



The Ark

**Annual Directors' Report
& Audited Financial Statements
Financial Year ended
31 December 2021**



Company Information

The Ark Children's Cultural Centre
[CLG] trading as The Ark

Chairperson
Carol Fawsitt

Directors
Lynda Carroll
Catherine Cotter
Shane Hegarty (appointed 21 April 2021)
Brian Lavery (resigned 17 June 2021)
Dr. Anne Looney
Tomm Moore
Annie Ó Breacháin (appointed 21 April 2021)
Prof. Anne O'Gara
Gerard Smyth (resigned 17 June 2021)

CEO and Director
Aideen Howard

Company Secretary and General Manager
Al Russell

Auditors
Whelan Dowling & Associates
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,
Northwood Court
Santry, Dublin 9

Bankers
Allied Irish Bank PLC
7/12 Dame Street, Dublin 2

Business Address
11a Eustace Street
Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Charity Number CHY11334

Charities Regulatory Authority Number 20030827

Company Number 222774





CONTENTS

4	The Impact of The Ark: 2021 in Numbers
6	Foreword
7	Introduction
8	The Ark's Strategic Objectives
	Excellence
	Engagement
	Sustainability
	Advocacy
27	The Ark Children's Council
28	The Impact of The Ark: <i>What Did I Miss?</i>
30	2021 Programme
34	Governance and Management
44	Introduction to Financial Statements
45	Audited Financial Statements
58	Independent Auditor's Report
63	Acknowledgements
63	Additional References



THE IMPACT OF THE ARK IN 2021

26 YEARS OF THE ARK

**5 BIG BANG
BUBBLES**

CONTINUING THE FESTIVAL
IN AN ONLINE LANDSCAPE

57,421
VISITS TO ARK.IE

55,801
TOTAL AUDIENCE
IN 2021

SCHOOLS
ENGAGEMENT
IN 2021 IS
5 TIMES

HIGHER THAN IN 2020!

 **3,424**

ART AND ACTIVITY
SHEETS DOWNLOADED

**3 CHILDREN'S
COUNCIL MEMBERS**
MADE HISTORY PRESENTING
TO THE OIREACHTAS

5 DEIS SCHOOLS
took part in our first
Ark Art in Schools
Project

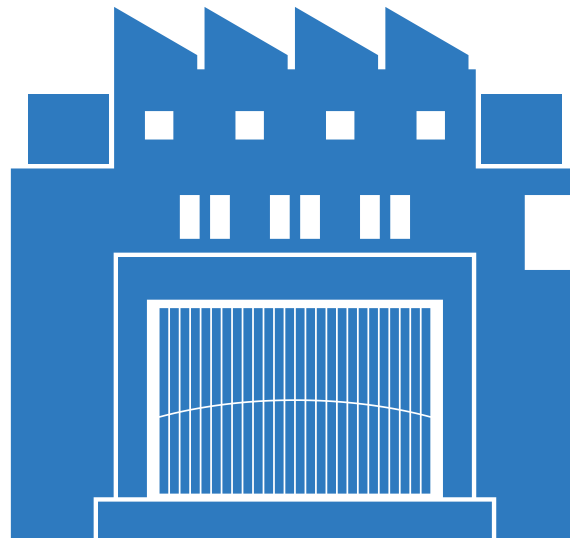
160 **CHILDREN BOOGIED**
AT OUR EARLY YEARS
DANCE
WORKSHOPS

Activities for early years audiences
IN 3 DUBLIN CITY LIBRARIES
(Ballyfermot, Cabra and Coolock)



100
ART PACKS
sent to children living in
emergency accommodation
and Direct Provision

14,234 CHILDREN
IN 368 SCHOOLS
IN 25 COUNTIES STREAMED
What Did I Miss?



3,556
total attendees for workshops
online, in The Ark and in libraries

5,235 TEACHERS
engaged with activities
AT THE ARK



1 PRESENTATION BY
THE ARK
TO THE
THE UN

ONLINE WORKSHOPS IN
6 RURAL
COMMUNITY CENTRES
(including on 2 islands!)



FOREWORD

Welcome to The Ark's Annual Report for 2021. It was a landmark year for The Ark when we published our 2021–23 Strategy Statement, 'Sparking Childhood Imagination' in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We navigated extraordinarily choppy waters, but thanks to the flexibility, collaboration and resilience of our Executive, this was one of our most innovative and successful years. The Ark produced high quality artistic works, developed significant new partnerships, adapted to the challenging working theatre environment, and remained relevant to the development of children's creative skills and their interest in the arts.

Our focus in 2021 was on four key areas: **excellence, engagement, advocacy, and sustainability**. **Excellence** was achieved in an artistic programme delivered online, outdoors and, towards the end of 2021, back in-house in Temple Bar. From visits to our beautiful *Winter Light* exhibition to the livestreaming to thousands of theatre production *What Did I Miss?*, there

were countless ways for children to experience the best of Irish and international art made just for them. With **Engagement** The Ark found alternative ways to reach new audiences: a digital edition of our annual **BIG BANG Dublin!** music festival and live online workshops delivered to children in DEIS schools, community centres, Direct Provision and emergency accommodation right across Ireland. Conscious of how few children could make it to The Ark in 2021, we found ways to bring The Ark to them, through activities online, art packs in the post and even the installation of artworks from our collection in some of our neighbourhood schools.

Using our **Advocacy**, we leveraged our position to impact on decision-making and policy through work with the National Children's Advisory Council, the Creative Youth Advisory Panel and the National Campaign for the Arts. We presented our practice to the UN, positioning art made for, by and about children as central to how we recover post-pandemic. Crucially, we ensure children can advocate for their own rights: in 2021 The Ark Children's Council became the youngest ever citizens to address the Oireachtas by bringing the perspectives of hundreds of children on their experience of the pandemic to the attention of the Joint Committee on Children.

Sustainability is critical to The Ark. Both the Board and the Executive worked extremely hard to ensure The Ark continues to deliver for children now and into the future. In this regard, I must acknowledge the financial support of

our core funders including the Arts Council, the Department of Education, Dublin City Council, as well as the support of Creative Europe and others. With the support of our new partner Rethink Ireland, we reached tens of thousands of children nationwide. With corporate funding from Mason Hayes and Curran, children from diverse backgrounds accessed The Ark. I also wish to thank the many donors who, without their continuing support, would have limited our ability to enable children to access The Ark who would otherwise have missed out. We are incredibly appreciative of all support received.

I wish to take this opportunity to recognise the passion, dedication and professionalism of our Executive and its inspiring leader, Artistic Director Aileen Howard, and to commend each one for all they have done and continue to do to support and realise every child's right to access and enjoy arts and culture. Finally, I must thank sincerely our Board of Directors for all their commitment and especially two retiring Directors, Brian Lavery, who stepped down as Chair of the Board in June 2021 after three years in the role and nine loyal years on the Board, and Gerard Smyth, esteemed poet and former Chair of our Audit & Risk Committee, who had also given nine years as a Director. Both have made immense contributions to the mission and vision of The Ark. On a personal note, I look forward to 2022 with a sense of excitement about what is yet to come.

Carol Fawsitt
Chair

INTRODUCTION

The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements of The Ark Children's Cultural Centre for the year ended 31 December 2021. The Ark is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102. The Ark's annual financial statements are also produced in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities and not-for-profit entities as developed in the UK in 2005 (SORP) which is accepted as best practice in Ireland.



THE ARK'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Ark is where children come to discover and love art, as is their right. Our Strategic Objectives of **Excellence, Engagement, Sustainability** and **Advocacy** have continuously guided how we fulfil this right since 2017. Even when everything else changed, the fundamentals of our ambitions remained the same: to create brilliant art experiences for children, to ensure that more children experience art with us, to protect The Ark's future as a resource for children and to advance children's right to art and culture. With the events of 2020 and 2021 impacting children on such a vast scale, these ambitions have become more vital than ever. Everything The Ark achieved in 2021 progressed one, often more, of our Strategic Objectives and in the following pages we identify the activities which best demonstrate this.



EXCELLENCE

Goal: Create brilliant art experiences for children by consulting with them

The Ark is founded on the principle that children are entitled to great art made especially for them. Children's lives at home and at school have been severely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we emerge from the crisis, it is perhaps more important than ever that we create high-quality arts experiences for children that spark their imagination and bring joy. Our particular focus is to enable artists to make outstanding and experimental art for children which takes account of the need to both reach them remotely and engage safely in-person once again.

ENGAGEMENT

Goal: Ensure that more children experience art through The Ark

COVID-19 has exposed and amplified the inequalities that exist in children's lives, including their ability to participate in art and culture both digitally and in-person. We will build on our experience and achievements in creating opportunities for children to experience art. Making use of all that we learned in 2020 and taking advantage of emerging opportunities and new practices, we will extend our reach and ensure equality of access. We will create exciting and enticing opportunities for more children to make and share art, whether they are at school or at home, working in-person or online with their parents, carers or teachers, or back with us in The Ark.

SUSTAINABILITY

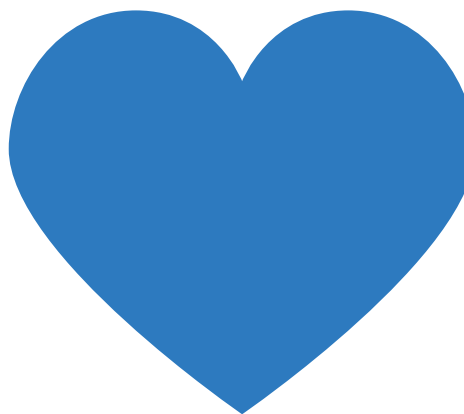
Goal: Build the infrastructure and capabilities that ensure The Ark's future as a cultural centre and resource for children

The Ark is a stronger and more resilient organisation as a result of the exemplary governance practices we instituted between 2017 and 2020. We will continue to be ethical and rigorous in our business and agile in how we respond to public health and other external imperatives. Managing our people is a particular priority: we will invest in our team, supporting their personal wellbeing and their professional capacity to work safely and effectively. We will develop an environmental policy and advance sustainable practices in our work.

