ANNUAL REPORT 2025 ·

Project Arts Centre

A home for artists, audiences and ideas at the forefront of contemporary culture.







ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CEO
Sophie Motley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Orla Moloney

East Essex Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2 ·
Registered Charity No: CHY 6465

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025 at a Glance



825

Public Events Hosted

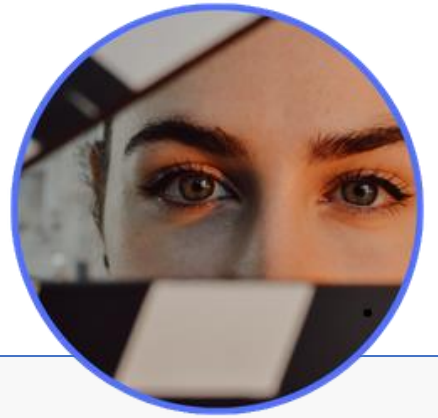
Performances, exhibitions, events & talks



50k+

Audience Attendance

In our spaces in Temple Bar, on tour internationally and online



399

Artists & Workers

Directly employed or supported with mentorship

Strategic Milestone: Delivery on year four of our *WORK: 2022–2026* strategy championing early-career development, civic engagement, and our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion mandate through our TEDI policy.

Introduction

By Sophie Motley, Artistic Director & CEO

2025 was a year of ambitious artistic achievement at Project Arts Centre, bringing together artists, audiences and communities through a programme that reflected the complexity, diversity and urgency of contemporary culture.

Across The Cube and The Space Upstairs, we presented work from some of Ireland's most significant theatre-makers and performance companies. Highlights included **Brokentalkers'** *The Mirror Stage*, a powerful examination of psychosis and mental health; **Irish Modern Dance Theatre**'s Merce Cunningham work, and the return of **Pan Pan** with the formally inventive *YFEL*. Alongside these productions, our stages welcomed a wide range of performance, dance, live art and festival activity, reinforcing Project's position as a vital home for artistic experimentation and new ideas with works in progress shared from artists across disciplines. We produced our first work supported by our Creative Europe Programme Europe Beyond Access, **Variations on Two Disabled Bodies** by Bobbi Byrne and Soso Ní Cheallaigh.

Our visual arts programme continued to champion artists whose work engages critically with the world around us. Major exhibitions included **Eva Richardson McCrea's** *The Decameron / Na Deich Lá*, a compelling reflection on housing and precarity; **Jenny Brady's** *The Glass Booth / An Both Gloine*, exploring language, interpretation and Deaf culture; and **Owen Maseko's** exhibition, curated by **Zoé Samudzi**, which investigated questions of memory, language and historical justice. These projects exemplified our commitment to presenting challenging and socially engaged contemporary practice while connecting local conversations to international perspectives. Artist development remained central to our mission through the Project Artists programme. Throughout the year we continued to invest in the long-term development of **Breadline**, **Alessandra Azeviche**, **Pea Dinneen**, **Jessie Thompson** and **Murmuration**, providing sustained artistic, strategic and practical support. Their work enriched the life of the organisation and demonstrated the value of long-term investment in artists and creative communities.

Through our Project Potential department, we further expanded opportunities for participation and access, working with four North East Inner city DEIS schools, community groups, d/Deaf communities, disabled artists, LGBTQ+ participants and migrant communities. Together with our ongoing TEDI commitments, this work ensures that Project remains an organisation where artistic excellence and inclusion are inseparable.

We welcomed a new Head of Communications, Curator of Visual Arts, House Manager, Head of Production and Project Potential Creative Producer & Access Manager across the year.

