

ARTS PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT POLICY

CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL | ASSEMBLY





OVERVIEW

CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL IS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING CULTURE IN ALL ITS FORMS, AND DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL ARTS EXPERIENCES FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS.

Each year in June we present a kaleidoscopic programme of works by local, national and international artists, across a variety of artforms including dance, street arts, spectacle, literature, circus, visual arts, film, music and theatre.

We work with artists and communities throughout the year to create new work through our ASSEMBLY and ORIGIN programmes.

ASSEMBLY is our arts participation and community engagement strand. Through this programme, we work with communities across County Carlow developing innovative, multidisciplinary, dynamic arts projects.

This year-round work informs, diversifies, and strengthens our annual festival programme.

WHY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS TO OUR ORGANISATION



Our strategic intent is to be a driving force in inclusive festival making. One that weaves world class art into local people's lives in meaningful, impactful, ongoing and transformative ways. Forty-six years ago a local dynamic group of people had the ambition to start an arts festival in Carlow that highlighted and valued the quality work that was being created in the county.

We continue that legacy by recognising the creativity, energy and ambition held within Carlow's local communities; we support the co-creation of new work in collaboration with these communities that harnesses this dynamism and helps it grow offering a platform for it to be seen nationally and internationally. This work aims to foster a sense of collective ownership of the festival by the local community.

OF, BY AND
WITH
CARLOW
FOR EVERYONE

WHAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LOOKS LIKE TO US



Our goal is to co-create projects with artists and community groups that are led by the wants, needs and desires of the communities. This is long-term, in-depth engagement done slowly and with care. Through careful listening and open-dialogue, we aim to hold space to value all equally without hierarchy creating safe and respectful spaces.

We encourage interculturalism and the participation of a diversity of gender, age and abilities. Our focus is on working with community groups that aren't being seen or heard and who haven't been provided with the same opportunities as others. This may include migrant communities, those with physical and intellectual disabilities, traveller communities, older people and people living in remote rural areas.

CHECK-IN QUESTIONS

THROUGHOUT ANY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- What will be the legacy of this project?
- What are we trying to achieve?
- Who benefits?
- Are egos being left at the door?
- Is the community being included in all aspects of the project- planning, evaluation, decision-making? (Can this be done in a way that doesn't slow momentum or add weight and responsibility upon the group?)
- Is everyone having fun??
- N.B. Do not assume to know- empathise, listen, learn.
- Keep in mind ethics and aesthetics.
- Are we minimising our ecological impact?





IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR APPROACH TO
ARTS PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT OR GET
INVOLVED PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.

EMAIL: ORLAITH@CARLOWARTSFESTIVAL.IE

CONTACT US

CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL