

**Temple Bar
Gallery + Studios**

STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

FOREWORD

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios is ideally located in the heart of Dublin city centre providing much needed working space for visual artists. The 30 high quality studios in the building represent almost 40% of publicly-funded studio space in the city. The street-facing gallery exhibits work by innovative contemporary artists, both Irish and international, and is recognised for showing talented artists at breakthrough points in their careers.

The lack of quality affordable studio space for the visual arts in Dublin ensures that the spaces at TBG+S are much sought after. The artists occupying our studios represent diverse practices and all of the artists are here because their artwork is exceptional. Our mission is to place the artists and their needs at the centre of all that we do. To support them, we nurture an active community spirit and ensure the right conditions for creating work and connect with local and international networks. Our ambition is to ensure that our artists are supported and that we, in some small way, contribute to their achievements.

We develop an ambitious annual programme of public events where people can enjoy and reflect on contemporary art and engage with our community of wonderful artists. Our exhibition and studio programmes provide many opportunities for everyone to engage with our artists in an environment of learning and creativity. From workshops for young children, students and the general public, to artists' conversations, tours of exhibitions and open studio visits, we give people an opportunity to explore their own creativity whilst enjoying the exhibitions in our gallery and artworks made in our studios.

We are very proud of each and every one of our studio and exhibiting artists and would encourage you to in turn support their work where you can. We would be delighted if you would join our supporters club, the funds for which go directly into supporting our mission. You can sign up at www.templebargallery.com/support

I hope that you take the time to explore Temple Bar Gallery + Studios.

With warm wishes,

Anne Mathews
Chair

October 2019



VISION

To be a leading centre for contemporary art and artists which expands and communicates the value of contemporary art in the public consciousness.

MISSION

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios' mission is to support the development of artists and the creation of art. We achieve this through high quality studio provision and an ambitious exhibition programme. We support an inclusive environment of learning and creativity and nurture close and sustained engagement of audiences with the work of Irish and international artists.

VALUES

We are **Artist Centred**

We value **Artistic Excellence + Ambition**

We value **Creativity + Opportunity**

We value **Connectivity + Engagement**

We value **Nurture + Renewal**

PILLARS

What We Do:

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios is a place where artists create and exhibit, and people engage with contemporary art.

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios places the artist at the centre of what we do.

CREATE

Accommodate visual artists, across generations, in a high quality, secure studio environment in the city, ensuring the right conditions for the creation and making of art and for artists to thrive.

EXHIBIT

Identify international and Irish artists at breakthrough moments to support ambitious and risk-taking exhibitions of new work.

ENGAGE

Cultivate an environment of creativity and learning to nurture and engage loyal, new and diverse audiences.

INTRODUCTION

Temple Bar Gallery + Studios is a significant component of Ireland's visual art landscape, located in the heart of Dublin city centre and the Temple Bar cultural quarter. It was one of the first DIY artist initiatives in Ireland, started by a group of artists and arts administrators in 1983. In the early 1990s it was an anchor arts organisation that led to the investment of EU Structural Funds in the area and the creation of Temple Bar as a Cultural Quarter.

The combination of artists' studios and public gallery in a central city location has given a distinct expression to how **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** has developed over its thirty year history. Over this time, more than 500 artists have held studios here, and many of Ireland's most highly regarded artists and international artists of growing acclaim have exhibited in our gallery programme. In recent years, we have invested significantly in high quality public engagement programmes that nurture audiences, loyal and new, and give unique insights into contemporary artistic practice and the work of artists.

At **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios**, we place the artist at the centre of what we do. Our studio spaces are of highest quality, where artists of talent, across generations, make work that is exhibited in Ireland and throughout the world. Within our walls, a community of visual artists thrive. The close proximity to peers, the city and its resources, as well as the intimacy of private studio spaces for focused work delivers the right conditions for artists to be making work. In turn, the presence of active and engaged artists feeds an energetic creative environment leading to all kinds of potential for art making/exhibiting, networking and public engagement. **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** facilitates the transition of artworks from conception in the artist's studio in the centre of Dublin to public and private exhibitions and outcomes globally. **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** enables the active presence of artists in the city centre, bringing a vital dynamic to its civic, cultural and social life.

