

Centre  
Culturel  
Irlandais

# Ireland's Cultural Flagship in Europe

Our Strategic Plan  
2021 – 2025



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‘The CCI is a constant flow of inspiration and ideas...  
The CCI’s position as a node on the European cultural  
network makes it a major port of call for Irish arts on the  
Continent providing countless opportunities to build  
new professional relationships in France, in Ireland  
and all over the world.’

**Nick Roth**  
*Musician in Residence, 2019*

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‘Is iontach an deis í seal cónaithe a fháil sa Centre Culturel  
Irlandais. Is comhartha í go n-aithníonn mo thír dhúchais  
fiúntas an obair ealaíne atá faoi bhun agam, agus go  
bhfuileadar sásta achar áirithe a bhronnadh orm chun  
díriú go hiomlán ar mo chuid ealaíne...’

**Manchán Magan**  
*Scribhneoir Cónaithe, 2006*

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‘My time at the CCI was completely transformative for  
me, not only in terms of progressing my work but of  
leading me to make important decisions regarding my  
future as a writer. Nothing is more important for artists  
for the production of art, than the granting of the space  
and time in which to make it.’

**Miriam Gamble**  
*Poet in Residence, 2019*



© Ros Kavanagh, 2014



# Ireland's Cultural Flagship in Europe



Housed in a magnificent 18th century landmark building beside the Pantheon, with a remarkable heritage as the Collège des Irlandais,

## Ireland's Cultural Flagship in Europe is

**A place of energy** with a distinguished track record of showcasing Irish arts and a curatorial practice informed by contemporary concerns such as social justice and climate change.

**A place of creation and innovation** where 40 artists in residence every year make work that goes on to be shared with audiences in Ireland and across the world.

**A place of inspiration** where connections are made and artists have access to renowned cultural institutions and ambitious performances in a global cultural capital.



2



3

**A place of ambition and integrity** with a progressive, inclusive, forward-looking approach.

**A place of dialogue and debate** where critical conversations are facilitated and encouraged.

**A key foothold in Europe** for the promotion of Irish culture to new generations and international audiences of 100,000 every year.

**A vital cultural resource** to support Ireland's diaspora and diplomatic missions.

**An international crossroads** where the shared island of Ireland meets the rest of the world.

5

# Message from Cultural Ambassador

Through times of upheaval and uncertainty, the Centre Culturel Irlandais has stood the test of time.

The former Irish College in Paris has served as a sanctuary, a seat of learning, a theatre of dreams and even a military hospital in its seemingly numerous lifetimes. Now, more than ever, as a pandemic holds us in its grip - and as political sands shift across the world - Ireland's cultural flagship in Europe is a lifeline for Irish artists and all whom they inspire.

This is not least because it is truly dedicated to representing all facets of Irish culture, from all traditions and communities, to cherishing those vital links with our diaspora on faraway shores.

Being situated in Paris, off the island, is a genuine advantage in this regard. It allows those who come to Rue des Irlandais to create and reflect, to find and amplify their voice. And it gives them that necessary distance to achieve greater perspective on the place from which they come, in turn reflecting who we are.

It is no secret that both Joyce and Beckett found this distance necessary for their creative juices to be activated and it is genuinely exciting to know that both worked in quarters nearby.

And then to enter through the Centre's elegant porch to a courtyard that was hidden for centuries but is now an open, fertile ground for those very grassroots that need to be cultivated and nurtured to achieve their full potential.

The current and burgeoning generation of artists need sufficient nourishment at home. But they also need the oxygen and sunlight of an international home, a chance to move and work with their European peers or quite simply the peace of mind to concentrate completely on their work.

This is why I am a committed cultural ambassador of the Centre Culturel Irlandais. Its vision, captured in this its five-year plan, is of strategic importance, not just for the artists it nurtures, but for the island of Ireland's place in the wider world.

# Message from Ireland's Ambassador to France

The Centre Culturel Irlandais has grown impressively in terms of its activities and its ambition during my time as Ambassador of Ireland to France. I have witnessed this first hand, both as a member of the CCI's Strategy Committee and Conseil d'Administration, and as a regular guest at CCI events. This plan, and the vision presented herein, are the tangible result of this growing ambition. Yet it only scratches the surface of the enthusiasm, wisdom and passion brought to bear by Director Nora Hickey M'Sichili and her staff and the CCI Strategic Committee led by its Chair Dearbhail McDonald.

