

PROJECT ARTS CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Project Arts Centre Open Day, image by Ste Murray



Introduction

Project Arts Centre (Project) occupies a unique and essential place in the support and delivery of the contemporary arts in Ireland. For almost 60 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 ticket sales.

As we still felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2022, it was heartening to see a return to full houses and a busy programme both in and out of Project Arts Centre. We were thrilled to host our first annual Open Day, which welcomed a range of audiences, communities, artists, and friends to Project. Several strategic initiatives were progressed in 2022, including the publishing of our new 5-year strategy, [WORK \(2022-2026\)](#), and a strategic communications review

Project recorded a small surplus of €9460.00. For full details on the financial outcomes for 2022, see Project Arts Centre's most recent audited accounts [here](#).



PROGRAMME

Despite the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reached 52,671 audience members, employed 422 artists & arts workers, an increase from our 2021 figures of 30,564 audience members and 317 artists and arts workers employed. We widened and 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.



Image 1: Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, *UNEXPLORED POWER*, 2022. Featuring Eburn Sodipo, TOBI Adebajo and Reannon Licorish.
Image 2: Accents by Emmet Kirwan, image by Sarah Doyle

2022 PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

Highlights include:

Rough Weekend (Rough Magic Theatre Company); *the middle of nowhere* (Léann Herlihy); *The Here Trio* and *Yes & Yes* (Liz Roche Company); *The Island of Saints* (Anakronos); *SHIT!* and *Party Scene* (thisispopbaby); Music Current Festival; *The Examination* (Brokentaklers); Live Collision International Festival; *Making a Mark* (Run of the Mill & Shaun Dunne); Bealtaine Festival; Dublin Dance Festival; *Somewhere in the Body* (Áine Stapleton); *Chekov's First Play* (Dead Centre Theatre); *Hear my Hands* (Karen Gleeson); *Dancer from the Dance Festival*; *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (Dan Colley); *Cascando* (Pan Pan Theatre); *The Roaring Twenties: La Soirée Folle* (Emilie Conway); Dublin Fringe Festival; Dublin Theatre Festival; *Othello: A Dance* (John Scott's Irish Modern Dance Theatre); *An Evening with a Girl* (Khanyisile Mbukwane); Rónán Ó Snodaigh & Myles O'Reilly and Ordnance Survey (Homebeat); One Two One Two Live at Project; *Love Songs* (Philip Connaughton).



Making a Mark, image by Luca Trufarelli

2022 PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

Project also offered a number of artist residencies in our spaces across the year to artists such as One Two One Two, Matt Szczerek; Seve Feathers; Emmet Scanlon; Una Mullally; Felicia Olusanya (FeliSpeaks); Shaun Dunne; Philip Connaughton; Kate Stanley Brennan; Sarah Durcan, Tobi Balogun; Léann Herlihy & Jessie Thompson.

In 2022, Project partnered with artists Emmet Kirwan, Eoin French (who records as Talos) and Claire O'Reilly to produce *Accents*. *Accents* premiered at Dublin Fringe Festival and was revived in November 2022; with further touring of the work planned in 2024. *Accents* was produced by Project Arts Centre, in association with Mermaid Arts Centre and commissioned by Dublin Fringe Festival. The production is supported by a project award from The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon.



Hear my Hands by Karen Gleeson, Image by Dermot Marry

2022 VISUAL ART PROGRAMME

Exhibitions for 2022 included *Open the book at a different page – Derry Film & Video Workshop* (by Sara Greavu & Ciara Phillips); *Metabolic time / Am meitibileach* (curated by Cairo Clarke & Sara Greavu) with artists Cairo Clarke, Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh, Davinia-Ann Robinson, Gareth Kennedy, Raju Rage & Rosa-Johan Uddoh; *Clear Away the Rubble / Glan an Spallaí ar Shiúl* - an open research project about housing with a large public programme; *I NEED YOUR HELP / TÁ DO CHÚNAMH AG TEASTÁIL UAIM*, the first solo exhibition by Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley in Ireland, curated by Tendai Mutambu. *Soon (In 45 Years' Time) / Gan Mhoill (I gCionn 45 Bliain)* (curated by Sara Greavu in partnership with Connolly Books) with artists Livia Kojo Alour, Ruth Ewan, Colin Darke, Mary Kervick & Hilary Morton; *We took a sip from the devil's cup*, Paul Maheke's first solo exhibition in Ireland curated by Sara Greavu.



