

Programme Policy

1. Strategic Mission

The Dock connects artists and audiences to enrich the arts experiences of various communities in Leitrim and beyond. The organisation prioritises high quality programming, developmental projects and contemporary arts, including visual arts, a performance programme & opportunities for audiences of all ages to develop their own creativity.

2. Funding Context

The Dock is a busy regional arts centre, we run with a small staff for the scope of our programme. We are funded by Leitrim County Council and The Arts Council. The Leitrim County Council largely funds our operational costs and our programming is supported through application to the Arts Council and fund-raising. Our work is focused on the Arts.

The Dock as an organisation is formed as a company and is a registered charity, details of the board membership and staff can be found online.

We are independent from both organisations, but mindful of their strategic concerns as we develop our programme.

The Docks programme includes a broad range of creative arts events and projects being undertaken throughout the year.

3. Programming Scope

The Dock offers a programme of, music, dance and theatre and cinema. The Centre develops classes, masterclasses, workshops and courses. We host Senior, Intermediate and Junior youth theatre. The Dock offers supports to artists (studios/mentoring supports & access to spaces, essays, audio & visual and document their work).

Key to and an important aspect of our work at The Dock is to present a broad range of high quality visual arts, , theatre, literature performances, music and dance, talks, classes, youth arts, family and child orientated days and arts leisure/ learning activities from the very best of local, visiting artists and groups. Ultimate authority and decision making on all aspects of the programme resides with the Director.

The Dock works as a receiving and development venue, offering audiences diversity and quality of arts experiences. The organisation prioritises high quality programming and projects which support artists at varying stages in their career development and potential.

4. Performance Programme

Each season (Spring and Winter) is considered as a complete programme presenting a mix of interesting and considered work, topics and approaches to subjects or artform. We are interested in supporting tours and touring partnerships with Irish and Northern Irish companies and other organisations and occasionally we work internationally.

We usually programme our seasons approximately 6 to 9 months ahead and it is always helpful to contact us as early as possible.

The programme for performance falls into two distinct seasons, January to early June and September to December. There are a number of local and national programme events we aim to support for example; Culture Night, First Fortnight, National Drawing Day, The GreenDoor Festival, Carrick Water Music Festival, and aim within our resources to support regional and national events, projects and festivals of note.

We are particularly interested in exciting drama, literature, dance and traditional and other music. We are also interested in work that is suitable for family audiences and in the work of young people. We occasionally present comedy, film events. We have strong local connections with The Breffini Players and Beeznee Theatre Company

We curate the programme to represent a range of interests and tastes; our published programme has a rationale and form to each season.

Note: We try to respond to programming enquires or requests, however if correspondence is made through large mail-outs this is often rejected by our email server as are large files or file with attachments.

5 Gallery Programme

We programme and curate five major exhibitions annually. (With the exception of this year 2018, when we will be closed for the summer months for building renovations) Currently these exhibitions work through a variety of forms; eg artists-films, painting, forms of installation, intergenerational exhibitions and exhibitions which respond to various social contexts relevant to our place and communities of interest. We programme solo and groups shows. We aim to support exhibiting artists taking risks in developing work in response to the Dock.

Artists are invited directly by the Director or a nominated curator. We do not take unsolicited proposals for our major exhibition programme. This section of our programme is entirely funded by The Arts Council and we prepare a comprehensive submission for funding a year in advance of the programme. Ultimate authority and decision making on all aspects of the programme resides with the Director.