, Charlene McKenna, Aoibhinn McGinnity agus Catriona Balfe. Le déanaí tá fear ó Inis Caoin, Oliver Callan, cosúil ar shlí le Patrick Kavanagh is é mar dhealg aorach ag priocadh as rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath. A bhuíochas dósan agus do mhórán eile, tá fíis Éireannach uathúil dá chuid féin á léiriú i Muineachán mar a bheadh fhuinneog Oirialla ann.

the Famine, and almost uniquely east of the Shannon, remained a bastion long after. The last native gaelgeóir in Inniskeen, Dan Tuite, died only in 1957.

It has been suggested that South Ulster's centuries of mediation between two power bases have bred an unusually high number of entrepreneurs. If that's true, the location must also have had an effect on creativity in general. For a county of barely 60,000 people, and even without the tourists of Annaghamkerrig, 21st century Monaghan is probably over-represented in Irish culture.

From such writers as Mary O'Donnell and Evelyn Conlon to the actors Ardal O'Hanlon, Charlene McKenna, Aoibhinn McGinnity and Catriona Balfe, it has given many natives to the national stage. A latter-day son of Inniskeen, Oliver Callan, has even taken on part of Patrick Kavanagh's mantle, as a satirical thorn in the side of the Dublin establishment. Thanks to him and many others, Monaghan continues to present its own, very particular vision of Ireland, as viewed through an Oriel window.

4

Fís Mhuineacháin Ildánaí
Creative Monaghan Vision

TÁ FÍS AG Éire Ildánach mar dheis a bheith ag gach saoránach in Éirinn a m(h)ianach iomlán a bhaint amach maidir le cruthaitheacht. Leantar an fhís úd trí Chúig Chólún atá sa Chlar Éire Ildánach:

Colún 1

Scód a ligean le Cumas na Cruthaitheachta i ngach Leanbh

Colún 2

Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal

Colún 3

Infheistíocht in Infreastruchtúr na Cruthaitheachta agus an Chultúir

Colún 4

Éire mar Ionad Barr Feabhais maidir le Léiriúchán na Meán Cruthaitheachta

Colún 5

Clú na hÉireann ar fud an domhain a thabhairt le chéile

Is chun leas a chur chun cinn idir aonar, cultúrtha, pobail agus náisiúnta a bunaíodh an clár cultúir seo. Is iad an pháirtíocht agus an fhís atá lárnach ann. Caithfear go príomha nasc a chruthú idir na healaíontóirí agus lucht cruthaitheach eile chun an fhís a bhaint amach. Is féidir cultúr a mhíniú ar bhonn leathan mar thaithí bunúsach daonna; tagtar ar mhíniú trí ionadaíocht aonair agus i dteannta a chéile. Trín gcultúr cruthaímid sinn féin. Trín gcultúr a thuiscint tuigimid sinn féin.

THE VISION OF Creative Ireland is that all citizens living in Ireland will have the opportunity to fully realise his or her creative potential. The vision is pursued through the Five-Pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme:

Pillar 1

Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Pillar 2

Enabling Creativity in Every Community

Pillar 3

Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure

Pillar 4

The Creative Industries: Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Media Production

Pillar 5

Unifying our Global Reputation

This culture-based programme is designed to promote individual, community and national well-being. Participation and access are central to the vision. Connecting artists and other creators to communities is regarded as essential to realising the vision. Culture broadly defined is a fundamental human experience; the making of meaning, through individual and collective representation. In creating culture we make ourselves. In understanding our culture and creativity we understand ourselves.

Is trí Éire Ildánach go príomha a chuirfear i gcrích na tosaíochtaí a aithníodh i gCultúr 2025, Éire Ildánach¹, luaitear go mbaineann ealaíon agus cultúr go dlúth le tír na hÉireann. Aithnítear go bhfuil géarghá le cur le rochtain agus páirtíocht sna healaíona, go gcaithfear tionscail chruthaitheach a spreagadh agus ár n-oidhreacht a chaomhnú. Ní mór díriú go háirithe ar theanga, tírdhreach agus an timpeallacht.

Tá sainordú ag Muineachán Colún 2 ‘Bonn a chur faoin gCruthaitheacht i ngach Pobal’ a sholáthar. Ina theannta san, éascófar tionscadail eile mar thacaíocht do na colúin eile. Ba mhaith linn go mbainfidh muintir na háite pléisiúr as ealaíon agus cultúr lasmuigh de dhóras, rochtain a fheabhsú ar fhoghlaím chruthaitheach i bpáirt lena chéile agus go mbeidh ealaíontóirí is a leithéid eile ag dul chun cinn is ag cur leis an sochaí trí chultúr agus cruthaitheacht a chur ina lár istigh. Dearbhaíonn an polasaí seo go dtacaíonn Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin le cruthaitheacht a chleachtadh i ngach aon slí. Aithnítear gur féidir le hearnáil bheomhar chultúrtha cur go mór lenár féidir a bhaint amach sa chontae seo againne ar bhonn socheacnamaíoch.