During 2025 I completed my first year in role here at Project, I am deeply privileged to be a steward of this astonishing organisation, and ever excited and inspired by the artists, audiences, staff, board, partners and supporters whose commitment continues to make Project Arts Centre a place where bold new ideas can flourish and artists are supported to develop astonishing new work, challenge contemporary norms and champion artistic freedom.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Financial Position 2025

Grants

€1,004,600

Including core annual grant from Arts Council

Income from Trading

€613,370

Box-Office/ and other Commercial Activities

Other Sources of Income

€115,216

NET SURPLUS / BALANCE

€7,059

2025 audited accounts



Figures drawn from 2025 Audited Accounts – available on Project Arts Centre - Financial Statements 2025 (signed).pdf

Audit status: Completed

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME · THEATRE & DANCE

Performance Programme 2025

Commissioned & Co-Produced Work



Theatre

- Brokentalkers – *The Mirror Stage*
- BrokenTalkers – *De Facto* (development commission)

Dance

- Junk Ensemble – *Patient Labyrinth*
- Junk Ensemble – *Scar Stories*
- Philip Connaughton – *Revisiting* (in partnership with Bealtaine Festival)
- Alessandra Azeviche – *Ginga Girando a Gira*



Music & Interdisciplinary

- Azeez Saeed – *Sweet Spot Social*
- Dublin Modular Commission
- Tola Vintage – new work development
- Cecily Brennan – commissioned visual arts film project

Festival & Programme Partners



- Dublin Fringe Festival
- Dublin Theatre Festival
- Dublin Dance Festival
- Live Collision International Festival
- Bealtaine Festival
- Disrupt Disability Arts Festival
- Reception: Dublin Experimental Music Festival
- Bram Stoker Festival
- Music Current Festival

Theatre Programme

- Brokentalkers – The Mirror Stage
- Emmet Kirwan – *Accents*
- Malaprop Theatre – *Hot House*
- Brú Theatre – *Not A Word*
- Pan Pan Theatre – YFEL
- Prime Cut Productions – *Aurora*
- Once Off Productions – *Love At The End Of Time by Roderick Ford*
- Fishamble – *The Black Wolfe Tone* by Kwaku Fortune
- Hatch & Once Off Productions – *Escaped Alone*
- Shane O'Reilly / Lovano – *Gold in the Water*
- Munawar – *Dhando*
- WeAreGriot – *Talkatives*
- Rough Magic – *Rough Weekend*
- Rough Magic – *Great Plays*



Dance Programme



- Irish Modern Dance Theatre – *Begin Anywhere*
- Greta Bourke & Rocío Domingo – *Many Me's*
- Luail – *Dancehall*
- Top 8 Dance Battle
- Robyn Byrne – *Queen of the Meadows*
- Doulab for Circus & Dance & The Palestinian Circus – *Sarab*

Music, Sound & Interdisciplinary Programme

- Dublin Modular - EQUALISATION
- The Prongs – *Strand Noise*
- Adrian Crowley in association with Foggy Notions
- Glasshouse - Stringworks
- A Night of Hong Kong Music curated by Choy-Ping Ní Chléirigh-Ng 吳彩萍
- Dumbworld – *Where We Bury the Bones*



ARTISTIC PROGRAMME · VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts & Exhibitions



The 2025 Visual Arts Programme at Project Arts Centre brought together Irish and international artists whose work engaged with urgent questions of identity, language, memory, place and social justice, utilising diverse media: painting, moving image, ceramics and sculpture. We also hosted the launch event celebrating the Carnsore Point Anti Nuclear festivals that took place annually in Wexford between 1978 and 1981, in collaboration with Ormston House and Wexford Arts Centre. We also appointed a new Curator of Vis Arts.

2025 Gallery Exhibitions:

February March
Eva George Richardson McCrea – The Decameron
June-July
Owen Maseko, Guest Curated by Zoé Samudzi - Sibathontisele / Let's drip on them (pictured)
July-September
Jenny Brady - The Glass Booth
October-December
Ciarán Ó Dochartaigh – Vague Symptom Clinic, co-curated by Sara Greavu

Curated by Visual Arts team & invited guest curators

Public Discursive Programme: Over 20 talks and conversations, public tours and online Q&A's took places across the year

