



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann  
Local Government Ireland



# Culture & Creativity Strategy

**2023–2027**



**Donegal**

---

## Contents

	<b>Foreword(s) from Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive</b>	<b>02</b>
01	<b>Creative Ireland 2023–2027</b>	<b>04</b>
02	<b>Culture and Creativity in Donegal</b>	<b>06</b>
03	<b>Creative Ireland Vision for Donegal</b>	<b>12</b>
04	<b>How the Creative Ireland Programme Works</b>	
	Principles and Values of Creative Communities	13
05	<b>The Strategic Priorities for Donegal</b>	<b>14</b>
06	<b>Implementation by the Donegal Culture and Creativity Team</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>Map of Donegal</b>	<b>19</b>

Cover Image Credits (L to R): Paul McGuokin,  
Oideas Gael, Harry Kerr



## Forewords

This Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027 places particular importance on a whole of Local Authority approach. We have observed and learned from the whole of government approach taken by the national programme which shows the added value and the impact of collaboration.

We have an active local Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team, and we will continue to draw on the many and varied local authority services and areas of expertise. Consequently, we will further extend our reach and our scale, and we will maximise impact.

We are working towards the individual, collective and national wellbeing of citizens and communities, and we will do this creatively, innovatively, and collaboratively.

We seek to enhance access, participation and engagement with and enjoyment of culture and creativity locally, and we aim to embed creativity in public policy in Donegal. I note the strategy is well-timed in that many local plans are at an early stage, and it will be possible for the local Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team to engage with their development and to collectively enhance wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development at local level.

Having been involved with the Chief Executives of other local authorities in the Creative Communities Interim Review, I can confirm we are all supportive of how the initiative aligns with national and local priorities in delivering targeted and sustainable programmes of engagement.

Local authorities are traditionally regarded as risk-averse, and yet we are also encouraged to be innovative. Creative Ireland encourages us to experiment, take risks, try new approaches, consider alternative venues and locations, and to widen our base of programme partners. I very much welcome this and will encourage and support the whole of Local Authority delivery of the strategic priorities and actions for the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.

### **John G McLaughlin**

Chief Executive, Donegal County Council

I welcome the Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. This second local Creative Ireland Strategy builds on the solid foundation of the previous five years while also looks to introduce new and emerging areas of focus.

The Local Authority leads on the Creative Communities pillar which is very appropriate given the extent of our reach across the county and into the heart of communities. As a local elected member, representing a rural area, and currently the Cathaoirleach, representing the county, this is very close to my heart.

Over the course of the previous strategy, Donegal's rich cultural heritage of archaeology, museum and archival collections, architecture, language and literature, and its vibrant contemporary culture of visual arts, film, creative industries, craft and design, performing arts and festivals, continued to develop apace. The increased investment in the county's cultural sector provided by Creative Ireland through the Culture and Creativity Programme and other related initiatives, has enabled the delivery of a broad and highly impactful range of actions and interventions in almost every facet of the cultural life of the county.

These multiple initiatives have been managed and delivered by an equally diverse range of project originators and promoters, including Donegal County Council, local service providers such as Donegal ETB, local cultural institutions and professional cultural groups, community groups, heritage groups, arts groups and many more individual cultural practitioners. The additional investment has strengthened the relevant project promoters, has increased cultural engagement at all levels and has facilitated the democratisation of cultural practice and expression among communities across the county.

This new strategy has been developed following consultation with members of the Community, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, key stakeholders, and by public survey. This level of consultation is something I very much support as the involvement of our citizens in developing the policies and strategies that affect us all, is empowering, and ensures relevance and greater value for money.

I wish to thank the Donegal Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team for their positive and enthusiastic approach to firmly and successfully establishing Creative Communities within the local authority and the community. This is a very welcome, innovative and ground-breaking initiative which has direct and indirect, immediate and long-term benefits, and I very much look forward to seeing Creative Communities going from strength to strength over the next five years and beyond.

### **Cllr Liam Blaney**

Cathaoirleach, Donegal County Council

# 1 Creative Ireland 2023–2027

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and enjoyment of Ireland’s culture and creativity. Within the broad range of available definitions, creativity is considered as *a set of innate abilities and learned skills; the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and by drawing on imagination to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.*

The vision of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023–2027 is to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, in our personal lives and in our institutions, we can realise our full creative potential thereby promoting individual, community and national wellbeing.

The Creative Ireland Programme will deliver through collaboration and partnership promoting understanding and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms — whether through the arts, culture, heritage, or technology.

## The Creative Ireland Programme will prioritise its work around five aspects for the period 2023–2027:

1. Creative Youth
2. Creative Communities
3. Creative Industries
4. Creative Health and Wellbeing
5. Creative Climate Action and Sustainability

Through the Creative Ireland Programme, *Creative Communities* supports the partnership between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Ireland’s local authorities. This partnership enables citizens and communities to explore their culture and creativity at local level and, where appropriate, leverage that creativity to strengthen wellbeing, advance social cohesion and support economic development.

*Creative Communities* is also innovative in deploying creativity to achieve greater integration across targeted policy priorities. This has delivered new creative engagement initiatives in relation to for example children and young people, older persons, climate action, and local economies. Individuals’ and communities’ perception about the role and value of culture and creativity as central to our wellbeing in its broadest sense is being enhanced.

The opportunity embraced within the Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023–2027 is to support people’s participation, inclusion and expression within communities, and further strengthen local creative economies.



Donegal Chamber Orchestra and Conwal Singers with composer Seán Doherty at ‘Mobi’s Belt’ concert, Glebe House & Gallery, Colmille 1500 Grant Scheme. **Photograph:** Lorcan Doherty, 17th October 2021



Bronze socketed axe head pictured during a 3D photogrammetry session **Photograph:** Jurand Macioszozyk, 2018

## 2 Culture and Creativity in Donegal

This essay outlines the breadth and depth of Donegal's cultural and creative past and present, which creates a strong platform for the future, and which outlines the dynamic and constantly evolving environment within which local culture and creativity can thrive. The essay focuses on the areas most relevant to the Creative Ireland Programme.

### Socio-Economic Context

Donegal is the fourth largest county in the state. It shares 93% of its land boundary with Northern Ireland. It has a population of 159,192 (Census 2016), of which almost 73% live in rural areas, villages, and small towns of less than 1,500 people. The overall trend in population in Donegal since 2006 has been upwards. Much of this increase has been attributed to in-migration, of which a significant proportion have been immigrants from Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia.

In 2016 95% of Donegal's usual resident population were born in Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Wales, or Scotland. 5% of the population were born outside of the island of Ireland or the United Kingdom and the top 3 countries were Poland, the United States and India. The top 5 growing communities were Indian, Pakistani, Romanian, Croatian and Afghan.

Donegal is home to the state's second largest Gaeltacht community, with a population of almost 24,000 - a significant portion of whom are daily Irish speakers. Irish is also widely spoken among the non-Gaeltacht community in the county, with Letterkenny registering the highest number of daily speakers outside of the major cities of Dublin, Cork, Galway, and Limerick.

Donegal's age dependency ratio - i.e., young (0-14) and old (65+) expressed as a percentage of the population of working age (15-64) - is high, at 60.5% (Western Development Commission 2017), compared to the national average of 52.7%. It is most manifest in the lower than national average

in the key 20 to 40 age bracket, especially within the rural communities of Donegal. The county experiences a particular difficulty in retaining its younger citizens, who often leave the county for further education, job opportunities, specialist training etc.

Donegal, with Laois, has the lowest admission rate to third level education (41% compared to national average of 51%). Donegal ATU (Atlantic Technological University) is a key component of the educational environment in Donegal, educating around 4,500 students. The Donegal Education and Training Board is a core provider of a wide and diverse range of services across education and training and operates through schools, Further Education Training centres and social enterprises.