ADVOCACY

Goal: Advance children's right to art and culture

The Ark works hard to advance the understanding and activation of the right of children, as full and equal citizens, to experience art and culture. We are proud that we have been recognised for upholding this right, and for positively influencing others to respect and promote this right. We will continue this leadership role locally and nationally to advance children's right to art and culture. Moreover, we will ensure that this right is at the forefront of considerations to ensure children's wellbeing during and after the pandemic.



STRATEGIC DELIVERY REPORT

EXCELLENCE

Goal

Create brilliant art experiences for children

Objective 1

We will present the best of Irish and international art for children in a hybrid programme that encompasses both online and in-person experiences, as appropriate.

Digital and remote programming remained our most effective means to reach (and indeed expand) our audience in 2021. We successfully delivered a digital edition of our annual music festival, **BIG BANG Bubble!** featuring a host of performances and experiences by Irish and international artists either created or adapted to be enjoyed online. Our annual collaboration with Dublin Dance Festival also featured online work: the sharing of dance films by UK company Second Hand Dance.

Our biggest and most successful innovation was the livestreaming of theatre production **What Did I Miss?**. Commissioned in 2020 in rapid response to the pandemic, this new play by Shaun Dunne reflected children's experiences of lockdowns and school closures. Presented as part of the Arts Council's Brightening Air festival, it was viewed by a nationwide audience of 14,000 over one weekend.

In autumn 2021 we safely and successfully welcomed audiences back to Temple Bar. **What Did I Miss?** was performed live for socially-distanced audiences as part of Dublin Theatre Festival and soon after we invited families to visit **Winter Light**, an exhibition of nine Irish artists presenting work commissioned for young audiences in 2020 to explore the coldest season. Concurrently, **Winter Light** was enjoyed by schools online through films, downloadable activity packs and live online workshops. We finished the year with an old favourite, the wintry music show **Tracks in the Snow** commissioned by The Ark and created and performed by The Henry Girls. Live performances were enjoyed by small, socially-distanced audiences here at The Ark, while the show was captured on film to be made available on demand to schools in early 2022.



Objective 2

We will expand our portfolio of commissions, productions and programmes, supporting and resourcing an increased number and diversity of artists, and encouraging them to find innovative ways to experiment with new forms of reaching and engaging children in-person and online.

As detailed above, The Ark produced and presented a large and varied programme of activities – performances, exhibitions, workshops,

in-depth projects – online, off-site and in Temple Bar in 2021. To ensure a continuing pipeline of new work made by, for and about children, we commissioned or supported the development of the following artists over the course of this year, whose work will come to fruition in 2022 and beyond: Róisín de Buítléar (visual arts), Anna Carey (theatre), Fionn Foley (music/theatre), Kate Heffernan (theatre), Jesse Jones (visual arts), Fiona Kelleher and Irene Buckley (music), Lauren Kinsella (music), Claire Langan (visual arts), Helen Mac Mahon (visual arts) and David O'Doherty (theatre).

Additionally, we resourced and supported a number of artists to devise and deliver hands-on activities for children to be engaged with online and off-site, such as one-off workshops, in-depth projects and site-specific activities in schools, early years care settings and libraries. These artists include Duffy Mooney-Sheppard (visual arts), Lucy Hill (visual arts), Jane Groves (visual arts), Joanna Parkes (theatre), Anita Mahon (music) and Monica Muñoz (dance).



Duffy Mooney-Sheppard delivering an online visual arts workshop.



Early Years Dance Artist in Residence Monica Muñoz delivering a workshop.

“I love The Ark: its remit is, literally, to bring joy to people, and that sort of positive energy makes for a really supportive place in which to make work and to take risks.”

SHAUN DUNNE, THE ARK ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION ARTIST

Objective 3

We will further invest in the development of artists' professional practice, specifically extending their capacity to engage with a diverse range of children within the current dynamic context.

The Ark's most significant programme of artist professional development is **PUSH+**, our multi-annual collaborative project funded by Creative Europe. Due to the ongoing pandemic and in particular restrictions on international travel, this was put on hold for 2021.

Meanwhile, our John Coolahan Early Years Artist Residency resumed, with dance artist Monica Muñoz beginning to develop and facilitate dance activities for children aged 2–4 and their guardians. This work began online and off-site in libraries in Ballyfermot, Cabra and Coolock (in partnership with Dublin City Arts Office and Libraries) and will continue in-person in The Ark in 2022.

Artist development and support also occurred year-round through our regular Artist Coffee Mornings (which migrated online and attracted artists from across Ireland and overseas),

through informal advice and mentoring and through support in proposals and funding applications. A number of our regular artist collaborators joined The Ark team for a series of online training sessions in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

“I think it’s important to have a cultural centre specifically for children because it gets more children more creative and innovative. Knowing that our opinions matter gives us more confidence; as we’re the future, we need that.”

NAOMI MOONVELD-NKOSI, PERFORMER IN *WHAT DID I MISS?*



Objective 4

We will invest in teachers by expanding our continuing professional development programme, in Irish and in English, to enhance their learning in the performing and visual arts.

Our biggest success in 2021 was in the delivery of numerous online training sessions for teachers early in the year, detailed in the next section. As the year progressed, reduced demand among teachers for online courses in 2021 meant that we delivered a much smaller programme of CPD training than originally planned. Instead we found other ways to support teachers: we piloted an informal Teachers' Afternoon Cuppa online and created downloadable classroom resource packs in English and Irish to guide teachers through creative activities for their students, connected to curriculum. In particular, we teamed up with STEAM specialist Dr. Niamh Shaw and the Professional Development Service for Teachers to develop 'Caring for Our Earth', a classroom activity pack for Science Week.

We supported early years educators and carers in a number of ways in 2021, notably through an artworks-in-residence programme which was supported by CPD training, and our nascent partnership with Dublin City Arts Office and Libraries focused on creating arts activities for very young children in Ballyfermot, Cabra and Coolock which also included CPD opportunities.



STRATEGIC DELIVERY REPORT

ENGAGEMENT

Goal

Ensure that more children experience art through The Ark



The Ark Art in Schools Project. Photo by Róisín White.

Objective 1

We will work closely with teachers to strengthen children's experience of art at home or in the classroom through remote and online programming, building their skills and confidence to engage online.

Our biggest unforeseen success here was the delivery of training sessions for teachers in early 2021, designed to give teachers the skills

and confidence to deliver arts activities online. Demand was such that these sessions were fully subscribed and repeated throughout January and February, while schools were closed and operating online. Aside from this formal space for teachers' capacity building, all of our online activity for schools, particularly our live online workshops, required teachers to take a more active role in delivery than ever before, leading to a genuine artist-teacher partnership in these engagements.

Objective 2

We will extend and diversify the audience we reach through remote and digital engagement, ensuring we are as inclusive as possible, being mindful of the digital divide.

This is one of the areas in which The Ark truly excelled in 2021, rising to the significant challenges presented by the pandemic. Our livestream of ***What Did I Miss?*** reached 14,000 in one weekend in 25 counties in Ireland, while an accompanying national programme of

live online workshops brought The Ark into classrooms across the country to further explore the idea of marking missed milestones in creative ways. Beyond this, our team also found myriad ways to reach new and previously underserved audiences using targeted approaches and a range of activities and delivery modes, digital and otherwise.

Highlights here include our live online visual arts workshops delivered to Broadband Connection Points (community centres in a number of rural settings), including on Achill and Clare Island;

our pilot online Ark After School Club engaging children living in emergency accommodation connected to us through Focus Ireland; onsite dance workshops in St. John of God Special School in Dublin 8; artworks and arts activities designed just for very young children in early years settings and libraries around Dublin; and art packs made for 100 children in Direct Provision centres around Ireland.



Art Packs made for children in Direct Provision centres around Ireland. Photo by Róisín White.



Objective 3

We will continue to listen to children's view of our work and to pioneer participative decision-making by children in all aspects of our organisation.

2021 saw the completion of a two-year cycle for our outgoing Children's Council and our largest ever recruitment campaign for our 2021/22 Children's Council. This has resulted in a larger, more diverse and better gender-balanced Council than ever before, including representation from children living in emergency accommodation and Direct Provision, as well as strong representation from our local DEIS schools. The Ark Children's Council has contributed significantly to programmatic and organisational decision-making and has shaped a number of key initiatives at The Ark including:

- our Strategy Statement and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy
- the *Winter Light* exhibition catalogue
- the programme and promotion of our digital **BIG BANG Bubble!** festival, including the **BIG BANG Banter** podcast

Objective 4

We will build long-term relationships with our neighbourhood schools.

We continued to offer free access to ten of our neighbourhood schools thanks to corporate and philanthropic support. In addition, we offered free access to our pilot Ark After School Club to students from these and other inner-city DEIS schools. We also brought The Ark Art in Schools Project to five of these schools, installing visual

artworks from The Ark's collection in the schools in rotation, with classroom resources to enhance the teachers' and students' engagement with the works.



Left and above: The Ark Art in Schools Project. Photo by Róisín White.

Objective 5

We will deliver more inclusive experiences for audiences with disabilities and actively seek out those audiences.

In 2021 The Ark revised its Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and created an implementation plan to ensure the policy would have a direct effect on our activity. We also assembled a group of artists with disabilities and artists making work for audiences with disabilities to advise us in this regard. We undertook a number of actions and activities in 2021: we employed 'discovery pens' in our **Winter Light** exhibition which provided audio descriptions of the artworks exhibited; we provided social stories to prepare and orient visitors in advance of coming to The Ark for an event; we offered relaxed performances of **Tracks in the Snow** and we developed a new relationship with St. John of God Special School in Dublin 8.



