

Creative Places Knocknaheeny



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council
Arts Ealaíona



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Creative Places is a programme for places around Ireland that have not had opportunities to benefit from sustained investment in the arts and creativity.

Each Creative Place has a coordinator or researcher who, alongside their community, explore, discuss and plan a range of brilliant creative and participatory **projects for local people** to take part in and enjoy. The approach is **inclusive and diverse** and rooted in socially **engaged** arts practice and community development principles. It builds on existing cultural strengths and is **led by community participation** and ideas and **supported by artists**.

Knocknaheeney in Cork is one of 19 funded Creative Places around Ireland.



We wish to respond to local demand captured in the Knocknaheeny Social Economic and Environmental (SEEP) Plan review

*“more local arts and
creativity in the community”*

1 The Foundation

The Creative Places Knocknaheeny (CPK) initiative is a joint venture between the Arts Council of Ireland and Cork City Council, established to foster sustained investment in arts and creativity within the Knocknaheeny community. Its overarching vision is to position Knocknaheeny as a hub for excellent, people-led arts that express the community's pride of place.

The current Research and Development (R&D) phase spanning from October 2024 to December 2025, serves as a crucial testing ground for a future three-year Creative Places Programme application.



**CPK R&D
Steering
Group**



- Community Artist / Engaged Researcher 
- Arts Advisor 
- Community Partner 
- City Council Section Partners 

The R+D phase was a 15th month period dedicated to collaborative engagement. The project's operational philosophy was guided by a set of foundational values, including a deep respect for the lived experience of residents, a commitment to authenticity and ethics in all interactions and an approach that is open, adaptable and inclusive.

The cultivation of trust is paramount, requiring consistent, realistic communication and follow-through.



The R&D Timeline Oct 2024 – Dec 2025: An Engaged Research Approach

This methodology defined by the Irish Research Council is a framework that emphasises that research is conducted with community partners, rather than being imposed for them.

Phase I

Relationship Building via
Community
Conversations
(Oct 2024 – May 2025)

Focus: Active Listening
and establishing rapport
in informal community
settings.

Phase II

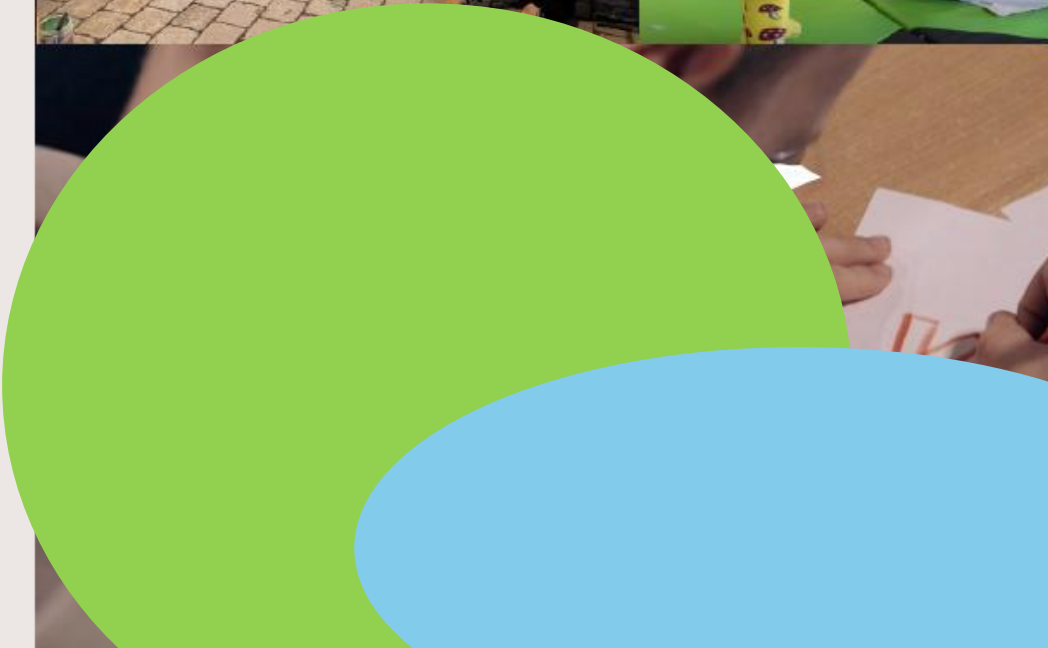
Artist-Facilitated Enquiry
via Hands-on Creativity
(May – Dec 2025)

Focus: Designing and
delivering arts-based
workshops (the testing
ground) based directly on
Phase I insights (Identity,
Place, Perception).



