

20 November 2017-11-20  
Heritage Council  
Áras na hOidhreachta  
Church Lane  
Kilkenny  
R95 X26

### **SUBMISSION ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022 CONSULTATION**

Below is a brief ICOMOS Ireland submission to the Heritage Council Strategic Plan consultation process.

ICOMOS Ireland supports the Heritage Council in its mission, vision and initiatives to realise these. The Heritage Council plays a critical role in the many spheres of heritage in this country and critically, provides a link between policy formation, policy implementation and all stakeholders engaged in heritage.

We would note a range of areas of activity set out in the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan Consultation Document which are shared between Heritage Council and ICOMOS. These include (amongst many more):

- Support for collaboration and heritage initiatives that ensure lasting legacy. The current joint research project into deep retrofit energy efficiency research for traditionally constructed buildings is a live example of this vision.
- Allied to the above, addressing underuse and vacancy as part of the wider challenge of meeting housing need and the revitalisation many of our urban centres and neighbourhood. In doing so, acknowledging the complex makeup of our historic landscapes.
- Supporting the highest standards in the care of our heritage. ICOMOS provides an important role in the development and dissemination of best practice principles and guidance for conservation. This is provided via the many charters, conventions, principles produced by ICOMOS in conjunction with its International Scientific Committees and broad membership and these reflect continuing and evolving knowledge, research and practice as well as philosophy and theory.
- ICOMOS Ireland is pleased to be actively involved in EYCH 2018 and look forward to working with the Heritage Council in achieving positive legacy from this year. We have identified a number of initiatives we will look to start and/or develop during 2018, some with involvement of others. These include, amongst others, an initiative to identify best practice programmes, projects and policy areas which reflect the principles enshrined in the Faro Convention and, the publication of the Review of the State of Conservation Education and Training and sharing the outcomes and experience with European colleagues (proposed February 2017 and adopted for support by the ICOMOS International Committee CIF)

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Registered Office: 8, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Directors: Gráinne Shaffrey (President), Deirdre McDermott, (VP), Una Ní Mhearain (Treasurer),  
Audrey Farrell (Membership Secretary), Mona O'Rourke (Company Secretary),  
Grellan Rourke, Paul McMahon, Catherine Gorman, Ivor McElveen, Mary-Liz McCarthy



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ICOMOS Ireland acknowledges the critical role the Heritage Council can and should play in leading heritage policy and practice in this country. While the strategic plan speaks to this next three years and therefore inevitably must relate to current issues, it is important that the Heritage Council strategy is also looking to the future beyond 2022. This would include initiatives which can and will influence practice and thinking on the ground. The Conservation Plan methodology is a good example of a Heritage Council initiative which has had a profound influence on understanding and practice and which has evolved also to embrace the evolution in our understanding of heritage

In this regard, climate change is a major issue, which Ireland has not really geared up to and needs to put integrated and holistic approaches in place. The Heritage Council can play an important role through its local networks and will need to speak nationally.

Finally, through its domestic work (National Committee and National Scientific Committees) and its international participation, ICOMOS Ireland activities reflect the evolving prerogatives for cultural heritage where we can only successfully address the challenges ahead – be they climate change; housing need or, the revitalisation of our towns – if we treat the historic landscape and the contemporary as a single, albeit complex, entity with communities at the fore and engaging with both the tangible and intangible dimensions of cultural heritage which acknowledge and enable diversity and identity. We would hope to work with the Heritage Council in delivering on its mission and vision and we wish the Heritage Council well in the development and implementation of its Strategic Plan 2016-2022. We would be pleased to consult more directly with the Heritage Council on this subject.

Yours faithfully

Gráinne Shaffrey

President ICOMOS Ireland.

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Directors: Deirdre McDermott. (President), Peter Cox (Vice-President), Una Ní Mhearain (Treasurer), Colm Murray (co-opted) (Membership Secretary), Grellan Rourke, (Company Secretary), Ivor McElveen, Mona O'Rourke, Rob Goodbody, Catherine Gorman (co-opted)