



## 2023 Festival Conference

*'the changing landscape of festival'*

**evolution: adaptation: celebration**

The full conference programme is provided below.

- \* Delegates choose one of the electives
- + Workshop limited to 25 participants
- ++ Workshop limited to 40 participants
- +++ Workshop limited to 36 participants

11 <sup>th</sup> May		Town Hall Theatre, Galway
10:00am	Registration and Information Stands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Irish Festivals and Events (AOIFE)</li> <li>• Drama and Theatre Studies, University of Galway</li> <li>• Irish Arts Festivals Archive</li> <li>• Safe to Create, Irish Theatre Institute</li> <li>• Curated Place, UK</li> <li>• Festivals and the Digital Experience, TU Dublin,</li> <li>• Irish Street Arts, Circus &amp; Spectacle Network (ISACS)</li> <li>• Arts Council (Impact Measurement, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion teams)</li> <li>• Creative Europe Desk, Ireland</li> <li>• Native Events</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland</li> </ul>
10:45am	Welcome Address	<p>Professor Rebecca Braun, Executive Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences &amp; Celtic Studies, University of Galway</p> <p>Professor Kevin Rafter, Chair - Arts Council Ireland/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon</p>
11:05am	Introduction to Keynote	Maureen Kennelly, Director – Arts Council Ireland/An Chomhairle Ealaíon
11.15am	Keynote Address and Q&A	Kim Cook Burning Man Festival, USA
12:45pm	Networking Lunch	
2:00pm	Taking action: moving towards sustainable festival futures	<p><b>Chair:</b> Patrick Lonergan (University of Galway)</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> John Crumlish - Galway International Arts Festival, Romane Boyer – Creative Carbon Scotland, Marin de Boer – Orel Festival Netherlands.</p>
3:15pm*	Information Sessions – <i>Presentations on projects in support of the festivals ecology</i>	<p><b>Presentation 1:</b> Impact Measurement in Festivals (Anne Rackow, Quality Matters and Monica Corcoran, Arts Council)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> Irish Arts Festival Archive (Dr Lucy Collins and Ursula Byrne, UCD)</p> <p><b>Presentation 3:</b> Event Management Educators Ireland (John Carty – Atlantic Technological University)</p>
	Side Bar 1: Safe to Create - Developing safer, respectful,	<b>Irish Theatre Institute</b> - <i>information session, introducing Safe to Create and discussion on appropriate working conditions for artists and arts organisations.</i>

	inclusive working conditions for festival workers.	
	Side Bar 2: Thinking about Arts & Disability in festivals	<b>Arts &amp; Disability Ireland</b> - <i>Information session introducing the work of Arts &amp; Disability Ireland and discussion on potential festival training supports.</i>
4:00pm	Networking Coffee Break	
4:30pm*	Festival Bulletins – <i>Festival sector announcements, developments, and shared learnings (5-minute pitches).</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>'Festival Audiences and the Digital Experience'</b> – FADE (Festival Audiences and the Digital Experience), TU Dublin</li> <li>2. <b>'EDI Toolkit for Festival Makers; data collection and diversity in programming'</b> – Trad Fest, Temple Bar</li> <li>3. <b>'Place making through Festivals'</b> – Architecture at the Edge</li> <li>4. <b>'Naturally Wild festivals'</b> – First Fortnight on behalf of the Naturally Wild Festival Consortia</li> <li>5. <b>'Artist Residencies Matter'</b> – ISACS</li> <li>6. Children's programming in festivals: <b>'Child participation in practice'</b> and <b>'Nurturing Diversity among makers'</b> - Bualadh Bos Children's Festival, Lime Tree Theatre and Baboró International Arts Festival for Children</li> <li>7. <b>'Festival Crèche – mentorship in festivals'</b> – Cavan Arts Festival</li> <li>8. <b>'Developing arts audiences in partnership'</b> – Clonmel Junction Arts Festival on behalf of Clonmel Arts Partnership.</li> </ol>
	Side Bar 3 – How to measure your festival's impact	<b>Quality Matters</b> – <i>Information session on how festivals can use the Arts Council's <u>Outcomes Measurement Guidebook</u> to understand the impact of their work.</i>
5:30pm	ENDS	
6:00-9:00pm	Creative Europe Reception: Networking event for festivals and artists	<b>Creative Europe</b> presents <i>Blue Teapot and Twisted Lane Productions, who will provide examples of their international partnerships. This will be followed by a networking event for artists and festival delegates to encourage further collaboration. MC: James Riordan (Bru Theatre). Musical Performance: Electric Dreams (That's Life – Galway)</i>

