

THE LIBERTIES COMMUNITY PROJECT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Publication of Paper on The Merger of SICCD & Robert Emmet CDP

We are delighted to share that “Reflections on a Merger in the Irish Charity Sector: Expectations, Realities and Learning” has been published in *Administration*, the journal of the Institute of Public Administration.

The paper offers an honest account of merging two community organisations- exploring the work, costs, conditions for success, and administrative burdens involved. It also reflects on the long-term impact of merging versus not merging. Mergers in the community and voluntary sector bring challenges, but we hope our experience helps others on this path — and strengthens our shared goal of a Liberties where everyone is heard and no one left behind.

Well done to The Liberties Community Project Chairperson, Denis Murphy, and CEO, Austin Campbell, for compiling this account. The paper is available via Open Access on the following link: <https://reference-global.com/article/10.2478/admin-2025-0020>

Community Food Programme

Every Friday our Community Food Programme provides vital support by distributing c500kg of nutritious food free of charge to individuals and families in need across Dublin 8 free of charge. Through engagement with FoodCloud Growers Project and generous donors we ensure good food doesn't go to waste and reaches those who need it most.

Contact us to learn more:

info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



Welcome from the CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Time Out Group plc recently named The Liberties the 23rd “coolest neighbourhood” in the world, crediting the Liberties Festival as part of its vibrancy. Congratulations to Festival Director Michael McDermott, our volunteers, and partner organisations for this recognition of D8's creativity and energy.

Awards like this validate what we already know — The Liberties is special. But they also highlight the challenge: how do we keep it both cool and equitable? Rising demand drives up rents and property values, threatening vital community spaces like our 3 Usher Street premises, where rent increased 300% from November 2024. As costs rise, locally owned pubs, cafés and shops — the lifeblood of our neighbourhood — risk being displaced by higher-margin business. The community fabric thins, and those who built the area's reputation — working-class residents and young creatives— face exclusion.

What would be actually cool is meaningful investment in communities. Across areas of sports, leisure, parks, libraries, galleries Dublin City Council's 2022-2026 Capital Budget allocates 46.25% of funds to the North Inner City, but just 0.55% to the South West Inner City — a disparity of 8,500%. Fairer investment in parks, libraries, and sports would directly strengthen neighbourhood life.

Urgent regeneration of mid-century social housing is also critical. Trinity College Dublin / The Liberties Community Project research in 2024 showed a strong association between poor physical conditions and lower health outcomes with asthma prevalence 2.4 times higher among residents of Oliver Bond House than individuals attending the same medical practice with addresses elsewhere in Dublin 8.

Large scale developments such as The Land Development Agency's ‘Pear Tree Crossing’ and Ballymore's ‘Guinness Quarter’ provide significant opportunity for the delivery of social infrastructure at scale as does an appropriate and transparent allocation of Section 48 Development levies being raised from the area. Together, we will continue to work to ensure that The Liberties stays not just cool — but inclusive, thriving and fair.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

MONDAY →	Irish for Beginners: 10 AM - 12 PM - 15/09/2025 to 8/12/2025 3, Usher Street, Dublin 8. Creative Writing: 2 PM - 4 PM - 15/09/2025 to 8/12/2025 10/11, South Earl Street, Dublin 8.
TUESDAY →	Painting & Drawing: 10 AM - 12 PM - 16/09/2025 to 9/12/2025 10/11, South Earl Street, Dublin 8. Crafts: 1 PM - 3 PM - 16/09/2025 to 9/12/2025 10/11, South Earl Street, Dublin 8. Cooking: 10 AM - 12 PM - 16/09/2025 to 9/12/2025 3, Usher Street, Dublin 8.
WEDNESDAY →	Sewing: 10 AM - 12 PM - 17/09/2025 to 10/12/2025 3, Usher Street, Dublin 8.
FRIDAY →	Gardening: 11 AM - 1 PM - 19/09/2025 to 12/12/2025 10/11, South Earl Street, Dublin 8. Singing & Drama: 11 AM - 2 PM - 19/09/2025 to 12/12/2025 3, Usher Street, Dublin 8.

All courses run for 12 weeks

If you have any questions or you want to join a community programme please contact:
Fiona: 089 405 0455 or fiona@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie
Helen: 089 405 4534 or helen@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie



A new twelve week programme of Adult Education classes began in September 2025. From creative workshops to health and wellbeing there is something for everyone. Check out the timetable, spread the word and join us!

Dublin 8 & 7 Beekeeping and Biodiversity Fund

The Liberties Community Project, with the generous support of Dole Ireland, are happy to offer a unique chance to bring biodiversity to your doorstep free of charge. Community organisations and schools based in Dublin 7 & 8 can sign up to be part of one or more of the following initiatives for one year:

- Beehives on your site – TLCP will install and manage 1, 2, 3, or 4 hives on your site (following completion of risk / feasibility assessment) .
- Herb Garden- TLCP will plant herb gardens at your site to support pollinators.
- Standalone class – A fun and practical session on beekeeping and biodiversity for up to 15 people.
- Pollinator plan curriculum – A 6-class programme designed to help your school or organisation create and implement its own pollinator plan.

If your school or organisation is interested in participating, reach out to us today by emailing info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie

BEES & BIODIVERSITY IN DUBLIN 7 & 8

Are you a school or community organisation in Dublin 7 or Dublin 8?

Would you like to bring more bees, biodiversity, and learning to your site free of charge?

What we're offering:

- ✓ A bee hive on your premises (managed by the BeeB Team for 1 year)
- ✓ An educational beekeeping & biodiversity curriculum for your group
- ✓ A pollinator-friendly planted garden (at your site or one you nominate)

All of the above is available to community organisations and schools in the D8 and D7 areas, and will be provided by BeeB (The Liberties Community Project's urban beekeeping initiative), thanks to sponsorship from Dole Ireland.



The Liberties Festival

The Liberties Festival concluded a successful week of community events in July. With increased attendance numbers and amplification, the Festival embraced traditional aspects such as the Blue Rinse Ball while also new Dublin City Council grant-aided elements like Talking Shop. This saw local businesses open their doors to after-hours conversations. Holding Space unveiled a workshopped 'scent of the Liberties' in a horsebox in Bridgefoot Street Park and Diageo worked with locals to create the 'Liberties Brew' served in 14 local bars, with proceeds going towards future programming. Planning is already under way for further expansions and surprises in 2026

Community Employment

The Liberties Community Project manages a 20 place Community Employment scheme with funding from the Department of Social Protection and support through POBAL. Most positions are filled within our own growing organisation with a number of participants also seconded to support other local community organisations.

The aim of the scheme is simple: to help people build confidence, develop skills, and move closer to long-term employment, all while strengthening community services in The Liberties.

If you would like to learn more about the CE scheme or explore opportunities to get involved- either as a participant or as a potential employer- contact us at info@thelibertiescommunityproject.ie.

Integration Programme

September was a month of creativity, learning, and unity. Highlights included a vibrant performance of "Red Reading Hood" by our Kids Rock theatre group at IMMA, showcasing young talent and teamwork. Families enjoyed a warm, hands-on art workshop, while migrants benefited from practical sessions on tax refunds and self-employment. We wrapped up the month with a relaxing open-air yoga session in Phoenix Park. Through arts, education, and wellbeing, our Integration Programme continues to support and connect the community. Join us!

