

The Book of Sligo

A county-wide Community Arts Project
and
Flagship Event for Sligo Colmcille 2021

Produced by
Blue Raincoat Theatre Company

Supported by
The Arts Council of Ireland

In association with
IT Sligo | Creative Ireland | Sligo County Council

BACKGROUND

The Book of Sligo is an exciting and unique community-based creative arts initiative scheduled to take place in November 2021.

Inspired by the life of Colmcille, the 1500th anniversary of who's birth occurs in 2021, and his reputed association with the Battle of the Books which is said to have taken place on the lower slopes of Benbulbin, **The Book of Sligo** will be a significant county-wide cultural initiative, and an important part of Sligo's Decade of Commemoration.

WHAT THE BOOK IS ABOUT

Featuring contributions from each of Sligo's 41 recognised civil parishes collected and curated specifically for this project, **The Book of Sligo** will portray how the landscape of the county has shaped its people, places, history, and culture, and how we in turn have shaped and affected this landscape over several millennia.

Once published, a hard-bound copy of the Book will be hand delivered to every house in County Sligo, something we can only achieve by working in partnership with community groups and volunteers across the county.

GETTING THE BOOK TO THE COMMUNITY

The delivery of **The Book of Sligo** project will be co-ordinated through extensive engagement with community and voluntary groups of every kind over the coming months, and will require community volunteers throughout the county being called upon to hand-deliver copies to households (subject to relevant health and safety guidelines in effect at that time).

The delivery by hand of copies of the Book is a key aspect of the project as it will uniquely celebrate and demonstrate the importance of community and our relationship with our neighbours. Though **The Book of Sligo** was conceived prior to the current pandemic, it will now serve as a reminder of our shared bonds as well as a celebration of our community as we navigate our way through these challenging times.

PROJECT COORDINATION

Building upon a history of producing and delivering large-scale cultural and community initiatives, the Blue Raincoat Theatre Company has assembled two project teams who are working in tandem to deliver **The Book of Sligo**;

- an editorial team comprising Sligo-based literary figures, musicians, historians, and archaeologists responsible for curating the book
- a group comprised of experienced project organisers and administrators responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of the book to every household in the county.

OUR ASK OF THE SLIGO COMMUNITY

This will be a unique celebration of Sligo as a people and a community, but we need your help to make it happen. We are asking community groups and organisations of every kind from across Sligo, to please consider how they can become involved.

If you are a community leader or member of a local community or voluntary organisation, and are interested in learning how your group might engage with this unique project, please contact info@blueraincoat.com directly, or you can get reply to Sligo PPN and we will connect you.

