

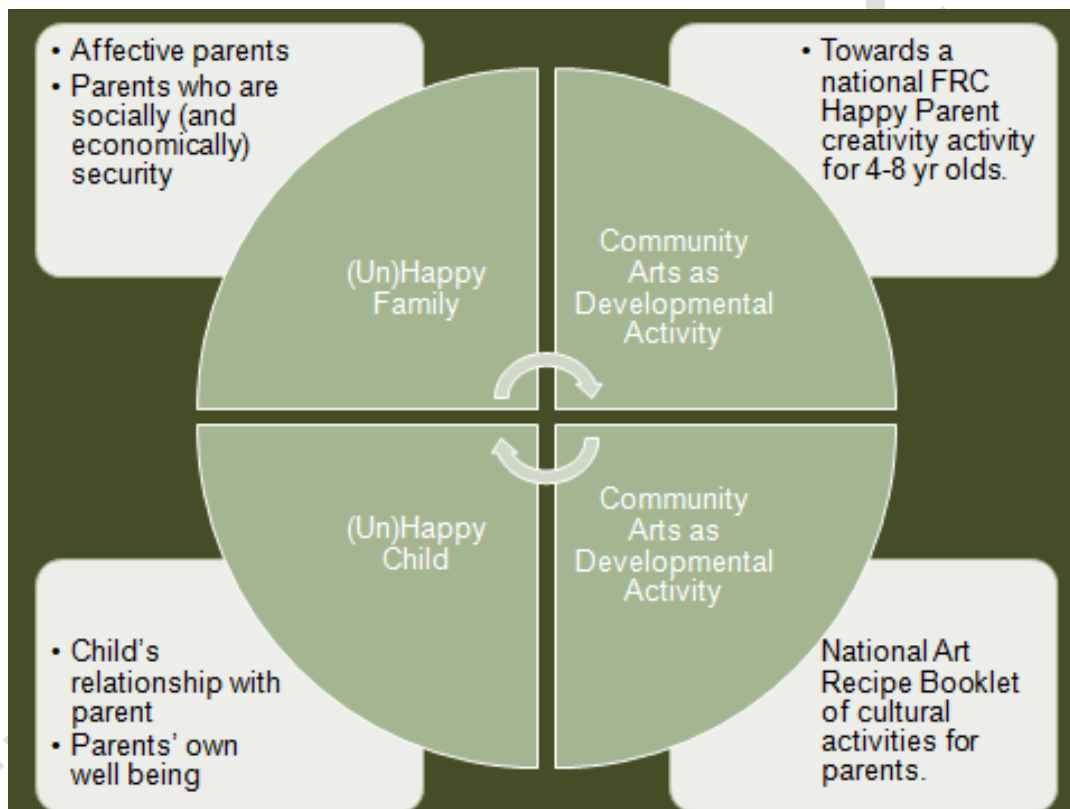


Action Plan 2012
New Community Arts in
More Family Resource
Centres

Introduction

We continue our work with Family Resource Centres to support more community art work for parents and families and for it to be more visible to the local community and beyond. In this Action Plan for 2012 we present a framework that explores community art as a pathway to family well being. Then, our activities for the year are marked out in some detail. Finally, we give an overview of our organisation and offer some explanatory notes at the end of the document in relation to (i) finance, (ii) Happy Parent Initiative and (iii) the three year EU funded research project called City (Re)Searches.

Community Arts as a pathway for Family Support Outcomes



The FSA's Framework for Family Support notes the importance of developmental activities that lead to good outcomes for families. Kieran McKeown in the Framework argues that what is good for children can also be good for families and parents. In the next year Blue Drum will focus on adding value to the work of Family Resource Centres through developmental activities that deliver tangible outcomes for parents and families. In 2012 we will apply practical community arts tools into contexts which can be a pathway for developmental outcomes for parents.

UNHAPPY FAMILY FEATURES	Community arts and cultural activities as pathway to	HAPPY FAMILY FEATURES
(1) From poor supervision/discipline style (2) From little warmth and affection (3) From low involvement in child's activities (4) From difficult temperament (5) From low self esteem	▶	(1) To deeper security / belonging in the family (2) To supportive relationships that overcome isolation (3) From creating supportive learning between parents / child (4) To greater coping style and self control (5) To optimism and self-worth

Practically, we will document how community arts can do more to support families to be

- Healthy, both physically and mentally
- Supported in active learning
- Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community
Included and participating in society

Our Plan for 2012 marks out 3 interrelated goals:

Goal #1

Add value to the Family Resource Centres work through inserting a community arts developmental Happy Parent Initiative [See Annex 2]