Is í an fhís atá againn trí Mhuineachán Ildánach ná *an leas is fearr a bhaint as deiseanna plé le cultúr agus cruthaitheacht agus ár dtallann cruthaitheach a chothú fad is a bheifear ag daingniú ár mbuntáistí aonair, sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch.*

Creative Ireland is the main implementation vehicle for the priorities identified in Culture 2025, Éire Ildánach¹, and it states that arts and culture are intrinsic to the Irish state, acknowledges the need to increase access to, and participation in the arts, boost our creative industries and preserve our heritage with a particular focus on language, landscape and the environment.

Monaghan County Council has been mandated to deliver Pillar 2 ‘Enabling Creativity in Every Community’. In addition, we will be facilitating a number of initiatives which support the other pillars. We want to enable local people to enjoy arts and culture on their own doorstep, facilitate access to creative and collaborative learning, and be a place where artists and creators can prosper and contribute to society, by placing culture and creativity at the heart of the community. This policy affirms that Monaghan County Council supports the practice of creativity in whatever form or medium and recognises that a vibrant cultural sector can enhance the socio-economic achievement of our county.

Our vision through Creative Monaghan is *to maximise opportunities for engagement in culture and creativity, to nurture our creative talent, whilst embedding the individual, social and economic benefits.*

¹ Cultúr 2025 – Éire Ildánach, Creat Polasaí go 2025. An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Cúrsaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta, 2016.

¹ Culture 2025 – Éire Ildánach, A Framework Policy to 2025. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 2016.

5

Prionsabail Éire Ildánach i Muineachán

The Creative Ireland Values in Monaghan

IS IAD NA prionsabail treorach laistigh de mheon Mhuineachán Ildánach ná cur chuige samhlaíoch don chultúr agus cruthaitheacht a spreagadh agus a fheidhmiú. Beidh aidhm lárnach ag ár bplé le saoránaigh mar Mhuintir, Láthair agus Cumhachtú. Bainfear an méid sin amach trí shraith comhráite a leagfaidh béim ar chleachtadh, foghlaim agus aidhm rannpháirtíochta. Chun an straitéis a sholathar beidh líon áirithe tosaíochtaí mar threoir do na luachanna agus cuspóirí atá laistigh den straitéis seo Chontae Mhuineacháin. Leanfaidh na pleananna náisiúnta agus cultúrtha atá cheana féin mar bhonn eolais faoinár gcur chuige i leith ár bPlean Éire Ildánach do Mhuineachán. Ba chóir go gcuirfeadh an úinéireacht agus soláthar a luaitar sa straitéis seo le cumhacht ár saoránaigh maidir le ceangal le cultúr, oidhreacht agus lucht cruthaitheach. Tá nasc láidir idir na prionsabail is iad ag tacú lena chéile mar a leanas:

Comhoibriú – cuirfimid le naisc atá cheana féin ann agus spreagfar cur chuige níos leithne a mhéadóidh deiseanna dóibh siúd a oibríonn san earnáil chruthaitheach plé le caidreamh lenár saoránaigh agus agus gaol a chothú.

Caidreamh – beidh ár gcaidreamh ar bhonn soiléir trédhearcach, trí eolas a thabhairt bímid ag plé agus trín bplé tógtar caidreamh lenár saoránaigh maidir le daoine, láthair agus cumhacht.

Pobal – agus sinn ag plé le saoránaigh ní mór díriú ar an ndúshlán a bhaineann le plé agus páirtíocht. Leathnófar úinéireacht agus soláthar an phlean ach san am gcéanna forbrófar agus coimeádfar an gaol a bheidh againn le fórsaí cruthaitheach sa phobal seo againne chun go mbeidh rath ar an bplean seo.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES
contained within the spirit of Creative Monaghan will be to instigate and harness imaginative approaches to culture and creativity. The aim and focus of engagement with our citizens will be of People Place and Empowerment. This will be achieved through collaboration, participation and inclusiveness involving a series of conversations with an emphasis on practice, learning and an aim to participate. In order to deliver this strategy a number of priorities will guide the values and objectives contained within this Creative Monaghan strategy. Existing county and national cultural plans will continue to inform our approach in the delivery of our Creative Ireland Plan for Monaghan. The ownership and delivery of the values contained in this strategy should empower our citizens in their future relationship with culture, heritage and its creators. These values are inextricably linked, each supporting the others. They are:

Collaboration – we will enhance existing collaborations and encourage a wider and broader collaborative approach which should increase the opportunities for those working in the creativity sphere to engage with and build on relationships with our citizens

Communication – we will communicate in a coherent and transparent manner – by informing we engage and by engaging we build relationships with our citizens in advocating people, place power

Community – the challenge of engagement and participation will be an important focus in the approach to our citizens. Broadening ownership and delivery of our plan while developing and sustaining a relationship with the creative forces in our communities will key to a successful plan.

