

## Cork Lifelong Learning Festival 2022

After a two year pause for Covid the long awaited return of Corks Lifelong Learning Festival took place on 3 -10 April 2022. The festival brochure returned with a fresh new blue look and featured over 300 individual Lifelong Learning Events throughout Cork City hosted by a variety of committed groups organisations and individuals. Festival hosts and learners were excited by the return to 'in real life' events but the festival allowed for online and hybrid events also . Alongside the Lifelong Learning Awards the Festival is the flagship event of Corks learning City, a UNESCO award winner since 2015. The Festival is a sustainable model of Lifelong Learning engagement and has been cited around the world as an excellent example of best practice in Learning City activity and community engagement with the concept of Lifelong Learning.

A key feature of the Lifelong Learning Festival is the annual Cork Conversations Learning seminar; the 2022 seminar took place in Triskel Christchurch and featured inputs from global practitioners in Lifelong Learning from around the world including France, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA, .



## Cork Celebrates Lifelong Learning Awards 2022

For the second year, Cork Learning City recognised and celebrates examples of lifelong learning across all ages, interests, and abilities that demonstrate innovation, endeavor, and resilience, making a valuable contribution to creating a culture of learning in Cork. Cork Learning city with the support of deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr John Sheehan launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Cork Celebrates Lifelong Learning Awards on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 in Millenuium Hall . The event ran alongside a Recognition Event for the 2021 nominees who had the opportunity to come into City Hall as their awards had been presented 'virtually' the previous year.*

Award nominations were open to groups, organisations, and individuals in Cork City. Each nominee receives a Cork Learning City Certificate of recognition and is featured on our 'Roll of honour' with shortlisted and overall category winners receiving a crystal Award.

The 'Cork Celebrates Lifelong Learning' Categories were: Early Years Award; Primary Level Award; Secondary Level Award; Youth in Community Learning Award; Higher Education Award; Further Education Award; Adult Community Education Award; Workplace Learning Initiative Award; Active Retired Lifelong Learning Award; Exceptional Endeavour Award; Inspirational Lifelong Learning Award.

On 15<sup>th</sup> of September the judges of the Cork Celebrates Lifelong Learning Awards gathered for a reception by Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Deirdre Forde in Council Chambers, Cork City Hall. Almost 60 nominations were received for groups, organisations and individuals across the city and over 150 awardees with their friends and families attended the 2022 Awards Ceremony alongside judges, board members, partner organisations and visiting delegates from other Learning Cities on the island, in Millenium Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Damien Boylan warmly welcomed all shortlisted winners and commended their contributions in making Cork a Learning City that embraces lifelong learning for all its citizens.

<https://corklearningcity.ie/cork-celebrates-lifelong-learning-awards-2022/>



### **Cork Learning City & Cork Access Network**

with partners Cork City Council, Cork ETB, MTU, UCC and Cork Learning City, Cork Chamber, J&J & ONE CORK (T.U.) MOVEMENT ran a networking Seminar on May 27<sup>th</sup> in the Clayton Hotel Conference Venue entitled '**Community Education – Gateway or Goal ?**'. Community education providers came together to discuss transformational learning experiences for individuals and groups. The event explored how:

- Community Education can provide access routes for a wide range of learners, across a broad range of settings, towards an extensive range of destinations.
- To hear about and discuss Education Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) position paper on the role, value, delivery, and future of ETB FET Community Education

The event also provided an opportunity to: hear inspiring learner stories; explore a range of Good practice examples from Community Education Providers across City and County; be briefed and informed of policies on Community Education' and engage with decision makers, local and national.



