As we look back at 2018, Culture Ireland thanks all those who performed, participated and supported us and enjoyed the work of Irish artists globally.

In 2018, Culture Ireland provided support for Irish artists to travel to **55 COUNTRIES** reaching an audience of **OVER 5.5 MILLION** demonstrating our commitment to the Global Ireland aim of “bringing our culture to the wider world.”

2018 was a special year for Culture Ireland as we focussed on building our cultural connections with Britain under the programme **CULTURE IRELAND GB18**
With an investment of over €1m, Culture Ireland supported in excess of 900 Irish artists, musicians and technicians to present work in over 300 venues in Britain, 200 of which had not previously programmed Irish work with Culture Ireland support.

**Imagining Ireland**


Further details are available here: [https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2019/event/imaging-ireland](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2019/event/imaging-ireland)
SHOWCASE PROGRAMME 2018

During 2018, Culture Ireland supported 24 Showcase events across artforms in 8 different territories. In all, 91 artists/companies were supported to present their work in a Showcase context.

2018 Showcase Events:
- International Performing Arts for Youth
- Eurosonic
- Showcase Scotland
- Folk Alliance International
- APAM
- South by Southwest
- London Book Fair
- Bologna Book Fair
- JazzAhead!
- The Great Escape
- Classical: NEXT
- Primavera Sound
- Sync Summit NYC
- A2AIM Indie Week
- Culture Ireland Edinburgh Showcase Programme
- Firatàrrega
- Reeperbahn
- Mondo.NYC
- Frankfurt Book Fair
- WOMEX
- M For Montreal
- Tanzmesse
- Ireland Week
- Culture Ireland GB18 Music from Ireland/London Irish Centre Showcases

Also, 39 delegates were supported to attend international industry showcase events to promote their work and develop new relationships and opportunities.

66 projects, which received regular touring supports, emerged directly from Showcase opportunities.

The success of the Culture Ireland Showcase activity is made possible through many resource organisations who partner with us in supporting and delivering the Programme. These include:
- Music from Ireland/First Music Contact
- Literature Ireland
- Children’s Books Ireland
- Improvised Music Company
- Irish Street Arts
- Circus & Spectacle Network
- Dance Ireland
- Irish Theatre Institute.
The See Here scheme provides support to bring international programmers and presenters to Ireland, see Irish work and meet Irish artists with a view to international opportunities.

In 2018, Culture Ireland supported 186 international delegates from 28 countries to come to Ireland to attend 16 Festivals.

International delegates attended the following Festivals and Events across Ireland:

- Tradfest
- Dublin International Film Festival
- RTÉ Choice Music Prize
- Young at Art
- Dublin Dance Festival
- EVA International
- Galway Film Fleadh
- Spraoi
- 12 Points Festival
- Information Toolbox at the Dublin Fringe Festival
- Hard Working Class Heroes
- International Theatre eXchange at the Dublin Theatre Festival
- IndieCork Festival
- Baboró International Arts Festival for Children
- Cork Film Festival
The theme chosen by Farrell and McNamara, *freespace*, set out to embrace a generosity of spirit and a sense of humanity at the core of architecture’s agenda, focussing on the quality of space itself and how it should engage with those who use it daily.

The *71 PARTICIPANTS* included an unprecedented level of Irish architects and attracted *275,000 VISITORS* and a strong critical response with over *3,000 REGISTERED JOURNALISTS* and close to *2 MILLION WEB SESSIONS*.

**Free Market**

Ireland’s National Pavilion, an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with The Arts Council, was entitled “Free Market”. The project, which focussed on the common spaces of Ireland’s market towns and the reclaiming of these places of interaction and community, will tour in Ireland 2019.

IRELAND AT VENICE 2018

In 2018, making history as the first Irish architects ever to curate the Venice Architecture Biennale, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects following a list of high profile global architects to be awarded this honour.
Global Ireland

On 24 January Culture Ireland will host a Global Ireland conference to debate and draw on the best national and international critical thinking with a participating audience of cultural stakeholders, Government representatives and other interests to determine how we can build on our distinctive global reputation for creativity and share further our rich and vibrant culture. It is also presents an opportunity to showcase some of the new and emerging artistic talent.

If you are interested in attending, please contact: global@cultureireland.gov.ie