



# Learning Limerick

Together for a brighter future

## 2019

Monday April 8 - Sunday April 14

### Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival

love learning



## Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival 2019

Our 9<sup>th</sup> Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival will run from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The theme we have chosen for this year's festival is 'Bridging the Gap' in learning (between young and old, rural and urban, returning to learning and welcoming new communities). This theme also symbolises the '3 Bridges' walking route in Limerick and supports our festival motto 'Communities, Connecting Learning'. We are really looking forward to promoting and supporting Lifelong Learning with our partners and event holders and are very excited to engage with and meet learners throughout the city and county.



Festival Organising Committee for 2019

## ISSUE MARCH 2019

### Feedback from Festival 2018



Mayor Stephen Keary with Southside Women's Group at Festival Launch 2018

Our festival in 2018 was a huge success and we would like to thank our event hosts for all their commitment and the work involved. With a wide variety of over 200 events, there really was something to suit everyone with over 3,500 learners engaged. Feedback included that the Festival was very strong again at highlighting the work in the sector. Some suggestions were that further links could be made with other learning events taking place, and to represent the partnership work taking place. Events hosts said they made new contacts and got fresh ideas by being involved in the festival, with their learners attending a lot of other events. Suggestions for further focus on Limerick County and more outreach were very welcome as we plan for this year! It was agreed that event organisers should promote their own events as widely as possible and that we will all aim to harness the power of the excellent UNESCO brand fully!





## International Seminar 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018



Limerick and Cork hosted a dual location event using the tag lines 'Equitable and Inclusive Learning Regions' and 'Leave No one Behind' during their festivals last March. Belfast and Bristol Learning City representatives were invited as guest speakers and Mary Hamilton gave an input on the strategy for Learning Limerick, which she had facilitated. A round table discussion was held in Limerick with Community, Local Development and Education and Training Board partners, sharing examples on how community development can help overcome challenges for engaging learners. The importance of partnership approaches to promote learning in all its forms and facets was highlighted.

## Larissa Summer School – June 2018



*Eimear Brophy and Maeve Liston following Maeve's visit to Larissa*

Dr Maeve Liston, Mary Immaculate College, and a member of our Learning Limerick Steering Group, presented at the both the Learning Cities Summer School and Symposium events in Larissa, Greece last June 2018. The theme of the Symposium was "Building a Learning City – Innovative methods

& projects" and the presenters provided an evaluation of successful projects that help build a Learning Cities based on the UNESCO concept of a learning city, while aiming to form a strong network of UNESCO Learning Cities' experts. Some feedback from the summer school was for Learning Cities to focus on participants and their needs i.e. activating the citizens, and that Learning Cities could consider having a smaller number of bigger impact events.



The role of Advisors /Learning Ambassadors was also discussed. A finding from the summer school was also to 'Start within the schools – as that is where the perception of learning starts!' From Maeve's participation in this event and also from Learning Limerick's own research, we can conclude that our partnership approach in Limerick is on track. We will continue to share best practice and ideas as part of future symposia and our collaborations with networks of learning city-regions.

## Networking Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November



Our Networking Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 brought together our partners that are involved in the Lifelong Learning Festival. This event has become a firm favourite with partners, as it provides the opportunity for

the different groups to network and to discuss partnering and possibly collaborating for Lifelong Learning Festival events. Participant brainstormed in groups on approaches to meet the needs of their target groups. Chairperson of Learning Limerick, Eimear Brophy of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board opened the day, and discussed the national and international links that have been strengthened and supported through Limerick's membership of UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).



*Chairperson Eimear Brophy (Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board) at networking meeting.*

This Network Meeting also included an artistic and interactive input from one of the Narrative 4 artists: - Joanne Ryan, and participants got the opportunity to share

their own lifelong learning stories! Patrick Fitzgerald, Chair of the Learning Limerick Implementation Sub-group, presented user-friendly PR Tips for selling your learning events! The theme for this year's festival 2019 was chosen at this event during the group work, and the Festival Organising Committee started planning their work with Festival Ambassadors in 2019.

## Limerick Learning Neighbourhoods – 2019



*Learning Neighbourhoods Meeting March 2018*

This year, the Limerick Community Education Network (LCEN) will be launching 'Limerick Learning Neighbourhoods' on Wednesday afternoon 10<sup>th</sup> April during the week of the festival. Each neighbourhood

involved will showcase their plans for the future as well as outlining the great work achieved so far in their communities. The aim of Learning Neighbourhoods is to bring Learning Cities to a neighbourhood level, to celebrate what has been achieved, to promote communities and learning and to support new and existing networks and activities. The theme for the Limerick Learning Neighbourhoods event this year is 'Who we are is where we are from'. Cork Learning have developed the Learning Neighbourhood concept and have extended their pilot projects to a number of areas of the city and have hosted Limerick members on site visits to their neighbourhoods; many thanks to our colleagues in Cork for sharing their learning!

## Learning Ambassadors – 2019



*Learning Ambassadors Meeting January 2019*

Learning Ambassadors will work with Learning Limerick and the Festival and help promote and celebrate learning opportunities. They will act as role models and help inspire learners. A number of participants indicated their interest in becoming Learning Ambassadors at the Networking Meeting last November; and a first meeting of this group of this group was held in January 31<sup>st</sup> in Griffith College. There was great discussion at this meeting about the role for an Ambassador. Learning ambassadors are keen to encourage others and can share their own stories and experiences of lifelong learning and help demonstrate that learning is for everyone! Looking forward to meeting and hearing more from our Ambassadors during the festival this year!





Yvonne Lane and Jessica Curtis (PAUL Partnership)

## Learning Cities Conversations Event November 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Cork Learning City hosted a 'Learning Cities Conversations' event. Learning Limerick Chairperson, Eimear Brophy and Lifelong Learning Facilitator, Yvonne Lane,

participated in panel discussions on perspectives from Learning Cities with Cork and Belfast Learning Cities. The themes discussed were how Learning Festivals make cities more green and healthy, equitable and inclusive, and support decent work and entrepreneurship. Some interesting themes emerged from the discussions: - e.g. while cities come to Lifelong Learning from different angles (e.g. health, enterprise, etc), it is important to root the Learning City-Region in the Councils first in order for the initiative to be successful. The success of informal community education to build confidence; and also accredited learning to enhance opportunities in areas of social disadvantage was also highlighted.

## All-Ireland Network of Learning Cities – Plans for 2019



The first meeting of the all-Ireland Network of Learning Cities (Limerick, Cork, Belfast, Dublin and Derry-Strabane Learning City-Regions) was held in Cork as part of the

Cork Nov 21<sup>st</sup> Learning Cities Conversations event. Cork Learning City has brought this group together and all of the City-Regions have adopted the UNESCO Guidelines for Building Learning Cities. A follow-up second meeting of this group was hosted by Dublin Learning City held in Dublin City Council on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2019. The group are scheduled to have their third meeting in Limerick on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Lifelong Learning Festival 2019 week.

## Many thanks to all our Partners in Learning Limerick: –

- Limerick City and County Council
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
- PAUL Partnership
- University of Limerick
- Mary Immaculate College
- Limerick Institute of Technology
- Limerick Childcare Committee
- West Limerick Resources
- Ballyhoura Development
- Limerick Integration Working Group
- Limerick Mental Health Association
- Limerick Community Education Network
- Limerick Chamber Skillnet
- Youth Work Limerick
- Culture and Arts / Creative Ireland Limerick
- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed



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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

- Winner of UNESCO Learning City Award 2017