

Galway City Council  
Service Level Agreement  
Quarterly Status Report-Q1 2020

## **Quarterly Status Report**

## **Service Level Agreement**

**Between**

**Galway City Council**

**and**

**Galway Cultural Development and Activity Company Limited by  
Guarantee**

**T/A Galway 2020**

### **Introduction**

Galway 2020 has undertaken to provide a quarterly progress report (along with relevant documentation) on the day to day expenditure of the Company following presentation to and approval by the Board of Galway 2020. The Service Level Agreement was signed on the 8 May 2018. An addendum was added in March 2019. Financial information including year to date accounts to the 31 March 2020 are included here and have been presented and approved by the Board on 7 May 2020.

Part two of this status report focusses on progress made on the projects that are underway, that have received funding from Galway 2020.

## 1. Financial Statements and Reporting

<b>Galway Cultural Development and Activity CLG</b>	
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	
	<b>Q1</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Local Authority Funding City	302,200
Local Authority Funding County	500,000
Government Funding	2,653,069
Sponsorship and Other	589,141
EU Prize	1,500,000
Box Office	18,368
Deferred Revenue and Capital Grants	(781,878)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,780,900</b>
<b>Direct Programme Funding</b>	<b>1,375,807</b>
<b>Programme Related Salary Costs</b>	<b>243,080</b>
<b>Programme Related Direct Costs</b>	
Production	1,828,587
Professional Fees	134,805
Travel and Hotels	62,482
Tourism, Programme Promotion and Content Development	643,447
Office Costs	58,403
Other Costs	27,782
<b>Total Direct Programme Costs</b>	<b>4,374,392</b>
<b>Total Payroll Overheads</b>	<b>178,204</b>
<b>Non Payroll Overheads</b>	
Professional Fees	74,634
Travel and Hotels	34,446
Office Costs	
Depreciation	6,866
Insurance	54,728
IT Costs	18,420
Office Expenses	3,962
Other	-
Total Office Costs	116,214
Other Costs	3,009
<b>Total Overheads</b>	<b>406,508</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>4,780,900</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-</b>

## **1.1 Financial Reporting**

All annual returns, registration of directors and other returns are fully up to date and filed in accordance with the Companies Regulations Office and Companies Act 2014. There is full compliance with the requirements of the Revenue Commissioners in relation to all relevant tax heads and a valid tax clearance certificate is in place for the Company.

An Independent Accountants review was carried out for the period Q4 2019 as agreed under the Performance Delivery Agreement with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Independent Accountants Report has been submitted in line with reporting arrangements. The Q1 review is currently being scheduled.

## **1.2 Board and Audit Committee Meetings**

The Board met on the following dates in the quarter:

17 Jan  
8 Feb  
14 Feb  
28 Feb  
24 Mar  
27 Mar

The Audit Committee met on 27 February.

## **1.3 Partnership Programme**

The contract with Artichoke for the provision of Partnership Services on behalf of Galway 2020 was ceased as of 31 March 2020. In light of the current health and economic crisis, Galway 2020 are reviewing the onward viability of fundraising and sponsorship income, and the activities of the Partnerships (sponsorship) function.

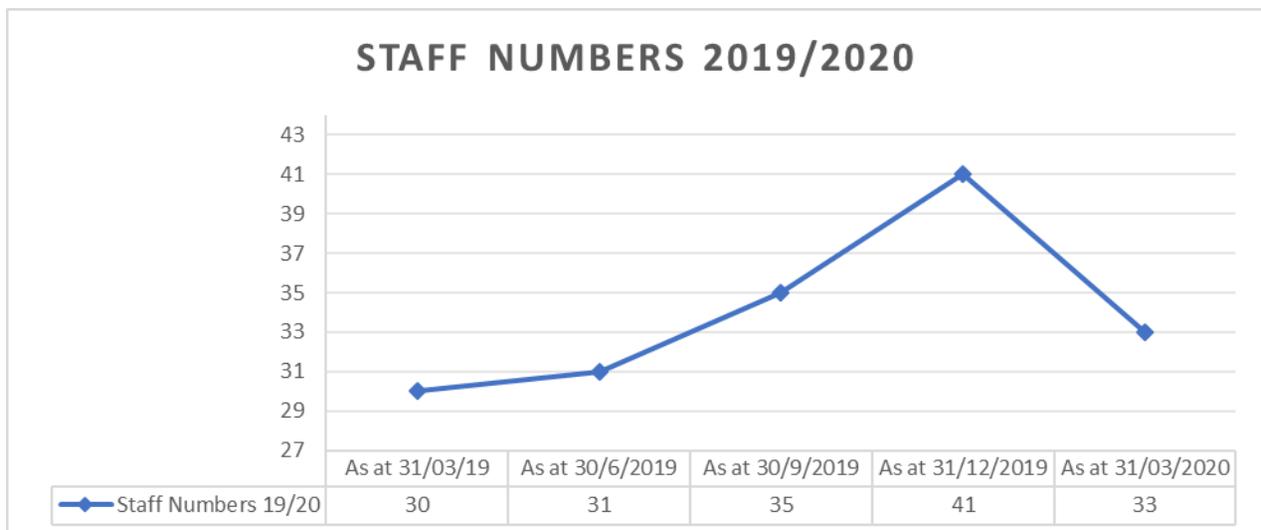
Pre the current situation the total number of private partners was c. 100 organisations, totalling over €2m of committed funding, a combination of cash and in-kind sponsorship.

