







Testimonials

**"They love trying different instruments.
They often come home singing lyrics of
songs I love."**

Parent of child in Music Hub

**"I like coming to the Hub
because if I wasn't I'd be bored... when
I come to the Hub I make loads of friends
and do lots of fun stuff!"**

TJ Power, Age 10, Afterschool Participant

**"From science with different chemicals
and different experiments.. and art
bringing out a creative side they never
knew they had..."**

Parent

**"I hope the Learning Hub will always be
there to inspire children to follow there
budding kickboxers, scientists, artists
and musicians."**

Karen Kiely, Parent

"We did experiments with explosions, gooey stuff, runny stuff, things we would never dare do in school! It was 10 out of 10 all round"

Ms. Frawley, Thomond Primary School

"Well done to all the staff. Everybody was courteous, polite, kind to the children, patient and very enthusiastic about their work. We had a wonderful time. Mile buiochas!"

Teacher, Nicker NS

"I love the Art Hub because it's so much fun. I get to meet new friends and I learn new art techniques. There is also something different every week"

Student, Age 9

"I suppose when I was in Primary School we fit into the curriculum, rather at the Hub the programmes fit around the children. You know it's just different. It's so innovative. It's thinking outside the box. It's what education should be all about"

Mr Tiernan O' Neill, Principal,
Corpus Christi Primary School

"Kids loved the science, fun and interactive and delivery was very respectful towards all levels of ability."

Teacher, Roxborough NS

Message from the Chairperson

As chairperson of The Learning Hub I am proud to introduce our Annual Report 2018. The Learning Hub plays a significant role in the lives of around 400 young people and their families each week and it is a privilege to be part of their journey through life and to offer them such engaging activities and support. Those engaged with the Learning Hub have the opportunity to find their passion and participate in lots of different activities across the Hubs; Science, Health, Art & Design, Digital and Music. Whilst engaged in any of these activities the team support the development of key skills such as confidence, communication, empathy, leadership, teamwork, resilience – the kind of skills that they need to deal with anything that is thrown at them!

This has been a transformative year for the Learning Hub. A time of change, reflection and renewal. After 11 years we said goodbye to CEO Jennifer Moroney-Ward and Science Co-ordinator Sean O'Brien who had been with us for 7 years. Reflective of the very high calibre team at the Learning Hub and the incredible opportunity for anyone to develop key skills, the CEO left to take on a significant regional leadership role and our Science Coordinator took on a lead managerial role in one of the biggest R&D funded centers in the country. The board, staff and entire community, is extremely grateful to Jennifer for the inspirational and very hard work she undertook during her time as CEO. She worked with such commitment, to develop the organization and campus and create a magical place for more than 400 people each week now and 29,626 thousand visitors per year. Sean's vision for the Science Hub led to significant funding from the Science Foundation of Ireland and corporate engagement as well as overall funding for the Learning Hub enabling the organization to increase its outreach capability year on year. Their new roles are testament to their hard work, leadership and visionary capabilities developed at the Learning Hub. Again, on behalf of the board, staff and community, thank you.

We are delighted to welcome our new CEO, James Blake and wish him the very best of luck as together we develop our new strategy for the next 5 years. We would also like to welcome Roseanna Shanahan to the team who has taken over as lead on the Science Hub this year.

Retaining high governance standards and quality education focused programming remain our focus. Supporting families and young people to reach their potential remains our board's mission. The Board acknowledges the ongoing challenges faced by many families living locally and our goal has been to continue to live up to our promise of offering practical resources, support and encouragement to both families and children. The interlinking issues of social exclusion and educational disadvantage remain high on our agenda; and facilitating a response to families right in the heart of the community continues to be our focus.

It takes a community and we particularly acknowledge the work of the staff and volunteers in attending to all young people in a professional and holistic manner. We are continually impressed by the imagination and flexibility shown in meeting these challenges each day. During the last year the Learning Hub Limerick has continued to be bustling with activity thanks to the hard work of the staff and volunteers. Our partners are also vital to our success. This is no mean feat and the grounds and site have been wonderfully maintained thanks to the staff and the support of the TUS programme also in 2018. Third level student volunteers donate thousands of hours to the work of the Learning Hub and together with the core staff work hard to deliver effective holistic education focused programming to children from age 5 upwards.

Our facilities were also hard at work serving over 23 external organisations during 2018 and again our LHL staff support this in many ways, seen and unseen.