In 2015 Donegal had the lowest disposable income (€15,705 per person) at 77.2% of the national average. In 2016, Donegal had the lowest Pobal HP Relative Deprivation score in Ireland. In 2016 Donegal had the highest proportion of households where state pension was most of the income. The median gross income per household was €45,256 and households with the lowest incomes were in Donegal (€32,259).

### The Experience Economy

IBEC's research on Ireland's experience economy commissioned in 2021 showed 330,000 people were employed in the sector which accounts for one in five private sector jobs in Ireland. The experience economy accounts for more than one euro in every three spent by an Irish household, compared to one in every four in the EU. The culture and creativity sector are an inherent part of the experience economy and are a catalyst for innovation in other sectors including local tourism and creative entrepreneurship. While the pandemic had a huge impact on the creative and cultural ecosystem, and the wider experience economy, it also revealed the important role of culture and creativity as a resource for resilience, connection,

and recovery. The pandemic provided policy makers with the opportunity to devise new and imaginative ways to re-imagine the future and to recognise culture and creativity as an integral part of the economic, social and environmental recovery.

### Infrastructure

The county's cultural infrastructure includes publicly owned facilities such as Donegal County Museum, An Grianan Theatre, The Regional Cultural Centre, Fort Dunree, Lifford Old Courthouse, Abbey Arts Centre, Amharclann Ghaioh Dobhair, Donegal County Archives, and a network of libraries across the county, working in-tandem with independent and community developed facilities.

### Heritage

Our Heritage creates a sense of place, reaffirms our sense of identity, reinforces the character of our towns and villages, informs our understanding of the past, inspires us, and engages people of all ages. Archaeological sites, buildings, signature landscapes, wildlife habitats and species, artefacts, archives, and cultural traditions bear testimony to Donegal's rich and varied heritage. They are preserved and promoted through the hard work and dedication of a wide variety of community groups, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and state organisations throughout the region. Donegal County Council is also the guardian and manager of several historic buildings, wildlife areas and 50 historic graveyards.

### Literature

Donegal has a rich literary tradition, in both English and Irish - from Frances Browne to Brian Friel, from Seosamh Mac Grianna to Peadar O'Donnell. Donegal County Council's Dámhann an Ghleanna, the home of poet Cathal Ó Searcaigh, serves as a focus for writing in the Irish language.

### Libraries

Libraries are a major focus for the celebration of local and national culture and creativity. They are a cultural space, open and accessible to all, creating

opportunities to enhance community life. They also support the collective memory of Donegal with a collection of circa 65,000 items of history, natural history, archaeology, heritage, and culture housed at the Central Library, with smaller collections in branch libraries across the county. Through the Libraries Ireland network, Donegal libraries provide free access for library members to over 15 million items of stock in over 330 library branches across the country as well as a growing range of online resources.

### Performing Arts

Donegal is home to a performing arts sector which enjoys national and international recognition. An Grianán Theatre is the county's leading performing arts venue and drama producing house. Raidió na Gaeltachta and Ealaín na Gaeltachta provide vital support to Irish language traditional song, while facilities such as An Crannóg and An tSeán Bheairic are focal points for the promotion of the tradition. There is a strong network of branches of Comhaltas Cheoltoirí Éireann. Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí plays a vital role in the support and promotion of Donegal fiddle playing. Donegal Music Education Partnership, established by Donegal ETB, provides high quality, after school instrumental and vocal tuition to over 450 children and is home to 10 performing groups including the Donegal Youth Orchestra.

Donegal has been to the forefront in the development of carnival arts and spectacle in Ireland evidenced by the distinctive and imaginative work of groups such as Inishowen Carnival Group, LUXe Landscape Theatre and Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company.

### Visual Arts and Crafts

County Donegal has extensive involvement in contemporary visual arts and crafts and is the home of several leading public galleries, arts and crafts studios, and a significant number of individual artists and makers. The main Arts Council funded gallery is the Donegal County Council run Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny. Other publicly funded galleries include the OPW operated Glebe House and Gallery, An Gailearaí, and Artlink, Fort Dunree.