In Q1 2020 the Partnerships Team successfully delivered a number of business engagement and cultivation events, including two Business Club Breakfast events and a VIP Hub experience at the Opening Ceremony in the Galmont Hotel.

## Staffing

The Galway 2020 team is 33 at 31 March 2020

Department	Total
Creative and Cultural Programme	8
Finance and Operations	5
Communications	4
Partnerships	3
Marketing and Promotion	3
Production	2
Volunteering	2
CEO	1
Box Office	1
Human Resources	1
Tourism	1
Community Engagement	1
International Relations	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>



## 2. Galway 2020 Cultural Programme Update

### 2.1 Opening Ceremony

A week-long event took place to coincide with the start of Imbolc at the beginning of February. The week began with a turf-cutting ceremony on St Brigid's Day (1 February)

Fire ceremonies took place in six towns across Galway County from 2 to 7 February, gradually moving closer towards the planned event in Galway City. Each night saw the lighting of specially commissioned spheres unique to each town. Local artists & musicians were involved in the fire festivals with participants drawn from the local area.

Approximately 20,000 people attended across the 6 nights. The six towns were:

- Clifden
- Spiddal
- Portumna
- Ballinasloe
- Tuam
- Athenry

The week's events were due to culminate in large-scale event in Galway City on Saturday 8 February where participants from the County towns were to play a central role. Wonder Works worked with a local community cast and local technical teams and suppliers where appropriate. Up to 400 members of the community cast along with volunteers took part in up to 42 rehearsals and a dress rehearsal. They worked with local agencies and authorities to create a spectacular, memorable, free event. Every member of the Galway 2020 team was involved in the design of the event from the selection of poets and performers, the recruitment of community cast and volunteers, to site & event management. Due to a national weather emergency, including a Red Weather Warning, on the date of the Opening Ceremony, led to the unavoidable cancellation of the event at Southpark.

The official handover of the European Capital of Culture title to Galway took place on 8 February 2020 at an event in the Galmont Hotel attended by over 800 people. Commissioner Phil Hogan presented an official plaque to the Mayor of Galway City and Cathaoirleach of Galway County. The event was also attended by representatives of the EU Commission and members of the EU Expert Panel. Our ECOC partner city Rijeka sent a traditional performance group to perform at the event.

## 2.2 Programme Strategy in light of Covid-19

Current restrictions continue to have a significant impact not just on immediate delivery but also on the planning of our programme of events. The impact of Covid 19 and ongoing restrictions has required Galway 2020 to scale back both its operations and the cultural programme.

Galway 2020 are working closely with all key stakeholders on the delivery of a contracted programme of events later in the year and early next year. In doing so priority is being placed on the delivery of Bid Book projects to ensure that these projects, and their local cultural partners and artists, are supported to the greatest extent possible. Consultations are underway with each of our cultural partners on how their projects can be delivered on a revised timescale and within the Governments Roadmap for Opening Society and Business.

In delivering on the Bid Book projects and the associated legacy, we have the opportunity to acknowledge and support the renowned artistic and cultural ability that Galway is home to at a time when such support and the delivery of such projects was never as important.

In addition to the Bid Book projects, the continued support of Irish Public Bodies Insurances for the Galway 2020 Participation Grant scheme, will give up to 29 local authorities the opportunity to be affiliated with our programme through the engagement of local artists in the development of new events in their areas.