This plan dovetails fittingly with the Embassy's ambition to strengthen and deepen relations with France, notably as set out in Ireland's Strategy for France 2019-2025. That strategy is both a symbol and a product of the importance of relations between our two countries and the ambition, on both sides, to work more closely together "in spirit and in action" – in the words of President Charles de Gaulle. It offers a roadmap for Franco-Irish cooperation over the coming years, across all areas of cooperation; political, economic, international, etc. Notably, it envisages even greater people-to-people links and cultural exchanges between France and Ireland. The CCI, as both the home to many Irish students and artists, and the point of intersection where French and Irish cultures meet, will be a key partner in implementing our strategy.



© Julien Mouffron-Gardner

Likewise, the CCI can continue to count on the support of the Irish Embassy in fulfilling the vision laid out in this plan. The Department of Foreign Affairs is proud to be a core funder of the CCI, alongside Culture Ireland. As a member of the board, I am honoured to contribute to the longer term thinking around the CCI's future development. In recent years, the Embassy has partnered with the CCI on many events to showcase the extraordinary talent of Irish artists. There is still much more we can do together and I look forward to working with the CCI to implement this strategy and embark on this next phase in the development of this unique and venerable institution, which is truly Ireland's cultural flagship in Europe.

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**H.E. Patricia O'Brien**  
Ambassador of Ireland to France

# Message from the Chair

Since its foundation in the historic Latin Quarter of Paris, the Collège des Irlandais has provided sanctuary for, and borne witness to, remarkable changes in the cultural, spiritual, intellectual and political landscapes of Ireland, France and the European continent.

For more than 400 years, Ireland's cultural flagship in Europe has stood out as a beacon of hope, refuge, learning, dialogue and creativity through crises as challenging and diverse as the Counter-Reformation and the French Revolution, two world wars, Brexit and Coronavirus.



Re-inaugurated as the Centre Culturel Irlandais (CCI) in 2002, the centre supports the work of contemporary Irish artists, nurtures debate and cultivates the deep ties that bind Ireland and France as well as taking its place among its peers in the international creative community.

**This strategy sets out the key priorities for the Centre Culturel Irlandais over the next five years.** It reflects our core commitment to the promotion of Irish culture to the wider world at a time when the Irish Government has placed culture at the heart of major policies including Project Ireland 2040, Global Ireland 2025 and Culture 2025.

The next five years will see the Centre Culturel Irlandais build on four centuries of progress as well as its rich, collegiate heritage, to **excel as a contemporary centre of cultural engagement, artistic innovation and critical conversation.**

This period will also see the Centre Culturel Irlandais embark on an **ambitious, once-in-a-generation Master Development Plan (MDP)** to re-develop this historic 18th century landmark to preserve it for future generations.

As we build on the successes of the last two decades, we aim to invest in our future, strengthen our engagement and enrich our programme.

The CCI Board, the Fondation Irlandaise, and its Strategy Committee - composed of representatives of both the French and Irish States - its Director and staff, now look forward to working with our stakeholders, funders, audiences and, critically, our artists, to realise this vital vision.

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**Dearbhail McDonald**  
Chair, Strategy Committee & Secretary, Fondation Irlandaise

# Director's Foreword

There is something innately Irish about the CCI, the 250 year-long Irish presence seeming to have permeated the very fabric of the building. One should not be mistaken however, the CCI is not an Irish island in Paris promoting outmoded depictions of Ireland, but a dynamic relevant cultural hub with tentacles hungrily stretching out to the vast international network of cultural spaces in Paris and further afield.

Most crucially, underpinning our artistic programme is a commitment to addressing issues that affect us all on this shared planet; urgent contemporary international concerns such as social justice, climate change, migration and the rise of populism. The curatorial practice observed by the CCI is one that is socially engaged with a natural awareness of and openness to current and impending trends.

As a centre that presents the work of Irish artists, we aim to create a space where all voices in Irish society are represented and valued, reflecting our deep conviction in equality and human rights, and we aim to programme in such a way as to encourage critical thinking, empathy and compassion, civic responsibility, knowledge-building, inclusion and access. We are confident that our diverse audiences will find an environment in which they can have fun, interact fruitfully and be genuinely enriched.