Actions	Developmental	Need Identified?
<p>1. We Are Family: Happy Parent Pilot Initiative</p> <p>A new developmental initiative in 4 FRC Regions aimed at parents with children between the ages of 4-8. Bringing together parents in FRC's to test and feedback on cultural activities that take place in the home.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>-Small Advisory Group of FRC's at local level - 4 FRC sites to house the initiative and cluster in the county -Invitation to cluster of parents through FRC worker (development, crèche, etc)</p> <p>Delivery (i) Induction workshop over 2 consecutive days (ii) Parents deliver worksheets 1-5 in home and fill out reflection template (iii) Reflective workshop and new planning cycle initiated (iv) Local We Are Family Celebration of the work</p> <p>Input: Dedicated staff person and 4 workshop facilitators</p> <p>Outputs: 40 parents reached engaged; Art Recipe Booklet; Reflective Journals and</p> <p>Sustainability: Envisaged as a three year initiative that will engage 150 parents in need nationally.</p>	<p>-gap in community arts creativity programme for parents to deliver with children 2011 FRC questionnaire and pilot residency programme in Clann and Ballinrobe -2011 Family Support Framework Report and absence of community arts applied to family well being domain. 2012 – Growing up in Ireland identification of importance of cultural activities for children.</p>

Goal #2

-Make community arts work more visible in its value for family well being by exchanging information, knowledge and experiences among FRC's. [See Annex 3]

Actions	Process	Need Identified
<p>2. Exchanges and Liaison Keep tract of hot issues for FRCs and continue to advocate for families in poverty</p> <p>As a support agency our intention is to be open to respond to signals emerging from FRCs</p>	<p>2. Every FRC will receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Summary Action Plan 2012 -Open Call to collaborate on the Happy Parents Initiative -Tailored Needs Questionnaire 2012 <p>-We will carry out visits to 50 FRC's in 2011 to hear what is happening on the ground and to develop short case studies of community arts work</p> <p>-We will provide a contact point for advise to FRCs when it comes to accessing arts facilitators in their area or in terms of developing project ideas and supporting funding proposals</p> <p>Every FRC will be able to access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Monthly Blue Notes dedicated to 1 issue/call/idea -Facebook and Website for communicating cultural events/issues -Podcast series <p>Input: Dedicated staff and design person</p> <p>Outputs: 50 FRCs met face to face 0 parents reached engaged; Art Recipe Booklet; Reflective Journals and</p>	<p>-Annual questionnaire sent out in summertime</p> <p>-Responses to plans are taken seriously. For example, low response to regional showcase event in 2012 made us change our orientation. Positive response to the Happy Parent Initiative confirmed it as a priority.</p>

Goal #3

Develop critical capacity/skills exchange and influence policy orientation to realise new community arts tactics to realise family well being

Actions	Process	Need Identified
<p>3. ARTIZEN City (Re)Searches 2012-2014 will recommend a framework for family cultural activities. As an acting based research it asks if families in need and their communities are listened to when cultural programmes are developed?</p> <p>Why now? Many FRC report that not enough local arts funding is available for the cultural</p>	<p>-Develop 4 day event in Cork with feed in from Limerick using Family Resource Centre's and other community platform.</p> <p>-Produce a Families and Cultural Activities report for Ireland's EU Presidency</p> <p>-Incorporate FRC's into research activity</p> <p>-Ask FRCs what families in need are saying community arts, poverty and inequality</p> <p>-Seek to embed community arts experience of families and communities into poverty and equality work</p> <p>Input: 9 interdisciplinary researchers from arts, community and equality background.</p> <p>Output: Research recommendations to be</p>	<p>-Poor families don't access nor participate in cultural activities</p> <p>-Poor reach of arts funding into FRCs</p> <p>-National research that identified arts spending as a transfer of resources from the less well off to the better off</p>

<p>activities of the Centres. There is poor linkages to local Arts Centres and arts officers. Also, there is not dedicated programme run by the Arts Council focused on parents and families similar to the very successful Artist in Youth Work Scheme and Artist in the Community Scheme.</p> <p>Match Funding Budget: €6000 See Annex 4</p> <p>3.1 Participate in and contribute to: -quarterly FSA regional forum meetings and other networks as appropriate</p> <p>Budget: Staff time</p>	<p>published as part of the Ireland's EU Presidency and targeting the EU Cultural Ministers meeting in 2013.</p> <p>-Respond to signals identified which increase cooperation with National and Regional Fora related to our capacities and involve same in all project work Increase the level of activity involving FRCs with local authority arts officers and the Arts Council.</p> <p>Advocate for an greater spend of arts budget in disadvantaged communities and raise the profile of cultural inclusion in work with EAPN and Arts Council.</p> <p>-Showcase arts and cultural work of FRCs -Attend regional forum meetings when possible -Visit up to 50 FRC in 2012.</p>	
--	---	--

Structure

The Company Directors oversee the strategic direction and all major decisions regarding policy. Blue Drums Directors include the Chairperson, Company Secretary and Treasurer.

