

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to The Liberties Festival. I'm delighted to present a programme which I hope reflects the essence of community and allows everyone free and affordable opportunities to connect and explore. One focus of the festival this year is rediscovering the connections and history of the Liberties in new and original ways. Our launch brings together two unique voices who grew up here and reflect on their childhood relationship with the area and the journeys they have travelled since.

Holding Space is an intimate multi-sensory experience in which the scent of the Liberties will be revealed. It has been co-created with over 30 participants who have shared their stories and memories with us to compose a scent dedicated to the Liberties. We are also thrilled to have developed a special Liberties Brew, with the Open Gate Brewery, which you can sample over the summer and raise funds for future programming.

I'm delighted to have Fighting Words (St James's) and Cartoon Saloon (Warrenmount) start workshops with our after schools programme last month and we hope to share what they've conjured up during the festival. Another highlight will be Talking Shop in which we delve into the stories of special local businesses and the world premiere of a newly commissioned work for the organ in St Audoen's. We are also delighted to be using St Catherine's Church on Thomas Street for a number of key events. It is a honour to have a base from which we hope laughter, memories and new connections will flow forth.

Finally, I would like to thank our funders, sponsors, supporters, participants, the newly established Advisory Committee and all at the Liberties Community Project. But, most importantly, the people of the Liberties.

I welcome you all to experience the Festival and its many offerings.

- **Michael McDermott, Festival Director**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of The Liberties Community Project, to welcome you to this year's Liberties Festival – a celebration of creativity, culture, and community in one of Dublin's most historic and vibrant neighbourhoods.

This festival is more than a series of events; it's a testament to the enduring spirit of the Liberties Community – resilient, welcoming, and proud. It's also a chance for us to celebrate local stories, support local artists and performers, and connect

with one another in joyful and meaningful ways that accords directly with, and adds to, the everyday work of The Liberties Community Project.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the dedicated team of staff and volunteers at The Liberties Community Project, to our local partners and sponsors- in particular our primary sponsors DCC & Diageo- and most importantly, to the community of The Liberties, whose energy and enthusiasm bring this festival to life year after year. Whether you're a lifelong resident, working in the Liberties or visiting for the first time, we hope you find something in the programme for you.

Enjoy the festival!

- **Denis Murphy | Chairperson**
The Liberties Community Project

