



FLIPPED STUDIO “SUCCESSFUL INNOVATOR” - NOVA

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Bronze sculpture celebrates “pandemic heroes” in Cork - The eye and sound of audio-visual arts

Creator of the good practice, country: Information by Joseph Okoh (created by artists Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring in Cork - City in the Republic of Ireland)

Sector: Audio-visual arts

Type of business / employment: Funded by Cork County Council

Achievements in CCS before the Pandemic



Before the pandemic, Cork enjoyed great success in terms of artistic, visual creations with a strong positive impact on citizens. The artists were very active and periodically “launched their efforts” in painting, sculpture, architecture accompanied by specific sounds to take you into the world of travel regardless of mood or context. The Culture and Creative Sector demonstrated a collective (audio-visual) approach before the Pandemic.

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This approach was “illustrated” through participatory street celebrations that engaged and connected with new audiences. Sculptures, paintings (visual arts as a whole) enjoyed appreciation and notoriety before the pandemic impact 2020-2021. Podcasts were often created and accompanied a story of a sculpture, museums had pleasant sounds that calmed you and took you on their tour, but the big centers also enjoyed famous visual arts and the world of citizens and tourists was captivated.



Challenges faced during the Pandemic and innovative solutions to overcome them



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“Due to the continuing lockdown restrictions, we are very sorry to announce that the visual exhibition will not be reopening.” This was one of the messages which circulated on the devices of the interested people but also through the areas of maximum importance in Cork. The silence settled down, the fear grew with each passing day and the visual arts were restricted (the audio ones worked independently in some places).

But what happened? Did the artists comply? Did they give up under pandemic pressures? Not. They have shown that the audio-visual arts can go further than that.

A remarkable Good Practice was implemented during the Pandemic 2020-2021 as “Bronze sculpture celebrates 'pandemic heroes' in Cork”. A sculpture in recognition of all those who helped during the Covid-19 pandemic has been unveiled in Charleville, Co Cork. The sculpture, entitled 'Meitheal', was created by artists Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring and was funded by Cork County Council. It took the form of a cast bronze cube on a red and white limestone plinth. The sculpture is the “cry for change”. The audio part also came in support because often those who have a talent for music stop around the sculpture and bring sounds of melancholy.

Conditions for the innovativeness and success

The innovativeness is that visual arts are often metaphorical and can express feelings that cannot be demonstrated by other “methods”. Basically, the audio-visual arts help you to be reborn, to find yourself and never give up on yourself. This Good Practice is the perfect visual symbol to perpetuate the emotions and feelings brought by the pandemic period 2020-2021. Its metaphor is reminiscent of the solidarity shown during the “pandemic battle’ ’but also the artists' desire to work continuously.

The success and innovation of this Good Practice is supported even by the revelations of those who created it. Commenting on the Charleville work, Lavery and Ring said: "The cube is a metaphor for the box containing everything that was delivered to those in the community who



needed help during the Covid-19 lockdown - including the many acts of kindness that provided physical, emotional and psychological support.

The success and innovation of this Good Practice also stands in the form in which the sculpture was created: a cast bronze cube on a limestone plinth. The hardness of the materials used shows metaphorically that the feelings during the pandemic will always last, but humanity can help to overcome this.

The innovation is also proven by the uniqueness of the ideas behind the creative scene: "Meitheal is a reminder of the incredible spirit that existed during lockdown, when people went out of their way to help their fellow man. We hope it serves as a long-lasting legacy to that great community effort well into the future, when hopefully, Covid-19 will be confined to the annals of history."



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This Good Practice can be successfully implemented or replicated anytime when there is financial support from local authorities and other sponsors, but also the visual talent of artists. Sculptures are part of the top of the pyramid in the visual arts category and are a way to make "your mark" forever. Elements of interactivity can be added to this Good Practice by organizing specific dances around the sculpture as another form of support for its metaphorical message.

Source: <https://www.rte.ie/news/2021/0929/1249720-new-sculpture-celebrates-pandemic-heroes-in-cork/>

Self-reflection questions

1. What did I learn from this Good Practice?
2. What do I have to do to successfully create a sculpture of such magnitude in the visual arts?
3. How much do I feel that the contents of this Good Practice were relevant and useful to me?

This good practice story is prepared by Centrul pentru Promovarea Invatarii Permanente - CPIP, Romania.