

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
Helen Keller



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Annual Report 2015

Ireland's leading support and advocacy organisation for the development of the Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Art Forms in Ireland today



The Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network was formed as a voluntary organisation in late 2010 with the aim of creating an umbrella organisation for these art forms to represent, raise the profile and provide a united voice for this emerging, exciting, developing and growing sector.

Since then the ISACS network has grown to over 60 members, has 10 members on the Board of Directors, secured an Arts Council Annual Programming Grant in 2014 which has grown year on year and now has a part time, freelance Project Manager.



Chairpersons Foreword

I am honoured to have been chair of ISACS since 2014. Over that time ISACS has grown in membership and activities and I am glad to be handing over the role now to the next chair with ISACS in a strong healthy position. One of the key achievements for the ISACS Board in 2015 was the development of a 3 year strategic plan for the organisation. This strategy has allowed us to focus our efforts on particular areas for development such as Advocacy, Audience Research, Professional Development, Membership, National and International Networks and Communications.

I would like to wish the incoming board and Lucy the very best in their work and to thank the Arts Council for their continued support and investment into these art forms as a whole. But most of all I would like to acknowledge the members for their ongoing commitment to a united voice and representative body to speak, represent and advocate on behalf of the whole Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle sector.

Ulla Hokkanen (B.Soc.Sci)

ISACS Core Strategic Priorities 2015

Information and resource sharing

ISACS established itself as the main point of information for its members and other stakeholders working in the sector through:

- ISACS Website
- Members profile pages
- Members event listing
- Up to date listings for jobs, auditions, funding, training, residencies, research and many more
- Social Media; Twitter & Facebook Profiles highlighting events, work and profiles of ISACS members specifically, as well as sharing information relevant to the development of the sector
- Regular newsletter to over 500 subscribers highlighting news, information and opportunities
- Developed academic partnership with the MA in Festive Arts at the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance, University of Limerick.

Advocacy and Policy development

ISACS continued to contribute to National Policy development advocating widely through direct interaction, written representation and formal presentations both public and private.

For instance:

- Submission in consultation with members to the Dublin & Galway City Bye Laws for Street performance
- Submission to the Arts Council Making Great Art Work
- Submission to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for Culture 2025
- Furthered our work on Audience research through investigating work happening across the UK with the Audience Agency and ISAN as well as through Circostrada.

Training and Professional Support

ISACS developed the sector through professional advice, public presentations, moderating and facilitating sectoral conversations and offering of direct support to artists both one to one and as a whole.

For Example:

- NEST 2015 partnered with Spraoi Waterford for the second time, to offer a mentorship and showcase programme to three artists for the further development of their work: Michaela Heyer/Funky Fi, Henrik Gard/Circomara and Brian O'Connell/Circus Fergus, curated by Con Horgan, these artists presented work at: Spraoi Festival, Waterford, Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth and the National Circus Festival of Ireland, Tralee
- Supported Alex Allison to present at Thé des Artistes, Hautes Tensions Festival, Paris.
- Supported Tumble Circus, Lords of Strut and Francesca Castellano to present work and ideas in progress at the Canvas Showcase, London
- Facilitated open forum discussion for aerialists at IADF
- Presented in partnership with Galway Community Circus the Springboard Seminar for further Education.

National and International Networking

ISACS developed its connections across Ireland, the UK & Europe through direct relationships, membership of The Theatre Forum, the Irish Theatre Institute, ISAN and Circostrada. This includes hosting open events representing and showcasing ISACS members at the following events:

Nationally:

- Tower Seminar at the University of Limerick
- Annual Seminar: 'Talk Shop' at the Dublin Fringe Festival
- 'Inspire' at the Cork Midsummer Festival
- Post Show Open Conversation with Circa, Cork Midsummer Festival
- 'Summer University' with Circostrada at the Spraoi Festival
- 'Share' at the National Circus Festival of Ireland.