Cuimsiú, Cumhachtú agus Rannpháirtíocht – tabharfaimid deiseanna dár saoránaigh dul ar thuras i dtreo a suim féin sa chruthaitheacht a bhíogadh. Éascófar iad siúd atá ag obair is ag plé leis an earnáil chruthaitheach trí chur leis na deiseanna a bheidh ar fáil dóibh maidir le rannpháirtíocht chruthaitheach le pobail eile.

Inmharthanacht – ba chóir go gcuirfeadh an straitéis tábhachtach seo lenár bpolasaithe atá cheana féin ann i roinn Cultúrtha CCM. Lárnach maidir le torthaí fóna a bhaint amach sa straitéis beidh inmharthanacht laistigh de sheirbhísí tacaíochta CCM. Dá bhrí sin tá dúshlán lárnach romhainn ar bhonn riaracháin agus bainistíochta.

Inclusivity Empowerment and Participation – we will provide opportunities to our citizens to engage in the journey of discovery in awakening their interest in creativity. We will facilitate and assist those working and engaged in the creative sector by increasing opportunities to them which would involve improved participation with the creative communities

Sustainability – this important cultural strategy should enhance and support our existing policies in the Cultural division of MCC. Sustainability within the support services of MCC will be a key factor in the long term successful outcomes contained within this strategy. It is, therefore, a core challenge both from an administrative and management perspective.



Carrickmacross
Arts Festival

6

Tosaíochtaí Straitéiseacha do Mhuineachán

Strategic Priorities for Monaghan

AR FUD CHONTAE Mhuineacháin bítear ag plé le Cultúr agus Cruthaitheacht ar shlite difriúla, mar lucht féachana, caomhnóirí oidhreacht, ealaíontóirí lánaimseartha, léiritheoirí nó fiontróirí. Do dhaoine eile bheadh plé le cultúr agus cruthaitheacht trín earnáil deonach nó amaitéarach a bhíonn mar ghné bríomhar i dtaithí aonair agus pobail. Ar aon chéim leo siúd táid ann nach mbaineann go díreach le cultúr ach a fhéachann air mar ghné a chuireann go mór le cáilíocht a dtimpeallacht leathan féin maidir le cúrsaí sóisialta agus timpeallachta.

Trí oibriú i gcomhar le hinstiúidí agus eagraíochtaí eile tá súil againn cur le plé leanai agus daoine óga nach raibh deis acu go dtí seo an leas úd a bhaint as cultúr agus cruthaitheacht. Glacaimid leis go spreagann is go gcothaíonn an chruthaitheacht smaointe nua a ligeann do nuálaíocht agus deiseanna nua do dhaoine pé áit a bhfuil siad. Trí infheistíocht sa tionscadal seo Muineachán Ildánach aithnímid go bhfuil meas ag an sochaí ar chultúr, saothar ealaíontóirí agus an earnál chruthaitheach maraon le córas chun go mbainfidh saoránaigh taitneamh as saothar ealaíonta agus cruthaitheach.

Sa mhír seo tá na tosaíochtaí mar bhonn faoi spriocanna is aidhmeanna a chothófar is sinn ag fíorú an fhís mhór atá laistigh den chlár Éire Ildánach 2017–2022. Cé go ndearnadh machnamh ar an ionchur ónár gcomhairleoirí agus aighneachtaí faighte maidir le Muineachán Ildánach, mar is cuí táimid tar éis cuid de na cuspóirí a dháileadh is iad ar aon dul le polasaithe agus straitéisí atá i bpolasaithe a foilsíodh go náisiúnta agus laistigh den chontae. Ligeann sé sin don chleachtas is fearr maidir le comhoibriú chun na tosaíochtaí úd a sholáthar laistigh dár bplean féin do Mhuineachán Ildánach.

THROUGHOUT COUNTY MONAGHAN people engage with Culture and Creativity in many different ways, as audiences, heritage custodians, full-time artists, producers or as creative entrepreneurs. For others their involvement or engagement with culture and creativity might be through the voluntary or amateur sector which can be a vital part of their individual and community experience, quality of life and well-being. Equally valued are those who do not engage with the culture directly, but view creativity as an important contributor to the quality of their wider social and cultural environment.

Through our collaborations with other institutions and organisations we hope to enhance the engagement of our children and young people who may not yet have had the full opportunity in experiencing the benefits of culture and creativity in their lives. We accept that access to creativity stimulates and nurtures new ways of thinking which encourages innovation and generates new possibilities for people in their places and spaces. By investing in this Creative Monaghan initiative we are acknowledging the value society instils in culture, the work of artists and the creative sector as well as a mechanism to provide for citizens' enjoyment of artistic and creative work.

This section sets out the priorities that underpin the goals and aims that we hope to foster in realising the overall vision contained within the national Creative Ireland programme 2017–2022. While we reflected and digested on the input from our Creative Monaghan consultations and submissions received, we have appropriately assigned some of the goals that may mirror existing policies and strategies contained in both nationally published policies and our own county policies. This should allow for best collaborative practice to be followed in enabling delivery of these priorities contained in our own Creative Monaghan plan.

