



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Arts4Rights Project in Ireland

7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them. Project nr.: 101053744

---

The Rural Hub is a non-profit training and development company set up in response to the impact of the economic crisis on small rural villages and towns in Ireland.

---

Since it was first established in 2012, The Rural Hub has been providing a wide range of training and capacity development programmes to educators, frontline workers, residents, and community groups.

---

Based in Virginia, Co. Cavan, our community training team, work with many local and regional groups, using creative approaches and digital resources to support greater social cohesion among local communities in the Northwest.

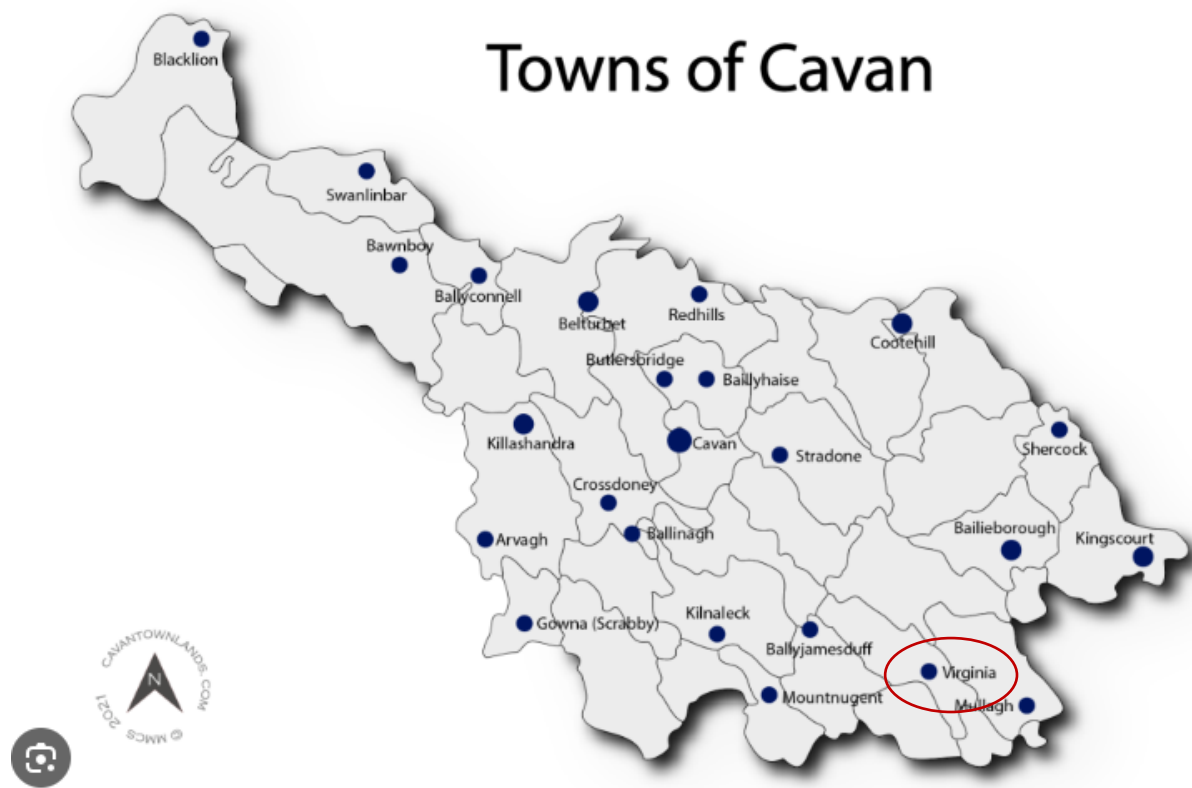
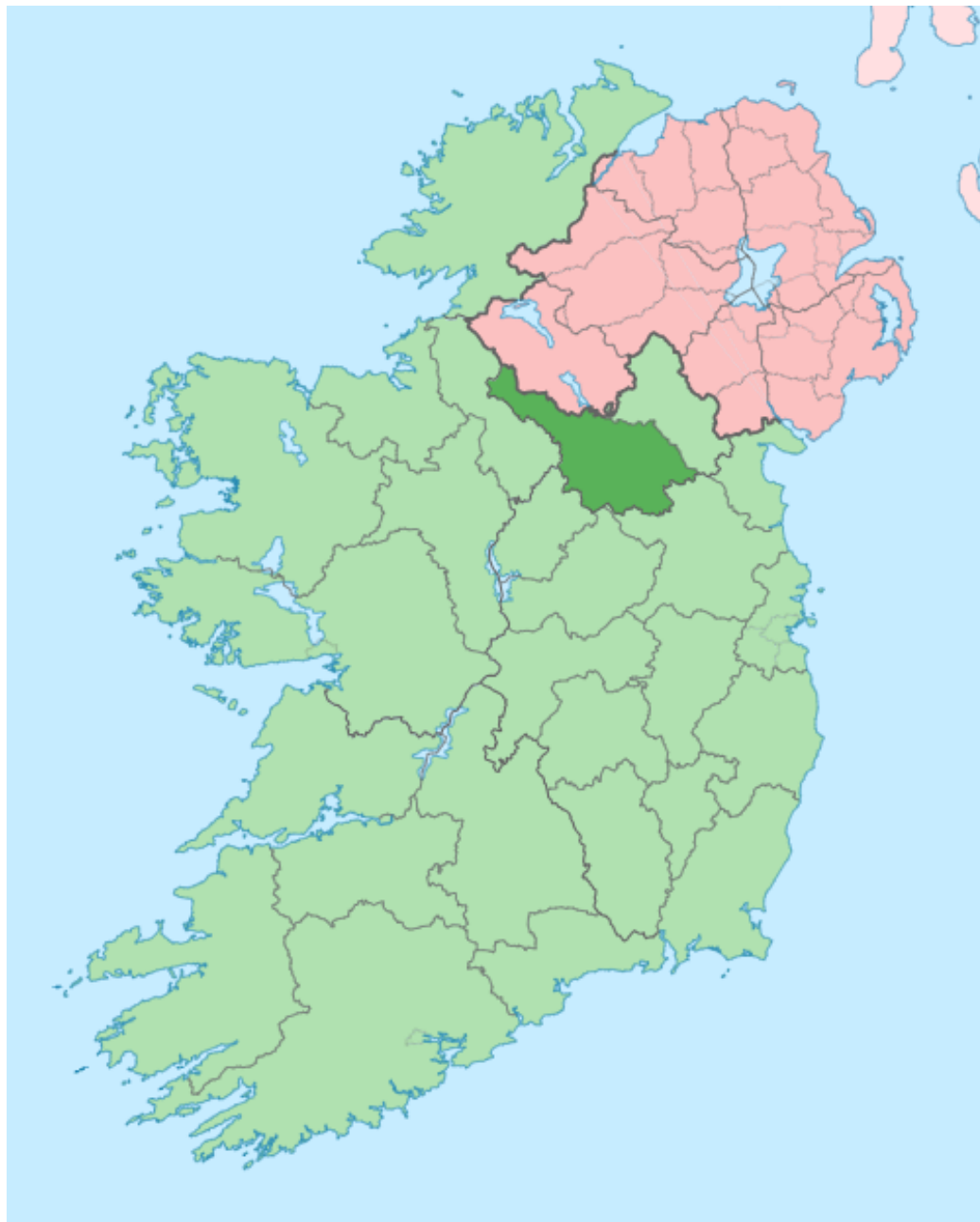
---

