

PROJECT ARTS CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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 space rental and ticket sales.

Project recorded a small surplus of €11,227.00. For full details on the financial outcomes for 2023, see Project Arts Centre's most recent audited accounts [here](#).



PROGRAMME

In 2023, Project reached 50,014 audience members, employed 318 artists & arts workers, and hosted 651 events. 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.

In 2023, Project was delighted to be selected by Culture Ireland and The Arts Council for Ireland at Venice 2024 at the 60th Venice Biennale with artist Eimear Walshe and Curator Sara Greavu.



Image 1: Opening of Got Damp by Avril Corroon. Image by Sorcha FitzGerald.

Image 2: Cian O'Brien, Orla Moloney, Eimear Walshe & Sara Greavu, image by Cáit Fahey

2023 PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

Highlights include:

- *The Piece with the Drums* (CoisCéim Dance Theatre);
- *The Alphabet of Birds* (Sara Baume/A Holy Show);
- *Manifest* (Brokentalkers);
- *Plock!* (Right Here, Right Now! The Ark Children's Festival);
- Katie Kim (Homebeat);
- *Gold in the Water* (Shane O'Reilly, Mermaid Arts Centre, The Ark, Lovano Productions);
- Transatlantic Commissions Programme (Fishamble: The New Play Company & Irish Repertory Theatre);
- *Welcome to Ireland – Meltdown of an Irish Tour Guide* (Deirdre Molloy & Jack Walsh);
- Big Bang Festival (The Ark);
- Music Current Festival
- Aerowaves Spring Forward *Conversations After Sex* (thisispobbaby);
- *GUSTO!* (Billy McGrath);
- *The Patient Gloria* (Pan Pan Theatre & Gina Moxley);
- Dublin Dance Festival;
- *Green & Blue* (Kabosh);
- Dancer from the Dance Festival
- Dublin Fringe Festival
- Dublin Theatre Festival
- *Oliver Cromwell is Really Very Sorry* (Xnthy);
- Beta Festival;
- *Lost Lear* (Dan Colley);
- *How to Fall Flat on Your Face* (Katie Honan);
- *Listen, A Black Woman is Speaking* (Common Crow Theatre);



The Patient Gloria, image by Teddy Wolff

2023 VISUAL ART PROGRAMME

Exhibitions in 2023 included:

- *Being Horizontal/Sínte*, with artists Nora Heidorn & Lynne Louasi, Ketty La Rocca, David MCGovern, Julie Morrissy & Harold Offeh. Curated by Nora Heidorn.
- *GOT DAMP / PÚSCADH ANUAS* by Avril Corroon, curated by Sara Greavu.
- *Culchie boy, I love you / Grá mo chroí thú, mo chábóigín féin* by Kian Benson Bailes, curated by Sara Greavu.
- *Long time we've been working / Tamall fada atá muid ag obair* by Cinenova & AEMI. Featuring works by ay Bernard, Renèe Helèna Browne, Jacqui Duckworth, L. Franklin Gilliam, Onyeka Igwe, Rene Matic, Adriana Monti, Francis O'Mahony Alice Rekab, S. Pearl Sharp, Sistren Theatre Collective, and Soft Fiction Projects within an exhibition space designed by Christopher McMullan.
- *Ground Truth / Fírinne Bhunúsach* by Kate Cooper, curated by Sara Greavu.



Culchie boy, I love you / Grá mo chroí thú, mo chábóigín féin by Kian Benson Bailes, image by Louis Haugh

2023 VISUAL ART PROGRAMME

Public programme events included:

- Renèe Helena Browne
- AEMI, Harold Offeh
- SPACEX,
- Áine O'Hara (Chromic Collective),
- Andreas Kinder von Knobloch
- Amnesty International
- Superprojects
- Charlotte Procter (LUX)
- Alice Rekab
- Soft Fiction Projects
- Sistren Theatre Collective
- Christoper McMullan



Lounging by Harold Offeh

2023 PROJECT POTENTIAL PROGRAMME

2023 has been an incredible year, full of fresh ideas, new faces and exciting collaborations, between artists, local communities and schools.

