

iCAN Project 2021

Daoine agus Áit: Connecting Our Communities

Proposal

It is proposed to develop a shared project under the title of ***Daoine agus Áit: Connecting Our Communities***. This bi-lingual title encapsulates the objective of the project which is to draw on a shared history and heritage to connect people with their place, as well as to connect people within each community with each other, to connect the local community with their diaspora, and to further build connections between the groups within the iCAN network.

These connections will be made through the creation of a **Heritage Postcard Collection** and the dissemination of printed cards by each community. We invite all of our iCAN groups to participate.

The project will be co-funded by the National Museum, and the Heritage Officers for counties Clare, Galway and Wicklow via grants from the Healthy Ireland Keep Well Campaign & Creative Ireland.

Heritage Postcard Collection

It is proposed to engage a photographer and creative writer to work with you to develop your heritage postcard designs through a series of skill-based workshops. You will be able to create as many designs as you would like and then choose your favourite to be printed as part of the overall collection.

This is how we are suggesting to organise the project:

- Each community group nominates 1-3 people to work on the project (more if you like!)
- There will be three 'project working groups' with a mix of people from across the network
- Each project working group will have the support of a Heritage Officer
- Each project working group will avail of 6 x 1 hr workshops over 10 weeks:
 - 3 x photography skills
 - 3 x creative writing skills
- You will then work within your own heritage group to produce your postcard designs using your photographs and short pieces of creative writing.
- Your favourite photo and written piece will go to a graphic designer.
- The back of the card will feature your group name, logo if you have one, your website address and logos to acknowledge the project funders.
- We will ask for one person to volunteer from each project working group to work with Lorna and a graphic designer to develop a logo for the collection on behalf of the network.
- Each community group will receive free printed cards to distribute to your community.
- You will be encouraged to involve your wider community in the project by, for example, creating a section on your website for the project, asking for ideas on what makes the heritage of your locality unique or distinctive, perhaps as photographic subjects, being involved in deciding on the design to be printed, and sending out cards to older, or more socially isolated people. These are just some suggestions and we are sure that you will have your own ideas.
- We are proposing to hold an event during Heritage Week to unveil the collection.
- Another suggestion is that we can make a video featuring all of the cards for Heritage Week.
- An Post has been approached to sponsor the cards with free postage and is currently considering this.

We are looking forward to discussing this with you at our meeting on 24th March and will hold a short follow-up session on 7th April (Zoom) to sign up those groups interested in participating, which we hope will be everyone!