We have achieved much in our 18 years. The outstanding successes of the CCI's vibrant artistic showcasing programme are apparent in its quality and diversity, its reputation, the growing numbers of visitors and the loyalty of its audiences, the meaningful opportunities created, as well as in the enthusiastic responses of the press to the events curated within our walls. We hope very much over the next 5 years to begin to work towards reaching our full potential, for which certain structural changes are required which will enable us to welcome artists, programmers and audiences from all over the world in optimal conditions.

We already have a vital role to play in nurturing cross-cultural dialogue. But we have the potential to be **Ireland's Shared Centre for Inclusive Dialogue in Europe**. We already are an essential part of Ireland's cultural infrastructure. But we have the potential to be **Ireland's Cultural Production Hub on mainland Europe**. We already are a residence welcoming Irish artists and students to Paris. But we have the potential to be **Ireland's International Arts Residence**. We continue to fulfil our mission as **Ireland's Cultural Flagship in Europe**.

# Our Story

Ireland's cultural headquarters on the European continent, the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris is a vibrant contemporary arts centre and residence where Parisian and international audiences cross the threshold to enjoy more than 100 events every year, from curated exhibitions, concerts and festivals to debates and performances.

The CCI has become a key resource for Ireland's creative community of artists and thinkers, offering residencies to 40 artists every year and accommodation to some 1,000 students since the opening of the Centre in 2002.

Housed in the magnificent 18th century building of a former Irish seminary, the CCI looks out onto rue des Irlandais in the centre of Paris, one of the world's most important cultural, political and financial capitals.

Located behind the fabled Pantheon, the CCI is just a ten-minute walk from one of the world's finest medieval masterpieces, Notre-Dame, in the heart of the historic Latin Quarter. It is surrounded by some of the most eminent universities and research institutions in Europe, the École Normale Supérieure, where Samuel Beckett taught, the Institut de Sciences Politiques and the Sorbonne, as well as the Institut Curie.

The CCI comprises an Old Library and Chapel (which also serve as exquisite performance spaces), both dating from the 18th century, with the Old Library containing precious medieval manuscripts. It also houses a gallery,

a separate modern library, archival rooms, accommodation for 56 guests and conference and meeting rooms, as well as a 2000m<sup>2</sup> chestnut-lined courtyard, perfect for outdoor festivals and live performances. With its prominent location and distinguished history, the Centre Culturel Irlandais has become the premier Irish centre of cultural and creative excellence and influence on the European continent.



© Ros Kavanagh

# Our Mission

To excel as a contemporary centre of **cultural engagement**, **artistic innovation** and **critical conversation**, building on the Irish College's four centuries as a focal point for Ireland's presence and influence in Europe.



Exhibition, Ursula Burke "A False Dawn",  
2019 © Julien Mouffron-Gardner

# Our Purpose

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Present **rich programmes** which showcase and explore contemporary arts, culture and society on the island of Ireland, in all its complexity and diversity.

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Nurture a **creative community** of artists, researchers, critical thinkers and students.

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**Develop relationships** and create strategic partnerships with partner bodies and institutions in Paris, France and Europe.

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Animate, preserve and develop the **unique heritage** of the Irish College and its historic spaces including the Old Library, complemented by our Médiatheque which houses the largest collection of resources on Ireland in France.





# Our Strategy

## **Strand One**

Invest  
in our  
future

Cultural Heritage  
Redevelopment  
Fundraising  
Resilience  
Sustainability

## **Strand Two**

Enrich  
our  
programmes

Artistic Programme  
Residency Programme  
Commissioning Programme  
Off-site & Virtual Programme  
Research & Education Programme

## **Strand Three**

Strengthen  
our  
engagement

Creatives  
Audiences  
Funding Partners  
Partner Institutions  
International Partners

## Strand One

Invest in our future

### Cultural Heritage

Preserve a part of the cultural heritages of Ireland and France through the creation of a Master Development Plan for the maintenance and restoration of this historic landmark.

### Redevelopment

Support the expansion of the CCI's activities with the significant and sustainable redevelopment of the building and facilities.

