

CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: TO FULLY DEVELOP THE COUNTY'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

TOSAÍOCHTA : LE HACMHAINNÍ CULTÚRTHA AN CHONTAE A FHORBAIRT INA N-IOMLÁN

| Key Activities / Tosaíochta | PROGRESS UPDATE TO CDB - MARCH 2010 |
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| 1. To use the CDB Cultural Forum as a vehicle for greater co-ordination and advocacy within the sector | <p>Cultural Resources Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The forum re-assessed its priority goals. A body of work was carried out and 15 new priority goals for 2011 were created.• The forum is organising a seminar with the aim of developing initiatives that will foster better co-ordination within the sector. Expert speakers will be invited and the seminar will be for the benefit of the whole cultural sector• The forum is investigating the possibility of forming focus groups within some of the cultural sectors.• The email newsletter has grown and it is being disseminated more widely. The forum is also distributing the Voluntary Arts Ireland newsletter. This newsletter gives comprehensive information on grant, training and job opportunities within the sector. <p>Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working in partnership with the Regional Cultural Centre in presenting a series of concerts and music workshops from February - June to help build and further develop our audiences.• Working in partnership with Donegal Arts Office and An Grianan Theatre to bring members of the RTE National Symphony Orchestra to Letterkenny for a 2 day residency and concert in May. <p>Artlink: Utilizing various outlets to disseminate information re: current Artlink projects, including the Cultural Forum newsletter.</p> |

2. To identify and promote access to and participation in cultural activities on a countywide basis.

Artlink: Collaboration with Inishowen development Partnership and Voice of older people to gain submissions for the Buncrana Study project.

Regional Cultural Centre: The centre is planning and co-ordinating the Bealtaine festival in Donegal. Bealtaine is a nationwide festival for older people.

Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership

- We continue to provide quality instrumental and voice tuition on a weekly basis in 10 different centres throughout the County.
- Our *North Wind Blows* cross-border project culminates in two concerts performing new commissions & arrangements written for brass, highland pipes, woodwind & percussion in Ballybofey, April 15, and Strabane, April 16.
- A number of concerts showcasing our students and teachers will take place over the weekend of May 7/8.
- The Donegal Chamber Orchestra will perform in a collaborative project with poet Gabriel Rosenstock and visual artist Ian Joyce in the RCC on May 14.
- The Donegal Youth Orchestra and guests will perform in concert in Dunlewey on May 15.

Donegal Archives: On 3rd March the How We Remember exhibition opened in the County Museum. This unique exhibition tells the story of the 28th Infantry Battalion based at Finner Camp and the Reserve Units of the Defence Forces and their continuing contribution to peace both at home and abroad. There is an accompanying education programme with tours for primary schools, talks for secondary schools and other events for the general public. The exhibition is the result of collaboration between Cultural Services, Donegal County Council and the Irish Defence Forces. The project is supported by the PEACE III Programme, managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council.

Donegal Library Services The FÁS eLearning in the Library programme has progressed to phase 3 and there has been a steady increase in registrations in 16 locations in libraries & Taobh Tíre centres throughout the county. 350 students are currently registered on FÁS eLearning in the library project.

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| 3. To identify and promote cultural organisations and creative enterprises. | Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership: In discussion with the co-ordinator of the proposed 'Holiday Hubs' project, on behalf of the Cultural Forum, to ensure that cultural providers and retailers are included in the proposed pilot project. |
| 4. To Inform policy on Environment, Culture and Cultural Landscape | |
| 5. To conserve and promote the Heritage of the county | <p>Artlink: Buncrana story project is underway. This project explores the heritage of Buncrana.</p> <p>County Donegal Heritage Office & Donegal County Archives: Mr. Rónán McConnell has completed an audit of photographic collections of heritage & historical significance for County Donegal as part of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 2.4). The audit includes the identification of historical photographic collections and their repositories, the interrogation of these collections and the establishment of a searchable database. The audit will be launched in Lifford in mid-March 2011.</p> <p>County Donegal Heritage Office: Dr. Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair, Royal Irish Academy has been commissioned to research and write a bi-lingual booklet to commemorate the 1930s Schools' Collection in County Donegal as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (Action 2.29). In 1937-1938, The Irish Folklore Commission encouraged primary schoolchildren to collect and document local folk life, folklore, history and heritage. If you know of, or have information on, anyone who was involved in the collection of material as a National School pupil in the 1930s, please contact the County Donegal Heritage Office.</p> <p>Donegal Library Services All libraries & some Taobh Tíre Centres host Heritage Week events and promote the Heritage of the County through their local history collections. A local history course will be taking place for 5 consecutive weeks in Moville Library in the Spring.</p> |

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| <p>6. To promote Cultural Tourism and identify sustainable projects.</p> | <p>Cultural Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forum in conjunction with the Regional Cultural Centre is investigating the possibility of bringing the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention to Derry/Donegal in June 2010. • A delegation from the forum met with Martin McAndrew to investigate the input the cultural sector can have on the Holiday Hubs initiative. <p>Donegal Library Services: Central Library is the main centre for local studies in the county. In 2010 the library received 517 emailed local studies queries as well as some telephone queries. Some of these queries are country wide & international and result in Cultural Tourism, as many people follow up email queries with a visit to the library. In 2010 the library had 6573 local studies related visits to the library.</p> <p>This resource is promoted via the Library website & RendezVous353 Diaspora website.</p> |
| <p>7. To create and consolidate employment opportunities in the Cultural Sector</p> | <p>Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are putting out a call for additional instrument and voice tutors to join our teaching panel around the county. • We continue to create opportunities for composers and arrangers to write new music, and teaching opportunities for tutors and facilitators in the various projects we are involved in. <p>Donegal Library Services Libraries regularly create employment opportunities for artists & cultural providers in the county and beyond. At present preparations are underway for Seachtain na Gaeilge, Library Ireland Week-Rediscover, and World book day events in March, where libraries will create employment opportunities in the Cultural sector.</p> <p>The Europe Direct Information Centre based in central library will be participating in Donegal Enterprise Week's information fair on Friday the 8th of March. The centre has invited the Enterprise Europe Network, based in Sligo Chamber of Commerce to come along to promote the valuable business networking opportunities with which they can assist.</p> |

8. To promote links with the Diaspora as well as national and international cultural links

Cultural Forum:

- The forum is investigating the possibility of taking on a FÁS trainee.
- The forum is investigating what input they can have on the 2011 Milwaukee festival.. Derry and Donegal are the showcase for this years festival.

Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership

We are further developing our relationship with the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in New Hampshire, USA, who are offering a number of summer tuition scholarships to some of our more advanced music students.

Regional Cultural Centre: The centre is planning for the Destination Donegal exhibition, which will open on the 25th of March. This is a specially commissioned work on migrants to Donegal and is funded by Peace III

Donegal Library Services At present County library staff member is researching a Diaspora contact with the Mitchell library in Glasgow and is in contact with Dr Tony Tremblay, New Brunswick, Canada re the Diaspora collection. Dr Tremblay has recommended a list of classic literature for the library's Diaspora collection. Relevant Diaspora material is being purchased on an ongoing basis for this collection, which is available in Central Library, Letterkenny.

Plans are underway to research opportunities for a Diaspora Book club between Milford and Canada.

County library local history resources have been promoted on RendezVous353 Irish Diaspora website.

9. To develop and consolidate cross-border and trans-national links in the area of culture.

Artlink: Artlink took part in the Derry City of Culture workshops at the Playhouse Derry.

Cultural Forum: As part of the continuous engagement with Derry City of Culture, the forum is arranging a meeting with Shauna Mc Carthy, Director of City of Culture.

Donegal County Council Cultural Services: Promotion of 3rd. Artists Residency in the EDGES series of Donegal, East Iceland and Northern Norway artist exchange projects, co-ordinated in Donegal by Donegal County Council cultural Services (Museum & Arts Service). The 3rd. Residency will take place in East Iceland in late April and May. The selection of a Donegal visual artist to participate will be completed by the Residency hosts shortly.

Regional Cultural Centre: The centre will engage with the City of Culture director about the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention.

Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership We are currently working with a Highland Pipe Band and Brass Band from Co. Tyrone on an IFI/RDC funded cross-border project, *North Wind Blows*. The project ends in April with 2 performances, one in Ballybofey on April 15 and Strabane on April 16.

Donegal Library Services Inishowen staff have special remit for cross-border activities including the XBorder mobile library. The cross border book club meets regularly in Moville library.

All Inishowen libraries are partners in the Foyle inspire programme, which allows Donegal library members to borrow from academic libraries in Northern Ireland. This programme is due to be reviewed within the next few months.

Carndonagh library hosted a cross border drama workshop last November on the theme of promoting reconciliation & mutual understanding through shared stories.

Donegal County Library's *Shared Stories Project* reading list was put together for the One Donegal Cultural Diversity Month in November 2010. This collection of books represents the different aspects of diversity found in Donegal in 2010 and helps children learn and understand what diversity is. Books and reading lists are available in all libraries

10. To conserve, promote and facilitate the transmission of the Irish Language.

Artlink: An Bealach na Baile, a project in collaboration with Ealaín na Gaeltachta is underway in Downings and Fanad.