Discovery Pens used during Winter Light.

STRATEGIC DELIVERY REPORT

SUSTAINABILITY

Goal
Build the infrastructure and capabilities that ensure The Ark's future as a cultural centre and resource for children

Objective 1

We will ensure the capacity of the organisation to meet its governance, compliance and statutory obligations.

We reviewed the full extent of our compliance and statutory obligations, creating a resource plan and identifying the additional capacity and competency needs to meet these requirements. We recruited two new Board members and elected a new Chair. While demanding, given the ever-changing public health context in which we were working, we maintained timely, effective and efficient reporting for our diverse range of funders.

Objective 2

We will develop and roll out a new performance management system to support the development of our team and strengthen how we work individually and collectively.

In 2021 we worked together as a team to develop a Code of Conduct to guide how The Ark staff, Board and collaborators embody our values and deliver on our strategic goals. Our performance management system will be developed in 2023.



The Ark foyer. Photo by Photo by Joseph Carr.

Objective 3

We will develop an environmental policy to institute sustainable attitudes, behaviours and practices into every aspect of our work.

In late 2021 we successfully sought funding from the Arts Council to work with external consultants Native Events on the development of The Ark's Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Plan. Work begins on this in 2022.

Objective 4

We will fully implement our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy, ensuring its philosophy and practices are alive and at work in the organisation.

In 2021 The Ark revised its Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy and created an implementation plan to ensure the policy would have a direct effect on our activity. We began a training programme for The Ark staff and collaborating artists and brought together an advisory group of artists with disabilities and artists making work for audiences with disabilities. Based on our learnings, we undertook a number of actions and activities that have been detailed above.



“As a citizen I hugely appreciate this space where any child, regardless of their background or ability, can be both the looker and the maker and come away inspired.”

JOLE BORTOLI, ARTIST AND REGULAR ARK COLLABORATOR



Objective 5

We will work proactively to diversify our income streams to create a broader income base and establish international partnerships that enhance and amplify our output and impact.

We maintained strong relationships with our core funders, the Arts Council, the Department of Education and Dublin City Council, with each funder increasing its annual grant and/or supporting new initiatives in 2021. The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth supported a variety of projects and our collaboration with Science Foundation Ireland continued. Meanwhile, The Ark continued significant international activity ongoing participation in two Creative Europe-funded projects, **PUSH+** and **BIG BANG!**

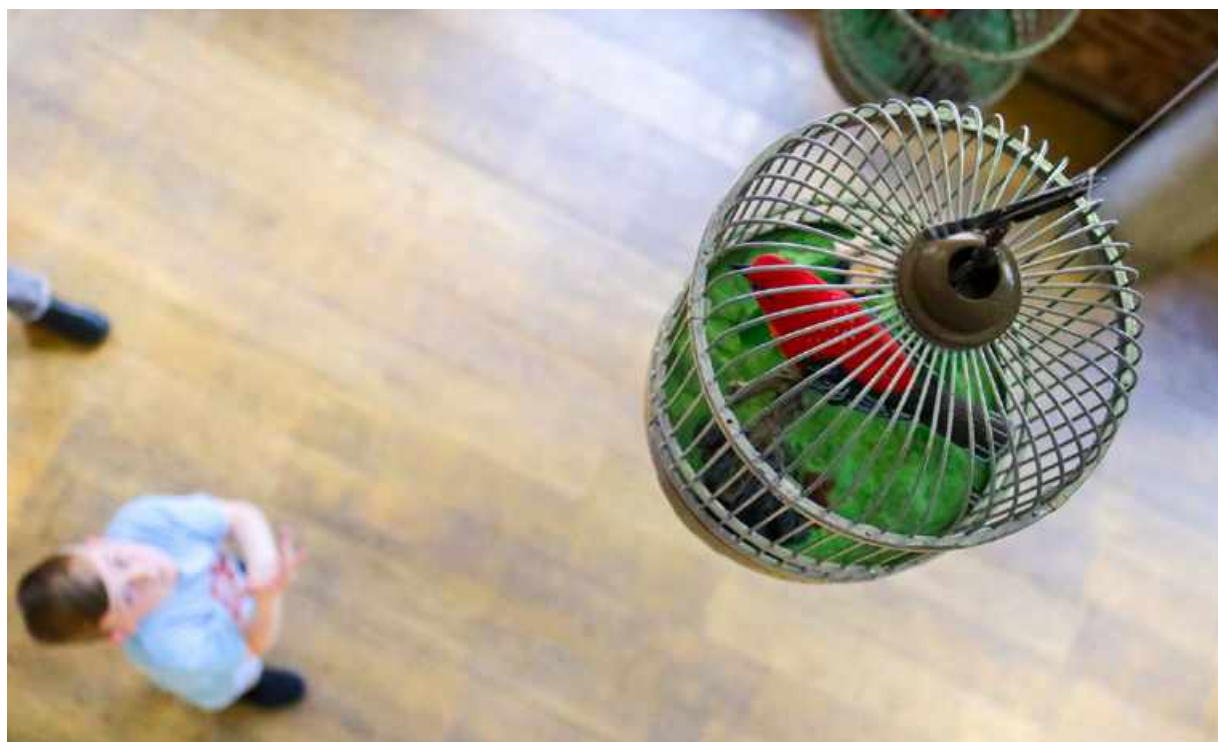
In 2021 our funders were joined by the Department of Rural & Community Development to support our work in rural community centres and, most notably, Rethink Ireland began supporting our **Live From The Ark** nationwide digital programme. We reignited our relationship with corporate supporter Mason Hayes & Curran and maintained a connection to individual givers through our 25 Years and Counting campaign.

2021 saw The Ark participate in two programmes designed to build our capacity in terms of measuring and communicating our impact and making our case for support: the Arts Council's RAISE programme and Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme.

Objective 6

We will look after our building, attending to evolving health and safety practices, codes and standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of audiences, artists and staff within it.

In 2021 we responded to evolving changes in COVID-19 protocols, ensuring that when restrictions allowed, we could bring staff and audiences back to The Ark safely. While closed, we undertook an amount of general upkeep of the building that would otherwise be difficult to do.



Audience member enjoying an installation. Photo by Orfhlaith Gannon.

STRATEGIC DELIVERY REPORT

ADVOCACY

Goal

Advance children's right to art and culture



Objective 1

We will continue to raise public awareness of every child's right to culture, advocating for the central role of art and culture in national policy for children and for the centrality of children in arts policy.

The Ark Director continued her tenure on a number of committees with the express intention to position children and their right to art and culture centrally in national policy. This included the National Advisory Council for Children who works with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, the Creative Ireland Expert Advisory Group, and the steering committee of the National Campaign for The Arts.

Most notably, in 2021 The Ark was invited to present at a High Level Event at the United Nations. Entitled ***Building back better: towards a more resilient and impactful culture sector, throughout COVID-19 and the Decade of Action***, this event saw The Ark present its child-centred practice with an emphasis on ***What Did I Miss?***, our rapid response to children's experience of the pandemic, lockdowns and school closures.

Objective 2

We will review and document existing research on rights-based arts practices in order to establish The Ark's research priorities for the future.

In late 2021 we began collaborating with Imagine, a Scottish organisation that promotes and develops performance for children, on a project which surveys evidence of the impact of the arts on young audiences. This project is designed to support freelance artists to make the case for the work they do with and for children, but may also identify gaps in research on rights-based arts practices. The project will develop throughout 2022.

Objective 3

We will promote the voice of the child inside and outside of The Ark.

We see all of our work as an advocacy campaign for children's right to art and culture and children's right to influence matters pertaining to them. The child's voice is a thread running through all of our internal and external activity, communications and decision-making.

Outstandingly, 2021 saw The Ark Children's Council make history by becoming the youngest ever citizens to address the Oireachtas, challenging the representatives present to give greater consideration to children in their decision-making. Invited to speak to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth on children's experience of the pandemic following on from The Ark's ***What Did I Miss?*** livestream and nationwide engagement project, the Children's Council gathered the perspectives

of hundreds of children from across Ireland. They distilled these submissions into a series of presentations covering how the pandemic and subsequent restrictions affected school, family life, social and cultural activities and our very attitudes towards children. One presentation began with the powerful words, 'I am not a vector.'



Collaborative visual arts workshop at The Ark. Photo by Magda Kozłowska.

THE ARK CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

The Ark Children's Council was established in 2016 to bring children into The Ark's decision-making processes. This pioneering form of child consultation and participative practice offers a unique opportunity for a group of 4th to 6th class children to gain special access to events at The Ark and to provide input on our work. The Children's Council is mentored and guided by The Ark Engagement & Participation Artist, Shaun Dunne. The Children's Council acts as the formal voice of the child in The Ark, contributing to our organisation's decision-making by consulting with our staff and Board on programme and policies.

The Ark's largest Children's Council to date was comprised of 35 children from schools in and near Dublin (both DEIS and non-DEIS). Traditionally a one-year programme, 2021 saw the culmination of a two-year cycle for a Children's Council that had almost all of its activity migrate online due to COVID-19. Nevertheless, this cohort left its mark on The Ark. Their achievements in 2021 include:

- giving advice and feedback on The Ark Strategy Statement 2021–23 and our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

- developing content for the *Winter Light* exhibition catalogue
- consulting on the programme and promotion of our digital *BIG BANG Bubble!* festival, including creating the *BIG BANG Banter* podcast
- consulting with the Office of the Ombudsman for Children on Ireland's progress with regard to the fulfilment of children's rights
- addressing the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children, representing the views of children all over Ireland on their experience of the pandemic.

"My experience in The Ark was fun, different, challenging, inclusive. The best experience ever!"

LILYROSE, AGE 12

"My advice for the next Children's Council is to be creative, think outside of the box and give it your all, because you'll be amazed about what you can do there."