## 2.3 Cultural Programme Events Q1 2020

The following projects were delivered during Q1 2020

- Music For Galway delivered the stunning Mid-Winter Festival, **Beethoven** from 17 – 19 January at the Town Hall Theatre. The Festival was an unmitigated success with near sell-outs for all three concerts, impeccable programming, inspiring performances and very positive feedback from audience members and artists alike.

- ***Imagining Ireland*** –Galway 2020 hosted a collaboration between the National Concert Hall, Dublin and the Barbican, London on the 10 February 2020. The concert series started in 2016 with an event to mark the Easter Rising centenary, before travelling to the Royal Festival Hall and the Barbican in London. Celebrating the recent groundswell of women’s voices in Irish literature, music and poetry, *Imagining Ireland: Speaking Up, Singing Louder* saw the series’ first ever all-female line-up. The guest curator was Sinéad Gleeson, an acclaimed author. Among the voices featured were SOAK, Lisa O’Neill, Radie Peat, Sorcha Richardson, Sara Baume, Sinéad Gleeson, Elaine Feeney and Denise Chaila.
- ***Wild Atlantic Women*** was delivered on the 7 and 8 March as part of International Women’s Day. Margaret Atwood spoke to a sold- out audience in Leisureland. The weekend was a huge success with sold out performances, readings and exhibitions.
- ***Savage Beauty***, a project in Connemara, by Kari Kola which involved the lighting of our spectacular landscape. This public event was planned for 14-17 March to coincide with St Patrick’s Day. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic had by this time led to the cancellation of several events with this significant project being just one of the casualties. While unable to allow public viewing of the event, the artwork was made available as a digital edition. The work was viewed by over 150,000 online. One single post on Facebook had over 125,000 engagements.
- ***Branar’s Sruth na Teanga*** - an immersive installation creating a journey through five decades of the Irish language was delivered in Galway Airport in March 2020. Unfortunately the event had to subsequently close due to restrictions.
- Galway University Hospital delivered its first project under the ***Deepest Shade of Green Programme***, entitled ***Viriditas***, a song cycle composed by renowned Irish artist and singer Ceara Conway in response to an extended process of engagement at Galway University Hospitals. Interweaving newly composed contemporary songs with traditional European healing songs from Georgia and Italy, ***Viriditas*** takes the listener on a journey through songs inspired by conversations with staff and patients, and recordings of hospital equipment, plants, and the tools of sound healers. The work was performed to patients in the hospital in February 2020 and the CD and composition are now available online.
- TULCA Festival of Visual Art presented ***UnSelfing***, a programme of exhibitions, performances and encounters with visual art taking place in Galway and across the country. It took as its theme Iris Murdoch’s concept of ‘UnSelfing’; the idea that in order to find inner truth, it is necessary to seek outside of one’s self; to be curious about the people, places and ideas that surround us. The first exhibition opened in Nuns Island entitled ‘Deep States’ curated by Helen Carey at Nuns’ Island Theatre. A

sculptural installation acts as a backdrop to a series of performances by Dominic Thorpe and Boris Nieslony, asking: ‘who is abusing who’ in politics.

## 2.4 Small Towns Big Ideas

Doire Press presented ***Galway Stories: 2020***, a new collection of stories set in Galway city and county by twenty acclaimed writers who live, or have lived, in Galway, as well as maps, photographs and background information on each neighbourhood. The publication is now available.

***Home Truths***, looked at women’s experience of and engagement with the Irish courts and legal system in dealing with domestic violence and abuse. Artists Blaise Drummond, Evelyn Glynn, Alison Lowry, Áine Philips and Ruby Wallis were commissioned to respond to women’s testimonies of their court experiences. The exhibition took place in Engage Studios in February as part of the Galway 2020 Wild Atlantic Women Weekend.

A number of Small Towns, Big Ideas projects commenced in Q1 but were suspended due to COVID 19.

## 2.5 Wave Makers Volunteer Programme

The Wave Makers programme has been steadily growing and developing.

The feedback on the Wave Makers’ roles and performance from the general public, stakeholders and team members has been extremely positive.

Over 820 volunteers have been accepted to 31 March 2020. 55 nationalities are participating in our Wave Makers programme and over 77 languages are spoken.

Both Core and Creative Training modules were held in January. Online training was also made available for Wave Makers who were unable to attend the face to face training.

Approximately 300 Wave Makers were scheduled to be involved in the Fire Tour and Opening Ceremony spanning different and varied roles. The volunteers attended all of the Fire Tour events throughout the county but unfortunately the volunteers for the Opening Ceremony in South Park were stood down on the morning of the event, due to its cancellation.

