

Which organisations did The Ark work with in 2008?

- » Axis Arts Centre
- » Carte Blanche (Denmark)
- » Children's Books Ireland
- » Compagnia Rodisio (Italy)
- » Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism
- » Department of Education and Science
- » Dublin City Council
- » Dublin Culture Night
- » Dublin Dance Festival
- » Dublin Inner City Partnership
- » Gael Linn
- » glór
- » Irish Youth Foundation
- » National College of Ireland
- » National Development Plan
- » NIE (Norway/UK/Czech Republic)
- » Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs
- » Primary Curriculum Support Programme
- » Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny
- » RTÉ
- » TASCQ
- » Temple Bar Cultural Trust
- » Temple Bar TradFest
- » The Atlantic Philanthropies
- » The Arts Council
- » The Irish Times
- » Ulster Bank Group
- » Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival
- » Walton's New School of Music

How is The Ark funded?

The total cost of running The Ark's 2008 programming activities and the venue is €1.3 million.

The Ark is principally funded by The Arts Council.

Annual funding and support comes from The Department of Education and Science, Primary Curriculum Support Programme, Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council.

Project funding comes from The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, Ulster Bank Group (supporting the 20% scheme), The Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs and the Irish Youth Foundation.

The Ark's media supporters in 2008 were the Irish Times and RTÉ Supporting the Arts.

Box office income in 2008 was €111,651. The Ark continues to keep prices affordable for children, families and schools.

Who supports The Ark?

The support that we receive from private individuals, organisations and our ArkAngels contributes tremendously to the work that The Ark can do.

The dedicated volunteers and interns who gave their time in 2008 assist The Ark in delivering high quality cultural activity to as many children and young people as possible.

Board of Directors 2008

John Coolahan
Sheila de Courcy
Kelly Fitzsimmons
Mary Ruth McDaid
Marie McLoughlin
Helen O'Donoghue
Liam O'Dwyer
Donnchadh Ó Madagáin
Ronan Smith [Chair]

Staff 2008

Eina McHugh: Director
Avril Ryan: General Manager

Muireann Ahern: Creative Arts Programmer
Ashleigh Downey: Visual Arts Programmer
Mark Rooney: Production Manager
Siobhan McKay: Finance Officer
Jo Holmwood: Project Officer
Julie Cathcart: Marketing & Press Manager
Tanya McLoughlin: Development Officer / Assistant to the Director
Jeanine MacQuarrie: Box Office Manager
Francesco Bistoni: Assistant Production Manager
John Gueret: Box Office Assistant
Emma Hannon: Performing Arts Assistant
Aoife Hayes: Administrative Assistant
Mary Reade: Finance Officer (maternity cover)
Ashley Black: Housekeeper

Sinead O'Doherty and Gerry Lundberg at Gerry Lundberg PR

The Ark would also like to thank our Front of House and production staff in 2008: Sarah Baxter; Elaine Garvey; Kate Heffernan; Lizzy Honan; Emer Meighan Kennedy; Ashley Dooley Martin; and Deirdre McClean.



The Ark Annual Review 2008



The Ark, Europe's first custom-built Children's Cultural Centre, programmes, promotes and hosts high quality cultural work, which is by children, for children and about children. The Ark is a charitable organisation, founded on the principle that all children, as citizens, have the same cultural entitlements as adults. We work with a diverse range of Irish and international artists to develop original, inspirational and playful activity for children [aged between 3 and 14] so that they can extend their imaginations and horizons.

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A note from the Director

2008 was another great year for The Ark with a world premiere theatre production; a nationwide visual arts tour; co-programmes with internationally celebrated Irish festivals; a multi-disciplinary summer project and seasonal music at Christmas with some of Ireland's best-loved musicians.

Beware of the Storybook Wolves was a world premiere theatre production, adapted for stage by Tom Swift from the best-selling book by Lauren Child and directed by Jo Mangan of The Performance Corporation. The Ark was the first venue in the world to secure the rights for a stage adaptation of this enormously popular children's book.

Mandscape, a national contemporary visual art touring initiative for children, schools and families was conceived and managed by The Ark. *Mandscape* began its national tour in autumn 2007 and the tour continued in 2008 at Axis Arts Centre, Ballymun, Dublin; glór, Ennis, County Clare; and the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, County Donegal. *Mandscape* was funded by the Arts Council Touring Experiment. The Ark devised this groundbreaking project to encourage children to access and engage with contemporary visual art. In autumn 2008, *Mandscape* returned to The Ark in Temple Bar, with an exhibition and a series of accompanying workshops.

The Ark once again opened its doors to all children and their families during the summer holidays for *Masks!* All summer long The Ark was home to multi-disciplinary creative workshops, an interactive exhibition and a performance from The Armagh Rhymer.

Working in partnership with other organisations is a central part of The Ark's programming. In 2008, The Ark co-programmed the Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season and Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival Family Season, bringing international theatre and dance for children and young people to Dublin. The Ark also programmed events as part of Temple Bar Trad Fest and Culture Night.