### Fundraising

Raise funds from private and corporate stakeholders to complement State investment for a once-in-a-generation Master Development Plan.

### Resilience

Invest in management and staff well-being, supporting the CCI's leadership capabilities and ensuring strict adherence to all regulatory and governance requirements.

### Sustainability

Build a financially sustainable future through enhanced income generation, with environmental and social sustainability as a guiding principle of the CCI.



Exhibition, "Surveillée.s", 2018  
© Julien Mouffron-Gardner

# Invest in our future

## Strand Two

Enrich our programmes

### Artistic Programme

Scale new heights with the CCI's dynamic artistic and cultural programme, showcasing Irish art to new and diverse audiences, whilst retaining a strong curatorial rationale.

### Residency Programme

Expand and diversify the CCI's residency programme, consolidating existing alliances and developing new partnerships.

### Commissioning Programme

Commission artists to create new work with a view to presenting it in the CCI and beyond.

### Off-site & Virtual Programme

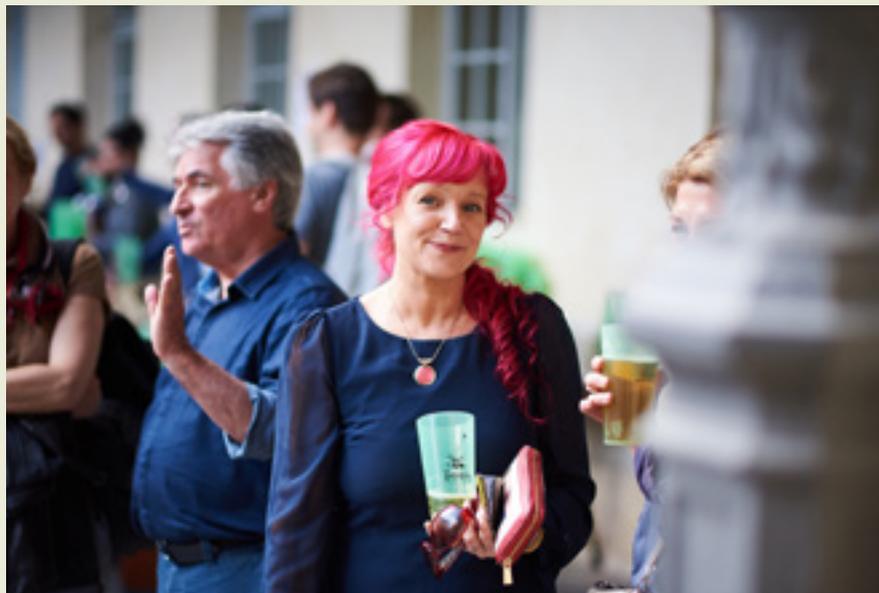
Create new off-site works as well as an online programme, building the CCI's visibility in France, Ireland and overseas in an increasingly digital world.

### Research & Education Programme

Continue the tradition of learning and scholarship in the CCI with research and education programmes.



Open studio, Andrew Kearney, 2015  
© CCI



Artist in residence Elaine Hoey, 2018  
© Damien Boisson-Berçu

# Enrich our programmes

## Strand Three

Strengthen our engagement

### **Creatives**

Intensify our engagement with creative partners, to include co-commissions and cross-collaborations.

### **Audiences**

Enhance visitor experiences and expand and diversify audience bases.

### **Funding Partners**

Strengthen relationships with the CCI's core governmental stakeholders, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Foreign Affairs, as well as the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the British Council.

### **Partner Institutions**

Strengthen engagement with French and Irish partners and institutions.

### **International Partners**

Pioneer the formation of international networks and partnerships.



Installation, Corban Walker, 2018  
© CCI



Performance, Mellow Tonics, 2019  
© Conor Horgan

# Strengthen our engagement



# Our Implementation Plan

In order to realise our vision, the CCI will establish and implement 5 key action plans:



Exhibition, Tomi Ungerer "En attendant", 2019 © Julien Mouffron-Gardner



Médiathèque © Marielsa Niels, 2018

1

**Fundraising**  
Action Plan

2

**Built Environment**  
Master Development Action Plan

3

**Artistic Programme**  
Development Action Plan

4

**Stakeholder Engagement**  
Action Plan

5

**Audience and Visitor Engagement**  
Action Plan

1

## Fund-raising Action Plan

Establish a dedicated fundraising body to support major capital development of the CCI, incorporating a sustainability and resilience strategy that assures the implementation of this strategic plan whilst also maintaining the historical buildings and archives.