CHAM, AGE 13



Members of our Children's Council outside the Oireachtas before their address with Director Aideen Howard. Photo by Mark Stedman.

IMPACT OF THE ARK: *WHAT DID I MISS?*

We believe in every child's right to discover and love art in a society where creativity and culture are valued and enrich all our lives. With the help of innovative artists and collaborators, supportive funders and partners and a growing network of schools and communities, in 2021 The Ark made extraordinary strides in fulfilling the right to art and culture for tens of thousands children in Ireland! In everything we do we strive for excellence, engagement, sustainability and advocacy. This year we delivered *What Did I Miss?*, an enormous national project which demonstrates our achievements in all of these areas.



Naomi Moonveld-Nkosi press photography for *What Did I Miss?*
Photo by Mark Stedman.

What Did I Miss?

Originally commissioned by The Ark in 2020, this play written by Shaun Dunne drew on children's direct experiences of the pandemic and school closures. A play written about children and for children, it didn't quite reach the stage in 2020...

Brightening Air

The Ark included a reimagined version of *What Did I Miss?* in the Arts Council's nationwide festival, **Brightening Air** in June 2021. We developed a plan for a nationwide programme of 30 live online schools workshops to further explore the impact of the pandemic on children, particularly those reaching the end of their primary school experience.

We also teamed up with creative agency Tiny Ark to embark on something we never had before: our first ever livestreamed performance. We reassembled the cast and crew, including actor Sarah Morris and former Children's Council member Naomi Moonveld-Nkosi, and livestreamed *What Did I Miss?* four times over one weekend. It was viewed by over 14,000 people in 25 counties in Ireland!



Members of the Children's Council outside the Oireachtas.
Photo by Mark Stedman.

Addressing the Oireachtas

As a result of this project, The Ark Children's Council was invited to address the Oireachtas. The Children's Council asked the children of Ireland to share their thoughts on their experience of the pandemic. They distilled over 300 responses into three speeches delivered by Conor, LilyRose and Olga. These three children are the youngest citizens to ever address the Oireachtas, and they challenged the Joint Committee on Children to consider children's own experiences in their decision-making.

Media reach

The Ark Children's Council addressing the Oireachtas was big news! It was featured on RTE's News2Day and 9 O'Clock News, in The Irish Times, Irish Examiner, Irish Daily Mail and many online outlets, with an estimated total reach of 1.2M!

"My character's name is Kyla, she wants to get this graduation done as a kind of closure because in a way, she's sort of lost during this lockdown."

NAOMI MOONVELD-NKOSI, PERFORMER,
WHAT DID I MISS?

"In creating the main character, 13-year-old Kyla, I wanted to take inspiration from our Council's resilience, adaptability and optimistic nature. I knew Kyla was going to be ambitious, hardworking and willing to take on new challenges, just like the young people we have the pleasure of collaborating with at The Ark."

SHAUN DUNNE, WRITER AND DIRECTOR,
WHAT DID I MISS?

"Children felt disempowered and invisible in the COVID-related decision-making. An arts organisation, The Ark, brought their voices into the Oireachtas committee for the first time."

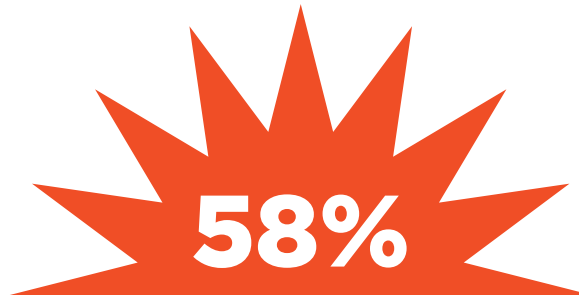
AIDEEN HOWARD, DIRECTOR, THE ARK

"Maybe as a Government you can ask us children about what we think before making decisions for and about us. Listen to us!"

OLGA BUCKLEY, THE ARK CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

300

**CHILDREN ANSWERING
OUR CALLOUT**



58%

**OF THE AUDIENCE
OUTSIDE DUBLIN**

VIEWS IN 25 COUNTIES

14,000

PEOPLE TUNING IN



1.2M

MEDIA REACH

700

CHILDREN

ENJOYING WORKSHOPS

2021 PROGRAMME



Brave New World: Artists' Reflection and Discussion 12 FEB

Our third online artists' panel discussion in which speakers and attendees reflected on the success of various online formats and the importance of staying connected with child audiences.



The Marvellous Stuff Neighbourhood Project APR - MAY

The Ark and artist Lucy Hill worked online with students from Presentation Primary George's Hill in Dublin 7 to celebrate the extraordinary potential of ordinary 'stuff' we find all around us.



Winter Light Online 16 JAN - 7 MAR

Although our *Winter Light* exhibition had been postponed due to restrictions, we created an online gallery so that these brand new wintry artworks, commissioned by The Ark, could be enjoyed safely at home, paired with schools workshops.



St. Patrick's Festival: Animal Transformations 12 - 15 MAR

We celebrated St Patrick's Day by rediscovering the ancient tales of shapeshifting creatures and creating books in a book-making video workshop with Duffy Mooney-Sheppard.



Online Crafts Club 30 & 31 JAN

Presented in partnership with Design & Crafts Council Ireland, these online workshops inspired children to create unique artworks using materials easily found at home.



BIG BANG Bubble! 3- 11 APRIL

Our annual international music festival for children went online and included live online performances, music, films and the *BIG BANG Banter* podcast.



Teachers' Afternoon Cuppa APR - JUN

We created new informal online events for teachers to come together, learn about upcoming activities from The Ark and hear from speakers from the arts and education sectors.




Parade of the Fairy Folk 6 - 20 FEB

This online visual arts programme by Duffy Mooney-Sheppard featured fairy parade-themed arts activities inspiring creativity within the home.



Grass Films and Workshops 24 MAY - 1 JUN

As part of Dublin Dance Festival we explored the ground and all its wriggling inhabitants through dance films and workshops for young audiences by Second Hand Dance.



Early Years Artworks in Residence
MAY - JUL

Continuing activity from 2020, The Ark and artist Jane Groves installed artworks in early years and library settings: one in Jigsaw, Darndale Belcamp Integrated Childcare Service in May and one in Ballyfermot Library in July.



Creative Hubs
JUL - NOV

In partnership with Dublin City Arts Office and Libraries, The Ark devised and delivered workshops for early years children and their families online and in-person in libraries and community settings in Ballyfermot, Cabra and Coolock.



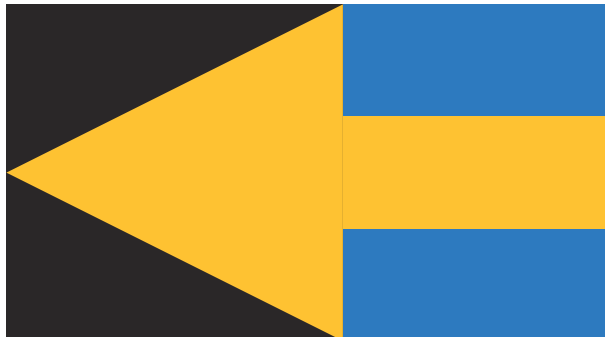
What Did I Miss? at DTF
1 - 10 OCT

The Ark and Dublin Theatre Festival presented *What Did I Miss?* live and in-person. A filmed version of the show was viewed by schools nationwide.



Live From The Ark: What Did I Miss?
11 - 13 JUN

We livestreamed a new show by Shaun Dunne, *What Did I Miss?*, live from The Ark directly to thousands of homes and schools across the country as part of *Brightening Air*.




LEGO Stop Motion Animation Workshops
26 - 30 OCT

The Ark teamed up with Create Schools to fill the mid-term break with online and in-person stop motion animation workshops using LEGO.



Cruinniú na nÓg
12 JUN

On this day we displayed children's art in our online gallery of artworks created by children of all ages and their families online during The Ark After School Club, plus we offered online music workshops for all ages.



The Ark Digital Studio
AUG - NOV

The Ark and artist Lucy Hill delivered live online visual arts workshops in Broadband Connection Points: centres designed to connect rural communities with highspeed broadband.



The Ark After School Club
OCT - NOV

The Ark After School Club was a pilot programme of online creative writing workshops for children attending DEIS schools in inner-city Dublin led by writer Kate Heffernan. Exploring 'My Place', participants created a zine.



STUFF!
1 JUL - 14 AUG

Everyday objects and stuff that surrounds us were explored and celebrated in this online workshop programme for schools and families. **STUFF!** also included Summer Provision workshops for children with additional needs and those in DEIS schools.



Culture Night
17 SEPT

An early years workshop with Monica Muñoz explored an imaginary forest and its inhabitants through dance, while a visual arts workshop with Duffy Mooney-Sheppard reimagined animals as messengers, guides and fairies.





Science Week at The Ark

8 - 14 NOV

The Ark, the Department of Education and Dr. Niamh Shaw presented an exciting free classroom activity pack bursting with science and drama inspiration. We also offered online schools workshops inspired by constellations and nature.



Tracks in the Snow

4 - 5 DEC

One of The Ark's most popular music shows returned for a limited live run. We followed the heavenly harmonies of The Henry Girls into an enchanting world of winter! The performance was filmed to be made available to schools in 2022.



St. Andrew's Day Performances

29 NOV

The Ark and Live Music Now Scotland celebrated St. Andrew's Day with a free music performance by Caitriona Hawksworth and Sally Simpson, attended by St. Laurence O'Toole's Boys and Girls, Dublin 1.



Sparkle & Light Workshops

6 - 10 DEC

The Ark and artists Phillida Eves and Monica Muñoz delivered an in-depth weeklong workshop programme in St John of God Special School, Dublin 8, responding directly to the needs and interests of children with disabilities.