R&D Taster Sessions and Artistic Exchanges

April 2025	The Kabin: Narrative Workshop 1 (Myth/Legend)
April & May 2025	Le Chéile After Schools Group
July 2025	The Kabin: Narrative Workshop 2 (Myth/Legend)
31st July / 6th August 2025	Friday Women's Group (CCP) & The Kabin: Storytelling & Recording
24th September 2025	The Kabin: Narrative Workshop 3 (Myth/Legend)
Tuesdays & Fridays	(Friday Women's Group (CCP)): Storytelling & Writing Sessions
6th, 13th, 20th October 2025	NICHE Women's Group: Textiles & Print
3rd, 10th, 17th November 2025	NICHE Women's Group: Textiles & Print
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th November 2025	Young people from Linkpoint: Street Art/Murals
13th November 2025	Local Group Arts Programmers / Producers
14th November 2025	Community Sharing (Friday Women's Group (CCP))
17th November 2025	Community Sharing (Niche Women)
18th November 2025	Community Sharing (Linkpoint)
24th November 2025	Toddlers & Parents: Playdates (BEAG)
25th November 2025	Community Sharing (Linkpoint)
1st December 2025	Toddlers & Parents: Playdates (BEAG)
2nd, 9th December 2025	Young people from Linkpoint: Street Art/Murals
January 2026	Insight and Community Sharing Session
2026 TBC	TY Students at Terence MacSweeney School



Emerging Themes: The Community Voice

Perception:

Directly addressing and challenging an external gaze and at times, the negative media portrayal of the area.

Identity:

Reclaiming and celebrating the local narrative, moving beyond external stereotypes

Place:

Exploring the physical and social geography of Knocknaheeny, including its historic transition and new infrastructure.



CPK Seed Application Partners

Promenade

North West
Regeneration
Team

Musical
Neighbourhoods/
Creative
Tradition

Niche

Local
Group

Graffiti
Theatre
Company

Let's Grow
Together

Traveller
Accommodation
Unit

Hollyhill
Library

The Canteen
Knocknaheeny
Hollyhill

Le Chéile
School
Completion
Programme

Sample
Studios

Foróige-
UBU
Linkpoint

RAPID &
Sláintecare
Team

The
Kabin
Studio

Cork City
Partnership

Cork
Midsummer
Festival

Cork
Community
Art Link

Arts Office
(Admin Lead)

Arts Partners

Community Partners

City Council Section Partners



Creative Places Knocknaheeny Vision and Mission

Our collective vision is for Knocknaheeny to continue developing, through partnership and a ground-up approach, as a place that is synonymous with excellent, people-led arts, where our pride of place is expressed through the arts for all to see. Through Creative Places, our mission is to ensure that existing examples of quality arts engagement are amplified and normalised, while developing a dynamic, rich, inspiring and inclusive range of arts activities that reflect the traditions, imaginations and aspirations of Knocknaheeny residents.

We want a Creative Places programme that is equitably developed through community leadership and supported by strategic partnership, working together on a common purpose to sustain and evolve arts engagement for years to come. This includes deepening trust, nurturing creative energies through mentorship and resourced practice, and focusing on legacy through skills transfer, ethical documentation and inclusive participation, ensuring that creative opportunities remain rooted in the lived experience of residents.

SEED STRAND



Creative Places Knocknaheeny Proposal Timeline

Extract from Creative Places application form. For guidance only. Details are subject to change.