Engaging artists, researchers, and community activists

Institutional Collaborations: NCAD, TU Dublin, Ormston House, Limerick, Wexford Arts Centre, and Spatial Practices in Art and Architecture for Empathetic Exchange (SPACEX), 2022–26

Expanding scholarly and public dialogue

ACCESS, INCLUSION & COMMUNITY

Project Potential

Project Potential is the home of artist-led access and engagement at Project. Driven by our *Towards Equality, Diversity & Inclusion* policy, we cultivate belonging through direct action and creative co-creation with communities, individuals, and schools.
Activity across 2025 included:

Deaf & Disability Access

Expansion of ISL interpreted performances, audio-described shows, touch tours, and relaxed sensory performances. This extends beyond the performance and gallery spaces with ISL being programme at programme launches, NaviLens accessible QR codes installed in our foyers and quiet spaces provided at social events.

DEIS Schools Residency Programme

Artist-led residencies within local schools, introducing contemporary practice directly to 120 inner-city pupils in 4 schools:

- Holy Family School for the Deaf
- Cabra Community College
- Stanhope Street School
- St Paul's Secondary School (Brunner)

Community Partnerships

Ongoing collaborative initiatives alongside groups such as Fatima Groups United, RADE, and civic organisations like IHREC, Create, Dance Ireland, Deaf Village Ireland, Dublin Theatre of The Deaf.

4th Annual Open Day 2025

Welcoming Dublin In: Free Performance, Workshops & Hospitality

Our 4th Annual Open Day threw our doors wide open, welcoming local communities, independent makers, friends, and curious neighbours for a sensory-accessible celebration of art and togetherness.

1360
Total Visitors Welcomed

56
Artists Showcased

Sensory & Access Features: Continuation of the dedicated Quiet Opening hour, ISL guided tours, and a family-friendly accessible programme.



Artist Support & Residencies



PIONEERING ARTIST SUPPORT

The Project Artist's Programme

Active since 2005, the programme resources independent artists and companies with sustained mentorship, financial administration, production support, and national/international touring.

STUDIO & DEVELOPMENT SPACES

2025 Residencies

Providing vital space, technical support, dramaturgical sounding boards and a home work in progress sharings.

Resident and Project Artists in 2025 included::

ALESSANDRA AZEVICHE, BREADLINE COLLECTIVE, JESSIE THOMPSON, PEA DINNEEN, MURMURATION DUBLIN, VENUS PATEL, KILLIAN COYLE, PERFORMANCE CORPORATION, LAURA SHEERAN & ZIA HOLLY, DIC WALSHE

Weeks of studio space provided: 12

Capital & Venue Works

Two out of three phases of an extensive Capital Works programme, worth over €500,000, were completed in 2026. The work was funded by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and Temple Bar Cultural Trust. Phase One involved upgrades to our stage lighting. This enabled companies to realise more ambitious lighting designs and has future-proofed our spaces against a changing technical landscape, providing a solid basis for further upgrades and equipment acquisitions.

The second phase included the replacement and upgrade of boilers and air-handling units, providing a warmer, better regulated environment for staff, artists and audiences.

Work also took place separately, upgrading accessibility infrastructure and front-of-house hospitality.



Europe Beyond Access

In 2025, Project Arts Centre continued our work with **Europe Beyond Access**, creating international opportunities for d/Deaf and disabled artists and strengthening European partnerships in Year 2 of a 4-year Creative Europe funded project.

Highlights:

- Supported **three artists** to participate in international Europe Beyond Access LABs.
- Researched and developed **one new international co-production**.
- Supported and the presentation of ***Variations for Two Disabled Bodies*** by **Bobbi Byrne** and **SoSo Ní Cheallaigh** at **Dublin Fringe Festival 2025**.
- Participated in 3 **international curatorial and management meetings** across Europe.

Through Europe Beyond Access, Project continued to champion disabled artists, increase international mobility opportunities, and contribute to a more inclusive European performing arts sector.



Project Arts Centre

Supported by The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon & Dublin City Council

www.projectartscentre.ie · 39 East Essex Street, Dublin 2