

Arts Heritage and Culture Linkage Group

Galway Civic Trust, February 16, 2015

Notes for GCCN representative attending Galway 2020 Advisory Committee meeting, February 19, 2015,

The Linkage Group is aware that the NUIG bid team, led by Patrick Collins and Kevin Leydon, has met with individuals and groups, had a questionnaire flyer at the Galway Arts Festival and Fringe Festival events; has established a website and Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/galway2020?fref=ts>

<http://galway2020.ie/>

- **The Arts Heritage & Culture Linkage Group sees this very much as a listening exercise, as this is the first meeting for a rep from the Network**

Rep to look for information on

- Who's involved already on the advisory committee?
- What progress has been made?
- What is the communication strategy for the bid?
- How can artists and the wider groups engage and be supported to engage/get involved?
- How to empower all citizens to be involved – the ECOC Guidelines document clearly emphasises 'significant engagement with the citizens of a city'

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/European%20Capital%20of%20Culture>

European Capitals of culture 2020-2033. Guide for cities preparing to bid

The ECOC action has evolved considerably since the early years when it was primarily a celebration of the arts in a city. Since the 1980s there has been a major growth in the awareness of the role of culture in the life of cities: its contribution to citizens' well-being and to the prosperity of a city. Many of the cities which have held the title had not only a successful year but have benefitted from a lasting legacy.

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The success of an ECOC, and certainly a key part of its legacy, can be measured by the active participation of its citizens. This needs to start at the preparatory phase. Recent ECOCs and candidates have held hundreds of meetings with their citizens seeking their views on the potential programme and overall vision. An active participation and not just participation as audiences.

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➤ **Concerns were expressed about**

- How can we challenge ourselves and hear all voices?
- How can we include people in the preparation and compilation of input into a new City Arts Strategy and the ECOC 2020 bid, which is wider than the Arts Strategy?
- Who are defined as 'citizens'?
- What, if any, with the ECOC 2020 bid work have if the bid is not successful? –
- What, if anything, was the learning and legacy from the failed 2005 bid?
- Will anything come of the efforts of the group and of the Network to have a real input into the bid?
- Need to build and engage with people in the years before 2020 as well as during the year itself

➤ **The Linkage Group agreed on**

- The importance of making the ECOC 2020 bid realistic in relation to addressing the needs of the city.
- Recognition that City Council is now committed to provision for visual arts
- Provision of support material to the rep, current Forum/Network documents and EC information

Notes: Eleanor Hough

Convenor, Arts Heritage & Culture Linkage Group

February 17, 2015