Braitheann an rath ar na tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha úd ar na hacmhainní a bheidh ar fáil idir inmheánach agus seachtrach agus ar chumas Mheitheal Cultúrtha Mhuineacháin. Chuireamar romhainn mar fhís meitheal láidir éifeachtach cultúrtha a bheith againn laistigh den Chomhairle Contae faoi dheireadh an chlár Éire Ildánach.

1: Muineachán Ildánach – Ar bPobal agus ár mBaile

Díríonn an straitéis seo ar dhaoine a chothú is a chumhachtú ina n-áit féin, bítear ag súil le dúshlán a thabhairt agus saoránaigh a bhíogadh chun dul i bpáirt agus plé le smaointeoirí cruthaitheacha. Meastar go mbéarfai le chéile mar sin guth lucht cruthaitheach i dtreo comhráit sa bhfadéarma faoi chur chuige imeascha maidir le cultúr agus cruthaitheacht. Agus sinn ag súil le breis plé i measc na ndaoine, tá súil againn cur le deiseanna agus comhoibriú trí chultúr agus cruthaitheacht agus an bhéim ar fhoghlaím is ar an gcleachtas is fearr.

Cuspóirí do Thosaíocht 1:

1. An meitheal cultúrtha laistigh den Chomhairle Contae a neartú i dtreo a gcuid spriocanna agus uaillmhian a bhaint amach go hiomlán maidir le réimsí dualgaí laistigh de sheirbhísí atá cheana féin ann agus dualgaí ordaithe.
2. Cultúr agus cruthaitheacht a dhaingniú san údarás áitiúil trí thorthaí tionscadail a tharla mar chuid den chlár seo a roinnt agus a léiriú go dtacaíonn an clár seo le polasaithe eile.

The delivery of these strategic priorities is dependent on the available internal and external resources and the capacity of Monaghan Culture Team. It is our vision to have a strengthened and enhanced cultural team within the County Council, by the end of the Creative Ireland programme.

Priority 1: Creative Monaghan – Our People & Place

This strategy aims to foster and empower people and their place, by so doing it is hoped to challenge and provoke our citizens in collaborating and engaging with our creative thinkers. It is anticipated that this might bring leading voices of our creative people together with our citizens which would result in long term discussions on inclusive approaches to culture and creative engagement. This should result in a paradigm shift, to empowerment while harnessing the narrative in creative engagement. In striving for a greater engagement with our people, we expect to increase opportunities and collaborations through culture and creativity with an emphasis on learning and best practice.

Priority 1 Objectives:

1. To strengthen and enhance the cultural team within the County Council, in order to fully achieve its goals and ambition in its areas of responsibilities within existing services and mandated obligations.
2. To embed culture and creativity in the local authority, by widely sharing the results of initiatives taken as part of this programme and demonstrating its supportive effect for other policies.

3. Forbróidh an Meitheal Cultúrtha cláir chruthaitheach ar bhonn bliantúil, cuirfear le sochaí a bheidh tuisceanach agus ag féachaint rompu.
4. Cláir, spásanna agus láithreacha chultúrtha atá cheana féin ann a chur chun cinn agus tacú leo, plé nua leo siúd a spreagadh chun cur le claochló inmharthana idir fhisiciúil agus sóisialta.
5. Tacú le tionscadail a chaomhnaíonn agus a thaiscéalaíonn gnéithe uathúla ár n-oidhreacht idir theanga, ealaíon agus cultúr agus a thacaíonn le cultúr a bheith tábhachtach do cháilíocht na timpeallachta idir shóisialta agus cultúrtha.
6. Tacú le féilte áitiúla ealaíon agus cultúrtha chun plé áitiúil agus cruthaitheach i measc an phobail a mhéadú, cúnaimh agus moladh a thabhairt don léiriú cultúrtha agus saoránaigh ag plé taobh le taobh leis an earnáil chruthaitheach.
7. Tacú le cláir a thaiscéalaíonn oidhreacht chultúrtha, bithéagsúlacht agus tírdhreach Mhuineacháin agus an comhthéacs leathan úd trí infheistiú i luach intrach ár gcomhshaol laistigh den sochaí.
8. Infheistiú i ndeiseanna do chleachtóirí cultúrtha agus ealaíonta chun ardán a thabhairt dóibh mar a léireofar smaointe, comhoibriú agus cumarsáid leis an Meitheal Cultúrtha.

3. Creative programmes will be developed on an annual basis by the Cultural Team, contributing to more enlightened open and outward looking society.
4. Promote and support existing cultural programmes, spaces and places and encourage new engagements with them as a driver of sustainable economic physical and social transformation.
5. To support initiatives that conserve and explore unique aspects of our language, artistic and cultural heritage that champion creativity as an important contributor to the quality of a wider social and cultural environment.
6. Support local arts and cultural festivals to increase local engagement and creative involvement by communities, by championing excellence in cultural expression with the engagement of the creative sector hand in hand with citizens.
7. Support programmes that creatively explore the cultural heritage, biodiversity and landscape of Monaghan and its wider context by investing in the intrinsic worth of our environment within our society.
8. Invest in opportunities for cultural and artistic practitioners in facilitating a platform for the exchange of ideas, collaborations and to communicate with the Culture Team.



