

THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Celebrating the Amalgamation of SICCD A & Robert Emmet CDP- A Note from Our CEO

It was a privilege to celebrate the culmination of a four year merger process with founding members of Robert Emmet CDP & SICCD A, local community members, colleague organisations, funders and supporters. Many thanks to everyone who was in a position to join us for a special celebration on 7th November and reflect on the history of both organisations, local needs and opportunities and tactics and strategies for achieving better outcomes for the area.

It was an honour to, along with our Chairperson, Denis Murphy, provide an overview of what we do and the reasons why we do it. Particular thanks and well done to Brenda O' Neill and Wafaa Abusharekh for inputting on the vital role that community development organisations play safeguarding rights as well as providing personal insights on their engagement with both historic organisations, SICCD A & Robert Emmet CDP.

Thanks also to the performers who entertained us and showcased the richness of local talent in The Liberties- Robyn Duffy & Sean Burch, Debbie Collins Byrne and Victoria Zhadko & Ana Kardakova.

Finally many thanks to Michael McDermott for organising a wonderful event, to Margaret Dorgan for MC'ing and to St. Catherines Church Thomas St for sharing their beautiful venue!

Austin Campbell
CEO

A Message from the Chair and Co-Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we step into a new year, we want to take this opportunity to reflect on what we've achieved together over the past few months and to thank you for your support in bringing The Liberties Community Project into being.

The Liberties Community Project is an amalgamation of SICCD A and Robert Emmet CDP- two South West Inner City Dublin community development organisations established in 1982 and 2003 respectively. A decision by both boards to engage in a voluntary merger process was completed in mid 2024 and celebrated with a memorable launch in St. Catherine's Church on November 7th 2024. It is testament to the boards, staff, volunteers, local community and supporters of both organisations that this could happen and I would like to thank you all for believing in and backing the process. We believe that, as a larger organisation, we are now in a position to deliver services more effectively in addition to further developing our research and advocacy capacity to better inform policy and resourcing decisions that impact our community.

It is our privilege to lead a skilled and dedicated team at The Liberties Community Project in this work. This edition of our newsletter will inform you more generally about the services that we deliver whereas future editions will focus more on updates on individual programmes provided directly by programme managers and attendees. If you can't wait until our second edition in April drop in to any of our centres- 10 / 11 South Earl Street, 3 Usher Street or 90 Meath Street to see directly what we do and get involved! For the tech proficient readers please follow us on social media or scan the QR code below to watch a video that gives an overview of our work. We wish you all the best in 2025 and look forward to working with you building resilient and empowered communities in South West Inner City Dublin.

Sincerely,
Denis Murphy, Chairperson
Celine Kennedy, Deputy Chairperson



Stay Updated

The Liberties Community Project will publish quarterly newsletters beginning in January 2025 designed to keep attendees, friends and supporters up to date on whats 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.



Our Vision:

A resilient and vibrant community in the heart of Dublin.

Our Mission:

Deliver a variety of programmes that service local need, provide opportunities for community members to participate in decisions that affect them and foster collaboration in order to build a strong community where everyone is heard and no-one is left behind.



About Us

The Liberties Community Project- is an amalgamation of SICCCA and Robert Emmet CDP- two South West Inner City Dublin community development organisations established in 1982 and 2003 respectively in response to long term localised unemployment and poverty. A decision by both boards to engage in a voluntary merger process was affected in July 2024

The initial purpose of SICCCA and Robert Emmet CDP was to deliver employment based training and early years education respectively with both organisations growing in subsequent years to meet additional emerging needs and opportunities.

The Liberties Community Project deliver a wide array of charitable programmes across a number of key areas. However, we believe that effective community development is about more than delivering charitable services to ease the burden that inequitable policy and resourcing decisions have had, and continue to have, on the community of South West Inner City Dublin. It is also about supporting a local community engage in research and advocacy projects that can drive decisions that affect their own development. It's about creating a more equitable future where the SWIC community is subject to resources and policies that allow it to thrive. And it's about enjoying the journey and the learning that comes with this.

OUR PROGRAMMES

Community Development

As a community development organisation the principle of community development underpins everything we do. Our community development activities are funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and include the delivery of a curriculum of 9 adult education classes, facilitation and support of local non incorporated groups, the delivery of weekly housing clinics and support of local residents associations, facilitation of local heritage projects such as Reimagine Marshalsea Barracks and engagement in research and advocacy projects designed to inform resourcing and policy decisions.

For more information or to get involved please contact hmungereza@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



Afterschool

We operate five afterschool services for young people aged from six to twelve, 2.30pm - 5.30pm five days of the week, 48 weeks of the year. Four services are run on site in local primary schools with one service operating from our 3 Usher Street premises. A service is delivered to approximately 164 young people at any one time.

Our Afterschool service is designed to provide young people with choice and respect, celebrating our attendees identity and talents. We facilitate extracurricular activities including swimming, football, music lessons arts and crafts, beekeeping and cooking and more as well as supporting attendees academically. Attendees are also provided with nutritious food on a daily basis.