© Julien Mouffron-Gardner, 2019

2

## Built Environment Master Development Action Plan

Build exceptional new facilities including studios, rehearsal spaces and a contemporary performance space to allow for the presentation of ambitious work in ideal conditions.

Highlight the tradition of hospitality with a reception area, design shop, attractive multi-media library and a destination 'art café' intended for cultural practitioners as well as the general public.

Upgrade and renew living accommodation and create valuable communal areas for sharing of ideas and practices for artists.

Promote the CCI as a creative and collaborative hub by developing an environment conducive to encounters with Irish artists and their work and ideas.

Lead in the area of environmental sustainability within the arts.



© Julien Mouffron-Gardner, 2019

3

## Artistic Programme

### Development Action Plan

Scale new heights presenting the best of Irish arts to international audiences, creating new and exciting opportunities for Irish artists through partnership and co-curation with festivals and venues.

Develop a production hub with a commissioning programme of new works including site-specific work, residency-related and co-commissions.

Expand the residency programme and, with additional funding from international partners extend residencies to researchers and international artists.

Introduce off-site strategies and online initiatives that expand the CCI's sphere of influence and engagement in France and Europe.

Expand our research and education programmes, developing suitable partnerships to cultivate formal and informal learning, and nurturing cross-cultural debate in a shared space for inclusive dialogue.



© Julien Mouffron-Gardner

4

## Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan

Map and analyse current and past stakeholders to determine potential for development.

Strengthen engagement with the Irish and French Governments, specifically their Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs, as well as with the Irish Embassy to France and Irish State agencies in France and organisations in Ireland with a similar mission of promoting the Irish arts and language outside Ireland.

Deepen relationships with existing cultural, creative and academic partners in Ireland and France as well as identifying and building new partnerships.

Nurture relationships with the CCI's alumni of artists, researchers and language bursary recipients.

Pioneer the formation of international partnerships by taking a leading role in FICEP (the network of cultural centres from around the world based in Paris), spear-heading cultural exchange and supporting Ireland's global network of diplomatic missions.



President Michael D Higgins in the Old Library, 2013  
© Shane O'Neill-Fennell

## Audience & Visitor Engagement Action Plan

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Enhance visitor experiences through infrastructural improvements allowing for diverse means of engaging with the CCI (Courtyard Commissions, arts programme, café, shop, classes, education programme).

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Develop a long-term audience development plan to expand and diversify audience bases, increasing the CCI's visibility and accessibility.

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Select and work with additional strategic partners to attract new audiences, enabling the cross-fertilisation of ideas, experiences, opportunities and collaborations.

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Broaden the CCI's reach through curatorial projects and online programmes to touch an extensive world-wide audience.

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Engage in a meaningful way with the Irish diaspora in France and in Europe, deepening links with our Irish global family.

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© CCI

# Our Numbers at a Glance

**35,000**  
audience members  
at cultural events  
every year



1



**9,000**  
visitors in one night  
for Fête de la Musique

3



2

**100,000**  
visitors to the CCI  
every year

**26,500**  
followers on  
social media



4



5



6

**400**  
artists-in-residence  
since 2002

**4,500**  
digitised documents  
freely accessible online



8

**2,500**  
artists presented  
since 2002

**3,000**  
library items borrowed  
every year

**45,000**  
resources in the  
Libraries collections



7

# Our Key Dates

**1677**  
Louis XIV gives Irish collegians a permanent home at the Collège des Lombards in the Latin Quarter.



1

**1791**  
Irish College occupied by French revolutionaries.

**1870**  
Franco-Prussian War: College serves as a hospital facility, accommodating 300 French soldiers.



3

**1940**  
World War II: seminarians repatriated; rector maintains the Irish presence; College hosts displaced persons and refugees, including, until 1997, Polish clergy.



