

City (Re)Searches

Experiences of Public-ness

2012-2014

Here is a research based on the correct observation that there has been an institutional failure to create conversations between arts/culture and other momentums for social and political rights, and rightly place their efforts in the framework of developing a new consensus about the public value of culture.

EU Culture Programme Research Assessor

IDEA

A practitioner-led community art research at micro level moves incrementally between three cities over the next two years. The project is about conversations that explore the dynamics of cultural development at family and local community level.

Developing a cultural rights lens, the researchers want to advance new approaches and tactics for the public value and therefore the public investment in local culture. A longer term ambition is to contribute to mobilising cultural approaches to mend the broken circuitry in the field of connectivity between people and the political process.

The research process looks to embed itself in the fissures found in public space. Because the process takes place in public, Jeanne van Heeswijk will realise a pop-up pedagogical space that can travel from city to city testing ideas and engaging publics about their understanding of cultural rights.

FORMAT

Last November 2011, a dry run took place in Kaunas, Lithuania and involved 8 researchers who were facilitated by Irish group, Vagabond Reviews. The idea used was to gather everyday narratives and experiences of the Žemiejė Šančiai district.

FORMAT

PIE Group comprises of Jeanne van Heeswijk (NL) and Mary-Jane Jacob(USA), both practitioners with a highly established global set of art practices, ideas and experience(pie).

Practice Circle is made up of interdisciplinary researchers who travel to each city and be complemented by local practitioners. The research schedule is as follows:

- Planning event (Mar / Apr 2012)
- 4 days in Cork during 2012 (Summer/Autumn)
- 4 days in Derry during 2013 (Winter/Spring)
- 4 days in Kaunas during 2013 (Summer).
- 3 days in Rotterdam during 2014 (Spring)

Local practitioners are invited locally by the hosts and are willing to invest their time and practice in a four day pedagogical process.

Co-organisers and **Host Organisation(s)** are the lead and local hosts in the chosen country/city respectively.

RESULTS

The research process has to think through some of the possibilities a cultural rights framework offers: Mapping public-ness as a manifestation of cultural rights

- Registering contemporary features of culture and public-ness: volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity
- Identifying where blockages to public-ness exist and how to release it.
- Acknowledge the limits of acting research.

City (Re)Searches: Experiences of Public-ness commences in June 2012 and finishes in May 2014. It is funded by the EU and is allocated

Budget: EU –€60,000 (approved Jan 2012)
Match / Raised Funds €40,000 (to be found)

Partners: Community Arts Partnership, Belfast; Mayfield Arts, Cork, Kaunas Biennial, New House Project, Rotterdam.

Interested? Interesting for you? Get in touch with us.

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www.bluedrum.ie

Community Art Convening 2013

Feel the ground under your feet

From the available data it is almost certain that the substantial public money spent on the arts is regressive transfer of resources from the less well off to the better well off. (NESF 2007)

Children from middle-class and highly educated families are more involved in cultural activities than those from the most disadvantaged families. (...)
(Growing up in Ireland 2012)

IDEA

- A feast of new generation community arts practices with a new set of ideas and dispositions
- Selected showcase from families and communities in poverty and those who are disconnected or de-mocratised from the culture and society?
- Something that is not just about product and that can take place on the street or in the field
- Conversations about the dynamics of cultural development at the local community level
- Developing a cultural rights lens with new approaches and tactics for the public value and therefore the public investment in culture.
- Contribute to mobilising cultural approaches to mend the broken circuitry in the field of between people and the political process.

7 THEMATIC PROJECTS COVERING 7 COUNTIES

6 DAYS OF LOCAL CULTURAL ACTION

5 COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS

Retrospectives of the most amazing work undertaken by children, by communities.

4 COMMUNITY DRAMAS

3 PUBLICATIONS

2 SHOW & TELL MARKETPLACE

1 BROADCAST KEYNOTE / PANEL DEBATE

Private or Public? (In)visibility of community art

What it would take:

*7 local host organisations and a tribe of volunteers
2 project leaders to co-ordinate production of the event and PR/communications
Circle of committed people to coordinate planning meetings, liaising with participating groups, organising the participation of other local stakeholders such as local arts centres // arts offices.
Documenting and communicating the event to the public and the media, etc.*

What it needs:

*More thinking and refinement
More stakeholders
Linkages to streetfest.ie or world community arts day, etc.*

>>>Lift-off<<<

***Interested? Interesting for You? Take a leap:
Wednesday, February 29th, 2012 at 6pm***

Tel: 01 877 1446 bluedrum@ireland.ie

WE ARE FAMILY

Happy Parent Initiative

2012-2014

Children from middle-class and highly educated families are more involved in cultural activities than those from the most disadvantaged families. (...)
(Growing up in Ireland 2012)

Resilience is a universal capacity which allows a parent to prevent, minimise or overcome the damaging effects of being poor.
(adapted from the National Children's Strategy)

IDEA

Blue Drum's new developmental initiative aimed at parents with children between the ages of 4-8. The design will be for parents to deliver in the home. It will encourage them to learn more about how to nurture, foster and develop the child's creative expression.

WHY NOW? Research shows that child well-ness is dependent upon parent well-ness and the relationship of parent to the child. Parent well-ness is based upon positive affections (self, child, others, world) and secure socio economic status. See: Attitudes to Family Formation in Ireland (2011), Framework for Family Support (2011), and Growing up in Ireland (growingupinireland.ie).

HOW? The Happy Parent Creative Education (HP¹) will be developed over three years and involve up to 150 parents. The pilot will link to the national network of 107 Family Resource Centres to host the developmental activity.

WHO? The initiative is for fragile parents are in the following groups: lone parents (fathers/mothers), Travellers, families experiencing social isolation, motivational issues, and other signs of negative affect, addictions, history of mental illness, poor coping skills.

We are interested in knowing if HP¹ can create pathways from the features of Unhappy families to those of emerging Happy Family:

UNHAPPY FAMILY

- poor supervision/discipline style
- little warmth and affection
- low involvement in child's activities
- difficult temperament
- low self esteem



HAPPY FAMILY

- supportive adult relationship
- deeper security / belonging
- creating supportive learning
- greater coping style
- optimism and self worth

We want to develop pathways for community arts cultural activities to contribute to

- healthy families, both mentally and physically
- part of positive networks of families.

MILESTONES

1. Small voluntary task group:
2. Drafting of Arts/Culture Recipe Book
3. Four FRC sites that engages up to 40 parents
4. We Are Family Local Celebrations

OUTCOMES

- *more affective PARENT/CHILD relationship*
- *More ability to overcome isolation and relate*
- *parent to parent exchange of tactics and know how*

OUTPUTS

- *150 fragile parents participating*
- *New developmental activity created*
- *Local capacity increased for delivery*

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