Our service is led by a dedicated programme manager who engages with Home School Liaison Teachers and relevant agencies to provide wider family supports on an as required basis. Our Afterschool Programme operates under the aegis of the Department of Children, Equality Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

For more information or to get involved please contact lduffy@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



Community Employment

Community Employment (CE) is a community work placement scheme providing short term working opportunities for unemployed people. The work opportunities are to benefit the community and are delivered via the medium of community and voluntary organisations.

The Liberties Community Project manage a CE scheme with support from the Department of Social protection and receive funding through POBAL. The aim of the programme is to support work readiness of clients and keep skills up to date.

The Liberties Community Project operate a scheme with 20 places- the majority of places are filled internally in our growing organisation with individuals also seconded to external organisations including The Solas Project & Feel Good, Look Better. For more information or to get involved please contact mmoynes@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



Co-ordination of Oliver Bond House Regeneration Forum

The Liberties Community Project have responsibility for the Co-ordination of Oliver Bond Regeneration Forum, a multi stakeholder forum charged with providing oversight and ensuring community involvement in plans for the proposed physical regeneration of Oliver Bond House.

The Co-ordinator has responsibility for the coordination and administration of forum meetings and to support the development of a masterplan for the physical regeneration of the complex and ensure that this is developed with full participation, consultation and awareness of community members. The co-ordinator also has responsibility for developing an Economic and Social Profile of the area, for developing a sub-forum group in this regard, and to advocate for the establishment of a separate fund for the purpose of delivering adjacent social and economic regeneration projects. Funding for Oliver Bond House Regeneration Forum is received from The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. For more information or to get involved please contact oliverbondregeneration@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



Integration

The Liberties Community Project deliver the following activities targeted primarily at the new Irish community with a particular focus on IPAS clients.

Delivery of a curriculum of 23 weekly education classes and activities, operation of an open kitchen facility providing IPAS clients with access to cooking facilities, operation of an Employment Training Programme, operation of Ukrainian Language social history walking tours of Dublin 8, delivery of out of term camps for young people and facilitation of advice clinics.

Approximately 270 individuals attend services per week- the service is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development's SICAP New Arrivals funding.

For more information or to get involved please contact olenap@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



Social Enterprise

The Liberties Community Project operates two social enterprises- In Our Shoes Walking Tours and Bee 8. Neither project receives any charitable funding.

In Our Shoes Walking Tours provides free, accessible training and employment opportunities for local community members to become professional tour guides of their area. We offer a platform for local people to tell a story about their community that has the potential to change perceptions around the area in addition to providing excellent service to our customers. In Our Shoes has won Travel & Hospitality 'Walking Tour Company of the Year, Dublin' in 2022 and 2024.

Bee8 is Ireland's largest urban apiary project. The project manages 40 beehives across 14 city wide sites on behalf of project partners, provides free beekeeping training programmes to local community members and project partners, manages sensors at hive sites that monitor local environmental performance and operates an outdoor classroom providing informative courses on biodiversity and planting.

For more information or to get involved please contact afernandes@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



The Liberties Festival

The Liberties Festival is one of Ireland's oldest community festivals. From its modest beginnings in 1970 it has become a highlight of summer in the city with a series of family-friendly events as well as an exciting multi-cultural and arts programme.

In 2024, classics such as the Blue Rinse Ball, Church Bingo and the Gardaí vs Traders soccer match were complemented by new events such as a music night in St Audoen's, a photography exhibition in the Liberty Market and Liberties X, a Community Talent showcase, at the Sacred Heart statue on Reginald Street. The Liberties Festival is proudly supported by Dublin City Council, Diageo and a selection of local businesses.

For more information or to get involved please contact michael@thelibertiesfestival.com



South Inner City Drug and Alcohol Task Force (SICDATF)

South Inner City Drug and Alcohol Task Force (SICDATF) was one of fourteen Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces (LDATFs) set up in 1997 to facilitate a more effective response in communities experiencing the highest levels of substance misuse. It is in the HSE Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) 7 area, including Dublin South Central, Dublin Southwest, Dublin West and Kildare / West Wicklow. Since its inception, SICDATF has worked to reduce drug-related harms to individuals, families, and communities by working in partnership with key stakeholders in the community, voluntary and statutory sectors on the coordination and delivery of services in the South Inner City (SIC).

SICDATF work to support the priority actions of the National Drugs Strategy Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025 with a mission of the 'Coordination of quality services that enable healthy, safe, and resilient communities across the South Inner City'. The Liberties Community Project are proud to host SICDATF's Targeted Intervention Worker on behalf of the HSE.

For more information or to get involved please contact Emily at sicdatftiw@gmail.com

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

None of our progress would be possible without the support of our core funders, individuals and organisations who support us with fundraising efforts, partner organisations and volunteers. Your unwavering support, whether through resources, advocacy or time ensures that The Liberties Community Project continues to thrive and has an ability to meet emerging as well as current needs.

Particular thanks to Third Space Cafe, German-Irish Chamber of Commerce and Industry, StayCity and Diageo who have all generously supported our work in December 2024. Thanks also to our team of 40 volunteers who support or work through thick and thin and the many partner organisations we collaborate with on larger area based or thematic projects.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING THIS JOURNEY WITH US AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO COLLABORATING ONCE AGAIN THIS 2025