Market House,
Monaghan

Tosaíocht 2: Leanaí agus Daoine Óga

Tá tiomantas i gclár Éire Ildánach go mbeidh deis ag gach leanbh teacht ar theagasc nó plé le Ceol, Drámaíocht, Ealaíon agus Códú faoin mbliain 2022. Mar phrionsabal lárnach sa tosaíocht seo tá sé mar bhonn go gcloisfear guth leanaí agus daoine óga sna cláir idir fhorbairt agus cur i láthair.

Tá cruthúnas i sonraí go mba chóir cultúr agus cruthaitheacht a chur i gcoilár an oideachais do dhaoine óga. De réir an Fhórait Eacnamaíoch Domhanda is iad na scileanna is mó a bheidh ag teastáil sa todhchaí ná cruthaitheacht, réiteach faidhbe casta agus smaoineamh criticiúil. Beidh na scileanna úd ón óige chun fadhbanna a réiteach, chun a bheith tionscnach, chun oibriú le chéile, chun tástáil, agus chun freagracht sóisialta, báidh agus teacht aniar a fhorbairt iontu féin.

Nuair is féidir, tacóidh Muineachán Ildánach leis an gCairt Ealaíon san Oideachas agus an Plean don Óige Chruthaitheach trí pháirtíochtaí áitiúla straitéiseacha agus cónaidhmeanna.

Cuspóirí do Thosaíocht 2:

1. Tacaíocht ag leibhéal áitiúil ón gCairt Ealaíon san Oideachas.
2. Tacaíocht agus gníomhaíocht ón bplean An Óige Chruthaitheach i gcomhar le CMETB.
3. Tacaíocht, comhoibriú agus cómhaoiniú don chlár Glún an Cheoil.
4. Tacaíocht agus ionchur sa Pháirtíocht áitiúil Ealaíon san Oideachas.

Priority 2: Children and Young People

The commitment in the Creative Ireland programme is that by 2022 every child should have the opportunity in accessing tuition or engagement in Music, Drama, Art and Coding. A core principle of this priority is that the voice of children and young people will be heard in both the development and delivery of programmes.

Data is proving that creativity and culture should be at the heart of educating our young people. According to the World Economic Forum, the top three skills workers will need in the future are creativity, complex problem solving and critical thinking. Our young people will need these necessary skills to solve problems, to be inventive, to work in collaboration, experiment, and to support and develop their social responsibility, empathy and resilience.

Creative Monaghan will support and collaborate, where feasible, with the Arts in Education Charter and The Creative Youth Plan through strategic local partnerships and alliances.

Priority 2 Objectives:

1. Support and collaborate at local level actions from the Arts in Education Charter.
2. Support and collaborate actions from The Creative Youth plan in collaboration with CMETB.
3. Support, collaborate and co-fund the roll out of Music Generation Programme.
4. Support and contribute to the local Arts in Education Partnership.

Tosaíocht 3: Spás agus Láthair don Chruthaitheacht: (Bonneagar Cultúrtha, Áiseanna agus Moil Chruthaitheach)

Tacóimid leis an gcoincheap “Cuibhreann Cultúrtha”, tionscadal um spás i bpáirt a bhaineann leas as saothar Ealaíontóirí, Eagraíochtaí ealaíona agus an earnáil chruthaitheach chun beocht agus anam a chur inár bpobail. Trí phlé leis an mbonneagar cultúrtha atá againn, láithreacha agus áiteanna, ba mhaith linn triail a bhaint as smaointe nuálacha agus cur chuige a bheidh bunaithe ar fhéinrialachas. Ba chóir go mbeadh tréimhsí ama agus solúbthacht i gceist dóibh siud ar chás leo prionsabail an daonlathais chultúrtha.

Chun go mbeidh rath ar na láithreacha úd i dtreo na cruthaitheachta caithfear am a chaitheamh leo agus ligean don bhorradh agus fás a thiofáidh ar an ngaol idir lucht cruthaitheach agus an pobal. Beidh slí do chleachtóirí cultúrtha, rannpháirtithe, lucht féachana, fiontróirí agus gach éinne a bhaineann leis an earnáil chruthaitheach. Beidh gá le páirtíochtaí nua agus comhoibriú chun go mbeidh rath ar na láithreacha úd ar bhonn a bheidh i bpáirt leis an bpobal agus inmharthana san am gcéanna.

Cuspóirí do Thosaíocht 3:

1. Éascóimid taighde chun tacaíocht agus / nó infheistíocht a aithint don earnáil chultúrtha.
2. Tacóimid le pleananna reatha chun na láithreacha úd a fheabhsú is a leathnú agus oibreoimid i bpáirt ar phleananna nua sa todhchaí don spás cruthaitheach.
3. Oibreoimid i bpáirt ar thionscnaimh chaipitiúla chultúrtha chun a geláir chultúrtha agus cruthaitheach a fheabhsú.