<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>O'Donoghue Centre, University of Galway</b>
8:30am at Spanish Arch	Tús Maith with Moth and Butterfly	Artists from Galway's Moth and Butterfly International Festival of Storytelling & Improvisation invite you to grab a coffee and join them at the Spanish Arch at 8.30am on Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May, for a 'tús maith / good start' song and story, before taking a scenic stroll along the river to the O'Donoghue Centre, in time for the second day of the Festival Makers conference.

		<i>Some local coffee options open by 8am: Espresso 44, Gourmet Tart, Cafe Nero</i>
9:00am	Networking Coffee	For delegates and contributors
9:30-11:00am*	Workshop 1 <sup>+</sup>	<b>Good Governance and Planning</b> - Dr Ali Fitzgibbon, Queens University Belfast. <i>How to deliver effective planning within capacity and resources; considering responsibilities, questioning structures and developing actionable plans.</i>
	Workshop 2 <sup>++</sup>	<b>Valuing and Developing Volunteering</b> – Stuart Garland, Volunteer Ireland. <i>How to recruit, support and sustain volunteering in a changing landscape. Includes good practice tips and support.</i>
	Workshop 3 <sup>+++</sup>	<b>Festival Sustainability 101</b> – Native Events <i>Presentation on writing a sustainability strategy, engaging your festival team, communicating your sustainability story, followed by a Q&amp;A</i>
	Panel 1 – Building Partnerships in Festival Practice	<b>How partnerships can sustain and develop festival models?</b> ( <i>Consortia, local authority partnerships, community partnership, co-production, international partnership</i> )  <b>Chair:</b> Kath Gorman (Promenade) <b>Panel:</b> Tara McGowan (Cairde Arts Festival Sligo), Andy Brydon (Curated Place UK) Aislínn O'hEocha, Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Gerardette Bailey, Meath County Arts Officer
	Panel 2 – Language, People. Place and the role of the festival	<b>How does the celebration of linguistic and cultural diversity enhance artistic opportunities available to festival makers in the areas of place-making and community building?</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Marianne Ní Chinnéide (University of Galway) <b>Panel:</b> Justyna Cwojdzinska (Polish Arts Festival, Limerick), Liam Carson (Féile IMRAM), Dr Ríonach Ní Néill (Independent Artist), Nora Corcoran (Misleór Festival)
11:00am	Break	
11:15am-12.45pm*	Workshop 1 <sup>+</sup>	Same as above (workshop repeats)
	Workshop 2 <sup>++</sup>	Same as above (workshop repeats)
	Workshop 3 <sup>+++</sup>	Same as above (workshop repeats)
	Panel 3 – Producing models for festivals and festival makers	<b>How can festivals best support the changing landscape of new work development for artists and how do festivals adapt their resources in response? What are the challenges and opportunities?</b> <i>A closer examination of residency models, guest curation, co-producing</i>  <b>Chair:</b> Monica Spencer (Local Creative Youth Partnership, Limerick and Clare ETB) <b>Panel:</b> Lynette Moran (Live Collision Festival), Paul Brown (Earagail Arts Festival), James Riordan (Brú Theatre), Gwen Van Spÿk (Cue Performance)
	Panel 4 – ‘Festival Making’ as a creative act	<b>Group discussion with delegates exploring the curatorial practice in festivals, the role of the citizen artist and the practice of festival making</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Bernadette Quinn (TU Dublin) <b>Contributors:</b> Lorraine Maye (Cork Midsummer Festival), Alan-James Burns (Independent Artist), Dominic Campbell (Creative Ageing International), Harry Hughes (Willie Clancy Festival)
12:45pm	Break	
1:00-2:00pm	Conference final thoughts	Facilitator: Fiona Neary Final gathering for delegates to hear each other's insights and reflect on the changing landscape for festivals.
2:00pm	ENDS	