This is **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios'** third Strategic Plan (2020-2025). It is framed around three core artistic pillars '**Create, Exhibit, Engage**', and sets out five strategic directions to guide our policies and actions over the next five years. This prioritises agendas that matter to artists' development and to delivering a high quality artistic programmes that will engage, nurture, challenge, and grow our public audiences. Telling our story with impact and giving voice to artists is a priority for our Strategic Plan. It is our continuing desire to invest in our building and enable it to best serve our needs and our ambitions for the future as a public, artist-centred institution. The core of the Strategic Plan ensures a healthy and progressive environment with sufficient resources and the full commitment of the Board and our team to reach our ambition.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Reinforce + deepen our engagement with Artists

Cultivate a creative environment and strengthen our capacity to support artists at different stages, providing the right conditions for artists to research, create, exhibit, and discuss art.

Build relations with international curators and organisations to support networking, co-production, residencies, and onward paths for the artists we work with.

2. Telling Our Story

Communicate our story with impact and give expression to the unique vitality of **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** and its importance to contemporary visual artists and Irish visual art today.

Give our artists a voice in the world and build a community of people that will set **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** apart as a place for agenda-setting.

3. Nurture + Broaden our Audiences

Consider how we think about, understand and measure our audiences.

Strengthen our different audience programmes to support diverse, new and loyal arts audiences to reflect, enjoy and engage with contemporary art.

4. Grow our Funding + Strengthen our Capacity

Sustain and build on fundraising strategies, diversifying income streams and enhancing our ability to deliver our mission.

Commit to a healthy, transparent and progressive working environment and comprehensive governance compliance.

5. Our Building, Our Place

Enable our building to best serve our needs and ambitions for the future as a public, artist-centred institution.

Build our visibility through the design and augmentation of our street level spaces to provide a welcoming entrance and additional educational/workshop facilities.

1. REINFORCE + DEEPEN OUR ENGAGEMENT WITH ARTISTS

Goals

Strengthen our capacity to support artists at different stages, providing the right conditions for artists to create, research, exhibit and discuss art.

How we will achieve our goals

- Ensure a dynamic environment for our studio artists to thrive by investing in a high quality studio setting with developmental opportunities from international residencies, visiting curators, peer-exchange, networking, mentorship, masterclass and public discourse, and artist's salon programmes.
- Advocate and find sufficient resources to invest in ambitious, well-planned exhibitions that support artists to pursue timely, critical and boundary defining directions for their work in our gallery.
- Build relations with international curators and organisations to support networking, co-production, residencies, and onward paths for artists we work with.
- Review and reflect on our studio and gallery policies annually to ensure that we are vigilant of the contexts in which we operate, allowing flexibility and openness to creatively respond to opportunities, challenges and new paths as they arise.



Project Studio artist Aisling McCoy in her studio at
Temple Bar Gallery + Studios

2. TELLING OUR STORY

Goals

Communicate our story with impact and give expression to the unique vitality of **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** and its importance to contemporary visual artists and Irish visual art today.

Give our artists a voice into the world and build a community of people that will set **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** apart as a place for agenda setting.

How we will achieve our goals

- Strengthen how we communicate our vision and our programmes through multiple targeted channels in broadcast, press, social media, art journals, and blogs to build national, local and international visibility, awareness and reputation for our artists and our work.
- Introduce a new '*Six-monthly Report*' as an artist-style salon and invite **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** studio artists to share presentations on their recent exhibitions, projects, activities, and research, to showcase the remarkable art that gets made here and goes out into the world.
- Produce broadcast quality audio podcasts with **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** studio artists by inviting them to host conversations that create an intelligent and fascinating collection of 'artist-to-artist' conversations over time.
- Begin research for a new publication (with publisher) marking 40 years of **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios** to tell our story through the lens of a contemporary history of Irish art focusing on artists (past and present) who have engaged with **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios**. By telling our story we will be telling a story of contemporary art in Ireland over the past 40 years.



