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Arts4Rights Project in Ireland

2023 - 2024

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.

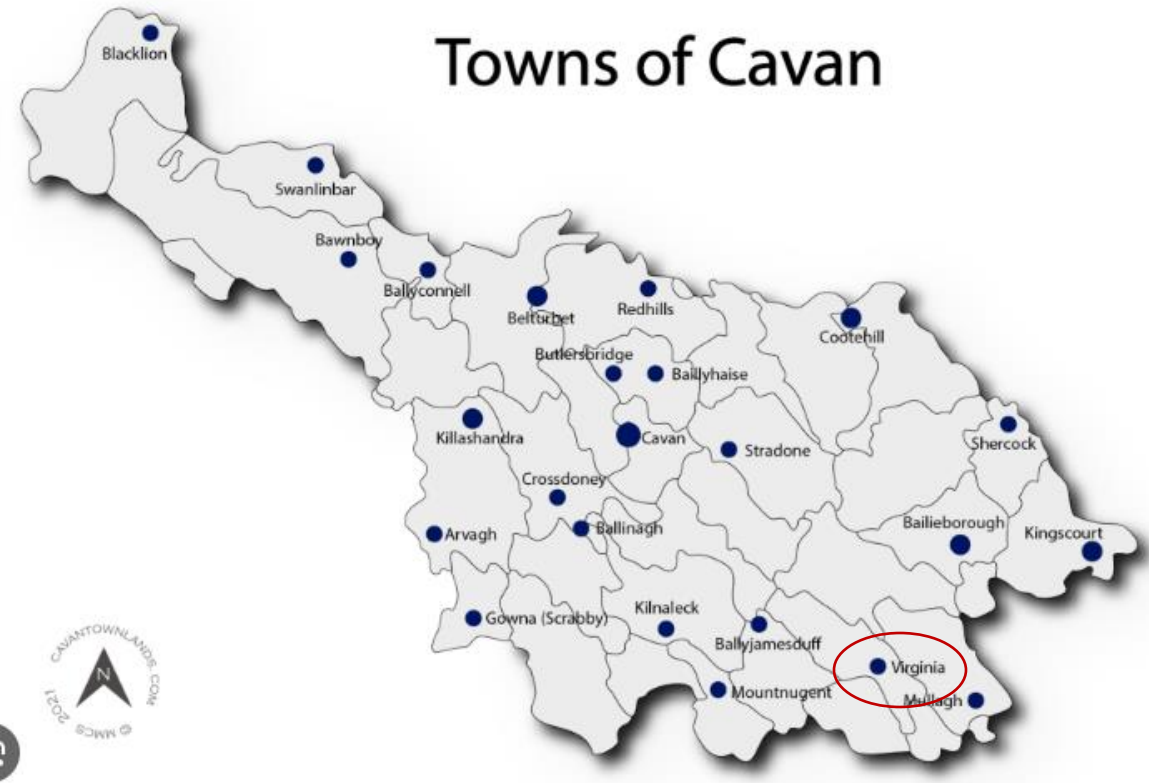
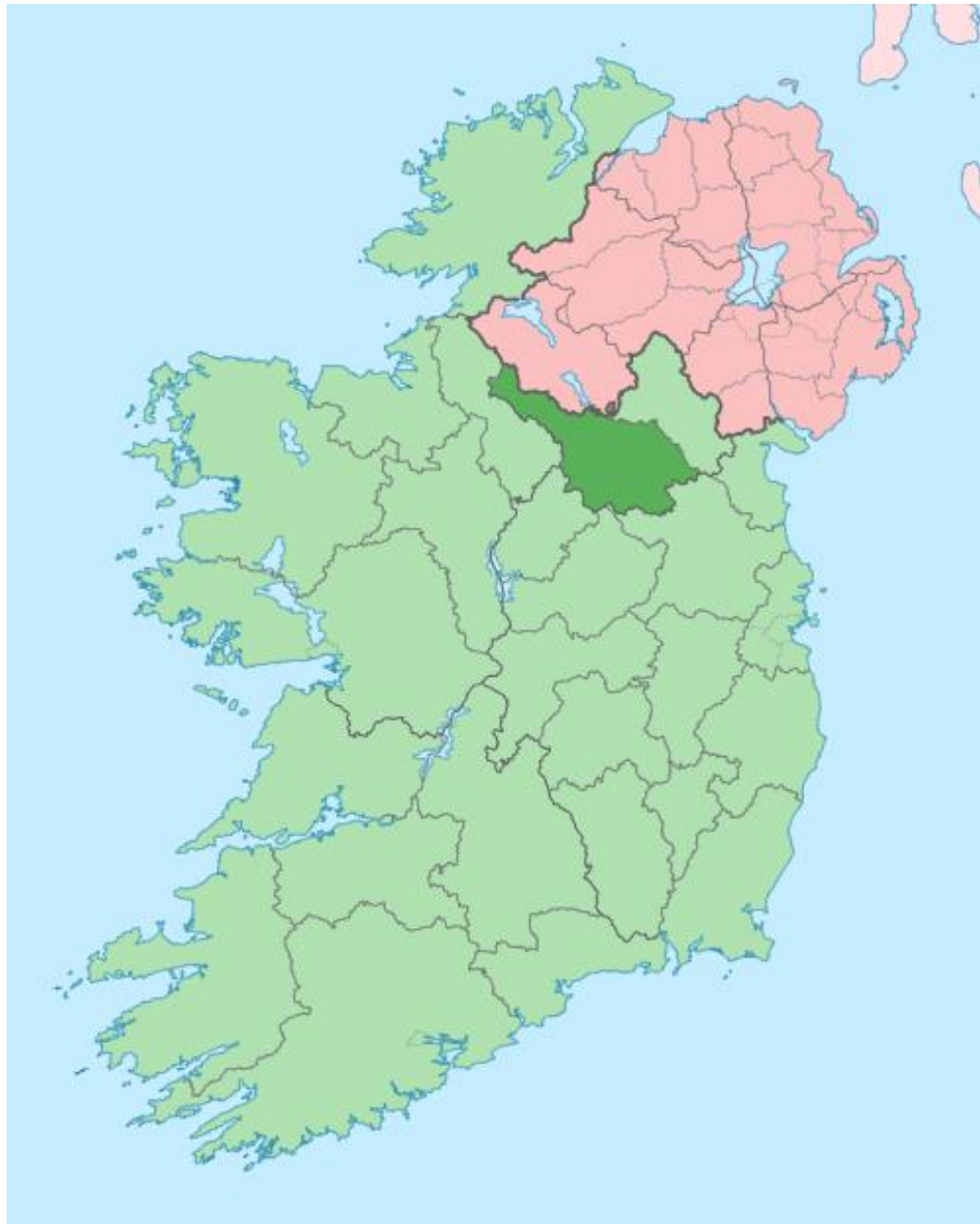
Based in Virginia, Co. Cavan, our community training team, work with many local and regional groups, using creative approaches and digital resources to support greater social cohesion among local communities in the Northwest.

