

# **Socially Engaged Practice: Building Equity in a Divided World**

## **Conference & Networking Event**

**6th - 7th November 2024**

**The Dock Arts Centre,  
Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim**



**create** national development  
agency for collaborative arts



**Arts Ealaíona**



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme



THE  
**DOCK**

**Welcome to Socially Engaged Practice: Building Equity in a Divided World, a conference and networking event by partners Leitrim County Council Arts Office, Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts and Cork City Council. The event will consider how socially engaged artists collaborate with communities in an inclusive way within the current context of increased division and campaigns against vulnerable communities. It will showcase best practice, community and artists' perspectives, current themes and challenges in the field of Socially Engaged Practice. Workshops and open discussion/ networking time will provide an opportunity to meet, learn, discuss, critique and engage with current concerns in the field.**

**Here's some information about the schedule for the two days, as well as access information, speaker biographies, and dietary information. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Leitrim County Arts Office, Create, or The Dock staff.**

## Wednesday 6th November

Create's national Networking Event is an annual opportunity to bring together those working in or entering the field of collaborative, socially engaged art. This year we are excited to offer the Networking Event as part of this conference on socially engaged practice. Day one of this event will focus on the challenges of working collaboratively with communities during a time of heightened division.

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10:00	<b>Registration</b> and networking (with refreshments provided)
11:45	<b>Welcome</b> by Damien McGlynn, Director of Create
12:00	<b>Panel:</b> artists' perspectives with artists Tobi Balogun, Grace Dyas and Jijo Sebastian, and Emeri Curd, Learning Producer at Heart of Glass, UK-based collaborative & socially engaged arts agency
13:00	<b>Lunch</b> (on-site)
14:00	<b>Presentation:</b> Mark Malone of Hope & Courage Collective with Q&A
15:00	<b>Workshops:</b> Mapping the processual features of a collaborative arts practice: A methodology workshop (Dr Fiona Whelan) Vest of Tools (Sophie Mak-Schram) All Conflict Is a Result of Unmet Needs (Grace Dyas) Hip-hop - Movement, Rhythm and Groove: Unspoken Means of Bridging Divides (Tobi Balogun)
15:45	<b>Break</b>
16:15	<b>Workshops:</b> continuing
17:30	<b>Round up</b> and close by Damien McGlynn
17:45	Free Time
20:00	<b>Evening Performance</b> - Emilie Conway jazz trio at the Dock. Doors 7.30pm (no late admission)

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## Thursday 7th November

In recent years, the Arts Offices of Leitrim County Council and Cork City Council have partnered to provide supports and training to artists working in socially engaged contexts and have developed an online resource to support artists in managing social practice projects, which will be launched as part of the conference. Both arts offices have also adopted new strategic priorities in relation to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion and as part of this event will look at national policies that underpin these priorities and examine practical approaches developed by artists to promote inclusivity in their work.

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10.00	<b>Registration</b> and networking (with refreshments provided)
10:30	<b>Understanding Bias</b> with Tatiana Dos Santos
11:30	<b>Launch of on-line toolkit:</b> <a href="http://www.socialpracticetoolkit.com">www.socialpracticetoolkit.com</a>
12.00	<b>Break</b>
12.15	<b>Panel:</b> The framework for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. Tatiana Dos Santos, artist; Pdraig Naughton, Arts & Disability Ireland; Iarlaith Ní Fheorais, curator and author of the free online resource Access Toolkit for Artworkers. Chair: Joanna Frivet, International Human rights Lawyer and Board Member of The Dock
13:15	<b>Lunch</b> (on-site)
14:15	<b>Panel:</b> Equality, Diversity & Inclusion as part of your practice. Anthony Haughey, Fiona Whelan, Aaron Sunderland Carey; Tara Carroll. Chair: Brian Leyden, writer and publisher
15:15	<b>Break</b>
15:30	<b>Social Practice Toolkit workshop</b> with Siobhan Clancy, artist and Assistant Arts Officer, Cork City Council
16:30	<b>Final Plenary</b> with representatives from both days
17:00	<b>Close</b>

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# Speaker Biographies

Aaron Sunderland Carey is a mixed media and socially engaged artist whose work connects art, community, and social change. A graduate of NCAD, his practice centers on collaborating with marginalized communities in Dublin, using art as a means to amplify often-overlooked voices. His recent project, *Stones*, delves into the reciprocal relationship between individuals and their environment, exploring how people are shaped by their surroundings and how they, in turn, influence the community around them. Carey's work addresses themes such as public planning, marginalization, addiction, masculinity and class, informed by both personal experience and the stories of those he works with. Through painting, printmaking and multimedia, Carey fosters conversations that promote social justice, empathy and human connection.