We have a developed network of stakeholders who support our work on a thematic basis

### **We deliver training such as:**

- digital and media literacy for older people and communities
- migrant integration in all aspects of social and civic life
- supporting young people to access employment and provide opportunities for self-employment
- enterprise creation across all sectors of the rural economy
- the use of family learning approaches to promote positive communication within the home; financial literacy; internet safety; anti-bullying and well-being
- sustainability and climate change education
- youth mental health, drug education and awareness, and sexual health





# New to Participatory Public Art Projects



- Cavan Institute are our collaborative partner in the Arts4Rights Project
- They are the largest provider of Vocational and Adult Education in our region and have 1,200 students on campus daily and 600 adult learners attending evening classes
- In 2013, they acquired an old army barracks in Cavan town with the intention of creating a new campus for Further and Vocational Education
- To be opened in 2023, this location [place] offered the perfect setting for the Arts4Rights project





As part of the Good Friday Agreement, the Department of Defence began a process of decommissioning military barracks along the border with Northern Ireland which brought about the closure of the barracks in Co. Cavan.

As a state asset, the barracks were transferred to the Department of Education and opened as part of the Cavan Institute Campus for students in 2023.

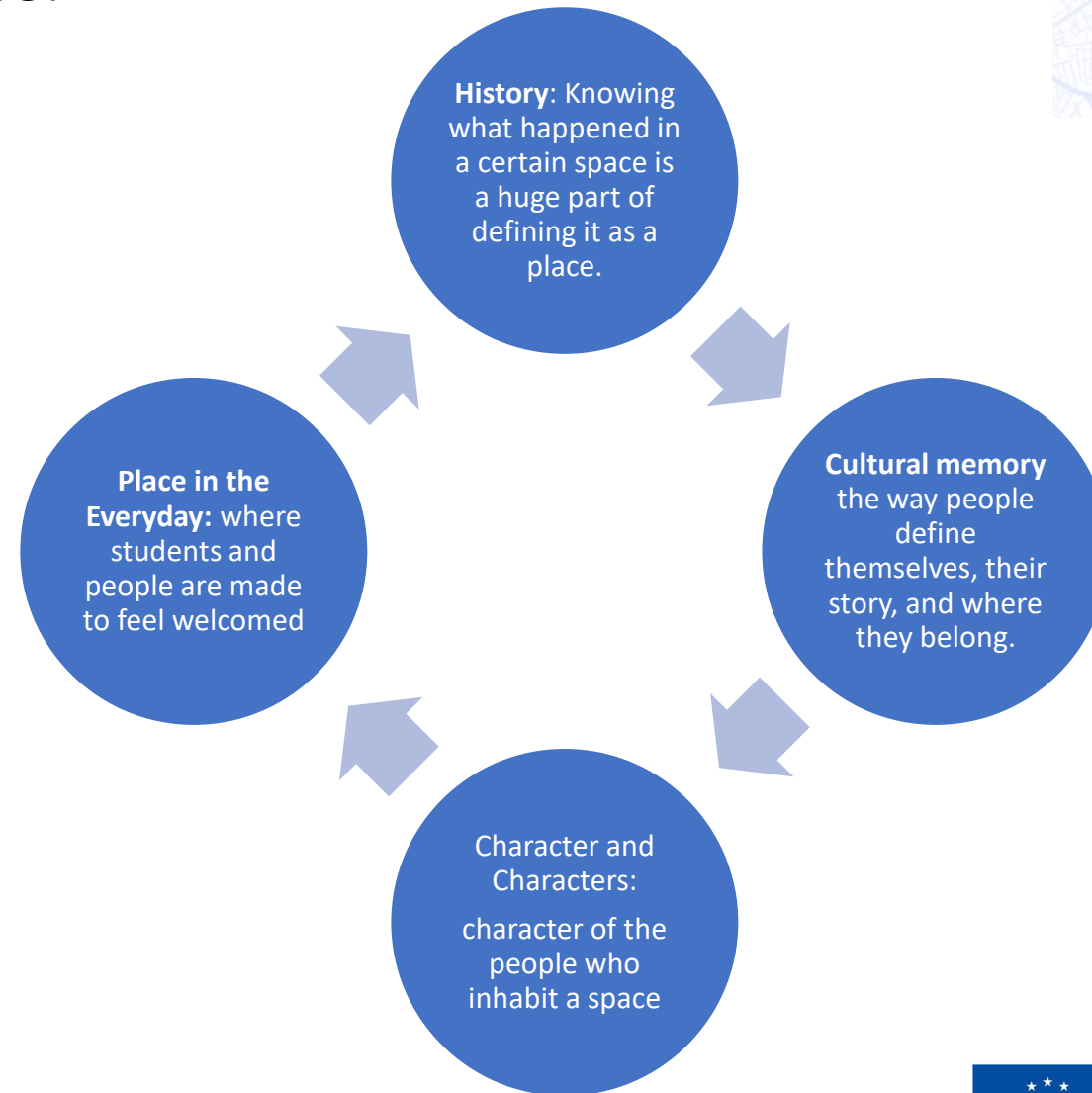
The first known presence of the Irish military in Co. Cavan dates to 1793. Up until recently the military barracks in Cavan were the oldest in the world.





## Our interpretation of the brief

- **Place** is what gives a space meaning, “personality” and a connection to a cultural identity. It is the “vibe” that you get from a certain space, and it exists for a reason.
- Within the new campus, the students wanted to create a place that was welcoming, meaningful and bridged what it means to be Irish and European.