Directors of Blue Drum – The Arts Specialist Support Agency

Name	Organisation	Specialty
Mark McCollum	Voice of Older People, Donegal	Older People / Drama
Mick Daly	HSE, Co. Clare	Juvenile Justice
Mary Doheny	Priorswood CDP	Community Development
Ed Carroll	Independent,	Art, Education and Community
Aileen Mulhern	Retired Youth Service Manager	Young people and arts NEW 2011
Con Christeson	CAT Institute, St Louis.	Artist, Community. NEW 2011

Executive 2012

Ed Carroll	Project Leader (Organisation)	Art, education and community (TBC)
Eleanor Phillips	Workshop Leader (Happy Parent)	Arts, Travellers and education
Gillian Keogan	Projects Leader (Company / Liaison)	Administration / Communications (TBC)
Lorena Zanoni Brun	Design and Web	Graphic design and programming

Volunteer/Associate 2012

Neil O'Flanagan	Project Leader (Mapping the Local)	Urban Planner
Roisín Markham	Associate / volunteer	Artist

Explanatory Note 1 – Notes on Finances 2012

Please also refer to our Budget Sheet for 2012

Note 1: Blue Drum staff employed on a part time basis for 2012 as follows:

	Job Title	
(1) CORE STAFF COSTS		
Gillian Keogan	Projects Leader	€21,000
Eleanor Phillips	Project Leader	€12,400
Ed Carroll	Project Leader	€12,400
Total Salaries 2012		€45,800
(2) TRAINERS / FACILITATORS / ETC		
Lorena Zaroni	Designer/Programmer	€1,000
Parent & Child Initiative Facilitators		€2,500
Total Trainers / Facilitator		€3,500
(3) Specific Community Arts		
Development Initiative: Parent & Child Creativity		€4,000
<i>Special EU RESEARCH PROJECT 2012-2014</i>		
Special match funding provision	City Researches	€6,000
Total Community Arts Programming		€10,000

Explanatory Note 2

WE ARE FAMILY

Happy Parent Initiative 2012 - 2014
Developmental community arts for parents

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

Blue Drum's new developmental initiative aimed at parents with children between the ages of 4-8. Bringing together parents to test and feedback on cultural activities that take place in the home.

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 and creativity.

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 over 3 years
- New developmental activity created
- Local capacity increased for delivery

BUDGET: Year 1

Workshops x 24 days – 4,800
Travel – 1,600
Advisory Group – 800
Communications 1,000
Art Recipe Booklet – 1,000
We Are Family Celebrations x 4 - 1,600

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

Tel: 01 877 1446 E: bluedrum@ireland.com
www.bluedrum.ie

Artizen City (Re)Searches Experiences of Public- ness

**Cork>(Limerick)>Derry(Inisowen)>Kaunas
(LT)>Rotterdam (NL)> 2012-2014**

IDEA

Many FRC tell us that not enough local arts funding is available to the work of the Centres. There is poor linkages to local Arts Centres and arts officers. Also, there is not dedicated programme run by the Arts Council focused on parents and families similar to the very successful Artist in Youth Work Scheme and Artist in the Community Scheme.

This project is about researching how cultural policy is made and how it gets delivered in communities. It is a practitioner-led community art research at local level moves incrementally between four cities over the next two years. The project is about conversations that explore whether families in need and their communities are listened to when cultural policy and programmes are developed?

Using 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.

Jeanne van Heeswijk will realise a pop-up pedagogical space that can travel from city to city testing ideas and engaging families 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:

-4 days in **Cork feeding into**

Limerick during 2012

(Summer/Autumn)

-4 days in **Derry feeding into**

Inisowen 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 /local hosts in the country/city respectively.

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

RESULTS

The research process has to think through some of the possibilities a cultural rights framework offers for families access to and participation in cultural activities.

- Registering contemporary features of culture and families: volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity
- Identifying where blockages for families 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)
Family Support Agency (IR) €6,000 (Match)
Community Arts Partnership (N. Ireland) €6,000
Raised Funds €28,000 (to be found)

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

Tel: 01 877 1446 E:
bluedrum@ireland.com
www.bluedrum.ie