## Cork Learning City awarded Lead Partner funding in Shared Island work with Irish Network of Learning Cities



In October Cork Learning City was awarded 'Shared Island funding for the progression of a 'Learning Island ' project in conjunction with the other UNESCO Learning Cities on the Island of Ireland – Derry City and Strabane Region (Co-lead partners) Belfast, Dublin & Limerick Learning Cities . A planning meeting of the partners took place in Dublin to progress plans for this ambitious project which will feature a series of exchanges across the Island, exploring the potential for 'All Ireland' collaboration across a variety of areas based on the themes identified in the 'Cork Call to Action – the outcome document of the UNESCO

Global Conference on Lifelong Learning which was hosted in Cork during 2017 ; committing to developing Learning Cities which are 1. Green and Healthy, 2. Equitable and Inclusive and 3. Supporting Decent Work and Entrepreneurship.

The Shared Island Programme, supported by the Irish Government Dept. of the Taoiseach and the Dept of Housing, Planning, Local Govt. and Heritage, supports projects and initiatives between Local Government partners North and South. Working with the support of all city partners, and with match funding committed by Derry-Strabane Council, the programme launched in Cork will involve a series of exchanges and consultation workshops in all five cities culminating in a Learning City conference in Derry in June 2023.

All five cities have committed themselves to becoming Learning cities, all are members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and in 2018 formed the Irish Network of Learning Cities (INLC). In 2019 the Mayors of all five cities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing to work together and to supporting each others development as Learning Cities. The vision behind this commitment is to improve the quality of life for everyone in our cities, by delivering on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and making sure that no-one is left behind.



Cork hosted visiting delegates from all 5 cities in November 2022 with a packed programme including a seminar in Council Chambers and a series of Learning City Exchanges with active community education groups throughout the city including the Lantern Project, Nano Nagle Place , Green spaces for Health South Parish Cork City Music Generation at The Kabin Knocknaheeny and Corks Community Boatyard Meitheal Mara. The exchange culminated with a morning in UCC exploring the sustainable practices of the green campus and developing strategies to strengthen cross border ties between the learning cities on the island.

## **Cork Learning Neighbourhoods**

On **29<sup>th</sup> September 2022** recognising and celebrating the work of our Learning Neighbourhoods over the past year, Lord Mayor, Cllr. Deirdre Forde was in attendance to present certificates to each learning neighbourhood, who in turn gave an update from the past twelve months on their own Neighbourhood. Cork currently has 6 learning Neighbourhoods Mayfield , Togher, Knocknaheeny, Ballyphehane, The Glen and South Parish all of whom actively support lifelong learning awareness and initiatives.



## **Cork Learning City - Irish Learning Cities Day - 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Irish Network of Learning Cities promote the network of Irish Learning Cities through ‘Learning Cities Day’, a joint initiative started in Cork to promote learning across the cities, the city regions and the island of Ireland. Signed in 2019 and re-signed in 2022, the Lord Mayors of Cork, Dublin and Belfast and the Mayors of Limerick and Derry City and Strabane Region formally committed each city to work together and provide mutual support to help deliver on the vision of a Learning City for all citizens.

During the morning of ‘Irish Learning Cities Day’ Corks lord Mayor Cllr Deirdre Forde will visit the following schools North Pres. Secondary, Scoil Aiseirí Chríost, Scoil Iosagain, North Monastery A.G., North Monastery Secondary and Gael Scoil Pheig Sayers continuing a much loved tradition of school visits in Cork. Followed by series of events throughout the city recognising and celebrating Lifelong Learning in all its forms including :

***Simon Community Graduation Ceremony*** in Millennium Hall, Cork City Council recognising the fantastic achievements the Simon Community have made in the past twelve months and beyond.

***A South Parish Sustainable Walk & Talk***, Green Spaces for health, Maria Young led a walk and talk with about 15 people in attendance through South Parish demonstrating what can be done to support wildlife and sustainability in the city centre.

***‘Driving a Lifelong Learning Agenda to meet Global Challenges’ presentation in UCC*** ; Cork Learning City as a core partner with UCC were invited to present on progress to date of the ASEM Research Network on Learning Cities and Regions, co-hosted with Japan.

*And 40 delegates from the ASEM (Asia-Europe) Lifelong Learning Network Reception were later hosted by Lord Mayor, Cllr Deirdre Forde.*