# A piece of public art – Arts4Rights Installation



Music and Stained Glass – intertwined in Irish History and Irish Culture



Role of Folklore in shaping our values



What it means to be European

As part of the study visit to Sweden in May and through the collaboration with EU partners, recommendation to focus on Irish culture and how to bring it to the people of Ireland.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# EU Charter of Fundamental Rights - Themes

---

---

Freedom

---

Dignity

---

Equality

---

Solidarity

---

Justice







## Meaning behind the Art

### **Freedom** and the Children of Lir

The Children of Lir is a legend from Irish mythology and perhaps one of the best known and globally recognised tales of Ireland. This pillar of Irish folklore is a story of loss, enduring love, and the freedom of suffering brought about by Christian faith.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## Meaning behind the Art

### **Dignity** and Oisín from Tír na nÓg

- The story of Tír na nÓg is a famous Irish myth that tells the story of Oisín, a young warrior from na Fianna, who falls in love with a beautiful girl called Niamh. They both travel across the sea on Niamh's white horse to the eternal land of Tír na nÓg where they live happily for hundreds of years



Co-funded by  
the European Union

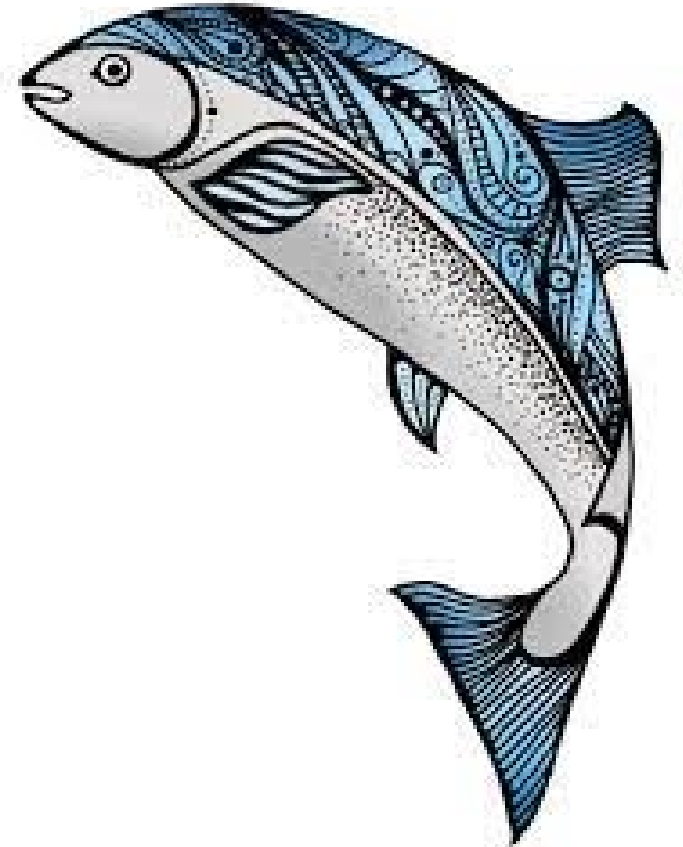
# Meaning behind the Art

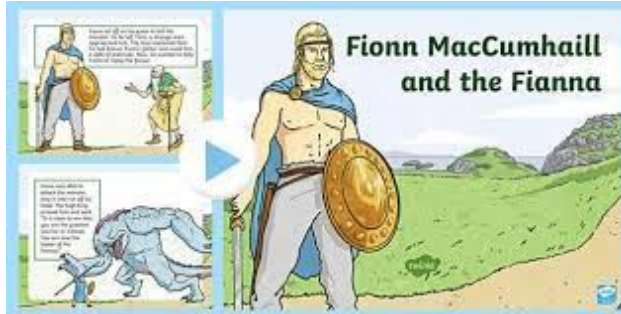
## Equality and the Salmon of Knowledge

Fionn ate the salmon and in so doing gained all the knowledge of the world. The deep knowledge and wisdom gained from the Salmon of Knowledge allowed Fionn to become the leader of the Fianna, the famed heroes of Irish myth.



Co-funded by  
the European Union





Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Meaning behind the Art

## **Solidarity** and Na Fianna

The Fianna was a mighty group of warriors that guarded Ireland for the high king Ireland who lived at Tara.

# Meaning behind the Art

## Justice and Cú Chulainn

- In Irish folklore, Cú Chulainn was one of the greatest warriors ever to live. From his first battle against a vicious hound at the age of 6 to his last against an entire army just two decades later, Cú Chulainn lived a legendary, but short life.