The Learning Hub has worked hard over the last 11 years to build relationships and strong partnerships with local schools, third level institutions, industry partners, city and county council and statutory bodies. Without these key partnerships we cannot deliver on our targets each year. In 2018, we were delighted to remain fully funded and continue to work with our key partners as well as engage with new ones.

Our continued focus on STEAM education for primary schools serving Limerick and its environs has proven to be very popular with programmes fully booked out by schools across the region.

We continue to build expertise in the key areas of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) education. The Board is keen to develop our capacity in this area with focused funding and impact targets set for this strategic goal.

The Health Hub also continues to grow with the Kickboxing club continuing to produce national and world champions from the local community thanks to the drive and commitment of staff member Paul O'Brien. The teams' commitment to supporting the development of health and wellbeing is notable with Hayleigh Kiely, at just 18 years old, receiving a Mayoral Reception on the 22nd May 2018, to honour her global achievements to date. Hayleigh started attending the Learning Hub around the age of 7. She continues her global domination as a champion whilst also taking on the new part-time role of coach at the Hub as she studies to become a teacher at MIC. Hayleigh, Paul and other members of the Health Hub team are often found giving leadership talks to schools, youth organisations and HEIs. We also welcomed Munster Rugby on site to support Health Hub activity during 2018 and we look forward to developing this partnership in 2019. Our health, music and arts programmes continue to thrive thanks to the input of funders such as Limerick City and County Council, Limerick and Clare ETB and the JP McManus Charitable Foundation.

The Learning Hub is fully compliant with the Governance Code and the Accounting Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practices (Charities SORP) and are committed to the highest standards of governance which remains consistent on our board's agenda. This level of compliance and commitment helps to guarantee the organisations integrity to the public and to our partners and funders

The Learning Hub is a unique, innovative and creative organisation dedicated to the communities we serve. We are made up of a diverse network of young people, volunteers, staff, board, teachers, researchers, partners and supporters. This diversity allows us to excel in what we do in a very special way. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your commitment and your contribution over the last year. With your sustained support, The Learning Hub will continue to deliver the highest quality programmes and activities to young people, their families and communities ensuring that the many children experiencing social and educational exclusion will continue to have access to a well-supported, welcoming and educationally inspiring learning space for 2019 and beyond.

Chairperson

Gillian Barry



Cois Sionna C
 Church St., Askeaton, Co.

PAY: *The Learning Hub*
 SUM: *Three Thousand One Hundred & Ninety Six Euro*



Credit Union Ltd
Limerick.
€5,176.92

SMALL DAILY
IMPROVEMENTS
ARE THE KEY TO
STAGGERING
GROWTH
AND
RESILIENCE



Message from the CEO

I have been a part of the team here at the Learning Hub since 2008 and took over the role of CEO, from Jennifer Moroney-Ward, in the latter half of 2018. Having had the honour of working with her for the previous ten years, I am fully aware of the high standards set and maintained by Jennifer; her legacy is one I am both humbled and proud to build upon.

I have worked extensively on project and programme development and seen how the Learning Hub has become a beacon of education and excellence in the community, reaching more and more young people year-on-year. Over ten years working with Jennifer at the Learning Hub have given me a ground-up view of every aspect of how it works.

From the development of projects, researching the needs of the community, identifying gaps in existing services and planning how to address these gaps through expansion and enhancement of our services and facilities I have been involved in and had a close-up view of how the Hub has grown.

The Learning Hub will continue to grow, delivering services to the community and nurturing young people in a safe and friendly learning environment.

2018 saw even more users and visitors come through our gates as the Learning Hub went from strength to strength. Footfall was up to 29,626 with an improvement of 19.5% on 2017.

Education

More children from local schools than ever before are taking part in our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics, Health and Music activities. Access to our services continues to be vital for children and young people in the surrounding area which continues to suffer disproportionate disadvantage in comparison with other areas of the city, county and country. A safe and nurturing environment such as that provided by the Learning Hub gives children opportunities to learn new things, to grow up and branch out in an encouraging, happy and informal educational setting.

Individual development

Although the year-on-year increase in young people using the Learning Hub is a positive indicator of the work that we do, our focus is always on individual children, their safety, happiness and development. A holistic approach to the development of young people continues to be central to all Learning Hub projects. We emphasize the key elements of creativity, analytical thinking, physical and mental health as well as the correct use of technology across the four Hubs: Science, Music, Health and Art.

