

## PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### National Library of Ireland welcomes the launch of Creative Ireland Programme

The [National Library of Ireland](#) (NLI) has today (08.12.16) welcomed the launch of Creative Ireland, the Government's Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016. The five year initiative (2017-2022) aims to place creativity at the heart of public policy.

Building on the national response to the 1916 centenary activities and the Ireland 2016 programme, Creative Ireland aims to facilitate collaboration and creativity at both national and local level. The NLI is one of the partners involved in the programme which will also include the third level sector and other organisations in the arts, culture, Irish language, education, child development, design, science and technology sectors.

Speaking at the launch today, Director of the National Library of Ireland, Dr Sandra Collins said: "This centenary year has been remarkable for the country and a landmark year for the National Library of Ireland. Building on our achievements in 2016, we are delighted to see such a progressive and exciting programme launched by the Government today that recognises how important ongoing investment in the arts and culture sector is for both preserving and creating our history.

"The Creative Ireland programme offers every Irish citizen, young and old, the opportunity to engage in our country's rich heritage and contribute to our rich cultural tapestry. It is heartening to see a cross-government focus on the arts and the National Library of Ireland looks forward to playing its part in the programme."

The core work of Creative Ireland is to create and sustain strong partnerships with all agencies and sectors involved. This will be realised through developing detailed work-plans in consultation with each partner organisation. An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD will chair a cabinet committee; Secretary General of the Department of An Taoiseach will lead a Senior Officials' Group comprising of senior civil servants from each relevant Department and a dedicated Project Office has been set up, located in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Chairperson of the NLI Board, Paul Shovlin added: "Following the announcement last year by Minister Heather Humphreys TD and her Department that €10 million will be made available to the Library to upgrade our buildings and make safe our collections for generations to come, this year we launched our own five-year Strategy which links in strongly with the pillars that Creative Ireland is built on. The Creative Ireland Programme is a clear indication to the world that Ireland is ready to lead the way in investing in creative and cultural infrastructure. The National Library looks forward to collaborating with the programme and other partner organisations over the next five years and beyond."

To find out more about the Creative Ireland Programme, visit [creativeireland.ie](http://creativeireland.ie). To find out more about the National Library of Ireland's 2016-2021 Strategy, visit [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie).

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### Notes to Editors:

Dr Sandra Collins, Director, NLI is available for interview and comment.

**About the NLI:** The National Library of Ireland (NLI) is the library of record for Ireland. Established in 1877, its mission is to collect, protect and make available the recorded memory of Ireland. A reference library, it cares for more than ten million items, including books, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs,

prints, maps, drawings, ephemera, music and digital media. It is open, free of charge, to all those who wish to consult the collections. The Office of the Chief Herald in Kildare Street and the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar are both part of the National Library. The five strategic priorities for the National Library for 2016 – 2021 are to collect, protect, connect, innovate and collaborate. The NLI's [Strategy 2016 – 2021](#) can be downloaded from [here](#). Further information is available at [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie). Follow the NLI on Twitter [@NLIreland](#), Facebook [National Library of Ireland](#), [Flickr on the Commons](#) and [Vimeo](#).