# Creating the Stained-Glass Images

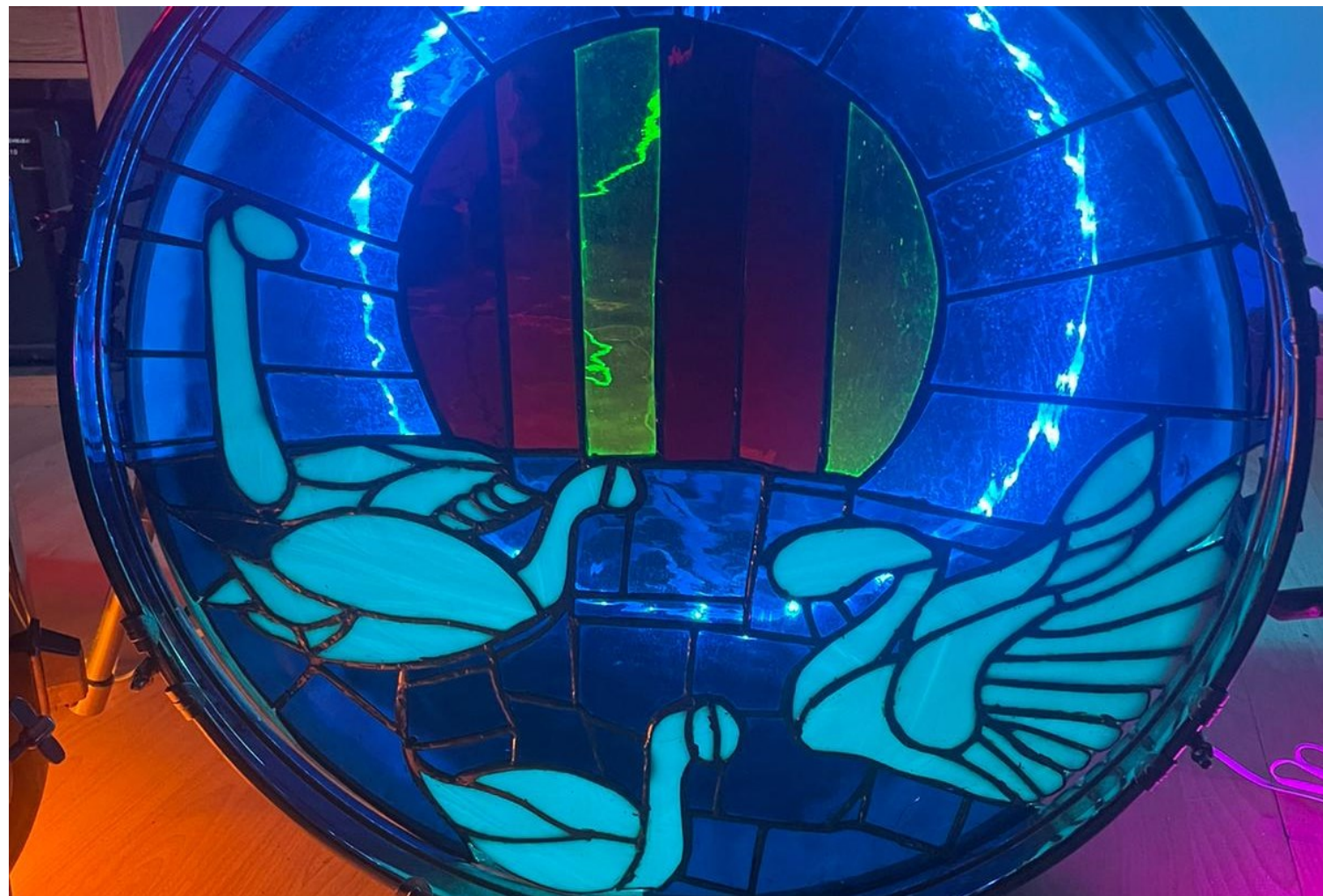


## Finding the Right Host



They choose this host as it brings together 3 departments within the College – Graphic Design, Music and Fine Art and together with stained glass – Music is an integral part of Irish Culture.

Children of  
Lir  
Freedom







Salmon of  
Knowledge

Equality

---





Oisín from  
Tír na nÓg

Dignity



# Cú Chulainn represented by his Hound

---





Solidarity and Na Fianna

# Finished Art Piece - Almost



# Public Participation

---

- The drumkit will be displayed within the Cavan Institute. Once installed, it will be electrified for lights.
  - It will be open to the public and the drumkit can be played – but instead of sound there are lights display
  - It will be fully accessible irrespective of level of ability – musical or otherwise!
- 





Co-funded by  
the European Union



## Public Exhibition – Next Steps

- We are planning to launch the Arts4Rights exhibition at the Cavan Institute Campus to coincide with the week of festivities surrounding St. Patrick's Day (17<sup>th</sup> March 2024) and it will run until 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (to make Europe Day)
- The drum kit will be accompanied by illustrations from the Students and Local Artists explaining the 5 myths depicted in the Art Project.
- Long-term, it is hoped that the drumkit will reside in the UN Veteran Museum in Cavan – completing the circle from the Military Barracks to the VET Centre.

# Special thank you.....

---

- Katelyn Macleod
- Mia Hughes