Junk Ensemble | Powerful Trouble: In October and November artists Jennie Moran and Alessandra Azevedo met with 10 women currently in the Direct Provision system. In association with Mavis Ramazani (Cooking for Freedom) the group gathered to talk about power and freedom in relation to their experience of cooking, dance, food and culture.

Dublin Theatre of the Deaf: Project Arts Centre has been working with Deaf artist Lianne Quigley to seek ways to expand opportunities for Deaf artists and audiences. We're delighted to announce that Project Arts Centre in partnership with Dublin Theatre of the Deaf, has been awarded the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Grant to provide staff training, networking events and professional development opportunities for Deaf artists, alongside more ISL interpreted events, performances screenings and digital documents.

Louis Haugh in Collaboration with RADE: *Ó Liath go Glas, (From grey to green)*, was a project emerging from 2022's [Rhizome Green Arts project](#). Louis worked with the community at RADE through a series of workshops that activated under-used concrete space through regenerative greening. The project reflected on and considered the history of formal gardening as a history of colonialism, bringing focus back to the indigenous cultures where many of our common plants originate from.



Figures of 8 by Veronica Dyas and Fatima Groups United, Image by Jacek Snochowski.

Centred around an invitation of hospitality, the long term aim of these collaborative projects, is to connect members of neighbouring communities by activating outdoor spaces through art and ecology.

2023 PROJECT POTENTIAL PROGRAMME

Veronica Dyas & FGU: From January to June 2023, Fatima Groups United worked with artist Veronica Dyas to devise a new project, 'Figures of Eight'. This site-specific work builds on previous collaborative projects and initiatives with FGU that explore the local area and its rich cultural history.

Schools Residency Programme: students in Deis schools worked with professional artists, on and offsite, embedding artistic practice in community settings across the inner city. With a focus on dance in 2023 artists Jessie Thompson and Matt Szczerek engaged with Stanhope Street Secondary School and St Paul's (Brunner) Secondary School.

Annual Open Day: Our second Annual Open Day welcomed over 900 members of the public and 23 artists into the building for a free day-long event. This year began with a 'Quiet Opening', placing specific focus on disability and gender diversity. From 12-2pm, the building held space for artists, audiences, and communities who could benefit from a sensory-adapted environment.

Communities in the Cube: 4 community groups occupied the Cube space to develop, perform, and record work, and engaged in professional development workshops. In June Fatima Groups United had a week-long residency, RADE filmed their new production and performed to an invited audience, and Dublin Theatre of the Deaf were mentored in a series of development workshops with Ramesh Meyyappan. In November Jennie Moran and Alessandra Azevedo developed sound recordings with women from Direct Provision and live musicians.

32 **accessible performances** were presented using captioning, audio description, touch tours and ISL. We also reviewed all our access guides and website access information.



Artist Lianne Quigley, Open Day Performance
image by Ste Murray

2023 Artist Support Programme

Residencies

Project also offered a number of artist residencies in our spaces across the year to artists such as Matt Szczerek, Emily Aoibheann, Company SJ, Emily Gilmor Murphy; Amir Abu Alrob; Tobi Balogun; Brokentalkers; Lianne Quigley; Veronica Dyas & Fatima Groups United; Tracy Martin; Selina Thompson; Dead Centre Theatre; Kate Stanley Brennan (with thisispobaby); Clare Dunne (with thisispobaby); Shaun Dunne; Jessie Thompson; Gabriel Graves.



Minseach by Sibéal Davitt, Image by Simon Lazewski

2023 Artist Support Programme

Project Artists

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 2023 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 2023:

- Project Artist Turnover: €376, 721
- 318 artists & arts workers employed



This Solution by Shaun Dunne & Claire O'Reilly. Image by Luca Truffarelli