The Wave Maker programme has been suspended until further notice.

## 2.6 International Relations

### 2.6.1 Rjeka-Carnival

Macnas attended the 37<sup>th</sup> Carnival in Rijeka as part of an exchange between Galway 2020 and Rijeka 2020 European Capitals of Culture. Members of the Macnas Youth Ensemble travelled to perform in Croatia’s largest Carnival in February 2020.

### 2.6.2 Royal Visit

We were delighted to host The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on 5 March while in Galway as part of their official visit to Ireland. The Royal couple added Galway to their itinerary as it is the European Capital of Culture 2020. During their visit the Royal visitors attended a special showcase by some of the projects for Galway 2020 – **LiveFeed**, **Galway Community Circus**, **Hoops** and Manchán Magan presented **Sea Tamagotchi**. The showcase concluded with a group of fourteen drummers from the Galway 2020 Community Cast. The Royal Couple were presented with a signed first copy of Patricia Forde’s book **“To the Island”** specially commissioned by Galway 2020. The visit was a great success and attracted international media coverage for Galway and Galway 2020. There were over 200 international media accredited for the visit.

## 2.7 Galway 2020 Links to The Galway Cultural Strategy 2016-2025

	<b>Cultural Strategy Strategic Aim</b>	<b>Galway 2020 Project</b>
1	Access and Cultural Rights	Small Towns Big Ideas/Legacy
2	Cultural Heritage	Small Towns Big Ideas/Legacy
3	Culture Education and Excellence	Symphonic Waves/Legacy
4	Culture Environment and Place	Hope It Rains/Legacy
5	Culture Economy	Galway 2020 audit of venues/Legacy
6	Culture, Health and Wellbeing	Wires Crossed/Legacy
7	Culture Information and Knowledge	The Digital Programme/Legacy

## 3. Audience Development Update

Audience development has been an ongoing process over the past 10 months. Galway 2020 has been working with a number of organisations, including Cultural Organisations, NUI Galway, The Audience Agency, and the Arts Council of Ireland to identify, consolidate and evaluate existing sources of

audience data, in order to develop a baseline of the existing audience.

Galway 2020 have appointed The Audience Agency to develop this baseline report and framework, which is due for delivery in May 2020.

In Q1 of 2020, Galway 2020 and The Audience Agency have trained a team of Wave Makers (Volunteers) for the purpose of collecting audience data at specific events, over the course of the European Capital of Culture. This team have been actively collecting data in the first quarter of 2020.

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation**

In Q4 of 2019, Galway 2020 appointed The Audience Agency (TAA) as the Monitoring and Evaluation partner for the European Capital of Culture. Since their appointment TAA have been actively working with our local Cultural Partners providing workshops and training in order to build capacity and develop a competency locally which will support local organisation in future with funding applications, through the provision of quantifiable data.

Galway 2020 continues to collaborate with NUI Galway on this work and the Moore Institute is delivering complementary academic work towards the evaluation work. A steering group has been established and is ongoing.

During the current crisis the focus of the work being done by NUI Galway is shifting slightly, to gather data in relation to audience sentiment and willingness to participate in cultural activities post restrictions.

Data capture systems at Galway 2020 are being set up to capture and analyse the relevant data crucial for the evaluation process, this includes online ticketing, volunteering and programme data.

#### **5. Government Relations**

On 30 April 2020 Josepha Madigan, T.D., Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, committed her support for Galway 2020 as we start to explore the possibilities for a revised programme.

Reiterating her commitment to the Irish arts sector, the Minister assured Galway 2020 that remaining funding from her Department for the European Capital of Culture will be made available for projects that can be completed. This will allow Galway 2020 to re-engage with the cultural partners from the European Capital of Culture programme, to scope out the

options for delivery of their projects at a suitable time later this year or early next year, in line with prevailing public health guidelines.

Galway 2020 continues to have strong political support nationally. The Programme Delivery Agreement contains specific quarterly reporting requirements and quarterly independent accountants report requirements. An independent accountants report was submitted in January 2020 in relation to the period Q4 2019 and a funders meeting was held with the DCHG in February 2020.

## Approval

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Galway Cultural Development and Activity Company Limited by Guarantee T/A Galway 2020

By: Patricia Philbin

Name: Patricia Philbin

Title: CEO

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

By: Cepta O'Connell

Name: Cepta O'Connell

Title: Head of Finance

18<sup>th</sup> May 2020