The Ark Art in Schools Project

ALL YEAR

The Ark installed visual artworks from our collection in five of our neighbourhood DEIS schools in rotation throughout the year. Teachers received a resource pack with information about each artwork and suggested arts activities linked to the curriculum.



Winter Tales by Candlelight

NOV - DEC

In partnership with Focus Ireland, The Ark and Duffy Mooney-Sheppard ran a series of workshops for children and guardians living in emergency accommodation and Direct Provision. We used this opportunity to send 100 art packs to these and other children.



Artists' Coffee Mornings

ALL YEAR

Following our in-person January Coffee Morning in collaboration with First Fortnight, in April, May, June and October we went online to give artists interested in working with and for children the opportunity to meet and chat.



Winter Light

20 NOV 2021 - 30 JAN 2022

Winter Light was exhibited and opened to the public in-person as originally planned.



Seedlings & Early Years Workshops

ALL YEAR

Artists Joanna Parkes, Lucy Hill, Monica Muñoz, Orla Kelly and Karen Power facilitated workshops and activities in drama, visual arts and dance for children aged 2-4 and their guardians.



Continuing Professional Development for Teachers

ALL YEAR

This included 'Creativity in the Online Classroom' with Duffy Mooney-Sheppard, a visual arts course led by Jole Bortoli and workshops for members of the Professional Development Service for Teachers with Lucy Hill.



GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The Ark Children's Cultural Centre (trading as The Ark), is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital, registered in Dublin, Ireland with registered company number 222774. The Ark is also a charity with CHY number 11334 and RCN 20030827.



MISSION

Established in 1995, The Ark is a dedicated cultural centre for children. We create opportunities for children, along with their families and friends or with their school, to discover and love art. We commission, produce and present work for, by and about children, from the ages of two to twelve years old. We do so in our architecturally award-winning home in the heart of Dublin's Temple Bar, leased through a long-term cultural use agreement with Temple Bar Cultural Trust. We also work off-site and on tour in Ireland and abroad. Through our work with leading Irish and international artists, children can attend and enjoy performances in our unique child-sized theatre and via online channels, view engaging exhibitions or participate in creative workshops. We also curate specific professional development opportunities for teachers and artists.

We work in partnership with others as artistic collaborators and regularly share our resources and knowledge with artists, educators and all those interested in child-centred arts practice. We also work with other like-minded organisations to advance children's right to art and culture as part of their learning and development. The Ark is dedicated to creating brilliant art experiences for children, schools, and families.

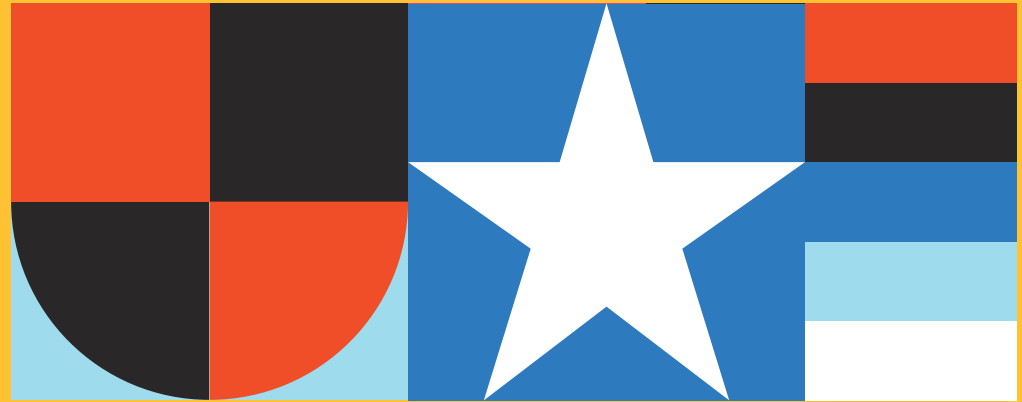


OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

The Ark's vision, mission and values are inspired by Article 31 of the **UN Convention on the Rights of The Child [1989]** which was ratified by Ireland in 1992.

Article 31:

1. **State Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.**
2. **State Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.**



OUR VALUES

Our values are what we stand for. They guide and motivate our attitudes, behaviours and decision-making as we put children at the heart of everything we do. They can be shared and expressed by children, artists, and staff alike.

Doing our best: We seek to do our best every day. With a positive attitude and commitment to excellence we encourage all those who engage with us to be at their best too.

Being friendly and welcoming: Everyone is welcome at The Ark and we love sharing what we do and how we do it. We treat everyone the way we would like to be treated ourselves – with respect and consideration.

Having fun: We enjoy our work and take it seriously too! We love creating opportunities for children, collaborators, and colleagues to have fun.

Being brave: We are always open to trying out new ideas and to being adventurous and brave in how we make art. We stand for and speak up for children while also encouraging them to express themselves.

Always learning: We are constantly curious and always alert to change. We create opportunities to learn for ourselves and from each other. We appreciate what we learn by experience – and by mistakes. We share our learning with others.

Board, Directors, Committees

The Ark is governed by a Board of Directors with a minimum of five members. Directors are elected to the Board for three-year terms, by a majority vote among existing Directors, at The Ark's annual general meetings. They may serve successive terms, to a maximum of nine years. Directors may also be co-opted on to the Board, with approval of existing Directors, between AGMs. The CEO, Aileen Howard, is not a member of the Board. The secretary who served throughout the financial year was The Ark's General Manager, Al Russell. Directors serve on a voluntary basis, with no remuneration. In 2021, no directors claimed expenses to be reimbursed.

The Ark Board conducts meetings at least five times annually including the AGM. In 2021 the Board met five times, including the AGM on 17 June 2021. In 2021 a new Chair was elected: Carol Fawsitt. Brian Lavery and Gerard Smyth stood down as Directors at the 2021 AGM, while two new Directors were appointed: Shane Hegarty and Annie Ó Breacháin.



Photo by Myles Shelly.

BOARD MEMBERS	DATE APPOINTED	EXPERTISE	BIOGRAPHY	BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2021
Carol Fawsitt (Chair)	08/02/17	HR, Law	Carol Fawsitt is a solicitor who specialised in employment law. She was a Senior Partner and Head of the Employment Law Department at Hayes Solicitors. She is a non-executive Director of a number of charities and a member of the Charity Appeals Tribunal which deals with appeals from the Charities Regulator.	5/5
Brian Lavery (Resigned 17 June 2021)	05/09/12	Business, Marketing, Media	Brian is a manager in Google's European e-commerce business. He previously held senior management positions at AccuWeather, Twitter, and Vodafone Ireland, and was a management consultant with McKinsey & Co. He has also served on the boards of Irish environmental organisations. His two daughters have been lifelong patrons of The Ark.	3/3
Gerard Smyth (Resigned 17 June 2021)	05/09/12	Arts, Media, Poetry, Theatre	Gerard is a poet, critic, and journalist. He worked for over 40 years with The Irish Times, including as Managing Editor with responsibility for the paper's literary and arts coverage. His poetry has appeared widely in publications in English, since the late 1960s, as well as in translation.	3/3
Tomm Moore	11/05/16	Animation, Illustration	Tomm Moore is Co-Founder and Creative Director of Oscar Award-nominated Cartoon Saloon, founded in 1999 by Tomm, Nora Twomey and Paul Young, who met whilst studying animation in Ballyfermot Senior College Dublin.	4/5
Dr. Anne Looney	08/02/17	Education	Anne Looney is the Executive Dean of Dublin City University's new Institute of Education. A former teacher, from 2001 until 2016 she was the CEO of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.	5/5
Prof. Anne O'Gara	11/12/19	Education	Anne O'Gara was President of Marino Institute of Education (MIE) from 2006 to 2018, having previously worked as a Primary Inspector with the Department of Education and Skills. She is Adjunct Professor in the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and a Director of the Board of Tusla, where she acts as Deputy Chair.	5/5
Catherine Cotter	11/12/19	Arts, Education	In addition to running her own commercial interiors company, Catherine Cotter has worked in the arts and education sectors for over 30 years, including spearheading arts programmes in Ireland and Portugal, and contributing to some of Ireland's most prominent literature organisations.	5/5
Lynda Carroll	11/12/19	Finance, Accountancy and Tax	Lynda Carroll is a chartered accountant and chartered tax advisor. She has over 30 years' experience in financial services at board and senior executive level. She now works as an Independent Non-Executive Director in the financial services, state and voluntary sectors.	5/5
Shane Hegarty	21/04/21	Arts, Media	Shane Hegarty is the author of the bestselling children's series <i>Boot</i> and <i>Darkmouth</i> . Previously a journalist and editor with The Irish Times, he is now a full-time writer, translated into 20 languages and regularly appearing at events and festivals in Ireland and the UK.	4/4
Annie Ó Breacháin	21/04/21	Education	Annie Ó Breacháin is Assistant Professor in Drama Education in the Institute of Education, Dublin City University (DCU). Annie previously worked with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) and was Chairperson of the Association for Drama in Education in Ireland (ADEI) from 2017 to 2021.	4/4

The Ark Board has an Audit & Risk Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and recommending to the Board for approval: the annual budget, audited accounts, and risk register. The committee reports to the Board and meets at least three times annually.

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DATE APPOINTED	COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2021
Gerard Smyth (Chair until June 2021)	25/05/17	2/2
Brian Lavery (resigned June 2021)	25/05/17	2/2
Dr. Anne Looney	19/11/18	2/2
Lynda Carroll (Chair from June 2021)	14/04/20	3/3
Carol Fawsitt	15/11/21	2/2
John Donnellan (Auditor)	n/a	1/3

The Board also has a Governance Committee, which advises and assists The Ark's management in the areas of governance and compliance for the organisation. This includes The Ark's compliance with the Charities Regulator's Governance Code which it has been compliant with since 2020. The Committee met four times in 2021.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DATE APPOINTED	COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2021
Brian Lavery (Chair until June 2021)	17/09/18	2/2
Carol Fawsitt (Chair from June 2021)	17/09/18	4/4
Prof. Anne O'Gara	13/05/20	4/4
Lynda Carroll	13/05/20	3/4

The Board Resources Committee advises and assists the Board Chairperson on matters relating to the management of the Board, including the board's skills and experience profile, recruitment of new board members, and succession planning. In addition to these Committees, the Board has a Fundraising & Development Working Group whose members are Carol Fawsitt, Catherine Cotter and Shane Hegarty.