Priority 3: Creative Space & Place: (Cultural Infrastructure, Facilities & Creative Hubs)

We will support the concept of a “Cultural Commons”, a shared space initiative drawing on the work of Artists, Arts organisation and the creative sector to animate and invigorate our communities. Through engagement with both our existing cultural infrastructures, and spaces and places yet defined, we wish to test out new and innovative ideas based on ground up approaches built on the principles of self-governance. This should facilitate the time and flexibility required for those who aspire to the principles of cultural democracy.

These creative place making initiatives will require time and space in allowing the much needed relationship building between the creative people and public engagement to flourish. This will include spaces for cultural practitioners, participants, audiences, creative entrepreneurs and those involved in the creative sector. New partnerships and collaborations creating new synergies will be required for the success of these spaces, which will be shared and sustainable.

Priority 3 Objectives:

1. We will facilitate research in identifying the supports and / or investment required for the cultural sector.
2. We will support current plans to improve and expand these spaces and will collaborate on future plans for existing and new creative spaces.
3. We will collaborate with cultural capital development projects to further enhance their creative and cultural programmes.

4. Scrúdóidh Muineachán Ildánach an plé cultúrtha agus cruthaitheach ar bhonn samhalta agus ar líne agus tacóidh lena leithéid.
5. Tacóimid le gréasán cuí spásanna agus láithreacha don earnáil ealaíon agus cultúrtha chun gur féidir saothar a chruthú, a léiriú, a thaispeáint agus a tháirgeadh mar beidh a leithéid riachtanach má táthar chun comhshaol a fhorbairt a ligfidh don chultúr agus cruthaitheacht bláthú.

Tosaíocht 4: Ag tacú lenár Earnáil Chruthaitheach

Tuigimid go gcaithfear tacú le slite beatha laistigh dárn-earnáil chultúrtha agus cruthaitheach chun go dtiocfaidh tallann chun cinn. Níl dóthain aitheantas á thabhairt don réimse agus doimhneas a chuireann le leas na tíre idir chultúrtha, sóisialta agus eacnamaíoch. Éascóidh Muineachán Ildánach tallann nua agus eile sa chontae agus tacóidh leo nuair a chuirfear a gcuid saothar ar taispeáint sa chontae agus lasmuigh.

Cuspóirí:

1. Deiseanna a chruthú chun gur féidir le cleachtóirí cruthaitheach cláir a sholáthar faoi Mhuineachán Ildánach.
2. Éascófar cur chuige ilchultúrtha don chultúr agus cruthaitheacht.
3. Tacófar le cleachtóirí áitiúla agus ceardaithe chun scileanna a fhorbairt, san áireamh beidh turasóireacht agus eolas a scaipeadh.
4. Scrúdófar deiseanna agus samhlacha dea-chleachtais (Náisiúnta, Eorpach agus Idirnáisiúnta) maidir le tacú le cleachtóirí cruthaitheach agus ealaíonta.

4. Creative Monaghan will investigate and support virtual and online cultural and creative engagement.
5. We will support the provision of an appropriate network of spaces and places for the artistic and cultural sector in order to create, demonstrate, showcase and produce their work as vital to the development of the environment where cultural and creativity can flourish.

Priority 4: Supporting our Creative Sector

We recognise that livelihoods within the cultural and creative sector need on-going support in nurturing and developing their talent. The range and depth of their contribution to the cultural, social, economic and well-being of the county, has not been given appropriate recognition. Creative Monaghan will facilitate and support existing and new talent in their creative endeavours to showcase their talent within the county and beyond.

Objectives:

1. Create opportunities for creative practitioners to deliver Creative Monaghan programmes.
2. We will facilitate multi-cultural approaches to culture and creativity.
3. We will support local practitioners and artisans in developing their skills and their; including touring and dissemination.
4. We will explore opportunities and models of good practice (National, European and International) for supporting creative and artistic practitioners.

5. Ár lucht nuála cruthaitheach agus ealaíonta a chur chun cinn agus a chur os comhair an phobail.
6. Comhoibriú le háisínteachtaí áitiúla a thacaíonn le fiontraíocht agus deiseanna breise a scrúdú san earnáil chruthaitheach agus cultúrtha.

Tosaíocht 5: Iniúchadh agus Léarscáilíocht ar Acmhainní Cultúrtha i gContae Mhuineacháin

Is iad an Meitheal Cultúrtha sa Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta a bheidh mar threoir ag an dtosaíocht úd. Beidh Muineachán Ildánach i gcomhar leis an meitheal náisiúnta chun iniúchadh agus léarscáilíocht a dhéanamh ar acmhainní cultúrtha sa chontae. Táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh an pictiúr mór maidir le dreach cultúrtha agus cruthaitheach na tíre as an iniúchadh náisiúnta seo.

