

# CELEBRATING DUBLIN'S CULTURAL TREASURES

THE NUMBER ONE RATED MUSEUM IN DUBLIN IS  
STRENGTHENED BY SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS

UP UNTIL 2011, DUBLIN WAS THE ONLY EUROPEAN CAPITAL CITY WITHOUT A CITY MUSEUM OF ITS OWN. FOR A COUNTRY WITH SUCH A RICH HERITAGE, THIS MADE NO SENSE. THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM THE IRELAND FUNDS, THE LITTLE MUSEUM OF DUBLIN WAS CREATED. AT THE TIME, IRELAND WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A RECESSION. TODAY, EIGHT YEARS LATER, THE LITTLE MUSEUM IS AN AWARD-WINNING VISITOR ATTRACTION IN THE HEART OF THE IRISH CAPITAL.



Photos: Aengus McMahon

BY TREVOR WHITE, *MUSEUM DIRECTOR*

The Ireland Funds offered us support in the very early days when we had a promising idea but had not yet demonstrated success. You trusted our mission, believed in our goals and have supported us as we've grown to become an award-winning civic initiative in the heart of the Irish capital.

In 2012 the Little Museum received a small grant from The Ireland Funds to test the concept of an education class for local school children. The museum was founded in response to a need to grow civic pride locally in Ireland, and this grant was invaluable in allowing us to test the concept and trial what would go on to become the 'I Love Dublin' classes. From this initial support, we directly cultivated a corporate philanthropic partnership which allowed us to grow the free school classes to what they are today.

Our temporary exhibition programming has also been supported by The Ireland Funds. In naming our ground floor exhibition space The Ireland Funds Gallery, your support has enabled part funding of every single exhibition and their associated outreach activities. Since 2014, Flagship Funding from The Ireland Funds has enabled us to engage over 400,000 individuals with the work and goals of the museum.

Thanks to your support, the museum is now a tremendous success. With 118,779 visitors in 2018, we are officially the **NUMBER ONE MUSEUM IN IRELAND** on TripAdvisor—and were recently voted the number 20 museum in Europe.



Today we try to offer a world class visitor experience to every single person who engages with the museum. We believe this comes down to quality human interaction and storytelling. In the next decade, our ambition is to become the 'best city museum experience' in the world. We will do this with a relentless focus on three guiding principles:

## HISTORY

our subject, and the focus of our work.

## HOSPITALITY

we greet all visitors with a smile, with five-star service and the céad míle fáilte that they hope to find in Ireland

## HUMOR

this is how we elevate an ordinary moment to a piece of drama. Our team creates experiences for our visitors which brings the Irish tradition of storytelling, craic and charm to life.

The museum occupies a landmark building at 15 St Stephen's Green, owned by our local government, Dublin City Council. We have just secured a 35-year lease in our new premises at 14 St Stephen's Green: a mirror image of 15, both built together in 1776. So our key challenge is also our biggest opportunity, because in the Spring of 2020, the museum will leave its home and in 2020 we will reopen next door.

Offering security of tenure and a permanent home for the Little Museum of Dublin, the move to 14 St. Stephen's Green will offer more space, universal access, a dedicated lecture theatre and a world-class education center for future generations of civic spirited leaders. None of this would have happened without the support of The Ireland Funds.

On behalf of our team here in the museum, thank you to The Ireland Funds for the extraordinary work that you do.

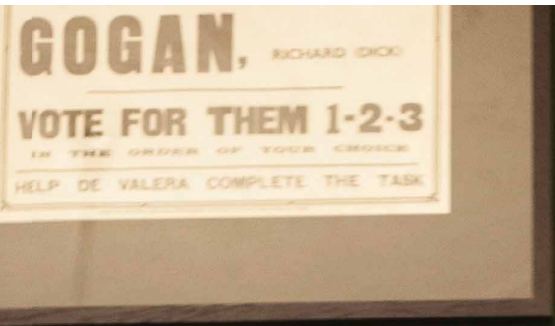
*Museum Director Trevor White was born in Dublin in 1972. Educated at St. Columba's College and Trinity College, he created The Dubliner magazine, published Ireland's best-selling restaurant guide for many years, and is the author of three books. "Working with our extraordinary team is a privilege," he says. "Our goal is to create a world-class museum that embodies the history, hospitality and humor of Dublin."*



### Since opening, the Little Museum of Dublin has:

- Welcomed 632,421 visitors
- Educated 17,345 school kids
- Collected 6,835 artefacts
- Programmed 29 temporary exhibitions
- Published 8 books
- Collaborated with museums in London, Denmark, New York & Japan
- Produced 3 plays







## IMPACT OF THE IRELAND FUNDS SUPPORT

The Little Museum of Dublin was one of The Ireland Funds first ever Flagship Awardees in 2014, receiving €100,000 over 2 years. In addition to the Flagship Award, the Museum received donor advised and grant round support totaling over \$100,000. Thanks to The Ireland Funds' support, the Museum has created a diverse program of exhibitions with talks, events and school classes—engaging over 400,000 members of the public. Among the highlights:

- **THE WINGS OF IRELAND:** charting the inspiring growth and impact of aviation in Ireland

- **WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE:** profiles of inspiring women working in traditionally male dominated environments

- **IRELAND'S FASHION RADICALS:** the designers from Ireland who impacted the worldwide fashion industry

- **JUDGING SHAW:** curated by Fintan O'Toole, an exhibition about the life and times of George Bernard Shaw in partnership with the RIA

- **THE DUBLIN PUB:** A history of the role of the pub and brewers as an employer and a social space at the heart of life in Dublin

- **HOME IS ANOTHER PLACE:** award-winning conflict photographer Seamus Murphy documents a lesser known yet familiar side of everyday life in Ireland

- **CHURCHILL & THE IRISHMAN:** the story of Brendan Bracken, founder of the Financial Times and right hand man to Winston Churchill

- **REWRITING HISTORY:** School teacher & illustrator Fergal McCarthy tells the story of 1916 through a lifesize comic book aimed at engaging children and adults alike

- **COMING HOME:** the story of Patrick Lafcadio Hearn was told by tracing his odysseys around the world, his binding ties to Dublin and his artistic influence across the globe

- **CHRISTY BROWN:** the museum displayed the art and writing of Irish artist Christy Brown in his hometown for the first time, then travelled his work to show in New York