2

**1776**  
Irish collegiate community moves into its new home in the rue du Cheval Vert (now 5 rue des Irlandais).

**1805**  
Napoléon establishes the Fondation Irlandaise as the College's governing authority; street is renamed Rue des Irlandais.

**1914**  
World War I: Irish College seminarians temporarily repatriated.



4

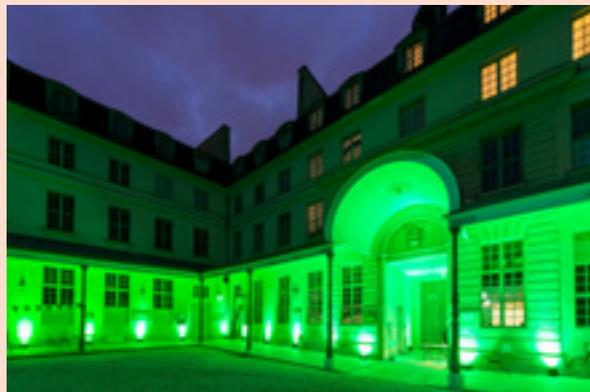


5

**1984**  
Establishment of College's Aumônerie des Irlandais.

**1991**  
Reconstitution of  
Fondation Irlandaise  
to include seven Irish  
representatives.

**2008**  
The CCI expands cultural and artistic  
programmes, greatly enhanced by  
the formal announcement of annual  
funding from Culture Ireland.



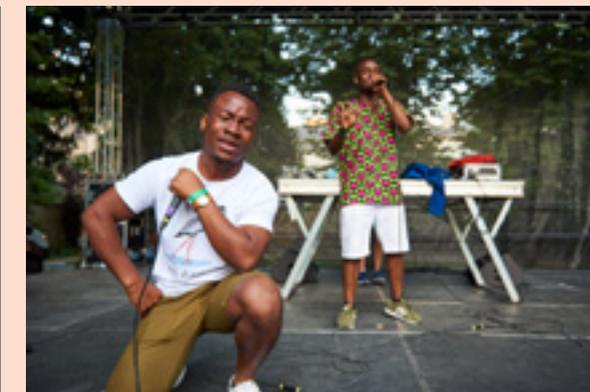
6

**2013**  
Seamus Heaney, Ireland's Nobel  
Laureate, reads for the Marché  
de la poésie in CCI's courtyard, as  
part of the programme to mark  
Ireland's EU Presidency.



8

**2020**  
Covid-19 pandemic temporarily  
closes the CCI to the public;  
global success of CCI's virtual  
Fête de la Musique.



10

**2002**  
Completion of College restoration  
and refurbishment, financed  
by the Government of Ireland;  
College reopens as Centre  
Culturel Irlandais (CCI), with  
dedicated cultural spaces and  
accommodation for artists  
and students.



7

**2012**  
Restoration of the CCI's Old Library  
and Historical Archives; overseen  
by OPW with funding from DRAC  
Ile de France and the Bibliothèque  
nationale de France.



9

**2015**  
Inauguration of the CCI's Chapel Sessions;  
expansion of CCI's programmes to include  
treatment of contemporary global issues  
with curated exhibition to coincide with  
the UN COP21 conference.

## Board members of the Fondation Irlandaise 2020

### 7 members appointed by the Irish State

Dearbhail Mc Donald – *Secretary to the Fondation Irlandaise  
and Chair of Strategy Committee*

Michael Mc Williams – *Treasurer*

Patricia O’Brien – *Ambassador of Ireland to France*

Fiach Mac Conghail

Una Mc Mahon

Rory Montgomery

Prof. Thomas O’Connor

### 7 members appointed by different French ministries and institutions

Alain Hespel – *Chair of the Board*

Denis Metzinger – *Vice-Chair and Curé, Saint-Étienne-du-Mont*

Yves Gounin – *Conseil d’État*

Françoise Kamara – *Cour de Cassation*

Stéphane Onillon – *Ministère de l’Education Nationale,  
de l’Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche*

Richard Requena – *Ministère des Affaires Étrangères  
et Européennes*

Arnaud Teyssier – *Ministère de l’Intérieur*

### Strategy Committee

#### In addition to the 7 Irish Board appointments

Frank Callanan, S.C.