Regional Cultural Centre: The centre in partnership with Ealaín na Gaeltachta will host a seanchai event in Ionad Cois Locha. This is the culmination of a project where Donegals indigenous storytellers pass on their craft to a younger generation.

Ealaín na Gaeltachta: A number of language based Arts projects are occurring in the Gaeltacht.

Donegal Library Services The 2010 plan for the Management & Development of Donegal County Library Services in the Irish Language consists of 3 objectives as follows: To review current stock of Irish Language materials in all libraries, to increase issues of Irish Language materials, to explore Cultural Tourism potential of the Irish Language. Actions to achieve these objectives are directed towards pre-school, primary & secondary schools and adult populations. Reviews of academic research and similar developments in other countries will also be carried out.

New Library in Aislann Gaoth Dobhair. The vision for the Library in Aislann Gaoth Dobhair is that it will take a lead role in supporting and developing a community that has a pride and respect for the Irish language and culture and where there is an opportunity for all to live life through the medium of Irish. The Aislann in Gaoth Dobhair will be a public information and education point and the major Irish language organisations will work with the Library Service to raise awareness and encourage uptake of services. It will also work with Irish language organisations to promote the recognition of the language as an important economic, social and cultural resource. The Library will make priority provisions for the active Gaelic community in the area as well as pupils of the Irish schools and pupils reared through English but learning Irish at school.

The Seachtaine na Gaeilge programme 2011 has been finalised and includes approx 20 varied and exciting events in for libraries and Taobh Tíre centres throughout the county.

Library staff are attending Irish language courses and all library telephones are now answered primarily in Irish as well as English.

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| <p>11. To make a social and economic case to support access to long term funding for sustainable cultural services.</p> | <p>Cultural Forum: As part of the re-assessment of its priority goals, the forum has identified funding and advocacy as two issues that will form part of the 2011 workplan.</p> |
| <p>12. To provide and avail of opportunities for Cultural training.</p> | <p>Ealaín na Gaeltachta: One to one training in fundraising from private sources is being organised for two groups in the Gaeltacht. This is a follow on from a fundraising course organised for Gaeltacht Arts organisations.</p> <p>Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership We have invited four internationally renowned musicians to give master-classes in Saxaphone, Piano, Clarinet and Orchestral Percussion in March and May.</p> <p>Donegal Library Services 3 members of Library staff attended Cultural Competency Training in Stranorlar Training Centre in January. A further 3 staff are booked for training in February & March.</p> |
| <p>13. To promote and establish Donegal as a location for film making and associated activities.</p> | <p>Donegal Film Office: <i>Internet Whispers</i> Young animation students in Letterkenny Institute of Technology are set to enjoy a unique opportunity to co-produce their own international short animation along side like-minded students in San Francisco, as Cinemagic International Film and Television Festival for young people have launched an innovative project called <i>Internet Whispers</i>, supported by Donegal County Council. Facilitated by Cinemagic, workshop teams from Letterkenny and San Francisco will be linked interactively through High Speed Internet Connection to create moving image art. The project aims to showcase Donegal as an accessible centre of excellence via the commission of an international piece of work, highlight local Donegal talent and bring together young people from different countries, communities and cultures. The final animation will be premiered in Donegal on 29th March 2011 at 5pm in LYIT.</p> <p>Donegal County Council Cultural Services: Special community screening of new feature film , 'Wake Wood', featuring Aidan Gillen (The Wire), Eva Birthistle (Ae Fond Kiss, The Enemy Within) and Timothy Spall (Harry Potter 1-5, The Damned United, The Enchanted) , filmed in Pettigo in 2008-2009. Cinema North West Mobile Cinema, Saturday, March 19 at 6.00pm and 8.30pm , 18yrs + . Prior to UK & Irl. General Release, March 25.</p> |

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| <p>14. To support artists and practitioners in the making and presenting of their work.</p> | <p>Artlink: Artlink are providing opportunities for artists through the 2011 programme.</p> <p>Donegal VEC Music Education Partnership Two composers, Vincent Kennedy and Neil Martin, have been commissioned to write new pieces of music for our North Wind Blows cross-border project. Two arrangers, Stephen Cairns and Brendan Breslin, have been commissioned to make arrangements of a number of melodies for the same project.</p> <p>Regional Cultural Centre: Presentation of the Age of Fire exhibition by Mhairi Shutherland until March 16th.</p> <p>Donegal Library Services Many libraries allow local artists to display their work for limited periods in libraries. At present there are exhibitions ongoing in Carndonagh & Moville libraries.</p> |
| <p>15. To develop Donegal as a creative county.</p> | <p>Artlink: Artlink is promoting "rural artist residencies2 - projects recognised and supported by the Arts council.</p> |