The Gathering of the Force, an Open Call submission for Cruinniú na nÓg in 2020 which combined young people, Tai Chi, Star Wars, film and the breathtaking scenery of Banba's Crown, Malin Head  
**Photograph:** Martha McCulloch

There is also an extensive number of craft initiatives throughout the County including Donegal Craft Village, Local Hands, Ballyshannon and the Donegal Designer Makers network.

### Creative Sector & Film

The Creative Coast Donegal Initiative was developed and is implemented through the Local Enterprise Office of Donegal County Council. The aim is to develop a shared vision and identity for the creative sectors in Donegal. The initiative offers creative enterprises access to innovative ideas and workshops from professionals working in many different creative sectors. Donegal County Council's Film Office acts as the main resource for filmmakers in Donegal and those who wish to film in Donegal from all over the world.

### Festivals

Donegal is home to a rich variety of annual festivals. These include Earagail Arts Festival, Patrick MacGill Summer School, Sea Sessions, Rory Gallagher International Tribute Festival, Scoil Gheimhridh Ghaoth Dobhair, Féile Roise Rua, Féile na hInse, Ballyshannon Folk and Traditional Music Festival, Inishowen International Folksong and Ballad Seminar, Letterkenny Trad Week and Wainfest. Donegal also participates in a range of national celebratory events such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine, Heritage Week and Culture Night.

### Successful Initiatives and Learnings

Here are some examples of successful initiatives where interdisciplinarity, innovation and collaboration have been at the core;

- North West Audience Development – a successful cross-border collaboration targeting families and older people. 'Music in Care Homes' for example, built on a partnership between the Arts Service and Social Inclusion Unit to deliver an innovative 'Artist in Residence for Care Homes' programme across Donegal and Derry-Strabane.
- Ballyshannon's Creative Public Realm – a creative package of innovative works including traditional hand-painted signage, support for traditional skills, the creation of a mural and the meanwhile use of traditional shopfronts – that complements and adds value to its Historic Towns Initiative, bringing to life the area's rich literary culture and built heritage.
- Reimagine Letterkenny – an innovative pedestrian 'cultural corridor' connecting Donegal County Museum, An Grianan Theatre and the Regional Culture Centre, in collaboration with the Irish Architecture Foundation, and now part of the Letterkenny 2040 regeneration plan.
- Cruinniú na nÓg – a partnership with Donegal Youth Council and 'Voice of the Child' consultation has ensured that programmes have been designed, shaped, and inspired by children and young people in a fun and imaginative way.
- Colmille 1500 – an inter-disciplinary cross border commemorative programme, delivering 150 events in collaboration with local, regional, and national partners, across community, culture, heritage, arts, spiritual and education sectors, as well as over 20 Council-led projects bringing Colmille's legacy to life across Ireland and Scotland.

Learnings from the previous strategy have included the importance of being more strategic to ensure there is flexibility to respond to emerging or new challenges, avail of new funding opportunities, develop new partnerships and make best use of limited staffing and other resources. It has also identified the importance of collaboration,

including on a cross-border basis, and of the interdisciplinary potential and impact of the Creative Ireland Programme.

### Integration

Creative Ireland Donegal will integrate with existing and upcoming local authority strategies in relation to wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development. At the time of writing, several wellbeing and social cohesion strategies are under way locally, and the Donegal Culture and Creativity Team will engage with each during development and implementation, strengthening existing partnerships and developing new ones. These include the new:

- Age Friendly Strategy
- Accessibility Strategy
- Healthy Ireland Strategy for Donegal
- Wellbeing Vision for Donegal

Other relevant strategies in development include:

- County Development Plan
- Local Economic & Community Plan

Existing strategies the Donegal Culture and Creativity Team engage with or will engage with include:

- Cultúr le Chéile the Council's Culture Division Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026
- Donegal CYPSC Children & Young People's Plan 2021 – 2023
- Climate Ready Donegal: Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019
- Donegal County Council's Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024
- Donegal Framework 2019, Intercultural Art in Action Research Project

- Black and Minority Ethnic Inclusion Strategy for Donegal 2021 – 2026
- County Donegal Heritage Plan
- Age Friendly Strategy

There are several local language plans in existence and others under way that will also offer opportunities.