Activity	From date dd/mm/yyyy	To date dd/mm/yyyy
Procurement of lead coordinator	01/05/2026	01/07/2026
Programme planning and development through creative processes across early years settings, schools, youth groups, community groups, prospective trainees, arts practitioners etc	01/05/2026	31/12/2026
Year 1 Programme Delivery including capacity-building foundation eg. early residencies, exploratory workshops, skills building, Community Arts Networking Day & follow-on peer supports, monitoring etc	01/09/2026	31/05/2027
Engagement of Coordination Supports including Citizen Commissioning resources; Development of evaluation approach	01/09/2026	31/08/2027
Planning, fundraising, programme refinement & preparation for expanded Year 2 delivery, following review of Year 1	01/01/2027	31/05/2027
Year 2 Programme Delivery including capacity-building developments, pilot projects, mentoring, traineeships, practice of skills, monitoring and midway evaluation etc	01/06/2027	31/05/2028
Development of Creative Places Knocknaheeny Citizen Commissioning approach	01/09/2027	31/05/2028
Pilot of Creative Places Knocknaheeny Citizen Commissioning approach	01/06/2028	31/05/2029
Planning, fundraising, programme refinement & preparation for expanded Year 3 delivery, following review of Year 2.	01/01/2028	31/08/2028
Year 3 Programme Delivery including project development, ongoing mentoring, monitoring, evaluation etc	01/06/2028	31/05/2029
Final evaluation, documentation, regenerative planning for 2029 onwards	01/09/2028	28/04/2029
Sharing of Creative Places Knocknaheeny Strand 1 Outcomes	31/05/2028	28/04/2029

SEED STRAND



Creative Places Knocknaheeny Proposal Budget

Creative Places Knocknaheeny has been awarded €310,000 by the Arts Council of Ireland for drawdown over a 3 year period starting with €85,000 in 2026.

An additional monetary investment of approx. €167,000p plus in-kind contributions of approx. €460,000 will be provided by Cork City Council and local partners over the three years.

SEED STRAND



Creative Places Knocknaheeny Focus

- A. Monitoring and Evaluation
- B. Governance
- C. Coordination
- D. Capacity Building alongside Programming

SEED STRAND



A. Monitoring and Evaluation

Independent Evaluator will be engaged

Governance representatives and Coordinator will co-design evaluation process

Governance representatives, Coordinator and CPK Participants will participate in evaluation process

Coordinator will support evaluation process

Coordinator will facilitate monitoring throughout Seed strand, reporting regularly to the governance representatives

SEED STRAND



B. Governance

A Local Group will evolve to input into CPK Seed Strand.

Buddies will be identified for the Local Group members.
Buddies will support participation and decision making.

Buddies and Local Group members will work on facilitating representation of residents broadly

Local Group members will co-design the governance structure for CPK Seed strand with the Application Partners. The CPK R&D report recommended *“a robust participant-led co-leadership model....where R&D Steering Group members, artists and external mentors are paired with local participants, transferring knowledge and resources to support their leadership journey.”*

Local Group members will be consulted on programme development and delivery

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C. Coordination

Coordination services will be procured by Cork City Council Arts Office via tendering process

The provider(s) of CPK Seed Strand Coordination Services will be managed by Cork City Council Arts Office

The coordination process will be guided and monitored by governance representatives

SEED STRAND



D. Programming with Capacity Building

The CPK Seed Strand is not only about creating opportunities for participating in the arts but also creating the conditions for local residents to co-design, facilitate and produce those opportunities for their neighbours, peers and community to engage in, as well as themselves.

The CPK Seed Strand will focus on building capacity, skills and opportunities in the following areas over a 3 year period:

1. Arts Facilitation
2. Creative Production
3. Early Years Arts Provision
4. Local Arts Provision
5. Professional Practice Development
6. Resident-Led Arts Commissioning

See more details from CPK Seed proposal in next slides

SEED STRAND

CPK Seed Priority #1

Arts Facilitation

Graffiti Theatre Company have offered to support capacity building in the area of engaged and community arts facilitation through a CPD programme based on 'The Graffiti Way' developed with Youth Theatre Ireland.