Tosaíocht 5: Cuspóirí

1. Comhoibriú leis an meitheal náisiúnta Éire Ildánach ar an dtionscnamh taighde bunlíne.
2. Eolas a chur le chéile do Léarscáil Chultúrtha de réir treoracha faighte ó Éire Ildánach.
3. Sonraí bunlíne a bhunú maidir le rochtain faoi láthair ar cheol, drámaíocht, ealaíon agus códú sa chontae, idir earnála foirmiúla agus a mhalairt.
4. Tógfar ceann go háirithe den mheasúnú ón gComhairle Ealaíon ar láithreacha.

5. Promote and showcase our artistic and creative innovators.
6. Collaborate with local agencies that support entrepreneurship and to explore further opportunities for the creative and cultural sector.

Priority 5 Audit and Mapping of Cultural Resources in County Monaghan

This will be led by the Creative Ireland team in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Creative Monaghan will collaborate with the national Creative Ireland team in carrying out an audit and mapping of cultural resources in our county. It is hoped this national audit will provide a comprehensive picture of the cultural and creative landscape of the county.

Priority 5: Objectives

1. Collaborate with the national Creative Ireland team on baseline research project.
2. Collate information for compilation of Cultural Map in line with guidelines provided by Creative Ireland.
3. To establish baseline data of existing access to music, drama, art and coding in our county, in both the formal and non-formal sectors.
4. We will take cognisance and evaluation from the Arts Council review on venues.

7 Cur i bhfeidhm Implementation

SA PHLEAN STRAITÉISEACH Muineachán Ildánach tá plean cúig bliana mar chreat prionsabal treorach óna leagtar amach pleananna bliantúla gnímh agus cuirfear iad i gcrích idir 2018–2022. Beidh Meitheal Cultúrtha Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin mar threoir don phlean. Tá ionadaíocht ar an Meitheal don Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Leabharlanna, Oifig, Oifig LEO, Músaem, Turasóireacht, An Óig, Pobal agus Fiontar. Is fíor, áfach, go gcaithfear dóthain acmhainní a fháil ar bhon leanúnach, mar shampla cur leis an saintaithí atá sa Mheitheal Cultúrtha agus dóthain am a ligean don chomhordú, pleanáil, cumarsáid, fáil agus cuspóirí a chur i gcrích.

Maidir le feidhmiú an phlean, beidh sé sin ag leibhéil éagsúla. Is iad Meitheal Cultúrtha na Comhairle Contae a bheidh freagrach go díreach as an riarachán, roinnt gnímh a chomhordú fad is a bheidh dream eile ag saothrú i bpáirt leis an earnáil ealaíon agus cruthaitheach, eagraíochtaí ealaíon is cultúrtha agus áisínteachtaí poiblí.

Gheobhaidh an Meitheal Cultúrtha seirbhísí speisialtachta de réir gá chun gnímh áirithe a sholáthar laistigh de bhuiséid bhliantúla, mar shampla maidir le healaíon, oidhreacht, teanga chomh maith le taighdeoirí, cleachtóirí agus éascaitheoirí sna tionscail chruthaitheach.

Aithneoidh Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin foinsí eile ioncam do Mhuineachán Ildánach mar ranna stáit, áisínteachtaí stáit, maoiniú AE agus maoiniú áirithe do chontaetha ar an dteorainn.

Cinnteoimid measúnú agus monatóireacht ar an bplean ar bhonn leanúnach de réir riachtanais idir áitiúil agus náisiúnta. Ní mór, áfach, a chur san áireamh go bhfuil gnéithe de na torthaí ar Muineachán Ildánach atá dobhraite agus beidh gá le cur chuige speisialta maidir le measúnú.

THIS CREATIVE MONAGHAN Strategic Plan provides a 5 year framework of guiding principles from which annual action plans will be devised and implemented from 2018–2022. Monaghan County Council Culture Team will lead the plan. The team is representative of Arts, Heritage, Libraries, LEO Office, Museum, Tourism, Youth and Community and Enterprise. However the successful delivery of this plan will require on-going adequate resourcing by expanding the expertise within the Culture Team, with appropriate time for coordinating, planning, communicating, procuring and delivering objectives.

The implementation of the plan will happen at a number of levels, with the County Council Culture Team having direct responsibility for the administration, coordination of some actions while others will involve working in partnership with the artistic and creative sector, arts and cultural organisations and public agencies.

The Culture team will externally resource specialist services as required to deliver particular actions within annual budgets. Examples of these are arts, heritage, language, and creative industries researchers, practitioners and facilitators.

Monaghan County Council will identify other potential income sources for Creative Monaghan including government departments, state agencies, EU funding and specific funding for border counties.

We will ensure on-going evaluation and monitoring of the plan, in line with local and national requirements. However, it must be taken into account that aspects of the Creative Monaghan outputs are intangible and will need special approaches in terms of evaluation.