Donegal 2030: Writing Our Own Enterprise Future: Donegal Strategic Enterprise Development Plan prepared by the Local Enterprise Office in 2022 identifies key sectors relevant to Creative Ireland including Food Coast and the Creative Sector. The new Creative Coast 3-year Strategic Action Plan is currently at consultation stage, also led by the Local Enterprise Office, and there is already a good working relationship between Creative Coast and Creative Ireland which will continue to develop.

Donegal County Council works very closely with its counterparts in Northern Ireland and in the context of Creative Ireland, other relevant strategies include:

- Derry City & Strabane District Arts & Culture Strategy 2019 – 2024
- Derry City & Strabane District Council Heritage Plan
- Climate change plan to be confirmed

## Testimonials

Tharr an mBalla - Pleanáil Teanga  
Árainn Mhóir – 2021

*“This project was a bilingual Irish and English speaking, (mural) art project with an emphasis on Irish. This has been an extremely successful project and through the relationship built with the artist (Karl Porter, UV Arts, Derry) and organisations with whom he works, we hope to continue this process and develop this project further with more collaborative arts projects, possibly including cross border work and work which represents the Gaeltacht. We are very grateful to Creative Ireland for supporting arts for young people in isolated rural places such as Árainn Mhór Island”.*

Cruinniú na nÓg participant Feedback 2022

*“My five children participated in four different events. They found them to be very enjoyable while learning new skills. It was great to go to the different venues and the teachers were all very good. Great way to try out new activities without having to sign up to a block. Such a fun weekend. Well done to the organisers and facilitators”.*

Spraoi agus Sport 2020 – online and location-based workshops for the creative industry using the resources of the FabLab. Feedback included, “very good and informative”, “helping me get my creative mojo back”.



Gleann Cholm Cille: An Áit agus a Naomh —A project to digitize the minor placenames of Gleann Cholm Cille, Colmcille 1500 Grant Scheme **Photograph:** Oideas Gael, 2021

### 3

## The Creative Ireland Vision for Donegal

Our vision for this Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 is that by the end of 2027 culture and creativity will be embedded in all aspects of daily life in Donegal. This vision is what shapes our focus on supporting and developing Creative Communities throughout Donegal as the main thrust of our Creative Ireland Strategy 2023-2027. The Strategy aims to make it easier for people to engage with culture and creativity as a part of daily life and as a democratic right.

This vision is realistic and ambitious, and it builds on the groundwork that was established under the first Donegal Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022, which itself is embedded in the broad range of civic and community services and supports that Donegal County Council provides. Delivering on the strategy will be a challenge, not least because of the socio-economic conditions which face us in the county. We know what we need to do, and this Creative Ireland Strategy is a core element of Donegal County Council's overall strategic approach to 2023-2027.

Our Strategy takes the Creative Ireland approach of an all-of-Government initiative and transposes this into our local administration and services so that we take an all-of-county and all-of-council approach to putting culture at the heart of all of our work, decisions, and activities as we serve communities throughout Donegal.

By the end of 2027:

- a generation of families and children will have had access to a decade of opportunity to bring culture into many aspects of their lives.
- Gaeltacht communities, Gaeltacht artists and heritage professionals, and the Irish language will be more visible and audible as part of Donegal's unique cultural expression.

- culture and creative practitioners and professionals will have had new and diverse opportunities to develop, make, and share their work, and to develop more sustainable careers.
- Donegal's festivals, venues, and other cultural organisations will have been able to commission and programme new work and bring their work to new and different communities, historic buildings, cultural sites and places, with public engagement at the heart of their work, and at a higher level.
- our county's sense of self, of having a distinctive, complex, and inclusive Donegal identity, and of being a web of culturally active and diverse communities, will be stronger and more tangible in all aspects of life.