Soon (In 45 Years' Time) / Gan Mhoill (I gCionn 45 Bliain), image by Louis Haugh

2022 VISUAL ART PROGRAMME

Public programme events were delivered by Margo Harkin, Ash Reid, Rosemary Grennan, Christine Halsall, Ed Webb-Ingall, Aditi Jaganathan & Suman Bhuchar, Rod Stoneman, Isobel Harbison, Alison Mac Cormaic & Lisa Godson, Bridget O’Gorman, Iarlaith Ní Fheorais, Adeline Berry, Matt Kennedy, Ollie Bell, Renn Miano, Nathan O’Donnell, Sharon Phelan, Aisling Ní Aodha, Eva Gorge Richardson McCrea, Cian O’Callaghan & Tommy Gavin, Avril Corroon, Helen Charman, Sinéad Mercier & Donal O’Kelly, Raju Rage, Jasleen Kaur, Imani Mason Jordan, Léann Herlihy, ; and in partnership with IMMA, The School of Art and Design, Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin), Goldsmiths, University of London, Association for Art History, UK, Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, NCAD, Radical Queer Pride for Homes, CATU, James Connolly Festival 2022, AEMI.



I NEED YOUR HELP / TÁ DO CHÚNAMH AG TEASTÁIL UAIM image by Louis Haugh

2022 PROJECT POTENTIAL PROGRAMME

Project Potential is the home for artist led Access & Engagement work at Project Arts Centre. In line with our recently launched policy '[Towards Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#)', we're committed to making the necessary time and space to create inclusivity through action. 2022 was an incredible year, full of fresh ideas, new faces and exciting collaborations, between artists, local communities and schools.

Our **TEDI Commissions** were created in response to our TEDI policy and published in partnership with RTÉ Culture. Commissions were offered to Veronica Dyas (with Louis Haugh), Tobi Omotoso & Catherine Joyce and Róisín Power Hackett, Emilie Conway & Sighile Hennessy.

Short Cuts was a small-scale digital commission and mentorship programme that prioritised early career artists. Selected participants were Adam Mohamed (Spoken word artist), Roibí O Rua (Visual Artist) and Al Bellamy (Theatre/Film Artist).

Highlighting the critical role of creativity, optimism, and imagination in the craft of social and environmental change, **Rhizome Green Arts project** was led by Artist in Residence Maeve Stone and Artist in the Community Louis Haugh, in partnership with Fatima Groups United, NCAD Field & Trinity College Dublin.

This year we were delighted to have the **Project Arts Centre Schools Residency Programme** led by dancer and choreographer Lucia Kickham and multidisciplinary artist and Project member Ósaro Azams, alongside Alessandra Zevedo, Tessy Ehiguese and Niamh O'Beirne.



Image is of **Tobi Omotoso** dancing on Moore Street – taken from a film shot by Jacek Snochowski.

2022 PROJECT POTENTIAL PROGRAMME

On August 27th we threw open our doors for our first **Annual Open Day, welcoming over 750 people**. Artists included Veronica Dyas, Tobi Omoteso, Philip Connaughton, Monjola, Aby Coulibaly, Adam Mohamed, Róisín Power Hackett, Tobi Balogun, Simone O'Toole, Emilie Conway, Alex Vostokova, Louis Haugh, Catherine Joyce, Michael Collins, Mary Kervick and Jennie Moran, among many others.

We were thrilled to be able to increase our **accessible performances** fourfold in 2022, through captioning, audio description, touch tours and ISL, as well as a full review of all our access guides and website access info.

This year we were thrilled to curate a weeklong programme in the Cube in collaboration with Run of the Mill, highlighting the extensive work created by inclusive arts organisations around Ireland.

We launched a new publication in collaboration with Junk Ensemble Dance Theatre, documenting a six-month engagement project with older people led by Project Potential, in association with their recent production *Dances like a Bomb*.



ISL Interpreter Vanessa O'Connell, Image by Ste Murray

2022 PROJECT ARTIST PROGRAMME

Running since 2005, the Project Artists' scheme has supported the work of dozens of artists & companies and employed thousands of artists and arts workers. The scheme has enabled artists and companies to develop, produce and tour cutting edge, contemporary arts work at Project Arts Centre as well as in venues throughout the island of Ireland and across the globe. We are a pioneer in the resourcing of artist's work. Through the Project Artists Initiative, we nurture, mentor, partner, collaborate, network, co-produce and present the work of independent artists, both nationally and internationally.

In 2022 Project supported our Resident & Associate Project Artists to bring a number of performance works to stages across Ireland and on tour around the world.

Key Figures 2022:

- Project Artist Turnover: €693, 939
- 128 artists employed
- 94 arts workers employed
- 35 events



Love Songs by Company Philip Connaughton. Image by Patricio Cassinoni