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.

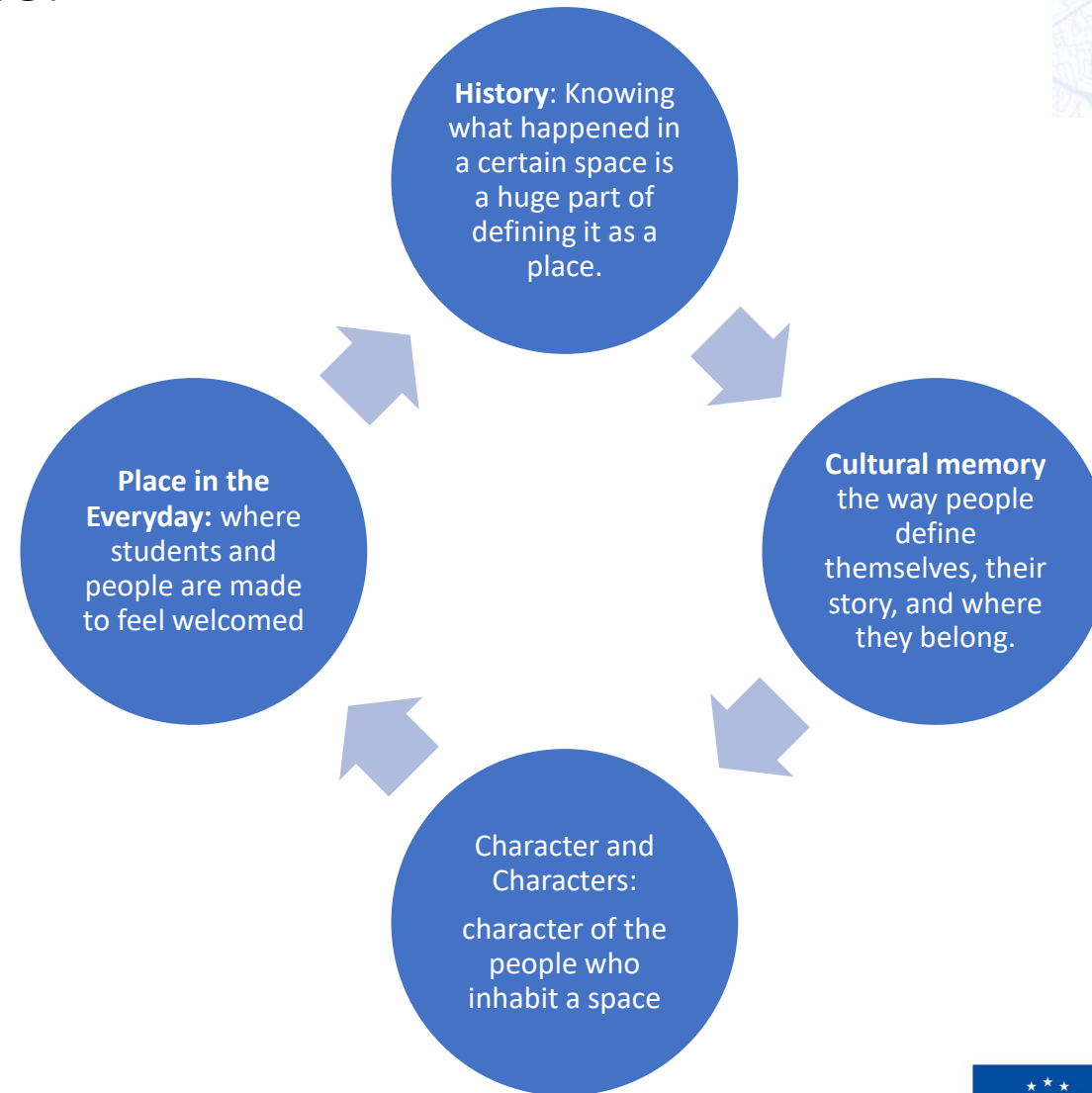
The first known presence of the Irish military in Co. Cavan dates to 1793. Up until recently the military barracks in Cavan were the oldest in the world.