Donegal's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 aims to respect, celebrate, and share Donegal's rich and varied natural, built, and cultural heritage which represents our roots in the past and shapes our understanding of the present. Alongside this, our strategy will have a strong focus on encouraging the growth of new shoots of cultural activity that represent and nurture the vibrancy of our diverse Donegal communities into the future.

Our cultural inheritance needs to be nurtured, conserved, supported, and valued in order to remain relevant, dynamic and transformative in society.

Our vision and our strategy will reflect and honour the continuously changing make up of our communities and cherish the diversity of all expressions of our contemporary culture, our heritage, and our living traditions here in Donegal.

### 4

## How The Creative Ireland Programme Works Principles and Values of Creative Communities

Creative Communities will continue to support local authorities as a wellbeing strategy through:

- **Policy** — Working in partnership across government supporting local authorities to deliver relevant local, regional, and national policies and priorities;
- **Practice** — Flexible, cross-cutting Culture and Creativity Teams providing an agile and adaptable approach central to the delivery of *Creative Communities* as it addresses locally-relevant priorities;
- **Participation** — Providing more opportunities for people to engage with and enjoy culture and creativity at local level in ways that underpin equality of access; and
- **Partnership** — Between central and local government, other local authorities, and our local culture and creative sectors.

This approach is based on addressing a shared, strategic agenda while delivering on the challenges and opportunities unique to each local authority area.

The *Creative Communities* partnership will be delivered in line with the following principles and values:

- Broaden access to, and participation in, cultural and creative activities locally.
- Use culture and creativity as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation in achieving greater wellbeing, social cohesion, and economic development.
- Strengthen the capacity of local authorities to integrate culture and creativity across place-making, regeneration, renewal, and the development of more vibrant, creative, and sustainable places.
- Investing in culture and creativity to support environmental, social, and economic returns that help deliver local authority agendas — from local and regional, to national and international.
- Build on the agility and integrated approach of Culture and Creativity Teams to sustain further delivery of targeted collaborative programmes.



## 5 The Strategic Priorities for Donegal

This new Culture and Creativity Strategy has been developed following consultation with members of the Community, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, key stakeholders, and by online public survey.

The local Creative Ireland team reviewed the 2018-2022 strategy to consider what worked, what did not work and why. They also identified areas of strength and opportunities to focus on in the new strategy 2023-2027. An Internal Working Group was set up to drive the process of preparing the new strategy, and to liaise with the external consultant, stakeholders, and the wider local Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team.

Four strategic priorities emerged at a very early stage and the fifth priority was added as the consultation evolved. The consultation and the survey supported the strategic priorities and identified the actions for each.

### Strategic Priority 1 Embed Culture and Creativity Across Local Authority Plans, Policies and Project Teams

#### Actions

- Strengthen and develop collaboration with and between services of the Local Authority
- Maintain an active and engaged local Creative Ireland Culture and Creativity Team, representative of Local Authority Services, with task and finish working groups for projects
- Seek to embed Creative Ireland values & priorities within Local Authority plans & policies
- Track Local Authority support for culture & creativity and work to streamline and target investment
- Seek the appointment of a dedicated Creative Ireland resource to maximise the potential and the impact of the programme

### Strategic Priority 2 Strengthen and Reinforce Donegal's Cultural Infrastructure and Resources

#### Actions

- Support the funding of larger scale and multi-annual projects which have potential for long term impact
- Work to increase the availability of spaces for cultural and creative practitioners and harness the potential of hubs, Broadband Connection Points, historic buildings and other recent and proposed initiatives to support culture and creativity
- Continue to support and build on a collaborative cross-border approach to cultural programmes and activities



A fire performer in Inishowen Carnival's Cybertribe spectacle, at Bernard McGlinchey Town Park, Letterkenny, on Culture Night 2019  
**Photograph:** Paul McGuckin



