

**The IHA welcomes the
publication of**

***Culture 2025:
A National Cultural Policy
Framework to 2025***

January 2020

Irish Humanities Alliance



Culture 2025 – A National Cultural Policy Framework to 2025

The Irish Humanities Alliance today welcomes the publication of Ireland's first ever national cultural policy framework, *Culture 2025 – A National Cultural Policy Framework to 2025*, issued by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. We welcome its emphasis on the intrinsic value of arts, culture and heritage to our lives and our communities, its recognition that arts, culture and creativity are fundamental to the public good and its commitment to ensuring a 'unified and coherent approach to cultural policy' across government, state bodies and the cultural sector. The framework's alignment with funding strategies outlined in *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage 2018-2027* is also to be welcomed.

The publication of *Culture 2025* is a strong confirmation of the ways in which the community of humanities scholars and practitioners on the island of Ireland have been central to creating and maintaining Ireland's significant cultural reputation at home and abroad. This community will be central to the achievement of the aims outlined in this strategy, particularly across areas such as language and linguistic diversity (and the Irish language in particular), and the reflective exploration of literary, visual and performance arts which are such a strong part of Irish culture. In this regard *Culture 2025's* holistic sense of the 'densely woven tapestry' of the island's cultural heritages and practices – 'from the Blasket Islands to Newgrange; from hurling to harping; from boat-building to game-design; from mumming to touring theatre; from the bardic tradition to open-air rock gigs; from the Book of Kells to animation; from set-dancing to break-dancing' – is to be particularly welcomed.

The publication of this policy framework also provides an opportunity to reflect upon the ways in which humanities scholars and practitioners have been, and will continue to be, central to the development of reflective and dynamic cultures of historical understanding and remembrance, through scholarship and the development of reflective and interpretative experiences. *Culture 2025's* recognition of the importance of the Irish language, the value of cultural diversity and creativity and the role of culture in fostering a more sustainable future are thus especially notable. Indeed, these values are aligned with the Irish Humanities Alliance's own statement of strategy – *By Imagination We Live: a strategy for the humanities 2020-2030* – which outlines the significant contribution of the humanities to the island's history, language and culture. The IHA remains committed to championing the cultural value of humanities education and research and the role of humanities disciplines in fostering intercultural exchange.

Culture 2025's recognition of the growing importance of the creative industries is also reinforced in the Irish Humanities Alliance's strategy. Arts and humanities graduates make a huge contribution to the creative sector – through museums, galleries, libraries, music, performing arts, publishing, tourism and the visual arts, etc. It is imperative that the links between these disciplines and the creative industries are strengthened so that they can reach their full potential. We welcome the document's recognition that there is a need to 'increase access to and participation in the arts, to boost our creative industries and to preserve our heritage'.

Finally, in welcoming the publication of *Culture 2025*, the Irish Humanities Alliance notes the ambition to 'double the amount of public funding for arts and culture from 2017 levels by 2025' and looks forward to being an active participant in ensuring that this ambition is realised.

15 January 2020

Further information

Irish Humanities Alliance – Promoting the Value of the Humanities

19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

T. +353 1 609 0666 E. info@irishhumanities.com