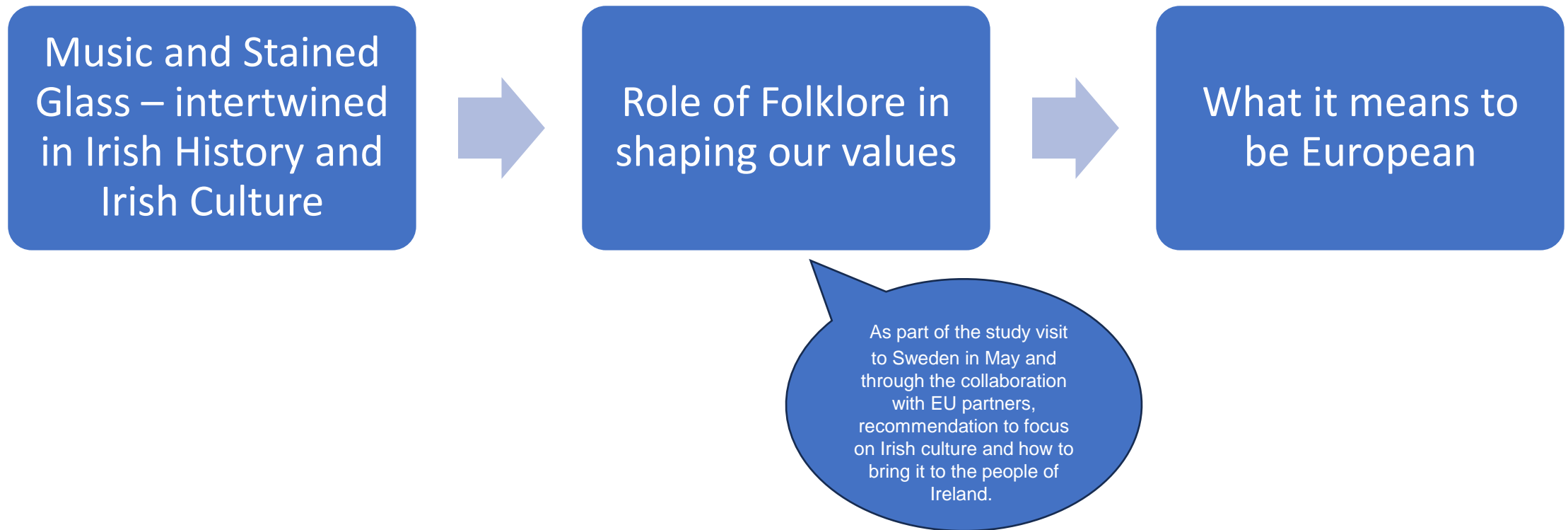


Our interpretation of the brief

- **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



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.



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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



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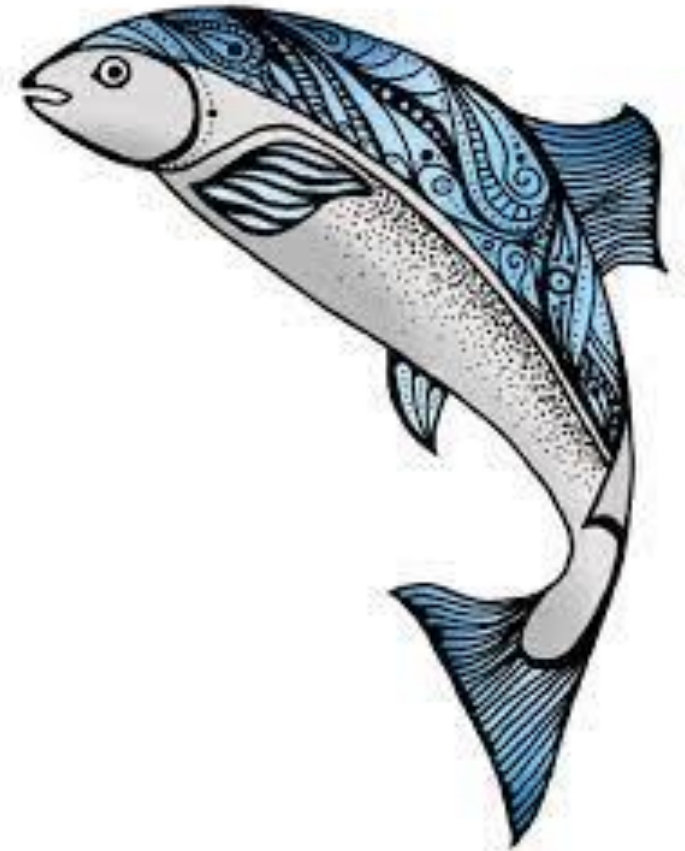
Meaning behind the Art

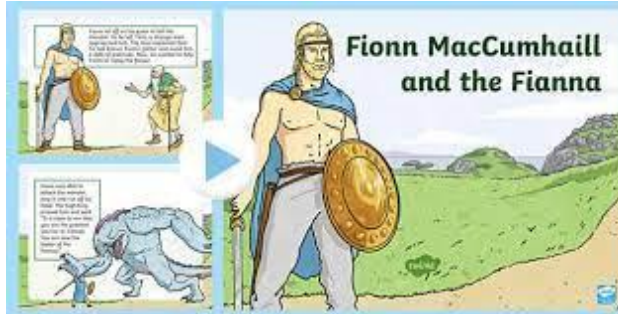
Equality and the Salmon of Knowledge

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.



