

THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



'Recalling The Layers'

"Recalling the Layers", a radio piece produced by Curious Broadcast in collaboration with The Liberties Community Project was broadcast by Lyric FM on 29th June 2025. This project dives into the rich oral histories of Marshalsea Barracks, Dublin 8- a place steeped in history and destruction- that captures voices and memories that reveal the deeply layered story of an iconic but generally forgotten place.

From stories of daily life and resilience to reflections on community spirit, "Recalling the Layers" preserves a vital piece of Dublin's living heritage for future generations and provides a platform to inform a more sensitive physical development of the area that takes into account the cultural heritage that exists all around us in The Liberties.

For more on Marshalsea Barracks visit:
www.marshalseabarracks.com

Smart D8 Project

A new partnership with Smart D8 lead administration partner, The Digital Hub Development Agency, has resulted in The Liberties Community Project hosting the new Smart D8 Community Coordinator Position. Smart D8 aims to develop ongoing collaborations and unlock new opportunities for innovators in the areas of healthcare and community wellbeing in Dublin 8 and the new position is part of the The Liberties Community Project team working alongside Smart D8 partners to coordinate activities and ensure the D8 community are at the heart of, and benefit directly from, pilots of Smart Health and Wellbeing in Dublin 8.

We look forward to being a part of Smart D8 and working with partners Smart Dublin The Digital Hub Development Agency Dublin City Council The Guinness Enterprise Centre Health Innovation Hub (H2i) Health Service Executive Digital Transformation National College of Art & Design St. Patrick's Mental Health Services St James's Hospital Dublin Tyndall National Institute to ensure a meaningful programme with practical benefit for the community of Dublin 8.

Best of luck to our new colleague Ana Coughlan in unlocking partner expertise and local tech and health resources for the benefit of the local D8 community!

Welcome from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This edition of our newsletter captures the depth and spirit of our community — from the excitement of the upcoming Liberties Festival, the welcome 'Community Recognition Fund' support we have received to refurbish our community centres and the launch of a new collaboration with the Digital Hub Development Agency that sees us hosting a new Smart D8 Community Coordinator position.

At The Liberties Community Project, we are deeply committed to honouring our past while creating new opportunities for everyone who calls this vibrant neighbourhood home. Whether it's through celebrating our cultural heritage, delivering charitable programmes of work to support community where they are at or facilitating informed input into consultative processes that will inform the physical and policy landscapes affecting this community our work is rooted in the belief that community is built by and for its people.

As always, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our partners, supporters, volunteers, and especially to the individuals who access our programmes and endorse and support our work. Together, we are shaping a Liberties that honours the areas history while striving to create a more equitable future.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the projects and milestones highlighted in this issue. Here's to a summer full of connection, celebration, and community spirit!

Best,

Austin Campbell CEO, The Liberties Community Project

Stay Updated

The Liberties Community Project will publish quarterly newsletters designed to keep attendees, friends and supporters up to date on what's happening.

Please sign up to our mailing list and receive newsletters by email through the news tab on our website- www.thelibertiescommunityproject.ie or by emailing info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie and requesting to be added.

Physical copies will be available from our centres as well as from a selection of local Liberties businesses and services.





The Liberties Festival

The Liberties Festival returns this summer from July 21st to 27th with a vibrant celebration of art, music, and community spirit across 65 events. Now in its 55th year, the festival continues to honour the rich heritage and creative energy that defines The Liberties. Highlights include the launch of Scent of The Liberties developed by artist Erin Quinn in conversation with local community groups, The Blue Rinse Ball, Bell Ringing in Christchurch, Talking Shop and a Family Fun Day

This year's programme also shines a light on emerging local artists and young performers, showcasing and commissioning the talent and resilience that make our community so special. The Liberties Festival, as always, provides a platform to foster a strong sense of belonging and pride, reminding us all why The Liberties is one of Dublin's most dynamic and welcoming neighbourhoods.

Particular thanks to The Liberties Festival 2025 two primary supporters Diageo and Dublin City Council for supporting our vision for an inclusive and socially impactful festival.

Launch of The Liberties Festival Brew

The Liberties Community Project are grateful to Diageo Ireland for their support of this year's Liberties Festival generally but especially through the creation of "Batch Bread Red" – The Liberties Festival Brew. This red ale is more than a drink, it's a way of supporting community of The Liberties. Inspired by the historic Meath Street bakeries and crafted with local honey from our urban beekeeping project Bee8 through conversation with 20 members of the local community, "Batch Bread Red" captures the unique flavours and stories of our community.

Diageo Ireland is supplying Batch Bread Red to 15 participating pubs in Dublin 8 free of charge, with all one-off donations from customers going directly to support The Liberties Festival. Every purchase helps grow the arts, culture, and community infrastructure that feed into The Liberties Festival.



Visit to Áras an Uachtaráin

The Liberties Community Project team were deeply honoured to attend a Community Day Garden Party, hosted by President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins in the beautiful surroundings of Áras an Uachtaráin in June 2025.

The day provided a chance to connect with community organisations from across the country, to celebrate the vital role of civic engagement during fractured times and to hear from President Higgins in the final of months of his remarkable presidency.

The day also offered an opportunity to present a 'Liberties Brickworks' (much more on this later in 2025) model of Áras an Uachtaráin to The President and Sabina- a small token of our deep gratitude for 14 years of inspiring, compassionate leadership.

Community Recognition Fund Support

The Liberties Community Project has been awarded €50,000 in Community Recognition Funding (CRF) funding to support the general refurbishment of our two community centres at 10/11 South Earl Street & 3 Usher Street.

CRF is a government initiative established in 2023 designed to support communities that have welcomed and accommodated significant numbers of International Protection Clients. The fund is administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and the fund provides financial support for capital projects—such as upgrades to community centres, sports facilities, transport links, and public spaces—that benefit both new arrivals and the wider local population with the purpose of fostering inclusion and shared community development. Applications are screened by relevant municipal authorities to ensure funding is delivered where it will have most impact; many thanks to Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and Dublin City Council (in particular Kayanne O'Mahony, Amy Collins & Lois Salmon) for approving The Liberties Community Project application.

3 Usher Street and 10/11 South Earl Street are vital community hubs — hosting afterschool and adult education, integration, community employment, regeneration and social enterprise programmes as well as serving as a platform to provide space and support to any local organisations or individuals that require it. This funding marks a significant step in strengthening our physical infrastructure to match the passion and energy of the community we serve.