

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**PROJECT ARTS CENTRE (PROJECT) OCCUPIES A UNIQUE AND ESSENTIAL PLACE IN THE SUPPORT AND DELIVERY OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS IN IRELAND.**

For over 50 years, the centre has sustained its core purpose to enable artists across all art forms to make and present extraordinary works that inspire and provoke. Project's continued independence, ambition and quality programming has contributed significantly to enhancing Ireland's cultural reputation locally and internationally. It also continues to play a necessary role in identifying and supporting artists at the early stages of their careers and commissioning and generating new work.

Project is largely funded through a grant from The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon, supplemented by grants from Dublin City Council, fundraising and income from space rental and ticket sales.



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

Given the extent of flexibility and change required in 2021, it was decided to extend the three-year plan, Project 2020, into 2021. This gave the Board and Executive the opportunity to deliver on some unfinished elements of that plan, and to make 2021 a year of nimble flexibility with a programme of enquiry, discussion, experimentation, presentation and debate.

The learning that emerged from this process in 2021 has shaped our plans for the future of the organisation for the next five years (2022 – 2026). Several strategic initiatives were progressed in 2021, including the new 5-year strategy, WORK (2022-2026), the first stage of a 10-year masterplan for the building (with OBFA Architects) and a strategic communications review.

Perhaps most important in 2021, was the publication of Project's new policy Towards Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (TEDI). TEDI confirms Project's commitment to becoming a more equitable, diverse and inclusive space (both physically and conceptually), with an increasingly transparent structure and a wider breadth of partnerships and connections. TEDI is largely shaped by a series of recommendations made by an Advisory Panel, with particular consideration of four priority areas: Sexuality and Gender Diversity; Disability; Socio-Economic Background; and Cultural Diversity.

Find our TEDI policy [here](#).



TEDI has been included as a best practice case study in the Arts Council's recently published Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit.

# REACH

Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reached over 30, 564 audience members, employed 317 artists & arts workers, deepened our engagement with audiences through the Project Potential Programme and partnered with a host of artistic, social and philanthropic partners to deliver our rich programme.

## 2021 PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

Some of the highlights include: *The Approach* by Mark O'Rowe (Landmark Productions); *The Here Trio* (Liz Roche Company); *Lobsters* (Nyree Yergainharsian); *The Secret Space* (ANU Productions); *Step Up* (Dance Limerick); *Masterclass* (Brokentaklers/Dublin Fringe Festival); *Prosecco Express* (Joanne McNally/Dublin Fringe Festival); *Where Sat The Lovers* (Malaprop/Dublin Fringe Festival); *Fedah* (Dublin Fringe Festival); *Conversations After Sex* (thisispopbaby/Dublin Theatre Festival); *Evolutions* (John Scott's Irish Modern Dance Theatre); *Straight to Video* by Emmet Kirwan (Landmark Productions with Civic Theatre).

Project also offered a number of artist residencies in our Cube space across the year to artists such as Shaun Dunne, Oyindamola Animashaun, Lisa M Barry, Fionnuala Gygax and Tracy Martin.



**Where Sat the Lovers**  
(Malaprop/Dublin Fringe Festival)  
Image Credit: Ste Murray



**The Approach** by Mark O'Rowe  
(Landmark Productions)  
Image Credit: Pat Redmond



**Fehdah**  
(Dublin Fringe Festival)  
Image Credit: Abe Neihum



**The Secret Space**  
(ANU Productions)  
Image Credit: Owen Boss



**Straight to Video** by Emmet Kirwan  
(Landmark Productions with Civic Theatre)  
Image Credit: Pat Redmond

Project was delighted to welcome Sara Greavu as Curator of Visual Arts in April 2021. Exhibitions for 2021 included *Luminous Void: Twenty Years of Experimental Film Society*; *Queer in Progress. Timeline: Online Archive*; *All Our Relations/Ár gCaidreamg Uilig* (Curated by Sara Greavu/ Artists: Jenny Brady, Moad Musbahi, Maryam Tafakory and Naeem Mohaiemen); *Domestic Optimism* by Emma Wolf-Haugh; *Open the book at a different page – Derry Film & Video Workshop* (by Sara Greavu & Ciara Phillips). Public programme events were delivered by Sarah Pierce, Pluck Projects, Amal Khalaf, Anna Bunting-Branch, Aliyah Hussain, Emma Wolf-Haugh & Renèe Helena Browne; and in partnership with Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, the Library Project, Basic Space and Gallery of Photography.



*Luminous Void: Twenty Years of Experimental Film Society*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Photo Credit: Rouzbeh Rashidi



Irish Names Quilt (1990s), courtesy of Mary Shannon, *Queer-in-Progress. Timeline*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2020. Photo Credit: Ros Kavanagh



*All Our Relations/Ár gCaidreamg Uilig*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Photo Credit: Louis Haugh



*All Our Relations/Ár gCaidreamg Uilig*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Photo Credit: Louis Haugh



Emma Wolf-Haugh, still from *Domestic Optimism. Act One: Modernism - A Lesbian Love Story*, 2020, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Image courtesy of the artist.



Emma Wolf-Haugh, *Domestic Optimism. Act One: Modernism - A Lesbian Love Story & Act Two: Radclyffe Hall - The Lazerbeam Theirstory Projects*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Photo Credit: Louis Haugh



*Open the book at a different page - Derry Film and Video Workshop*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Photo Credit: Louis Haugh



*Open the book at a different page - Derry Film and Video Workshop*, exhibition view, Project Arts Centre, 2021. Photo Credit: Louis Haugh

Project Potential is the home for Access & Engagement work at Project Arts Centre. It is a space for complexity and nuance through which we aim to ensure that our artists, artistic programme and audiences reflect the contemporary society in which they are situated.

In 2021, Project Potential Coordinator, Cathy Coughlan, led a broad range of programmes in the building, in schools and in local communities. Some of the partners in 2021 included St Paul's CBS Brunswick St, Stanhope Street School and Fatima Groups United.

Programme highlights for 2021 included Spotlight, an online celebration of Black Irish creatives, and the presentation of Anima Fatima, a collaboration between Phillip Connaughton, Luca Truffarelli's and Fatima Groups United.



A selection of the *Spotlight* (2021) artists: Offica (top left, photo by Shekinah Baba-Lola), Tolū Makay (top centre, photo by Shekinah Baba-Lola), JyellowL (top right, photo by Hope Bello), Felispeaks (bottom left, photo by Shekinah Baba-Lola), Jafaris (bottom centre, photo by Hope Bello), Aby Coulibaly (bottom right, Shekinah



*Anima Fatima* by Phillip Connaughton, Luca Truffarelli and Fatima Groups United, (2021). Image Credit: Luca Truffarelli

# FINANCE/ORGANISATION

Project had a turnover of €1,350,104 in 2021 and recorded a small surplus of €8794.00.

For full details on the financial outcomes for 2021, see Project Arts Centre's audited accounts [here](#).



Project Arts Centre, 2021  
Image Credit: Ste Murray