Anthony Haughey is an artist and academic. He supervises practice-based doctorates at TU Dublin where he co-founded the Centre For Socially Engaged Practice-Based Research (SEPR). His artworks and writing have been widely exhibited, collected and published in museums, galleries and publications worldwide. Recent exhibitions include *Changing States: Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Haus am Kleistpark Berlin; *Silent City*, National Gallery of Ireland; *we make our own histories*, National Museum of Ireland; *This is What We Call Progress*, Crawford Gallery, Cork; *Open House*, Whitworth, Manchester; *Citizen Nowhere / Citizen Somewhere: The Imagined Nation*, Crawford Gallery, Cork. He is a co-editor of the forthcoming publication *Socially Engaged Art Across Ireland: Contested Narratives, Places and Futures* (Cork University Press). He was Decade of Centenaries artist in residence at the National Museum of Ireland 2021-2024 and was recently appointed Creative Places Athy artist in residence 2024-2025.



Dr. Emeri Curd (they/them) is Learning Producer at Heart of Glass supporting the development of learning programmes and resources for artists, producers, and cultural, community and education practitioners. Emeri has worked as an artist-facilitator and action researcher over the last ten years in museums, galleries, higher education and community settings to facilitate research with local communities, young people, LGBTQIA+ groups, socially engaged practitioners and art workers. Emeri's research interests include social justice, arts and activism, voice, knowledge, power, care and collaboration.



Dr. Fiona Whelan is a Dublin based artist, writer and Programme Leader of the MA/MFA Art and Social Action at NCAD. Her arts practice is committed to exploring and responding to systemic power relations and inequalities through long-term collaborations with diverse individuals, groups and organisations. These processes are rooted in complex relational networks and typically accumulate over time through a series of public manifestations, including text-based, visual, performative and dialogical artworks, that take direction from the collaborative process and the lived experiences of those involved. Common to all her work is an interrogation of multiple power relations that are identified through the process, such as the power relations between police and young people; state-run medical services and patients; national housing policy and those experiencing housing injustice; as well as less tangible power relations experienced as social norms related to class and gender. Fiona is also a committed writer, her writing focusing on the complex relationality, labour and ethical challenges of her arts practice.



Grace Dyas is an established artist and activist with nearly twenty years of experience making socially engaged art. In collaboration with people processing trauma, she has made landmark works of art that raised provocative public questions about power, ethics, morality, class, and social justice. This has often led her to the coalface of the most contentious issues and spaces; both online and off. As an artist, activist, writer, director, producer, performer, actor and experienced public speaker, Grace regularly speaks on panels at events and also as a contributor on TV & Radio.



Heart of Glass is a Merseyside-based (UK) community arts organisation that brings together artists and communities to make collaborative art, and provide support, resources and opportunities to artists and anyone interested in socially engaged practice. Heart of Glass believes that art has the power to bring us together, imagine new futures and create real change. Their aim is to create spaces where people can bring their different lived experience, knowledge and perspectives, in order to understand the world differently, together.



Hope and Courage Collective is a national civil society organisation that works with community groups, advocacy groups, trade unions, activists and academics to stop hate organising in our communities and workplaces. They work to make sure that communities across Ireland have what they need to stop far right groups trying to sow division on these issues.



Iarlaith Ní Fheorais is a curator and writer and the author of the free online resource Access Toolkit for Artworkers. She is an Independent Producer at field:arts, working with artists Bridget O’Gorman, Ebun Sodipo and Lyónn Wolf. She has previously curated the 21st edition of TULCA Festival of Visual Arts and curated Speech Sounds as Curator-in-Residence of VISUAL Carlow. As a writer she has written for publications including *frieze*, *Burlington Contemporary*, *Viscose Journal* and *Girls Like Us*. She regularly contributes towards public programmes and lectures including at Somerset House, KW Institute, Konstfack University, Royal College of Art and Arts and Disability Ireland. She has sat on numerous selection panels including EVA Platform Commission 2025, Unlimited International Open Award, Edinburgh Arts Festival Platform 2023 and EVA Platform Commissions 2024.



Jijo Sebastian is a collaborative filmmaker with more than fifteen years of experience in participatory, collaborative and transcultural filmmaking in community-based contexts. Awards received include Artist in the Community Award, Next Generation Bursary, Arts Participation Bursary and Hugh Lane Gallery and Create joint commission in 2023. He has co-written, directed and edited eight short films and one tele-film collaborating with individuals, groups and families from the Keralite Indian community and others in Ireland. His films have been installed in art galleries and screened at national and international film festivals.



Pádraig Naughton became Executive Director of Arts & Disability Ireland in 2005. Working strategically in partnership with the arts sector ADI champions the creativity of artists with disabilities and promotes inclusive experiences for audiences with disabilities. In 2022 Pádraig graduated with an LLM in International & Comparative Disability Law & Policy from the University of Galway, also that same year The Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., recognized his lifetime achievement with an Excellence in Accessibility Leadership Award. Currently, Pádraig represents Project Arts Centre as an Expert Collaborator on the Europe Beyond Access consortium.