Tin Church,
Laragh

Cumarsáid:

- Liostaí Poist – Leanfaimid den liosta nua r-phost do Mhuineachán Ildánach. Úsáidfídh ranna cultúrtha na Comhairle Contae a gcuid liostaí poist chun gníomhaíochtaí ar an gclár a chur in iúl do bhaill agus páirtithe leasmhara.
- Na Meáin Shóisialta – Lean den leathanach Facebook agus Twitter a úsáid do Mhuineachán Ildánach agus meáin shóisialta eile na Comhairle Contae.
- Suíomh na Comhairle Contae – Forbróimid leathanach nua tiomanta ar an suíomh. Bainfimid leas as an seirbhís Learscaíl Rabhadh agus an féilire Imeachtaí ‘What’s on’ ar an suíomh idirlín.
- Cruinnithe na Comhairle Contae – Léireofar uasdátú ag cruinnithe SPC, tuairisci míosúla an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh agus, ar a laghad uair sa bhliain, ag cruinniú den Chomhairle Contae.
- Gréasáin Phoiblí – Nuair is féidir, úsáidfear greasáin eile poiblí chun eolas a scaipeadh ar an bpobal mór mar an PPN, Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Músaem, Leabharlann agus Óige.
- Na Meáin Áitiúla – Nuair is féidir agus más cuí, bainfear úsáid as meáin áitiúla chun an clár a chur chun cinn.

Communications:

- Mailing Lists – We will continue to use the new Creative Monaghan emailing list. The cultural sections of the County Council will use their mailing lists to update their members and stakeholders on the programme activities.
- Social Media – Continue to use the Creative Monaghan Facebook page and
- Twitter and other County Council social media.
- County Council website – We will develop a new dedicated page on the website. We will make use of the Map Alerts service and ‘What’s on’ Event calendar on the website.
- County Council meetings – We will present updates at SPC meetings, Chief Executive monthly reports and, at least once per year, present at County Council meeting.
- Public Networks – Where feasible, we will utilise other public networks to disseminate information to the wider community such as the PPN, Arts, Heritage, Museum, Library and Youth.
- Local Media – Where feasible and appropriate, we will use local media to promote the programme.

Aguisín 1

Meitheal Cultúrtha agus Cruthaitheach
Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin

Adge King, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí

Deirdriú McQuaid, Seirbhís Leabharlainne

Somhairle Mac Conghail, Oifig Ealaíon

Liam Bradley, Músaem Contae Mhuineacháin

Shirley Clerkin, Oifig Oidhreacht

Laura Carey, Seirbhís Leabharlainne

Dympna Condra, Oifig Turasóireachta

Eilín Connolly, Oifig Fiontar Áitiúil

Fiona McEntee, Oifig Óige

Fintan McPhillips, Pobal agus Fiontar

Carmel Thornton, Seirbhísí
Corparáideacha

Appendix 1

Monaghan County Council Culture
and Creative Team

Adge King, Director of Services

Deirdriú McQuaid, Library Service

Somhairle Mac Conghail, Arts Office

Liam Bradley, Monaghan County Museum

Shirley Clerkin, Heritage Office

Laura Carey, Library Service

Dympna Condra, Tourism Office

Eilín Connolly, Local Enterprise Office

Fiona McEntee, Youth Office

Fintan McPhillips, Community and Enterprise

Carmel Thornton, Corporate Services

Aguisín 2

Tagairtí do straitéisí agus polasaithe eile a thagann leis an bplean seo:

- Plean Forbartha Ealaíon Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin 2016–2020
- Plean Oidhreacht Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin 2012–2017
- Plean Straitéiseach Músaem Contae Mhuineacháin 2014–2018
- Plean Forbartha Leabharlann Contae Mhuineacháin 2018–2022
- Plean Corparáideach Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin 2015–2019
- Plean Eacnamaíoch agus Pobail Áitiúil Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin 2016–2021
- Plean Forbartha Contae Mhuineacháin 2013–2019
- Straitéis Tacaoise Mhuineacháin 2011
- Straitéis Turasóireacht Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin 2015–2020
- Ár Mianach Tuaithe a bhaint amach: Plean Gnímh don bhForbairt Tuaithe go 2020
- Plean Forbartha Contae Mhuineacháin 2019–2025
- Plean Forbartha Náisiúnta 2018–2027
- Deiseanna do Chách: Straitéis do Leabharlanna Poiblí 2013–2017
- Cultúr 2025–Éire Ildánach: Creatcháipéis go 2025
- Bliain Eorpach na hOidhreacht Cultúrtha 2018: Déan Nasc

Appendix 2

Reference to other strategies and policies aligned to this plan:

- Monaghan County Council Arts Development Plan 2016–2020
- Monaghan County Heritage Plan 2012–2017
- Monaghan County Museum Strategic Plan 2014–2018
- Monaghan County Library Development Plan 2018–2022
- Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2015–2019
- Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016–2021
- Monaghan County Development Plan 2013–2019
- Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy 2011
- Monaghan County Council Tourism Strategy 2015–2020
- Realising our Rural Potential: Action Plan for Rural Development to 2020
- Monaghan County Development Plan 2019–2025
- National Development Plan 2018–2027
- Opportunities for All: A Strategy for Public Libraries 2013–2017
- Culture 2025–Éire Ildánach: A Framework Document to 2025
- The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018: Make a Connection

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Programme
2017–2022