BOARD RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DATE APPOINTED	COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE IN 2021
Brian Lavery (Chair until June 2021)	05/06/19	1/1
Carol Fawsitt (Chair from June 2021)	05/06/19	3/3
Gerard Smyth (resigned June 2021)	05/06/19	1/1
Lynda Carroll	17/06/21	2/2



THE ARK

THEATRE

ART

ART

ART

 The Ark

Board Recruitment and Induction

The Ark Board has agreed on a protocol for the recruitment and appointment of Directors to the Board, as follows:

- The Resources Committee identifies gaps in the competencies, skills and needs of the Board and looks to recruit accordingly, while also taking into account The Ark's Strategy and EDI Policy.
- Candidates can be identified in a number of ways: from the Board and Executive's own networks and contacts or through an open call/advertisement. Candidates can also express their interest in joining The Ark Board at any time, to be considered when a vacancy arises.
- Candidates prepare an expression of interest and CV, and shortlisted candidates are invited to an interview with the Resources Committee and the Director.
- If recommended by the interview panel and approved by the Board, steps are taken to complete the necessary regulatory documentation and the candidate is provided with the letter of induction, the Board pack and an orientation meeting.

Conflicts of Interest Policy

If it is proposed that The Ark enters a contract or a financial or professional arrangement with any organisation or individual then any Director who has an interest in or connection with that organisation, either directly or indirectly, must declare his/her interest to the Board. Directors have an opportunity to declare any conflicts of interest at the start of every Board meeting. In the event of a conflict of interest, a Director must make a statement, answer any questions posed to them by other Directors, leave the room and refrain from voting on the particular issue. In the interest of avoiding conflicts of interest, a former Executive Director of The Ark may not be appointed to the Board of Directors until a minimum of two years has elapsed since he/she ceased to be employed by the organisation.

The duty of loyalty is a standard of commitment; a Director must give undivided faithfulness when making decisions affecting the organisation. A Director can never use information obtained as a Director for personal gain or for a role in another organisation, but must act in the best interests of The Ark. Lastly, Directors must not accept gifts or favours which could compromise their position on the Board. As outlined in the Code of Conduct, all gifts with a value of more than €100 must be declared.

Governance

The Ark is fully compliant with the annual requirements of the Charities Regulator as well as the Companies Registration Office. The Ark is fully compliant with the Charities Governance Code, The Arts Council Transparency Scale, and the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The Ark publishes information about its governance and other company information online.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages proactively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. The Ark Children's Cultural Centre CLG subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2014
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- Children First Act 2015
- Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Charities Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public 2017

Management and Staffing

The Ark is managed by Director Aideen Howard, who was supported in 2021 by a staff comprising the General Manager, Programme Manager and Visual Arts & Workshop Coordinator, Finance Officer, Production Manager and Assistant Production Manager, Engagement & Participation Coordinator, PR Consultant, Marketing Consultant, Marketing Coordinator, Development & Advocacy Manager, Housekeeper, Visitor Services Manager, Visitor Services Coordinator, and a part-time panel of Visitor Services Assistants. In late 2021, three staff began their maternity leave and three staff began their maternity cover.

For details of staff salary ranges, please refer to our Financial Statements.

Remuneration and Performance Management

The Ark takes care to remunerate its staff in accordance with arts sector standards and takes into account experience levels and length of service when determining salaries. Individual work plans are set and agreed annually in accordance with The Ark Strategy Statement. The Ark will develop a performance management system in 2023.

Volunteers

Rather than running a year-round volunteering programme, The Ark recruits volunteers for specific activities when additional support is required. Volunteers are recruited through public call outs. When recruited, volunteers receive training and induction as well as detailed briefings regarding the activities to which they are contributing. All volunteers are vetted by An Garda Síochána before they begin their activities and are supervised throughout. No volunteers were engaged in 2021.

Investment Policy

The policy of The Ark Board is to invest any monies where risk is kept to a minimum. Hence, to date any funds that have accrued have been held in fixed term deposit account with AIB Bank.

Reserves Policy

The Ark's reserves policy requires that:

- Prudent and adequate budgetary controls are in place to ensure that the resources of the company are not depleted unnecessarily.
- A reserve should be maintained in a readily realisable form and used for any cash flow requirements.
- The reserves and use of any surplus to the baseline reserve is reviewed regularly by the The Ark Board.
- To reflect the Charities Regulator's Governance Code and Arts Council funding conditions, a Reserves Policy was agreed in 2019 and The Ark continues to work towards a target Reserves total of at least €160,000, which represents three months' operating costs.

Managing Risk

The main financial risks to The Ark emanate from any potential reduction in funding from the Arts Council and the Department of Education, our two primary supporters. The company continues to mitigate this risk by diversifying its revenue streams wherever possible.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presented some uncertainties in 2021. While The Ark was able to successfully deliver on its strategic objectives with our continued and expanded online delivery of our programme, box office income was severely reduced. The pandemic continued to place limits on our use of our building and capacities and we only reopened for in-person programming in October. While our core funding was not negatively impacted in 2021, it is anticipated that there may be some pressure on public funding sources in future years as the legacy of the pandemic impacts public spending.

As an arts organisation that works directly with the public, and particularly with children, The Ark also faces a number of unique operational and reputational risks. Both The Ark's management and Board monitor and control these risks with regular reporting on our Risk Register. In addition, we regularly review and update our policies that govern areas such as Child Safeguarding, Health and Safety, and others. Other unique operational risks for our organisation include IT and data security and recruitment and retention of staff. We mitigate the inherent risks in these areas through the strict implementation and monitoring of relevant policies and engagement of specialised third parties to advise on these areas.

Communications

To reach our audience of children, we promote our activities to the decision-makers in their lives: parents, families and teachers. We reach these through a mix of activity online (website, email, social media, online listings and advertising) and in print (posters, flyers, brochures, mailouts and occasional print and outdoor advertising). The Ark also plays a significant role in teacher and artist development, so we communicate regularly with these cohorts and offer free membership schemes for each so that they have access to events, training and opportunities.

The Ark speaks to a wide range of stakeholders: funders and supporters, partners and peers in the arts, education and children's sectors, professional networks and so on. Alongside meeting our reporting requirements from funders, we send regular updates to stakeholders every year and encourage them to engage in our activity.

In addition to public-facing communications and stakeholder engagement, The Ark places great emphasis on strategic media activity. In collaboration with an external consultant, we seek local and national coverage across print, broadcast and online. This serves to promote our programme and encourage attendance and participation, but also to reinforce the importance of children's right to art and culture, the value participation in the arts brings to children and the distinct role the arts can play in empowering our youngest citizens.



The Ark

Coming Up



Hello!
This is The Ark



A
place to
DISCOVER
and **LOVE**
ART



With your
FAMILY, your
FRIENDS and
with your
SCHOOL...

On Now & Soon



WELCOME TO THE ARK
We believe in many
different ways to discover
and love art in a society
where diversity and
culture are valued and
celebrated.

Our mission is to spark
children's imaginations
for learning and sharing
about art for all and
young children, bringing
you and creating a
cultural programme
that lasts a lifetime.



INTRODUCTION TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021 was a year of flux, which nevertheless resulted in The Ark delivering a rich programme that reached significant audiences nationwide. The vast majority of our programme was delivered online, though we were heartened to bring audiences safely back into our building as the year came to a close.

With a focus on keeping The Ark team together, supporting artists, and ensuring that children could still participate in quality arts experiences, we continued to manage our finances guided by two principles. Firstly, that creating great artwork and delivering great cultural experiences requires significant investment. Secondly, that as an organisation primarily funded by the State we have a responsibility to manage our finances prudently, ensuring that such investments produce meaningful results.

At the close of 2021, The Ark had assets of €1,005,594 (2020 - €962,984) and liabilities of €742,202 (2020 - €656,561). The net assets of the charity decreased by €43,031 which reflects depreciation on assets purchased as part of capital projects over the past few years.

Public funding was key to The Ark in 2021, with principal support from the Arts Council and significant support from the Department of Education. Temple Bar Cultural Trust supports The Ark through the provision of the premises by way of a cultural use agreement. Throughout all the challenges of the year, these core funders, along with all our grant funders and regular donors, provided the consistent support needed to weather the pandemic. Additional public funding came from Dublin City Council, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, Science Foundation Ireland, Dublin UNESCO City of Literature and new funder Department of Rural & Community Development. Philanthropic support came through a new relationship with Rethink Ireland as well as the Community Foundation for Ireland and RTÉ Does Comic Relief. Corporate support came from Mason Hayes & Curran. In addition to box office income and partnerships, income was generated from our membership scheme and donations from the public.

