

## September 2021

# An Arts & Creative Charter for Older People (Draft)

The Arts & Creative Charter for Older People aims to create confidence amongst older people in relation to participating in the arts in Ireland and confidence within arts organisations in working with and for older people. The Charter sets out the arts sector's commitment to promoting the values and contributions of older age throughout their collective visions, structures, policies and programmes. As such, the Charter celebrates equality, diversity and difference, and an inclusive, participatory culture and environment for older people. Those who sign up to the Arts & Creative Charter for Older People demonstrate their intention to operate in line with best practice.

Signing up to the Charter is open to professional and publicly funded, as well as dedicated arts organisations in Ireland and signals commitment to the values and principles outlined.

### OUR CORE VALUES

1. We are committed to the participation of older people in the arts as artists, audiences, creators, critics, teachers and learners.
2. We value this participation as essential to healthy ageing - mentally, physically and emotionally.
3. We foster the idea of ageNCY i.e. age (should) Never Confine You, through the proactive inclusion of older people at all levels in organisations.
4. We assert that older age is a time to be embraced, to be adventurous, to do the things you always wanted to do, to have time just to be.

### OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **OLDER AGE:** We value, recognise, acknowledge and embrace the diversity, possibility and experience of older age.
2. **EMPOWERMENT:** We assert our commitment to, and enablement of, older people, and commit to supporting all those who wish to realise their creative potential.
3. **DIGNITY AND RESPECT:** We respect the inherent dignity, shared humanity, as well as individuality of older people.
4. **WELCOME & INCLUSION** We welcome all older people. We support the principles of equity, inclusion and non-discrimination and acknowledge our obligations under national and international human rights law. We respect the wish of older people to remain deeply engaged in diverse communities and societies, regardless of age, class, colour, & creed. We reject attempts to ghettoise, categorise, and patronise older people and commit to supporting older people to stay involved, included and connected.
5. **LIFE-COURSE / INTERGENERATIONAL APPROACH:** We encourage life-long learning and the mutual engagement of younger and older people wherever possible in order to promote solidarity between

generations.

6. BRIDGING THE RURAL AND URBAN: We support the active engagement of older people living in rural and urban communities and to helping bridge any barriers between the two.
7. REFLEXIVITY/ CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK: We commit to listening, engaging, reflecting and learning with and from older people
8. HEALTH & WELLBEING: We support arts participation as a way to nurture healthy societies (both people and places), and we advocate and encourage communities to socialise, collaborate and create together.
9. PERSON-CENTRED AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH: We assert the dignity and individuality of every older person and their participation in the design and delivery of arts experiences.
10. LANGUAGE: We reject ageist terms and images and endeavour to use the clearest language possible in our communications.

#### **ACCORDINGLY WE COMMIT TO:**

1. ACCESSIBILITY: Ensuring our physical and virtual infrastructures are accessible to all, raising awareness and understanding of access, and providing information and communications through accessible means. For more on access see the Age & Opportunity and Arts & Disability Ireland Access Initiative: [ageandopportunity.ie/arts/access/](http://ageandopportunity.ie/arts/access/)
2. EMPLOYMENT: Endeavouring to recruit, commission and support the means of progression for older people wishing to work with us.
3. PARTICIPATION: Supporting the engagement and inclusion of diverse communities of older people in all of our activities.
4. POLICY: Foregrounding the work and value of older people in all our communications and seeking to influence key national and international policy stakeholders.
5. PROGRAMMING: Consulting and seeking feedback from older people to ensure our programmes meet their needs.

## **Age & Opportunity**

Age & Opportunity is the leading national development organisation working to enable the best possible quality of life for us all as we age. We do this by:

1. Championing the creativity and value of older people;
2. Combating stereotypes and negative views of ageing;
3. Developing inclusive and engaging experiences which respond to the interests and needs of the diverse older adult population;
4. Developing, testing and measuring the impact of pioneering programmes and approaches;
5. Making evidence available to policy-makers and service providers;
6. Working with partners and stakeholders to ensure that Ireland's policies, strategies and programmes are directly informed by the needs and experiences of older people.

We work with a multitude of public and private partners such as government departments, local authorities, health services, universities, community groups, arts and culture organisations and local sports groups to provide opportunities for older people to be more active; more visible; more creative; more connected; more confident; more often.