Siobhán Clancy’s background in socially engaged art informs her current role as Assistant Arts Officer – Community Arts at Cork City Council Arts Office since 2020. Her experience, spanning two decades, includes contexts of youth, health, children, education and community on voice and justice through collaboration. In 2014, she completed an MA in Community Education, Equality and Social Activism followed by a postgrad module in Arts and Health in 2019. Supporters of her collaborative visual and performance work have included Arts Council of Ireland and Create. Exhibition venues include Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Project Art Centre, Dublin. Siobhán has been working with Leitrim County Council on the Social Practice Toolkit since 2018.

Sophie Mak-Schram cares about the radicality possible in the 'and' between art and education. She works with others, both as method and form. Her work spans experiential education, collective practice and (artistic) research. Often, this work addresses how we know, who we consider ourselves to be in relation to, structures of power and forms of learning. She convenes, writes, reads, makes objects to learn with or listen to, facilitates and performs.

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Tara Carroll is a multidisciplinary artist whose social practice rests upon the perception of the body, impacted by socio-political narratives; and its placement in individualistic society. During difficult times of embodied confictions, their community supports them in creating new pathways of care. The work Tara creates is to return this gift. Carroll has developed numerous projects including *Art as Pilgrimage* a durational socially engaged art project exploring histories of pilgrimage and its current role in society with older women and *(Dis)Comfort* a participatory workshop series exploring the embodiment of discomfort/comfort in marginalised bodies. They are co-founder of Chronic Collective with Áine O'Hara developing radical access-focused projects working with organisations such as Pallas Projects, Create, Project Arts Centre and Fire Station Artists Studios. Recent awards include Arts Participation Bursary (2023, 2024), Kildare County Council Arts Grant (2024), Temple Bar Gallery and Studios Project Studio Award, Creative Ireland Artist's Bursary; Create & hablarente International Residency Award.

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Tatiana Dos Santos is a socially engaged artist, journalist and cultural mediator. She holds an MA in Conflict Resolution, with research focused on de-escalating conflicts through arts and education. As one of the leading artists exploring Brazilian rhythms in Irish dance spaces, Tatiana's work is deeply influenced by themes of migration, belonging, and decolonisation. She uses dance, talking circles and writing to transcend cultural barriers and promote social cohesion. Her recent projects include the award-winning *Hive City Legacy* at the Dublin Fringe Festival (2022), the solo show *Threads* with Solo Sirens (2023–2024), and her collaboration with the ongoing Welcoming Project with Catherine Young Dance Company. Her publications include *Everybody is a Dancing Body: Using Dance, Talking Circles, and Empathy to Transcend Cultural and Emotional Barriers*, which was featured in Create's *Field Notes* (2023).

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Oluwatobi (Tobi) Balogun is a Multidisciplinary Artist, working across Dance, Theatre, Voice and Design. With a background and training across dance, fashion, and art, his artistic practice focuses on Hip-hop as critical pedagogy and Afro-surrealism as methodologies of creation, fixing the lens of practice on black masculinity and cultural sustainability. Through his work he blends traditional and contemporary references to create new realms of freedom, imagination and community. Bringing broader perspectives to the conversation of masculinity, identity and community whilst combining practices of creation, curation, facilitation and performance. Tobi has performed for and created community led performances and projects with many Artists/companies such as Cois Ceim, Cathy Coughlan, Story of the Sei, Dance Ireland and more.

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# Chairs & Guest Artists

Writer Brian Leyden's work includes his bestselling memoir, *The Home Place*, the novels, *Death and Plenty*, and *Summer of '63*, the short story collections *Departures* and *Sweet Old World: New & Selected Stories*. He is the co-writer of the feature film, *Black Ice*, currently on Netflix. His fiction and essays have been broadcast on national radio and anthologised, including *Winter Papers 2 & 8*, edited by Kevin Barry and Olivia Smith. He was one of the founders of the independent imprint Lepus Print publishing poetry, fiction and non-fiction. His play *Remember Me* premiered in the Hawk's Well Theatre Sligo in 2023. Most recently Brian was commissioned to respond to the Sligo Wave at the Model Arts Centre on the Sligo landscape tradition from Jack B. Yeats to the present day. He was longlisted for the Nature Chronicles Prize 2024. His new novel is *Love These Days*.



