



Editorial Policy

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About the site

artsandhealth.ie is an independent, national arts and health website established in 2011 by the Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT) and Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts. The website is supported by the Arts Council and the Health Service Executive (HSE). artsandhealth.ie provides a resource and focal point for the field of arts and health in the Republic of Ireland via information, best practice and news, and generates discussion between artists, arts organisations, health service users, carers, healthcare professionals and others interested in the dynamic area of arts and health.

Background to developing artsandhealth.ie

Please click on the following links to find out more about:

[Background](#)

[A history of arts and health in Ireland](#)

Defining arts and health

Arts and health is the generic term that embraces a range of arts practices occurring primarily in healthcare settings, which brings together the skills and priorities of both arts and health professionals.

Arts Council's Arts and Health Policy and Strategy, 2010

Founded on a principle of equal partnership between arts and health sectors, arts and health is a specific field of work that is characterised by clear artistic vision, goals and outcomes and that seeks to enhance individual and community health and wellbeing. It is a diverse and dynamic practice that moves fluidly between the more traditional formats of exhibition, performance, public art commission, and other environmental enhancement initiatives within healthcare settings, through to participative and collaborative arts practices that challenge and expand ideas about who makes art and where and how it is shown.

Healthcare settings: arts and health practice takes place in a range of healthcare settings including hospitals, residential units, day care centres, hospices, primary care-centres and community based healthcare settings. It can engage health service users, their carers, visitors and healthcare staff, as well as those involved in the voluntary sector.

Artforms: arts and health is not limited to any particular artform. It can include interdisciplinary practice, or any of the artforms, or their related genres, as recognised by the Arts Act 2003 – visual arts, theatre, architecture, film, music, literature, circus, spectacle and dance.

For editorial purposes **we distinguish arts and health from other related practices** in line with the Arts Council's Arts and Health Policy and Strategy:

Arts therapies – There is a clear distinction between arts and health practice, where a key goal is the experience and production of art, and the arts therapies, where the primary goal is clinical.

Arts and Disability – arts and health incorporates both artistic and health aims, whereas Arts and Disability is focused exclusively on the engagement and involvement of people with disabilities.

Other related practices – arts and health can cross over with any number of other arts practices such as: *community-based arts*; *arts and medical humanities*; and *arts and science*. In addition, an individual artist may choose to explore *health themes or content* in their work.

artsandhealth.ie section by section policy and access

The '**Home Page**' of artsandhealth.ie welcomes users and signposts them to other areas of the site.

The '**About**' section of artsandhealth.ie contextualises the website within the field of arts and health in the Republic of Ireland.

News, Events and Opportunities

The '**News, Events and Opportunities**' section of artsandhealth.ie contains a user-generated section that features current information on events, opportunities and general news relevant to arts and health.

Criteria for inclusion

- News, events, and opportunities relevant to arts and health
- Postings for commercial use only will not be included
- Opportunities for artists working in a voluntary capacity will not be included
- Events where the primary aim is fundraising will not be included

Levels of access

Contributors must register and receive a username and password in order to submit information. He / she is asked to comply with the Terms and Conditions of Use. This section is moderated by the website moderator.

There are three levels of access to this section:

- General users, who will not need to register to view its contents
- Contributors who must register to upload information to this section
- artsandhealth.ie moderator

Uploaded news maybe shared directly with social media tools associated with artsandhealth.ie

Case Studies

The '**Case Studies**' section of artsandhealth.ie showcases examples of arts and health projects / programmes. This section provides a bank of well documented projects / programmes, with clear artistic vision, goals and outcomes, which are delivered by professional artists. A diversity of art forms, contexts, partnerships and structures are included to give an overview of the possibilities of arts and health practice.

The focus of the 'Case Studies' section is on arts and health practice in the Republic of Ireland. Case studies are accepted about arts and health projects / programmes from outside of the Republic of Ireland, with an emphasis on projects / programmes that do not have a counterpart in the Republic.

Rationale

- To provide a resource that supports peer learning among practitioners, advocacy and research in the field
- To establish a record of arts and health practice that illustrates its diversity and scope

Editorial principles

Arts and health practitioners are invited to submit case studies of high quality arts and health projects / programmes. A maximum of three case studies from outside of the Republic of Ireland will be accepted for publication per year. Those wishing to submit a case study must first e-mail info@artsandhealth.ie to request an expression of interest application form. Case studies are selected by the Editorial Panel and / or Project Co-Ordinator.