Projection at Colmcille Heritage Centre as part of 'Coinneal Cholmcille' illuminations across Ireland and Scotland to mark Colmcille's 1500th birthday  
**Photograph:** Deirdre Harte, December 2021



'At the Edge of All Things'.  
Artist Tim Stampton at work  
on the Ulster Canada Initiative,  
Culture and Creativity Grant  
Scheme 2020  
**Photograph:** Harry Kerr

- Create a forum through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the strategic development of culture in the county

### Strategic Priority 3

#### Support Cultural and Creative Practitioners and Professionals

##### Actions

- Create new funding opportunities/programmes aimed at discovering and supporting existing and emerging voices in culture and creativity
- Support new pathways to employment across the culture sector and support career development
- Design and implement training and mentoring programmes to support culture-led initiatives
- Explore the establishment of a panel of culture animators and producers to support groups and individuals involved in culture projects
- Support connectivity within the sector and encourage cross-collaboration between disciplines

### Strategic Priority 4

#### Nurture Our Sense of Place and Identity

##### Actions

- Nurture and celebrate Donegal's unique culture and identity
- Support the sustainable conservation, preservation, and promotion of culture
- Enable young people to find innovative ways to lead, engage and participate in culture

- Provide more opportunities for communities to access culture through the Irish language
- Foster connections with the Donegal Diaspora to increase access to and engagement with culture
- Explore, research and document Donegal's cultural resource

### Strategic Priority 5

#### Enable Engagement with and Access to Culture and Creativity

##### Actions

- Increase awareness of opportunities to engage with Donegal's culture and creativity
- Support programmes that focus on the role of culture in contributing to wellbeing and enabling creative and resilient communities
- Promote inclusive and accessible cultural and creative programmes
- Engage with practitioners of diverse ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds
- Connect with national Creative Ireland initiatives across all five pillars

## 6 Implementation by the Donegal Culture and Creativity Team

Donegal Council has a Culture and Creativity Team in place to guide and oversee implementation of this Strategy.

The Culture and Creativity Teams are the cornerstone of Creative Communities across all 31 local authorities in Ireland. These teams bring together a significant range and level of expertise and, in many cases, include professionals from architecture, archives, the arts, climate action, community, enterprise and environmental development, heritage, information and communication technologies, Irish language, libraries, spatial planning, tourism and more. This depth of technical expertise affords each local authority a level of insight, resources, and delivery experience which few other public or private sector organisations can match.

The role of this team is to:

- Provide a collective forum for the ambition of culture and creativity within the local authority
- Focus on diversity and inclusivity and enable harder to reach communities to participate in cultural and creative activities
- Build on existing in-house expertise and strategies across areas of wellbeing, social cohesion and economic development to leverage culture and creativity to deliver on targeted local authority agendas
- Enable a shift in how the cultural and creative sector is valued within and across local authorities and ensure that culture and creativity is embedded across local authority plans, policies and project teams