In partnership with Dublin West Education Centre, The Ark provided teacher training in *A World of Sound and Story: Music and Drama at The Ark*. The advocacy event *Building a Culture of Consultation with Children within Artistic Policy and Practice* was jointly organised by The Ark and Children's Books Ireland.

The National College of Ireland commissioned *Bright Heights and Bushy Tails* from The Ark. A new work of art was created by over 150 young people from five inner-city schools, led by Ark artist Liz Smith. The artwork mimics the forest canopy, and is on permanent display at the National College of Ireland.

As part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, The Ark was delighted to provide an opportunity to creatively explore music from around the world. *Concerts for Christmas* was a series of concerts and interactive musical experiences for children and their families to join together in festive celebration, with popular musicians including Kila and Liam Ó Maonlaí.

I look forward to many new opportunities and programmes in 2009.

Eina McHugh / Director
The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children

Programmes at The Ark 2008

Storytelling by Nuala Hayes

TRADITIONAL ARTS: JANUARY

Young Musician's Concert

TRADITIONAL ARTS: JANUARY

Come and Try Bodhrán

TRADITIONAL ARTS: JANUARY

Come and Try Tin Whistle

TRADITIONAL ARTS: JANUARY

Beware of the Storybook Wolves

THEATRE: FEBRUARY

Glitterbird

The Ark and Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season

DANCE: APRIL

Dream Sketch / Dustbuster / Bread-Peace

The Ark and Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season

DANCE: APRIL

Projects and Projections

The Ark and Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season

DANCE: APRIL

Junk Ensemble School Workshops

The Ark and Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season

DANCE: APRIL

Surprise

The Ark and Dublin Dance Festival Children's Season

DANCE: MAY

Masks!

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY: JULY

A World of Sound and Story:

Music and Drama at The Ark

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: AUGUST

Culture Night

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY: SEPTEMBER

Working Symposium:

Building a Culture of Consultation with Children within Artistic Policy and Practice

ADVOCACY: SEPTEMBER

The Wolf and The Goat

The Ark and Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival Family Season

THEATRE: SEPTEMBER

The Golden Apple

The Ark and Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival Family Season

THEATRE: OCTOBER

The Attic Under The Sky

The Ark and Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival Family Season

THEATRE: OCTOBER

The End of Everything Ever

The Ark and Ulster Bank Dublin Theatre Festival Family Season

THEATRE: OCTOBER

Mandscape

VISUAL ARTS: OCTOBER

Kíla

MUSIC: NOVEMBER

Nico Brown & Martin Brunsten

MUSIC: NOVEMBER

Micheál Ó Súilleabháin, Mel Mercier, and Size2Shoes

MUSIC: NOVEMBER

Brian Fleming, Gabriel Akujobi, Solomon Ijigade & Gwenn Frin

MUSIC: DECEMBER

RTÉ Cór na nÓg

MUSIC: DECEMBER

Liam Ó Maonlaí

MUSIC: DECEMBER

Robbie Harris, Emer Maycock, Francesco Turrisi & Nick Roth

MUSIC: DECEMBER

Ark programmes elsewhere in 2008

Mandscape

[Axis Arts Centre, Ballymun, Dublin]

VISUAL ARTS: DECEMBER 07-JANUARY 08

Mandscape

[glór, Ennis, Co. Clare]

VISUAL ARTS: FEBRUARY

Mandscape

[Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal]

VISUAL ARTS: MARCH

Facts

Throughout 2008, The Ark presented 26 cultural events for children, families, schools and the sector in its custom-built centre in Temple Bar, Dublin, including:

- 7 Music Concerts
- 5 Theatre Productions
- 5 Dance Productions / Workshops
- 4 Traditional Arts events
- 2 Multi-Disciplinary events
- 1 National Visual Arts tour
- 1 Professional Development for Teachers
- 1 Advocacy event

Continuing The Ark's commitment to pioneering advocacy events within the cultural sector, a working symposium *Building a Culture of Consultation with Children within Artistic Policy and Practice* was hosted by The Ark in September. Organised in

conjunction with Children's Books Ireland, the symposium focused on consultation with children in the arts sector and was specifically designed for those creating and delivering arts projects. The aim of this event was to explore methods of successfully consulting with children as a means to truly enriching their cultural lives. Delegates from all over Ireland representing all areas of the arts, including theatres, museums, galleries, libraries and community arts filled each of the 80 places available. The symposium featured two Irish and five international speakers and practical workshops by the UK's Playtrain.

Figures

2,446 schoolchildren benefited from our 20% scheme (supported by the Ulster Bank Group) a discount for Schools Serving Disadvantaged Areas and schools travelling from outside County Dublin. 801 teachers also attended in-house performances and workshops for free under this scheme.

The Ark recruited and worked with 82 volunteers in 2008 as well as providing mentorship for 7 people through our internship programme.

The Ark welcomed audiences of 23,012 to its in-house programmes during 2008, either school classes during the week or family groups at weekends, in the evening or during holidays. In addition 997 children and adults got involved with The Ark through the touring *Mandscape* project and the NCI canopy project. The total number of people who engaged with The Ark in 2008 is 24,009.