In 2018 there was a renewed interdisciplinary collaboration exemplified by the Little Inventors and Limerick Future Planners projects which combined Science, Art and Engineering or the Health Hub collaborating with Science and Art in nutrition, food science and horticultural activities. Kickboxers learned of the importance of proper nutrition in being able to reach their full potential. We grew hundreds of kilos of apples in our community orchard as well as vegetables on our raised beds which were then used to prepare healthy meals.

The success of the Learning Hub Kickboxing Club throughout 2018 was reflected in the increased participation at all levels and ages. Our success at the World Championships in Italy serves to highlight the amazing work being done at the club, now enjoying national and international recognition. The kickboxing gym was expanded to accommodate even more participants, plans are in place to expand the gym further in 2019 to improve the facilities and accommodate even greater membership.

Partnership and Support

Throughout the year, we strengthened our partnerships with local schools, the community and our education partners Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College and University of Limerick.

In-school and after-school activities have thrived.

The increased demand for the services that we provide underscores the fact that families and schools need support more than ever. We hosted several schools, third-level students and parents' groups all the way through 2018. Organisations such as YAP, Extern and Barnardo's used our facilities for a variety of activities throughout the year.

PAUL Partnership, TUSLA and Regeneration are, as ever, of tremendous support to our work in the community. Now well-established partners ESB Energy for Generations and Science Foundation Ireland continue to help sustain the Science Hub. The JP McManus Foundation once again showed how much it values the services we provide with their generous backing.

Our community partner REGENERON continued to support us as well as giving our entire campus a facelift. Buildings were painted, roofs cleaned, lawns trimmed and manicured and our driveways spruced up – the whole place looks brand new! We established an exciting new relationship with The Ireland Fund whose generous backing will help us to further develop the work we do with young people and local families.

Change is not always easy, and many changes took place in the Learning Hub during 2018. I have a tremendous legacy to honour and new strides to make by identifying and addressing the needs of the community. With the support of the Board and the excellent team at the Learning Hub I am really excited at what we can achieve.

James Blake

CEO





Mission Statement

CORE GOALS OF THE LEARNING HUB

Create an active learning environment that extends the learning experience beyond the traditional school day

Creatively embed technology and the core skills of literacy and numeracy into active learning projects

Provide a positive social environment that inspires us as individuals and as a community by recognising the potential and the talents of young people and learners

Prevent early school leaving and raise the educational aspirations of families, schools and the wider community

Work in partnership with other agencies to provide support to children identified as most in need of additional social, cultural and educational resources

Work in partnership with key stakeholders to maximise the resources available to the community by harnessing volunteers, resources and energy for the development of the Hub

Create an environment that promotes the positive development of physical and mental health among young people and the community

Harness the resource potential of third level volunteers to act as mentors and subject experts in our educational programmes

Provide volunteers and third level mentors with real world civic engagement experience that will enhance their social, academic and professional development.

Develop and maintain high quality governance and operational standards that support the sustainability of Learning Hub Limerick.





Why Limerick needs a Learning Hub

We strongly believe that programmes which focus on educational attainment and civic engagement are key to the development of regeneration areas and the city as a whole. Indeed, the recent and wide-ranging report by Limerick Children's Services Committee entitled "How Are Our Kids?" clearly identifies the key educational difficulties issues facing young people and families:

"Parents are early school leavers themselves. Low parental education affects a child in various ways, most directly by limiting their educational outcomes in the future". For instance, parents with low education themselves are unable to help their children with homework, particularly as the children advance through primary into secondary school. In addition, low parental education tends to affect parents' aspirations for their children's educational progression and their expectations of success. Moreover, as they have not themselves experienced success within the educational system, they tend to lack understanding of the support and conditions required in the home environment to that lead to successful outcomes in education, including successful completion of second level, transition to, and progression within, third level education. In addition to its direct effects on the child's education, low parental education is also associated in this research with greater total difficulties in the child."

How Are Our Kids (2012), p. 46.

- ***Children spend as little as 18% of their time in full time education.***
- ***Limerick city still has the highest level of early school leaving in the country and below-average educational attainment in many areas of the city.***
- ***How and where they spend the rest of their time affects their ability to reach their potential as individuals and as citizens.***
- ***Almost half of young people in Limerick are currently unemployed. We must provide young people with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking skills to find and create meaningful work in the future.***
- ***The Learning Hub provides a safe, welcoming and inspiring environment where young people can work to reach their potential in education, in society and as individuals.***
- ***We are working to raise aspiration levels by forging unique relationships that link communities and higher education in the city.***



Highlights of the Year

1. 12 medals brought home from Martial Arts World Championships in Italy. Seven fighters won 12 medals including 5 Gold, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze across several disciplines.