Installation view of a solo exhibition by Otobong Nkanga at
Temple Bar Gallery + Studios

3. NURTURE + BROADEN OUR AUDIENCE

Goals

Consider how we think about, understand and measure our audiences.

Strengthen our different audience programmes to support loyal, diverse and new arts audiences to reflect, enjoy and engage with contemporary visual art and the work of artists.

How we will achieve our goals

- Survey, measure and track our audiences to understand them. Emphasis the depth and quality (over quantity) of audience experience, and advocate for truer ways to understand success that is not based on numbers.
- Value and draw on the presence of a community of exceptional artists here and make them intrinsic to audience programmes.
- Place artists' discourse at the centre of what we do to give unique insights into contemporary artistic practice in gallery and studio audience programmes.
- Evaluate, strengthen and improve 'Making Connections' to nurture our local resident and working community and the wider visual arts community.
- Nurture and cultivate young audiences through designated programmes aimed at schools, young people and third-level students.
- Maximise on the opportunities that Dublin Art Book Fair gives to engage new audiences and, as a meeting point for disciplines – art, architecture, design, literature, visual culture - growing our audience annually.
- Create partnerships with diverse arts and cultural organisations to develop and deliver shared audience programmes.
- Commission a literary writer annually to offer another form of writing on art, engaging diverse literary and arts audiences.



Recent Graduate Residency artist Bassam Al-Sabah leading a workshop with primary school children as part of our Creative Generations programme in his studio at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios

4. GROW OUR FUNDING + STRENGTHEN OUR CAPACITY

Goals

Sustain and build on fundraising strategies, diversifying income streams and enhance our ability to deliver our mission.

Commit to a healthy, transparent and progressive working environment and comprehensive governance compliance.

How we will achieve our goals

- Seek increases in funding from the Arts Council and Dublin City Council through strategic funding commitments that support our ambitions.
- Increase and diversify our funding through several fundraising campaigns to achieve targets set out in our annual fundraising policies.
- Ensure a positive, healthy and progressive environment to build capacity of staff and ensure their development, growth and fulfilment.
- Seek increases to fund essential gallery mediators and invigilation and strengthen another tier of engagement for our public-facing gallery programmes.
- Ensure transparent governance compliance and value the diverse and progressive impact of a dynamic and energised Board.
- Sustain and strengthen our committee structures to involve the Board, staff and Artist Members in key areas of strategic development.



People enjoying a movement workshop as part of our Making Connections Summer School

5. OUR BUILDING, OUR PLACE

Goals

Enable our building to best serve our needs and ambitions for the future as a public, artist-centred institution.

Build our visibility through the design and augmentation of our street level spaces to provide a welcoming entrance and threshold to the gallery, and additional educational/workshop facilities.

How we will achieve our goals

- Start a campaign for our building. Work with Dublin City Council and Temple Bar Cultural Trust to find resources to implement a capital development programme that will deliver a high quality design approach to augmenting spaces at street level, including an entrance and threshold to the gallery, a street level workspace/studio for engagement practices, and improvements that will invest in the quality, and sustainability of our environment, to best serve our needs and ambitions, and to meet current regulation standards.
- Through quality, a modest design and implementation, our building at a prominent location in Temple Bar, can be a beacon for the area and enhance a positive sense of place, reflecting its cultural remit.
- Ensure a high standard of physical space in our entire building through appropriate up-keep of its interior spaces and exterior façade to ensure a pleasant and well-maintained space for our artists, our visitors and our staff.
- Advocate for a stronger profile for all arts and cultural organisations in Temple Bar. Be proactive in reawakening commitments to the many arts and cultural organisations operating here, seeing ways to strengthen visibility and to collaborate with neighbouring and other city centre arts institutions, bringing attention back to the vital role of artists, culture and the arts for the city and for Temple Bar.

OUR UNION ONLY IN TRUTH

ART IS FOR EVERYBODY

TEMPLE BAR

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STUDIOS →

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Temple Bar
Gallery + Studios
is supported by:



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council