
The Economic Impact, Value, and Potential of the National Collecting Institutions

Order of the day

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| 9:30am | Registration, tea and coffee |
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| 10:00am | Opening remarks from Prof Cathal O'Donoghue and Welcome from Dr Frances Ruane |
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| 10:05am | Welcome note from Conor Falvey, <i>Assistant Secretary General, Department of Culture, Communications & Sport</i> |
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| 10:15am | Brendan Shiels, <i>Economic Consultant</i> |
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| 10:30am | Questions & Answers Session |
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| 10:50am | Katja Iversen, <i>CEO for Museum for the United Nations - UN Live</i>
Keynote: The Power of Culture and Collections: Creating Value, Building Belonging |
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| 11:10am | Questions & Answers Session |
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| 11:25am | Closing Remarks from Prof Cathal O'Donoghue |
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| 11:30am | Tea, coffee and conversation |
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A group of Ireland's National Cultural Collecting Institutions have come together to consider their collective social and economic impact. Ireland's National Cultural Institutions have a unique role in collecting, preserving and making the national collections accessible to the public. They provide one of the most significant concentrations of free, high-quality cultural provision in Europe. International research demonstrates the positive personal, social and economic impact of cultural engagement in health and wellbeing, quality of life, education, social inclusion, integration and identity. Today's event on the economic and social contribution of several of Ireland's collecting institutions is a collective first step in better understanding of the vital role they play in Irish society, opening a conversation on their wider impacts in society and place in shaping public policy. We are honoured to be joined today by Katja Iversen who shares her perspective as CEO of the Museum for the United Nations on the opportunity and need for cultural institutions to create belonging and inspire change.

Speakers



Katja Iversen
*CEO for Museum for
the United Nations -
UN Live*

Katja Iversen is CEO of the Museum for the United Nations – UN Live, a UN-affiliated organization that harnesses the power of culture, storytelling, and participation to inspire positive action, strengthen global cooperation, and foster a sense of belonging in an interconnected world. A recognized leader in social impact and public engagement, Katja serves on several international boards and advisory groups and is a sought-after keynote speaker on the role of culture in advancing sustainable development and social change.

Throughout her career, she has worked across civil society, the United Nations, philanthropy, and the private sector. She has been an advisor to corporate and world leaders including at the World Economic Forum, Clinton Global Initiative and Women Political Leaders, and as a member of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Emmanuel Macron's G7 Gender Equality Advisory Councils.

Katja holds degrees from Denmark and from Columbia University, and has received numerous international honors, including an honorary doctorate in philosophy for her "iconic and outstanding contribution towards furthering cross cultural connections".



Brendan Shiels
Economic Consultant

Brendan Shiels is a highly experienced economic consultant who has wide-ranging experience in the research and economic analysis of public policy issues, extending over more than 25 years. He has particular experience in the cultural and heritage sector and in the analysis of its benefits for those who participate, those who don't, and for society in general. He has supported the appraisal and business cases of major projects for many of the National Cultural Institutions, as well as international projects involving Irish cultural centres and diplomatic missions overseas. He has prepared business cases examining modern storage options for national artefact collections of the cultural institutions and has undertaken valuation studies of national cultural and heritage assets required in advance of prospective state acquisition. He has also undertaken studies of the costs and benefits of programmes and projects in other sectors and policy spheres.

Speakers



Conor Falvey
*Assistant Secretary,
Department of Culture,
Communication and Sport*

Conor Falvey is Assistant Secretary in the Department of Culture, Communication and Sport, with responsibility for promoting and developing Ireland's artistic and creative strengths both at home and abroad; to maximise their societal, economic and reputational value for the country.



Cathal O'Donoghue
*Chair of Social
and Public Policy,
University of Galway*

Cathal O'Donoghue has been from 2016, the Established Chair of Social and Public Policy, at the University of Galway. From 2016-2020, he was the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences. Prior to this he was since 2005, Head of Teagasc's Rural Economy and Development Programme. He was a member of the Fund Council of CGIAR, a \$1 billion a year International Agri-Food Research organisation from 2014-2016.

From 2012-2014, he was CEO of the Irish Government's Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas 2012-2014, Chairman of the Irish Sport Horse Strategy Committee 2013-2015, and was President of the International Microsimulation Association 2011-2015. Since 2021 he has been Chair of the Foundation Board of the RDS. He is Chair of Burren Lowlands CLG, and a member of the Board of Music for Galway, Burren Beo and the International Microsimulation Association.



Dr Frances Ruane
*Board of IDA Ireland,
non-executive
member of the
Northern Ireland
Civil Service Board,
member of the
Royal Irish Academy,
Honorary Fellow
at TCD, Research
Affiliate at the ESRI*

Dr Frances Ruane is a member of the Board of IDA Ireland, a non-executive member of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Board, a member of the Royal Irish Academy, an Honorary Fellow at TCD and a Research Affiliate at the ESRI. She is former Chair of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council, the Abbey Theatre, and the Douglas Hyde Gallery at TCD.

A graduate of UCD (BA, MA) and Oxford University (M Phil, D Phil), Frances held academic positions at TCD (1977 to 2006), and was Director of the ESRI (2006 to 2015). Her wide-ranging research interests include public policy and international economics, and her most recent research paper looks at auction theory in the context of Edwin Long's The Babylonian Marriage Market.

Frances has previously served on many government boards, including the NSB, BGE, Forfás, HEA, NBST, and on numerous national committees and working groups.