2. STEAM curriculum expands with children from local schools accessing programmes in 2018.



3. A total of 29,622 children, young people, adults, parents and teachers visited the Hub this year.



4. This year the Learning Hub started a new partnership during 2018. CranberriesItalia, the official Italian fan-club of Limerick super-group, The Cranberries, support a new song writing project.



5. The Learning Hub benefitted from funding partnership with the Ger Mc Donnell cycle in its last year of this fundraising event.



6. The Learning Hub welcomed Reclaim project on board in 2018. An innovative programme engaging with young people through sport.







Music Hub

Music classes, in their current format, have been running now for nearly seven years here at the Learning Hub. The programme, supported by Limerick School of Music, was set up to provide the opportunity to begin learning music to children from the surrounding community. Never envisioned as taking the place of any music-teaching institution in the city or county, the programme was designed to get children interested in learning music, to see if music was something that they wanted to pursue and help them to move on to other more formal music learning if they found this was the case. Children from the area are encouraged to give it a go. Music is not everybody's cup of tea but one can only know this if one has the opportunity to learn music in the first place.

There are a number of stages to a young person taking on music lessons at the Hub. When they begin, we don't ask students to purchase instruments, where possible we lend them instruments or ensure that they can borrow one from a friend or relative. Parents or guardians should not purchase an instrument until they know that their child is interested in keeping up the classes.

The young person then begins lessons, learning the basics and going through the physically and mentally tiring process of learning that practice makes everything easier. Many families need to understand that their child, no matter how disciplined or talented they may be in other fields, will need total support at home both to establish a practice routine and to be supported to do that practice and, more likely than not, make a lot of noise.

Not only is the child learning a new instrument, they are also learning the values of practice, self-discipline and overcoming the discomfort while training themselves to do something new, they are also learning to stick with something that is hard and that will only pay off if they put in the work. In the case of music, the pay-off usually comes quite slowly and progress is slow.

The value of hard work, the importance of overcoming set-backs and the resilience that comes with it, the rewards of making progress, and the role of baby steps as they improve, are all skills acquired by the children. They learn to be patient with themselves while still being demanding and they appreciate that some positive outcomes can only be achieved in the long-term.

It is true that they get a lot of joy and have a lot of fun as well! Practice can often be a solitary activity but the social value of playing music with peers cannot be underestimated. As well as enjoying the company of other young, budding musicians, children will help one another and pass on hints and tips, encouraging each other and enjoying their own progress and that of their peers.

The children who stick with the classes will reach a point, after two or three years, when they outgrow what the Hub has to offer. It is at this point that they are ready to pursue their instrument in a more formal environment.

Some students decide very early that music is not for them. Many others show great promise and make immediate progress but then need encouragement to persevere when harder work and longer hours of practice are required. For others, progress is slow initially then followed by rapid progress. All of our students must necessarily leave us for other more formal classes if they wish to learn their instrument more formally.

Some of our students will find music playing an important, or even central, role in their later lives. Others will find it plays a smaller role and others will make no use of it. However, all of them enjoy the experience of having the opportunity to learn music where there was none before and this is something we are delighted to provide here at the Hub.

For further details contact

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Music Hub Studios

2018 – what a year! The studio was busier than ever with footfall topping 2,800. Music created at the Music Hub got played on Limerick Community Radio, Live95, the Ray D’arcy Show – we even got a mention in the Irish Times. Hundreds of bands and individual musicians used our facilities, so much so that we are looking to expand to accommodate the extra demand.

We made a whole album of songs with the Living Out Loud youth group. These kids from Ballynanty and Moyross have gone viral in video after video and they have been recording here at the studio every week for most of the last year. These kids would blow you away with how talented they are. Roll on 2019 cos we’ll be working on Volume 2!

We provided the live sound for some brilliant outside events, including the Limerick Spring Festival of Politics & Ideas as well as a solo piano performance at Thomond Park. We also laid on music and microphones for a fantastic tournament at the Radisson Hotel put on by our own Learning Hub Kickboxing Club.

If you’re doing your driver theory test anytime soon you could be listening to recordings made at the Music Hub. The audio for all questions in both Irish & English was created here at the studio during August 2018 before being sent off for post-production. Everything was done to the very highest standard so you’ve no excuse not to get every question right!