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account) for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
		2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
	Notes	€	€	€	€	€	€
Income							
Grants & Programme	3.1	1,040,167	139,700	1,179,867	816,333	57,620	873,953
Funding							
Charitable activities	3.2	60,688	38,738	99,426	59,288	-	59,288
Other trading activities	3.3	5,766	41,157	46,923	31,785	-	31,785
Other income	3.4	826	-	826	68,955	-	68,955
Total income		1,107,447	219,595	1,327,042	976,361	57,620	1,033,981
Expenditure							
Raising funds	4.1	250,165	-	250,165	180,179	-	180,179
Charitable activities	4.2	845,587	274,321	1,119,908	796,706	113,244	909,950
Total Expenditure		1,095,752	274,321	1,370,073	976,885	113,244	1,090,129
Net income/(expenditure)		11,695	(54,726)	(43,031)	(524)	(55,624)	(56,148)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	57,495	(57,495)	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		11,695	(54,726)	(43,031)	56,971	(113,119)	(56,148)
Reconciliation of funds							
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2021	14	188,216	118,207	306,423	131,245	231,326	362,571
Balances carried forward at 31 December 2021		199,911	63,481	263,392	188,216	118,207	306,423

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 15th June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:CAROL FAWSITT
ChairpersonANNE O'GARA
Director

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	10	112,238	148,217
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	33,974	62,239
Cash at bank and in hand		859,382	752,528
		893,356	814,767
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	(742,202)	(656,561)
Net Current Assets		151,154	158,206
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		263,392	306,423
Funds			
Restricted funds		63,481	118,207
Unrestricted designated funds		162,957	135,957
General fund (unrestricted)		36,954	52,259
Total funds	14	263,392	306,423

Approved by the Board of Directors on 15th June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

CAROL FAWSITT
ChairpersonANNE O'GARA
Director

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds		(43,031)	(56,149)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		62,696	58,278
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		19,665	2,129
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		28,265	40,149
Movement in creditors		85,641	284,994
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		133,571	327,272
Cash generated from operations		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(26,717)	(13,275)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		106,854	313,997
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2021		752,528	438,531
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2021	22	859,382	752,528
		<hr/>	<hr/>

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Ark Children's Cultural Centre is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the company is 11a Eustace Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2, D02 A590, Ireland which is also the principal place of business of the company. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102', effective 1 January 2019.

The charity has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland.

As permitted by the Companies Act 2014, the charity has varied the standard formats in that act for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with section 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of that SORP.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2021 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102'.

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.
- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the Board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the Board's discretion to apply the fund.

Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities include income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance-related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the charity. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance-based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.
- Time-based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases, the charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable, and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities and raising funds. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computer & IT equipment	- 20% Straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% Straight line
Comms. systems	- 20% Straight line
Office equipment	- 20% Straight line

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months' notice of withdrawal.

Taxation and deferred taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable exemption.

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. Annual contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

3. INCOME

3.1. DONATIONS AND GRANTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€
Arts Council - Strategic Funding	680,000	-	680,000	595,000
Arts Council - Creative Europe Co-Funding Award	-	-	-	7,400
Arts Council - The Brightening Air Festival	-	55,000	55,000	-
Arts Council RAISE Programme	-	4,500	4,500	-
Creative Europe (Big Bang Project)	-	9,848	9,848	-
Culture Ireland	-	-	-	1,500
Dublin City Council (DCC)/UNESCO	-	3,000	3,000	2,000
Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Dept. of Education via PDST	344,167	4,915	349,082	203,333
Dublin City Council (DCC) - Creative Hubs Projects	-	19,541	19,541	-
Dublin City Council (DCC) - Neighbourhood Grant	-	2,350	2,350	3,400
Dublin City Council (DCC) - Revenue Grant	16,000	-	16,000	16,000
Other Grants	-	19,300	19,300	8,000
Support in Kind	-	11,246	11,246	27,320
	1,040,167	139,700	1,179,867	873,953

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

3.1.1 PUBLIC FUNDING BREAKDOWN 2020

Grantor	Grant	Purpose	Restricted	Accrued/ (Deferred)	Grant Awarded	Received	Income	Accrued/ (Deferred)
				2020	2021	2021	2021	2021
				€	€	€	€	€
Arts Council	Strategic Funding 2021	Core Funding	Unrestricted	148,750	680,000	531,250	680,000	-
Arts Council	Strategic Funding 2022	Core Funding	Unrestricted	-	-	-	-	176,250
Arts Council	The Brightening Air Festival	Project Funding	Restricted	-	55,000	55,000	55,000	-
Arts Council	Commissions Grant	Project Funding	Restricted	-	11,200	11,200	7,000	4,200
Arts Council	Creative Europe Co-Funding Award	Project Funding	Restricted	3,775	-	-	-	3,775
Arts Council	Capacity Building 1	Organisational Development	Restricted	18,000	2,000	2,000	20,000	-
Arts Council	Capacity Building 2	Organisational Development	Restricted	-	15,853	15,853	11,738	4,115
Arts Council	COVID-19 Expenses	Expenses	Unrestricted	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	-
Arts Council	RAISE Programme	Payroll Contribution	Restricted	-	9,000	9,000	4,500	4,500
Dublin City Council	Revenue Grant	Core Funding	Unrestricted	-	16,000	16,000	16,000	-
Dublin City Council	Cruinniú na nÓg 2021	Project Funding	Unrestricted	-	7,000	7,000	7,000	-
Dublin City Council	Creative Hubs 2020 Activity Grant	Project Funding	Restricted	2,400	-	-	2,400	-
Dublin City Council	Creative Hubs Performance Partnership 2022	Project Funding	Restricted	-	25,000	25,000	-	25,000
Dublin City Council	Neighbourhood Projects 2020	Project Funding	Restricted	2,350	-	-	2,350	-
Dublin City Council	UNESCO Programme Grant	Project Funding	Restricted	-	3,000	3,000	3,000	-
Dublin City Council	Creative Hubs 2021/2 Programme delivery	Service Delivery	Restricted	40,000	5,000	5,000	17,141	27,860
Dublin City Council	Creative Hubs 2022 Programme delivery	Service Delivery	Restricted	-	35,000	35,000	-	35,000
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth	Bursary Services	Project Funding	Restricted	8,000	2,000	2,000	10,000	-
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth	Community Integration Fund	Project Funding	Restricted	-	-	-	-	5,000
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth	Hub na nÓg Capacity Building	Organisational Development	Restricted	-	9,498	9,498	4,915	4,583
Department of Education /Professional Development Service for Teachers	Annual Funding	Core Funding	Unrestricted	295,000	315,000	315,000	344,167	265,833
Department of Rural & Community Development	Broadband Connection Points	Project Funding	Restricted	-	4,000	4,000	4,000	-
				518,275	1,219,551	1,070,801	1,214,210	556,116

3.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€
Programme Income	13,158	7,000	20,158	17,975
Co-Production Income	22,530	-	22,530	39,821
Licencing Fees Charged Out	-	-	-	1,492
Capacity and Covid Costs	25,000	31,738	56,738	-
	<u>60,688</u>	<u>38,738</u>	<u>99,426</u>	<u>59,288</u>

3.3 OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€
Fundraising	3,166	41,157	44,323	31,122
Rental Income	2,600	-	2,600	570
Merchandise	-	-	-	93
	<u>5,766</u>	<u>41,157</u>	<u>46,923</u>	<u>31,785</u>

3.4 OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€
Reimbursed Expenses	70	-	70	(300)
EWSS Subsidy	756	-	756	69,255
	<u>826</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>826</u>	<u>68,955</u>

4. EXPENDITURE**4.1. RAISING FUNDS**

	Direct Costs	Other Costs	Support Costs	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Marketing Expenses	-	-	45,153	45,153	52,142
Support Costs – Payroll Expenses	-	-	154,467	154,467	98,190
Public Relations Costs	-	-	40,871	40,871	21,940
Other Fundraising Costs	-	-	5,496	5,496	4,333
Support Costs – General Office	-	-	4,178	4,178	3,574
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,165</u>	<u>250,165</u>	<u>180,179</u>

4.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs	Other Costs	Support Costs	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Programme Costs	80,128	-	-	80,128	94,898
Artists Fees and Expenses	335,240	-	-	335,240	266,381
Research and Development	3,632	-	-	3,632	4,176
Support Costs	33,550	-	554,281	587,831	434,522
Support in Kind	-	-	11,246	11,246	27,320
Governance Costs (Note 4.3)	-	-	101,831	101,831	82,653
	<u>452,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>667,358</u>	<u>1,119,908</u>	<u>909,950</u>

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

4.3	GOVERNANCE COSTS	Direct Costs	Other Costs	Support Costs	2021	2020
		€	€	€	€	€
	Audit & Accountants Fees	-	-	4,813	4,813	4,832
	Legal & Professional	-	-	908	908	1,084
	Payroll Expenses	-	-	76,187	76,187	50,229
	General Office	-	-	19,000	19,000	26,508
	Banking Fees	-	-	923	923	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	-	101,831	101,831	82,653
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
4.4	SUPPORT COSTS	Cost of Raising Funds	Charitable Activities	Governance Costs	2021	2020
		€	€	€	€	€
	Support Costs – Payroll Expenses	154,467	358,434	76,187	589,088	326,387
	Support Costs – General Office	95,698	192,464	18,962	307,124	183,986
	Support in kind	-	11,246	-	11,246	27,320
	Audit and Accounts Fees	-	-	4,813	4,813	4,832
	Banking Fees	-	-	923	923	886
	Legal and Professional	-	3,383	946	4,329	1,084
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		250,165	565,527	101,831	917,523	544,495
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
5.	ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS			Basis of Apportionment	2021	2020
					€	€
	Support Costs – Payroll Expenses			Usage	589,088	326,387
	Support Costs – General Office			Usage	307,124	183,986
	Support in kind			Usage	11,246	27,320
	Audit and Accounts Fees			Governance	4,813	4,832
	Banking Fees			Usage	923	886
	Legal and Professional			Governance	4,329	1,084
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					917,523	544,495
					<hr/>	<hr/>
6.	NET INCOME				2021	2020
					€	€
	Net Income is stated after charging/(crediting):					
	Depreciation of tangible assets				62,696	58,278
					<hr/>	<hr/>

7. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION**Number of employees**

The average number of persons employed (including executive directors) during the financial year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	Number	Number
Core Fundraising (2 part-time)	2	1
Core Programme (6 full-time)	6	6
Core Technical (2 full-time staff)	2	2
Core Cleaning (1 part-time)	1	1
Core Administration (2 full-time, 1 part-time)	3	3
Programme Maternity Cover (2 full-time, 1 part-time)	3	-
	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u><u>17</u></u>	<u><u>13</u></u>
The staff costs comprise:	2021	2020
	€	€
Wages and salaries	574,724	398,391
Pension costs	18,399	26,686
	<u>593,123</u>	<u>425,077</u>
	<u><u>593,123</u></u>	<u><u>425,077</u></u>

The additional part-time fundraiser was part funded by the Arts Council as part of their RAISE programme.