The Graffiti Way- Knocknaheeny will be adapted for the context of Knocknaheeny. It will be aimed at residents with arts experience/interest who have an interest in arts facilitation for youth and community groups as well as arts practitioners based in Cork who have an interest in working Knocknaheeny as community collaborators and arts facilitators.

The programme will be organised in a number of phases, subject to demand, starting with a preliminary phase to support participation.

CPK Seed Priority #2

Creative Production

The Creative Places Knocknaheeny R&D phase highlighted the imperative of seeking to root local capacity building in Creative Places Knocknaheeny, in order to ensure a regenerative future and community ownership of the programme. In particular, we have identified Producer skills as a key capacity need.

In response to this need, Promenade will provide two traineeships for suitable candidates living in Cork in 2027 supported through the Arts Council of Ireland Production Scheme, subject to demand.

Cork Midsummer Festival is offering to facilitate opportunities as part of their established festival internship programme in 2027, 2028 and 2029. A targeted call out for emerging Knocknaheeny producers will be rolled out.

CPK Seed Priority #3

Early Years Arts

Graffiti Theatre Company will support Strand 1 of Creative Places Knocknaheeny through the delivery of its established BEAG Early Years Arts programme, working with babies and young children aged 0–3 and their parents and caregivers.

BEAG Early Years – Knocknaheeny will be delivered over two cycles across two years, engaging one setting per year and working with a different cohort of babies, young children and caregivers in each cycle. Delivery contexts may include Early Learning and Care settings or parent and toddler groups, to be agreed with local partners and informed by local knowledge and need, subject to demand.

The artists' journey within Creative Places Knocknaheeny will mirror the existing BEAG delivery cycle across the city and county. This approach supports artists to collaborate and learn with and from one another across different settings, and to benefit from the wider training, mentoring and reflective practice opportunities embedded within the BEAG programme.

CPK Seed Priority #4

Local Arts

Artist residencies and facilitated socially engaged arts processes will be supported by arts partners for groups in Knocknaheeny that wish to explore art forms in depth in collaboration with professional artists at all levels, including emerging artists.

To date, interest in the following artistic disciplines has been expressed:

- Creative Writing including poetry, prose and rap
- Large scale construction and sculpture
- Performance including music, spoken word and theatre
- Textiles and material culture

Local arts practitioners will be prioritised for selection for the residencies offered. The means by which these opportunities can be made accessible to them will be carefully considered through the coordination and governance of Creative Places Knocknaheeny.

CPK Seed Priority #5

Professional Practice Development

With a view to ensuring the regenerative potential of Creative Places Knocknaheeny for the benefit of the arts in the area, as well as the professional arts practice supports outlined in previous sections, our partnership proposes a number of supplementary supports, subject to demand. These are listed below.

Participation in the opportunities referenced here will be facilitated through a limited number of participation stipends to support arts practitioners based in Knocknaheeny for whom it would not otherwise be feasible to attend due to loss of earnings.

- Continuous Professional Development in Early Years Arts
- Funding Advice for Community Arts
- Professional Practice Development
- Socially Engaged Arts Networking

CPK Seed Priority #6

Resident-Led Arts Commissioning

CPK provides a framework to develop and deliver community-led socially engaged, public art commissioning processes as part of the urban regeneration of the area.

Application arts partners such as Cork Community Art Link, Cork Midsummer Festival and Promenade have a lot of experience producing commissions. Local residents have participated in commissioned projects in the past.

Commissions might take the form of workshops, mentorships, shadowing, residencies, projects and other activities of benefit to Local Arts practice [such as a recently concluded Per Cent for Art Commissioned project with Mark Storor 2017-2024.](#)

With the support and advice of Cork City Council's Public Art Manager, CPK Seed Strand will explore the feasibility of adapting a resident lead commissioning model developed through Dublin City Council for Dolphin House 2026-2028. This model involves local representation in the development of briefs, participation on selection panels and more. Adapting a model of this kind will be made possible through community education around contemporary public art works and practices.

Thank You



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