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Meaning behind the Art

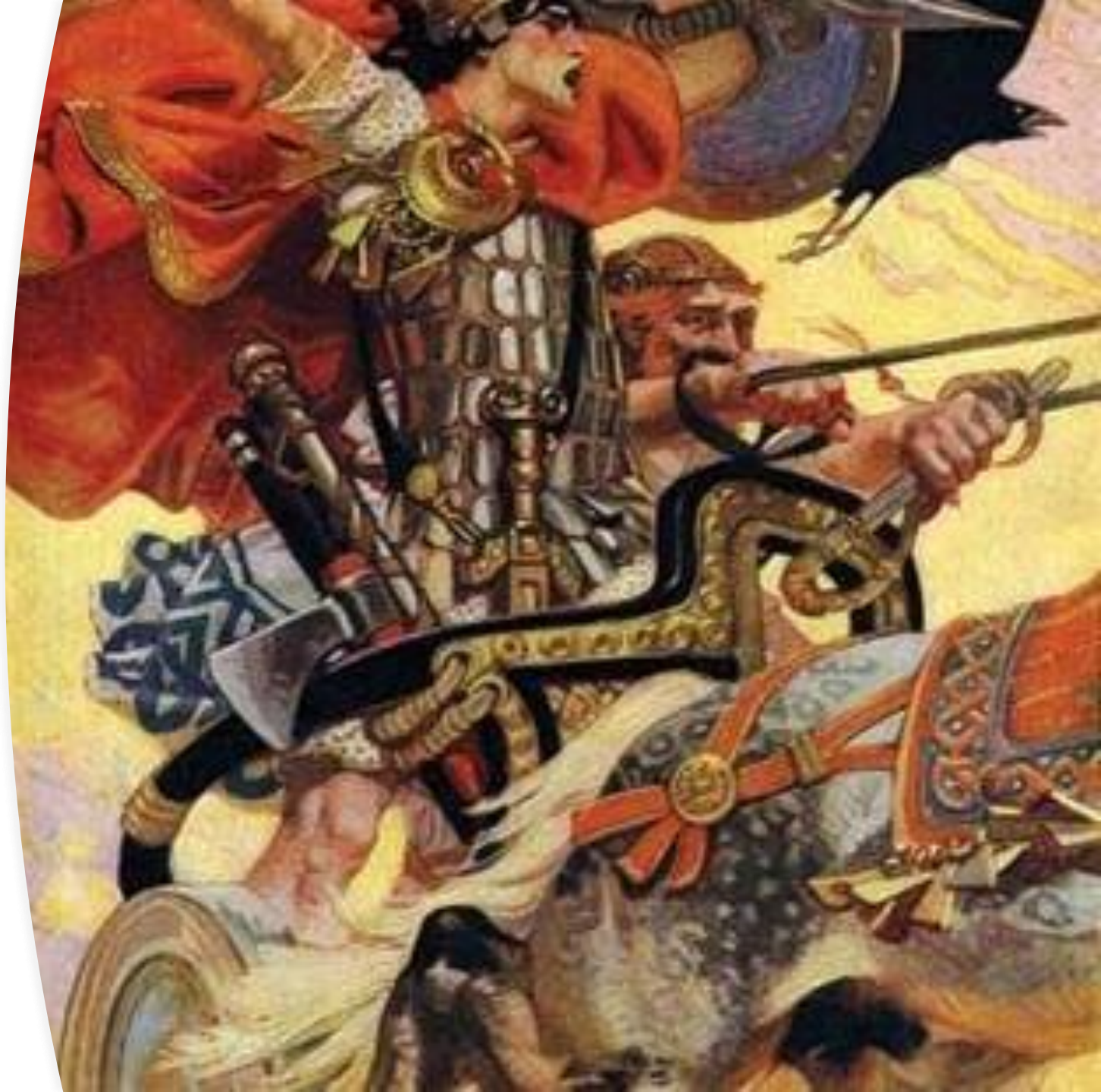
Solidarity and Na Fianna

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

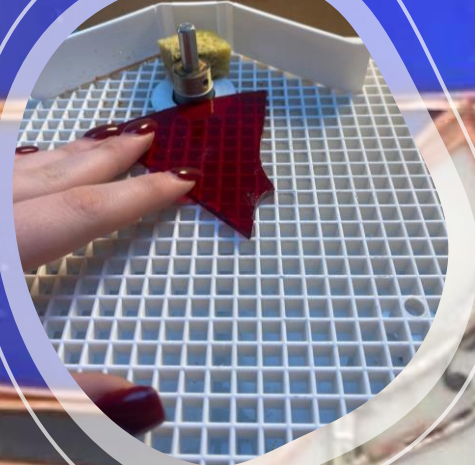
Meaning behind the Art

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.