Mariam Diallo – *French Cultural Counsellor in Ireland*

Kathy Gilfillan

Grainne Humphreys

Pierre Joannon

Françoise Kamara – *Representative of the French Board  
appointments*

Prof. Clíona Ní Riordáin

Bill Shipsey, S.C.

### Thanks to

Eugene Downes – *Cultural Director, DFA*

Doireann Ní Bhriain – *Strategy Committee Chair (2011 – 2017)*

Liam O’Flaherty – *Cultural Attaché, Irish Embassy*

Christine Sisk – *Director, Culture Ireland*

## Staff of the Centre Culturel Irlandais 2020

### Director

Nora Hickey M’Sichili

### Communications Team

Rosetta Beaugendre – *Head of Communications and  
Press Relations*

Anne-Sophie Delhommeau – *Communications and  
Press Relations Officer*

Elodie Tristant – *Communications and  
Press Relations Assistant*

### Libraries and Archives

Carole Jacquet – *Head of Libraries and Archives*

Marion Mossu – *Libraries and Archives Officer*

### Administration Team

Nathalie Jacquemin – *Administrative and Financial Manager*

Benoît Audonnet – *Administrative and General  
Services Assistant*

Yann Le Cadre – *Administrative Assistant (Accommodation)*

Alexandra Zuddas – *Administrative Assistant (Accommodation  
& Cultural Programme)*

Patricia Costello – *Administrative Assistant (Weekend)*

Claude Friboulet – *General Services Assistant*

### Technical Manager

Stéphane Gherbi

### Our Key Funding Partners

Culture Ireland

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Irish Embassy Paris

Department of Foreign Affairs

## Photo Credits

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### Cover

Exhibition, “What If We Got It Wrong?”, 2015  
© Julien Mouffron-Gardner

### Page 4

Exhibition, “What If We Got It Wrong?”, 2015  
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### Page 5

1 : © Ros Kavanagh  
2 : © Charlie Bonallack  
3 : Nora Hickey M’Sichili and Adam Clayton, 2018  
© Julien Mouffron-Gardner

### Page 13

The Poetry Hour – Homage to Josephine Hart by Sinéad Cusack,  
Marianne Faithfull, Bob Geldof and Charlotte Rampling, 2012  
© Alastair Miller

### Page 18

Le Panthéon © Aisling McCoy, 2019

### Page 23

1 : Elaine Mai, 2019 © Julien Mouffron-Gardner  
2 : Mellow Tonics, 2019 © Conor Horgan  
3 : Fête de la musique, 2017 © Julien Mouffron-Gardner  
4 : Exhibition, Tomi Ungerer “En attendant” ©  
Julien Mouffron-Gardner

### Page 24

5 : Fearghus O Conchuir, 2017 © Karl Burke  
6 : © Conor Horgan  
7 : Médiathèque © Marielsa Niels  
8 : Illuminated manuscript in Old Library © Marielsa Niels

### Page 25

1 : Map of Paris - Topo plan de Turgot, 1734, Musée Carnavalet,  
PMVP (cliché Joffre)  
2 : Façade / CCI Archives  
3 : Engraving on façade © CCI  
4 : Students of the Irish College in Paris, 1906-1907/ CCI Archives  
5 : Chapelle Saint-Patrick © Ros Kavanagh, 2014

### Page 26

6 : Saint Patrick’s Day, 2015 © CCI  
7 : Old Library © Ros Kavanagh  
8 : Seamus Heaney, 2013 © Seamas McSwiney  
9 : Chapel Session with Duke Special, 2018 © CCI  
10 : Fête de la Musique – Rusangano Family, 2018 © Damien Boisson-Berçu



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‘A national culture cannot be defined by pageantry, by anthems, by proclamation. A national culture is formed and manifested in personal exchanges, small gatherings, curiosity, shared talents. This also holds true for our cultural institutions. They are not mere buildings, they are the focal point of a conversation – one that invites contribution, that encourages alternative perspectives.

At the Centre Culturel Irlandais such a community is being forged and encouraged – not only through the wise and witty curation of Irish art that speaks to the present and recognizes the past – in the kitchen, the breakfast room, the garden. It is a haven for the artists who spend time there, a place of rejuvenation before they carry their work into the wider world.’

Darragh McKeon, Writer in Residence, 2015