Editorial principals for inclusion in the case study section are as follows:

- Diversity of artforms
- Diversity of healthcare contexts
- Clear artistic vision, goals and outcomes
- Professional artists
- Geographic spread
- Positive impact on participants / collaborators
- Backed up by good documentation
- Diversity of partnerships / organisational structures

Resources

The '**Resources**' section of artsandhealth.ie comprises Research and Evaluation, Articles and Documentation, Policy and Strategy, Guidelines for Best Practice, Audio Recordings, Videos and Links to other organisations, blogs and projects relevant to arts and health. This section also includes a Directory of organisations involved in arts and health and can signpost people towards arts and health projects.

Rationale

This section is designed to be of use to people engaged in arts and health work as follows:

- Research and Evaluation resources can be used as an advocacy tool and offer examples of research and evaluation methodologies.
- Articles and Documentation resources offer examples of best practice and enable practitioners to contextualise their work within national and international trends. They can also generate debate.
- Policy and Strategy resources enable practitioners to contextualise their practice within relevant policies and strategies.
- Guideline resources encourage standards of best practice in planning and delivering projects.

- Audio Recording resources, which include audio documentation of projects as well as interviews, seminars and talks, enhance knowledge of arts and health practice in the Republic of Ireland, offer personal perspectives and can stimulate debate.
- Video resources, which include artistic outputs and audio-visual documentation of projects, promote and encourage best practice in the documentation of arts and health projects / programmes in the Republic of Ireland.
- Links provide users with a current resource of online information on arts and health organisations, projects and research.

Criteria for inclusion

- Of high quality in terms of clarity of language, level of critical analysis, presentation and reflecting best arts and health practice
- Relevant to arts and health as defined by artsandhealth.ie
- Available in an online version
- Published / developed since 2005 (exceptions may be made in the case of Policy and Strategy documents which have a relevance to the historical development of arts and health in the Republic of Ireland)
- Developed in the Republic of Ireland. International literature is used if it is relevant to practitioners in the Republic of Ireland.
- Permission from publishing body / author

Directory

The resource section also includes a searchable directory of arts and health programmes and/or key contacts who can sign post users towards relevant projects in their area.

To be included in this directory, organisations/ projects must complete the directory form. E-mail info@artsandhealth.ie to request a form.

Rationale

To offer people interested in the field of arts and health relevant and local points of contact for information and sign posting.

Criteria for inclusion

The directory features:

- Members of Arts and Health Co-ordinators Ireland
- Designated HSE points of contact
- Local Authority Arts Offices
- Arts and Health Organisations/ Programmes
- Relevant Arts Organisations and National Resource Organisations
- Arts Council, Arts and Health Advisor

Perspectives

The '**Perspectives**' section of artsandhealth.ie is dedicated to generating debate amongst practitioners on current issues, teasing out the often contradictory complexities of arts and health practice and contextualising the practice within wider debates. It also includes personal reflections on the arts and health sector. The Perspectives may refer to specific projects, but are not in themselves case studies or promotional texts. They address overarching themes of relevance to arts and health.

Information and content for this section is sourced by invitation. artsandhealth.ie may publish unsolicited content in this section, provided that it is adapted (by the author) to follow an outline format/template which will be provided on request by e-mailing info@artsandhealth.ie.

Texts should be submitted as an attachment in Microsoft Word or a file format that can be opened with Word. Authors should feel free to include other related materials, including photographs, sound, and media clips.

Rationale

- To generate debate in the field of arts and health
- To offer an analysis of trends and issues current in the field.
- To reflect the diversity of stakeholders in arts and health

Criteria for inclusion

- The focus of these Perspectives is on themes that relate to arts and health practice as defined by artsandhealth.ie
- Quality of analysis and writing

- Current content capable of generating debate and reflection
- Focus on arts and health practice in the Republic of Ireland or of relevance to Irish practitioners

Editorial Principles

Content is sourced predominantly through invitation to practitioners in the field who are asked to supply opinions and views on arts and health in writing, by video or podcast.

The opinions contained in the Perspectives are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of WHAT, Create or the Editorial Panel.

Contact us about a concern, make a suggestion or give feedback:

We understand the need to review and take stock of how the website functions over time. Our ambition is that the information is relevant and that content published on an ongoing basis is helpful and useful to our users. We welcome your feedback, suggestions or concerns on an ongoing basis. Feedback and suggestions can be e-mailed to info@artsandhealth.ie.