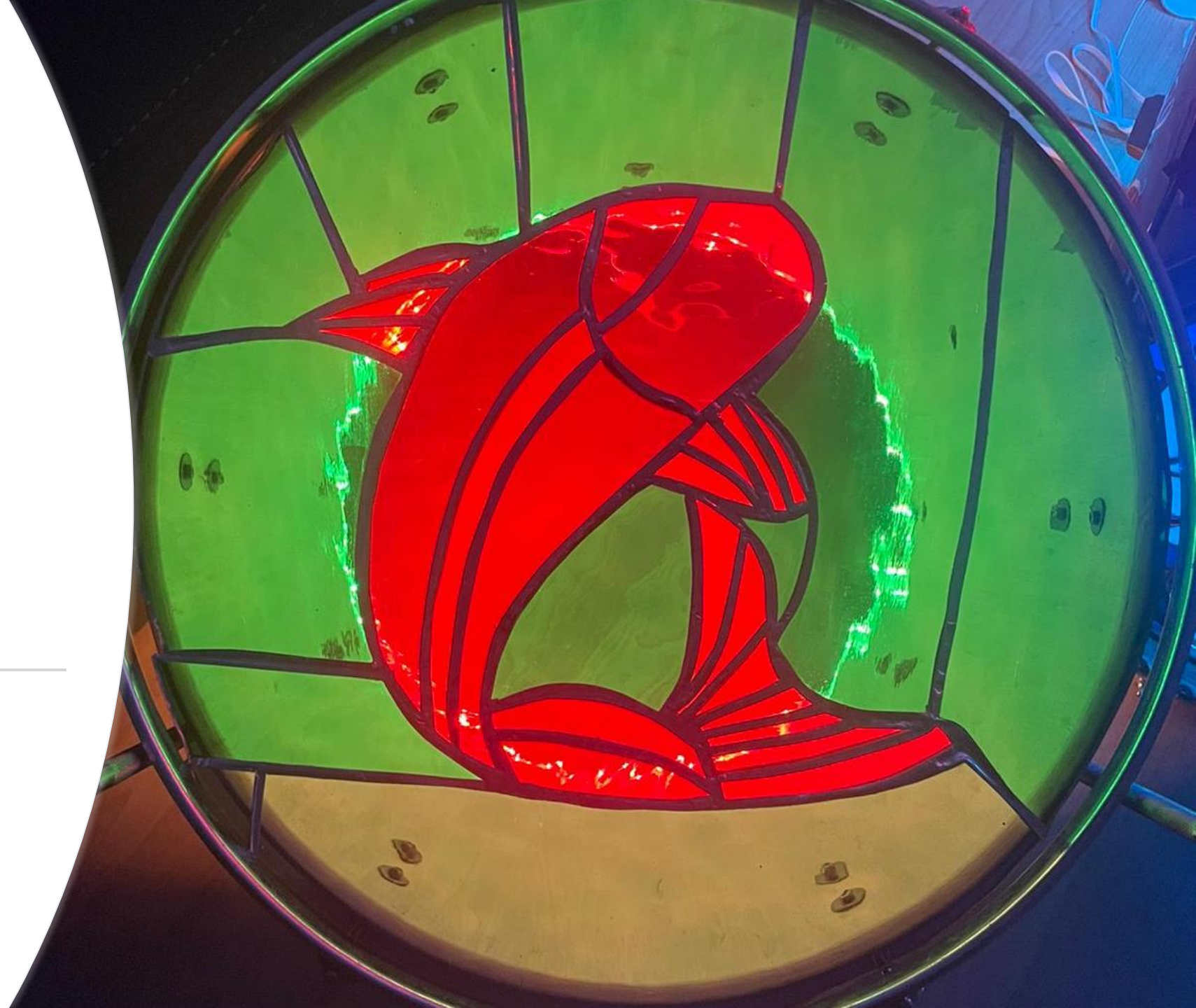
Children of
Lir
Freedom





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 in a public space. 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!
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Public Exhibition

- The Arts4Rights exhibition – public art installation – was showcased at the Public Library in Virginia, Co. Cavan on Friday, 19th April 2024.
- The drum kit was accompanied by illustrations from a Local Artist 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.

Short video of the Installation

https://youtu.be/DoNm7RvBNDk?si=urSR2jj_R1yPGskx



Special thank you.....

- Katelyn Macleod
- Mia Hughes

**The two students who
took a lead in the
creation of the project**