Internationally:

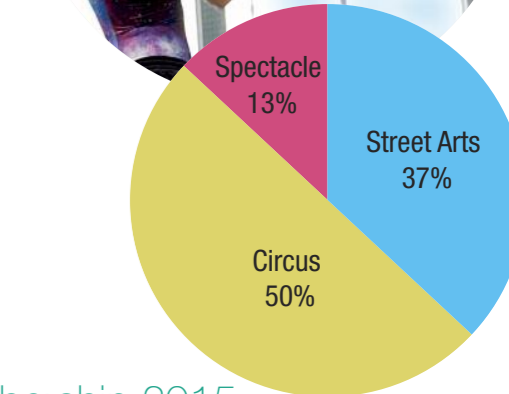
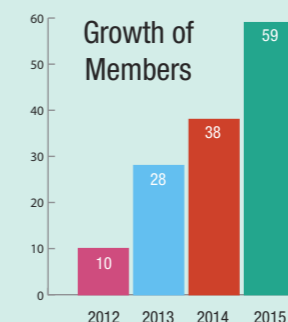
- Subtopia, Stockholm, Sweden
- Cirko Contemporary Circus Festival, Helsinki, Finland
- Greenwich Docklands International Festival, London, UK
- Fresh Street, Fira Tarrega, Barcelona, Spain
- Grow Symposium, Seachange Arts, Great Yarmouth, UK
- Meno Kodas, Klaipeda, Lithuania
- Critical Miass, ISAN, Hull, UK.



Financial Statements 2015

For full set of accounts please go to www.isacs.ie

Profit and Loss Summary		2015
		€
Income:		
Arts Council Grant		29,750
Membership Dues		2,330
Reimbursed Expenses		2,670
Total		34,750
Expenditure:		
Administrative Expenses		(33,904)
Profit for the year		846



Board Members

Ulla Hokkanen (Chairperson), Galway Community Circus
 Niamh Creely (Treasurer), Ether Productions
 Chantal Daly, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance
 Michael Leahy, Waterford Spraoi
 Cornelius Horgan, Fanzini Brothers
 Simon Thompson, Clown Noir
 Michael McDonnell, Cork Circus Factory
 Aidan Phelan, Realta Productions
 Moe Coakley (Minutes Secretary), Creatrix (appointed - 20th April 2015)
 Laura Ivers, Dublin Circus Project (appointed - 20th April 2015)
 Ken Fanning, Tumble Circus (resigned - 20th April 2015)
 Johnny Phelan, Street Theatre Ireland (resigned - 20th April 2015)

Membership 2015

Aerial Cirque
 Alex Allison
 Andi Goodwin
 Aoife Raleigh
 Artastic
 Buí Bolg Outdoor Arts
 Cameron Murphy
 Caoimhe Dun
 Circomara
 Circus Factory Cork
 Circus Gerbola
 Clown Noir
 Clowns without Borders
 Colm O'Grady
 Cork Circus
 Cork Community Artlinks
 David Cadden
 Deajar Lazer
 Dublin Circus Project
 Dublin Community Circus
 Elaine McCague
 Ether Productions
 Fanzini Brothers
 Fidget Feet Aerial Dance
 Fi Rooney
 Francesca Castellano
 Galway Community Circus
 Gearóid O'hAllmhuráin
 Guillaume Cousson
 Joanna Williams
 Kathleen Doherty
 Kim McCafferty
 Lifeisarope
 Lords of Strut
 Macnas
 Maria Auletta
 Michaela Heyer
 Michelle Foote
 Moe Coakley
 Neighbourhood Watch
 Stilts International
 Noleen Breen
 Réalta Productions
 Ronan Brady
 Rosanne Hayes
 Ross O'Brien
 Sarah Blanc-Moxie Brawl
 Shir Madness
 Southpaw Dance Company
 Spraoi Waterford
 Squarehead Productions
 Stephen Hennigar
 Street Theatre Ireland
 Su Hamilton
 Taking Flight
 Tara Wray
 The Dirty Circus
 Tumble Circus
 Will Flanagan
 Wobbly Circus

Staff

Lucy Medlycott Project Manager - Freelance, Part time

thank you

- **A massive thank you to all who supported, encouraged and believed in the strength of a united voice and an umbrella organisation for the Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Sector.**
- **To our members whom we represent and who create, participate in, develop and encourage these amazing art forms.**
- **To our host partners at The Irish Theatre Institute and Wexford County Council.**
- **To our fellow network organisations at Circostrada, ISAN UK and The Theatre Forum.**
- **To our academic partners in the MA in Festive Arts at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick.**
- **To our funders the Arts Council of Ireland.**