The difference in Wage costs year on year reflects The Ark's receipt of COVID-19 payroll cost supports in 2020. See note 8 for more information.

None of the board of directors received emoluments or payments for professional or other services during the period.

8. REVENUE COVID SUPPORTS

During the year 31 December 2020, The Company availed of the payroll supports provided by Revenue. Coming into 2021 it was determined that, based on projections for the year, The Company did not meet the criteria to continue receiving the supports. The 2021 EWSS income reflects subsidies received for Week 1 and Week 2 payroll.

	2021	2020
	€	€
TWSS support received	-	91,804
EWSS support received	756	69,255
	<u>756</u>	<u>161,059</u>
	<u><u>756</u></u>	<u><u>161,059</u></u>

As per Revenue guidance EWSS is regarded as a payment to the employer. It is a taxable grant, and a deduction is available for the portion of wages supplemented by the EWSS. EWSS is recognised as an income in the Statement of Financial Activities.

9. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS AND THE COST OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period fell within the bands below were:

	Number of Employees	Number of Employees
€70,000 to €80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer & IT equipment €	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Comms. systems €	Office equipment €	Total €
Cost					
At 1 January 2021	93,399	417,224	106,542	18,784	635,949
Additions	2,033	22,495	-	2,189	26,717
At 31 December 2021	95,432	439,719	106,542	20,973	662,666
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2021	76,590	285,816	106,542	18,784	487,732
Charge for the financial year	5,928	56,330	-	438	62,696
At 31 December 2021	82,518	342,146	106,542	19,222	550,428
Net book value					
At 31 December 2021	12,914	97,573	-	1,751	112,238
At 31 December 2020	16,809	131,408	-	-	148,217

11. DEBTORS

	2021 €	2020 €
Trade debtors	10,669	55,654
Taxation and social security costs	-	404
Prepayments	23,305	6,181
	33,974	62,239

12. CREDITORS

	2021 €	2020 €
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	28,208	12,335
Taxation and social security costs	5,936	14,704
Other creditors	16,324	20,171
Accruals	15,192	18,179
Deferred Income	676,542	591,172
	742,202	656,561

13. PENSION COSTS - DEFINED CONTRIBUTION

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. Pension costs amounted to €18,399 (2020 - €26,686).

14. FUNDS**14.1. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	€	€	€
At 1 January 2020	131,245	231,326	362,571
Movement during the financial year	56,971	(113,119)	(56,148)
At 31 December 2020	188,216	118,207	306,423
Movement during the financial year	11,695	(54,726)	(43,031)
	199,911	63,481	263,392

At 31 December 2021

14.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers between funds	Balance 31 December 2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Restricted funds					
Restricted	118,207	119,332	174,058	-	63,481
Designated	-	100,263	100,263	-	-
	118,207	219,595	274,321	-	63,481
Unrestricted funds					
Board Designated	135,957	-	-	27,000	162,957
Unrestricted General	52,259	1,107,447	1,095,752	(27,000)	36,954
	188,216	1,107,447	(1,095,752)	-	199,911
Total funds	306,423	1,327,042	1,370,073	-	263,392

14.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Fixed assets – charity use	Current assets	Current liabilities	Total
	€	€	€	€
Restricted funds				
	63,481	-	-	63,481
Unrestricted general funds	48,757	893,356	(742,202)	199,911
	112,238	893,356	(742,202)	263,392

THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

15. RESTRICTED FUNDS CAPITAL GRANTS

Restricted reserves balance as per the balance sheet is the accumulated reserves from Capital Grant income. The Company recognised Capital Grants in the Statement of Financial Activity in the years that they were received. The cost of depreciation has been allocated against these reserves over the useful life of the relevant assets.

	2021	2020
	€	€
The Ark Trust	-	1,058
Capital Scheme 2016-2018 - Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	30,177	55,937
Capital Scheme 2016-2018 DCC/TBCT match funding	33,304	59,276
Pre-2015 Capital Grants	-	1,936
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	63,481	118,207
	<hr/>	<hr/>

In the current year the Board re-allocated unrestricted reserves to align the accumulated restricted reserve with the current net book value of the reserves

16. Capital Grant - The Ark Trust

	2021	2020
	€	€
Opening Reserve	1,058	2,157
Cost Recognised	(1,058)	(997)
Reallocation of Reserve	-	(102)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	1,058
	<hr/>	<hr/>

17. Capital Scheme 2016-2018 - Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

	2021	2020
	€	€
Opening Reserve	55,937	106,931
Cost Recognised	(25,760)	(25,972)
Reallocation of Reserve	-	(25,022)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,177	55,937
	<hr/>	<hr/>

18.	Capital Scheme 2016-2018 DCC/TBCT match funding	2021	2020
		€	€
	Opening Reserve	59,276	111,035
	Cost Recognised	(25,972)	(25,972)
	Reallocation of Reserve	-	(25,787)
		<u>33,304</u>	<u>59,276</u>

19.	Pre-2015 Capital Grants	2021	2020
		€	€
	Opening Reserve	1,936	11,202
	Cost Recognised	(1,936)	(6,941)
	Reallocation of Reserve	-	(2,325)
		<u>-</u>	<u>1,936</u>

20. STATUS

The Ark Children's Cultural Centre (trading as The Ark), is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital, registered in Dublin, Ireland with registered company number 222774. The Ark is also a charity with CHY number 11334 and RCN 20030827

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 1.

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, three directors donated to The Ark Opportunities Fund. Thomas Moore donated €4,000, Catherine Cotter donated €3,000 and Carol Fawsitt donated €500. There were no other transactions with Directors during the financial year.

22.	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2021	2020
		€	€
	Cash and current account balances	742,434	635,580
	Deposit accounts	116,948	116,948
		<u>859,382</u>	<u>752,528</u>

23. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The company has chosen to apply the provisions of Section 11 and 12 of FRS 102 to account for all of its financial instruments.

25. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 15th June 2022.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the charity financial statements of The Ark Children's Cultural Centre Company Limited by Guarantee for the financial year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at 31 December 2021 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 and having regard to the Charities SORP; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- In our opinion, the Director's Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act, 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Annual Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARK CHILDREN'S CULTURAL CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Directors are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Darren Carrick ACA for and on behalf of WHELAN DOWLING & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,
Northwood Court Santry
Dublin 9 Ireland

15th June 2022



Acknowledgements

The Ark would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all the organisations and individuals who supported our work in 2021. Their generous financial contributions and their consistent championing of our shared belief in children's right to culture has helped us keep reaching and engaging children at home and in school, right across Ireland, at a time more urgent than ever.

Principal Supporter



Annual Supporters



Grant Funders



Left: Visual arts at The Ark. Photo by Joseph Carr.

Corporate and In-kind Supporters



The Ark Opportunities Fund

Ann Barry, Audrey Behan, Irina Bereznytska, Kathy Carroll, Claire Crosbie Dunning, Maria Davey Borresen, Emer Dolphin, Teresa Gadd, Deirdre Giblin, Aileen Hooper, Carol Kelly, Penelope Kenny, Marina Lynch, Frank McNamee, Simon Mills, Tomm Moore & Liselott Olofsson, Aisling & Mark Mortell, Deirbhile Nic Craith, Patricia Quinn, Eamonn Russell, Deborah Spillane, John Sutton & Jole Bortoli.

Additionally, the following people have contributed to The Ark Opportunities Fund through our 25 Years and Counting campaign:

Aideen Barry, Claire Caffrey, Zoe Comyns, Catherine Cotter, Sheila de Courcy, Carol Fawsitt, Aideen Howard, Aideen McCole, Mary McCole, Dorothy Morrissey, Cynthia Ó Dúnlain.

The Ark would also like to thank our individual donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Additional References

The following are links to the various policies, reports and web pages referenced in this document. The latest information about The Ark and our work is available on our website, www.ark.ie, and on our social media channels @TheArkDublin.

The Ark Strategy Statement 2021-2023

https://ark.ie/content/files/The_Ark_Strategy_2021-2023.pdf

The Ark's Child Safeguarding Policy

<https://ark.ie/content/images/The-Arks-Child-Safeguarding-Policy-Approved-April-2020.pdf>

The Ark's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy

<https://ark.ie/content/files/The-Ark-EDI-Policy.pdf>

The Ark's Code of Conduct

<https://ark.ie/content/files/The-Arks-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

The Ark's Company Information

<https://ark.ie/about/company-information>

An Evaluation of the Operation and Impact of The Ark Children's Council

<https://ark.ie/content/files/Executive-Summary-An-Evaluation-of-the-Operation-Impact-of-The-Ark-Childrens-Council.pdf>

Winter Light Exhibition Catalogue

<https://ark.ie/content/files/Winter-Light-Catalogue-The-Ark-2021.pdf>

The Ark Children's Cultural Centre

Founded in 1995, The Ark is a dedicated cultural centre for children. We create opportunities for children, along with their families and friends or with their school, to discover and love art. Through our work with leading Irish and international artists children can enjoy performances in our unique child-sized theatre, view engaging exhibitions or participate in creative workshops.

11a Eustace Street
Temple Bar
Dublin 2

www.ark.ie
boxoffice@ark.ie
+353 1 670 7788



@TheArkDublin

Company number: 222774
Charity Number: CHY 11334
Charity Registration Number: RCN 20030827

©2021 The Ark Children's Cultural Centre