Emilie Conway is an award winning vocal jazz artist, composer and lyricist. Her musical work has three areas of focus: on jazz and art/literature, jazz and disability and jazz and children. As an artist with a disability Emilie is a passionate activist for equal and equitable participation of disabled people in arts and culture and has created and developed inclusive and aesthetic access experiences. In *Solid, Space & Sound (TM)* at the RHA Gallery and the National Gallery Emilie brought her musical, writing and artistic skills to the creation of innovative audio described, sensory, tactile, Braille and movement experiences of cultural space and visual art which are accessible to all, especially visually impaired and blind people. Emilie has performed across Ireland the US, and Europe at festivals and venues including JJ Smyth's Dublin, Carnegie Hall's Migrations Festival NYC, The Village Trip Greenwich Village Festival, Sligo International Jazz Festival, The American Writers' Museum Chicago, Ranelagh Arts Festival, The Bray Jazz Festival, Galway Jazz Festival, Copenhagen Jazz Festival, and many more.



Jo Holmwood is a writer, editor and cultural producer. For 14 years, she worked with Kids' Own Publishing Partnership, a national arts organisation dedicated to supporting children's creativity and self-expression through publishing and the arts. During her time with Kids' Own, she oversaw long-term arts-in-education initiatives, ran professional development programmes with artists across all art forms, and supported collaborative engagement with hundreds of children of all ages and backgrounds—publishing and exhibiting the outputs for national audiences.



Joanna Frivet is a lawyer specialised in international criminal law. She began her career in 2010 at the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague and has since made significant contributions to various high-profile cases and legal initiatives advising states, international organisations, non-profits, and victims on matters relating to war crimes, crimes against humanity and Genocide including more recently in Syria, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Armenia. Joanna holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from Mauritius, was called to the Bar of England and Wales, and has a Master's in International Human Rights Law and International Crime (cum laude) from the Netherlands. Since September 2024 has joined the Board of the Dock pro-bono. Originally from Mauritius, Joanna boasts a rich cultural heritage with African, European, and Indian roots. She emigrated to Ireland in 2016 with her Irish husband to start their family in Leitrim.



## Venue Access Information

The Dock is Leitrim's flagship arts centre, housed in a landmark, riverside venue in Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland. You can find information on the Dock's location and [how to reach the venue here](#).

The Dock recognises people's differences and aims to support individual needs. There is wheelchair access to all public floors in the building. All registered assistance dogs are welcome. An induction loop system and infra-red hearing system is available throughout the auditorium. If you require assistance for your visit, please do not hesitate to contact the Dock team at [dockartscentre@gmail.com](mailto:dockartscentre@gmail.com) or call 071 965 0828.

It is important to us that as many people as possible have an opportunity to experience our event. Those with financial, access or other requirements are invited to contact Leitrim Arts Office on [arts@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:arts@leitrimcoco.ie) or 087 203 6844 to discuss how we can best support you to attend.

Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpretation will be available upon advance request ([info@create-ireland.ie](mailto:info@create-ireland.ie)).

## Lunch

Lunch will be provided by local caterer Tamara Samson and will be vegetarian, with options provided for other dietary requirements/ restrictions. Tamara Samson is originally from South Africa and now lives in north Leitrim. With a genuine passion for culinary diversity and over 20 years of culinary and hospitality experience, she has dedicated her career to creating wholesome meals crafted with care. She is deeply committed to using locally sourced, foraged and seasonal produce where possible, ensuring every meal nourishes the mind, body and soul.

Please let us know when booking if you have any additional dietary requirements/ restrictions. Coffee, tea and water will be available at breaks – we encourage attendees to bring a reusable cup/ container with them.

## Good to know

We are committed to environmental sustainability, and so encourage all attendees to bring a reusable water bottle and/or coffee cup. Small amounts of these items will be available for those who are unable to provide their own. As part of our commitment to sustainability, we will not be printing posters or programmes for this event. These items will be available online and can be accessed easily via QR codes which will be provided at the venue. Please direct any questions you have about the Networking Day to Leitrim County Council Arts office, Create, or The Dock staff.

## Create

Create is the national development agency for collaborative arts. Their work initiates cross-sectoral national and international partnerships which support artists and communities to co-create work of depth, ambition and excellence. Their mission is to lead the development of collaborative arts practice by enabling artists and communities to create exceptional art together.

Create believes that by working together, artists and communities can purposefully explore how collaborative arts engage in distinct, relevant and powerful ways with the urgent social, cultural and political issues of our times.



**create** national development  
agency for collaborative arts

## Leitrim County Council Arts Office

Leitrim County Council recognises the pivotal role the arts play in society and how the arts are integral to cultural development, economic development, and the creation of a quality social environment. Through its Arts Office, Leitrim County Council develops policies in relation to various aspects of the arts; it provides information, advice and assistance to a wide range of clients and it develops and co-ordinates a number of programmes independently and in association with these partners.



Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council

## Cork City Council Arts Office

The role of Cork City Arts Office is to enable and champion the artistic and cultural ambitions of Cork city and its people. They advise and support the Council on all arts and cultural matters and ensure the development of arts and culture in Cork City, through investment, advocacy, connection and animation.



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council

**Arts** Ealaíona