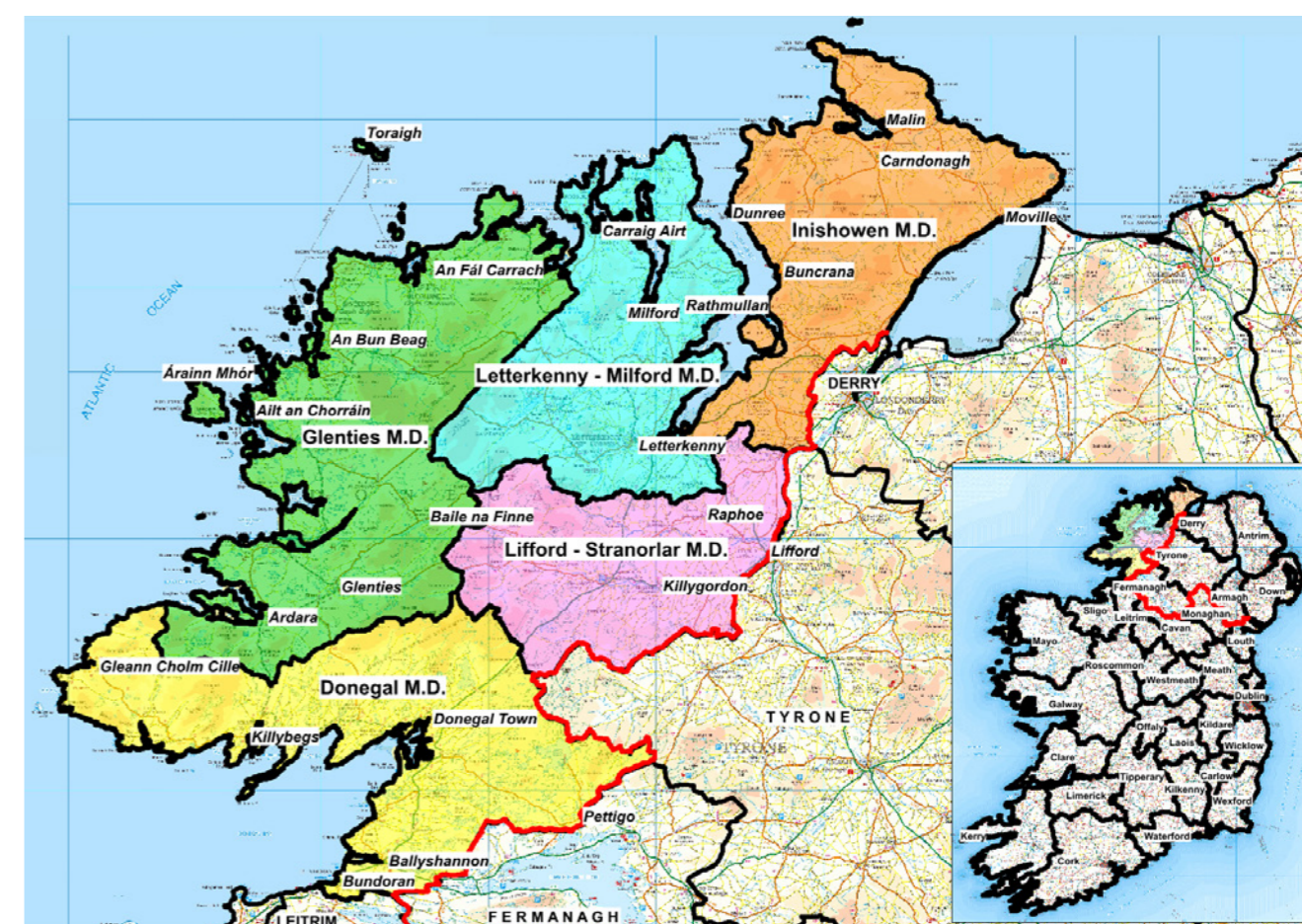
- Drive cross-collaborative actions that support change and positive outcomes locally, and potentially between local authorities at regional level
- Be innovative and take risks – try new projects and new ways of working.

The delivery of the Strategy is led by the Director of Services for Housing, Corporate and Culture, and the members of the Culture and Creativity Team for Donegal include:

- County Librarian/Culture Division Manager
- Senior Executive Librarians
- Executive Librarian
- Arts Officer
- Regional Cultural Centre Director
- Museum Curator
- Archivist
- Heritage Officer
- Conservation Officer
- Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge
- Film Officer
- Social Inclusion Officer
- Head of Local Enterprise Office
- Creative Ireland Donegal Assistant


These structures and processes are a critical success factor that will enable Creative Communities to deliver on strategic priorities for Donegal.


## Map of Donegal Municipal Districts 2022




---

A Government of Ireland Initiative.  
Tionscnamh de chuid Rialtas na hÉireann.

—  
 CreativeIrl

 creativeirl

 creativeireland

—  
[creativeireland.gov.ie](http://creativeireland.gov.ie)

---

**CREATIVE IRELAND**

*Inspiring and transforming people,  
places and communities through creativity.*