We’ve seen anything and everything come through our doors in 2018 from primary school choirs to teenage punk rock stars - the music scene in Limerick is exploding at the moment and we are so proud to be a part of it.

For further details contact
musichubstudios@gmail.com
www.musichubstudios.ie



Community Engagement

Second Level Placements

As well as taking third level students on long-term placements from UL, LIT and Mary I, the Learning Hub took on second level placement students for work experience from programmes such as LCA and Transition Year. Working in partnership with Thomond Community College, Youthreach and other schools in the city and county, it was a pleasure to have them here. We relish the opportunity for young people to gain a positive experience in the work-place, to mentor them but also to learn from the things they observe during their time with us. We benefit in a real way from the insights and feedback they have on the work that we do. We look forward to continuing to take on more second level placements in the coming years.

Throughout 2018 the Learning Hub hosted visitors from all over the country and, indeed, overseas. We welcomed Galway and Roscommon ETB students of Youth and Community Development Practice for what is now an annual visit to view our facilities and see the Learning Hub in action. The Towards Unity For Health Conference (UL) incorporated a visit to the Learning Hub as part of the conference programme in August to see how we incorporate the central theme of health into every class and activity we deliver.

Through Mary Immaculate College we were visited by University of Central Florida, St. John's New University New York and the University of New Mexico. In some of these cases they just wanted to see the Learning Hub however we also had the help of our overseas students to support our summer camps and the ITLG Young innovators programme.

In July of we were visited by the Ireland Funds. They came to view our premises, meet the staff and see first-hand our work in practice. They were impressed with what they saw and, since then, we have enjoyed incredible support from The Ireland Funds.

CranberriesItalia: new friends, new partners

The Learning Hub started a new partnership during 2018. CranberriesItalia, the official Italian fan-club of Limerick super-group, The Cranberries, reached out to the us during the year. Moved by the sad death of The Cranberries lead-singer, Dolores O'Riordan, CranberriesItalia wanted to do something for Limerick.

They contacted the Learning Hub to see if they could do something musical for the children of Limerick. Through a series of events organized in Italy, CranberriesItalia raised money to fund song-writing workshops for children at the Learning Hub. Loredana Cramarosa, Paolo Catena and Andrea Nannelli came from Italy in July to visit us and launch the programme.

The song-writing workshops ran to December, producing some outstanding songs along the way. It really is an honour for the Learning Hub to be associated with this project. It is remarkable that such a positive thing could emerge from such tragic circumstances and to feel the warmth and affection that all at CranberriesItalia feel for the music of the Cranberries and for Limerick. We look forward to this continuing into 2019 with the kind support of CranberriesItalia.

Granary City Library

In June, Granary City Library got in touch to say that the internationally acclaimed Freddie White was to play a lunchtime concert in the Granary on the 19th of July. Although the concert was free, a donation box was set out and the Learning Hub was fortunate enough to receive a special gift after the concert: nearly €300!

REGENERON

REGENERON continued to work with the Learning Hub as a community partner. REGENERON supported science programs on site at the Learning Hub and in schools and different facilities all over the city and county with essential financial backing. As well as this crucial funding, REGENERON saw to it that the Hub got a complete make-over. Over several weeks in the summer months, builders, painters and gardeners were hired by REGENERON to work on the Hub campus. We benefitted significantly from the refurbishment and immense change in appearance due to all the work Regeneron has completed on site, much of which was outside the reach of the Learning Hub. The work completed has made our campus look beautiful from the ground to the roof. The fitted lights allow for better visibility in the dark evenings all of which has made The Learning Hub a more welcoming and picturesque learning environment for all children and staff. We look forward to continuing support and partnership with REGENERON throughout 2019.

Honeybees at the Learning Hub!

Alongside all of the other activities here at the Hub we also have an incredibly busy colony of honeybees. As busy as a bee! One look at these gals (they are mostly female) and you'll see why that became a proverb – one worker bee can visit hundreds of flowers in a single day! Our beehive is here as part of the Limerick Urban Beekeeping Project and is very important both because of the honeybees' importance to the ecosystem and also the fact that they are threatened with extinction. Our insect friends are starting to make a comeback and we are proud to be helping to make that happen. If you or someone you know is interested in setting up their own hive please do get in touch and we will see if we can lend a hand to get started. The honey is unbelievably tasty – come to the Hub at the right time next summer and you might get a chance to try some!

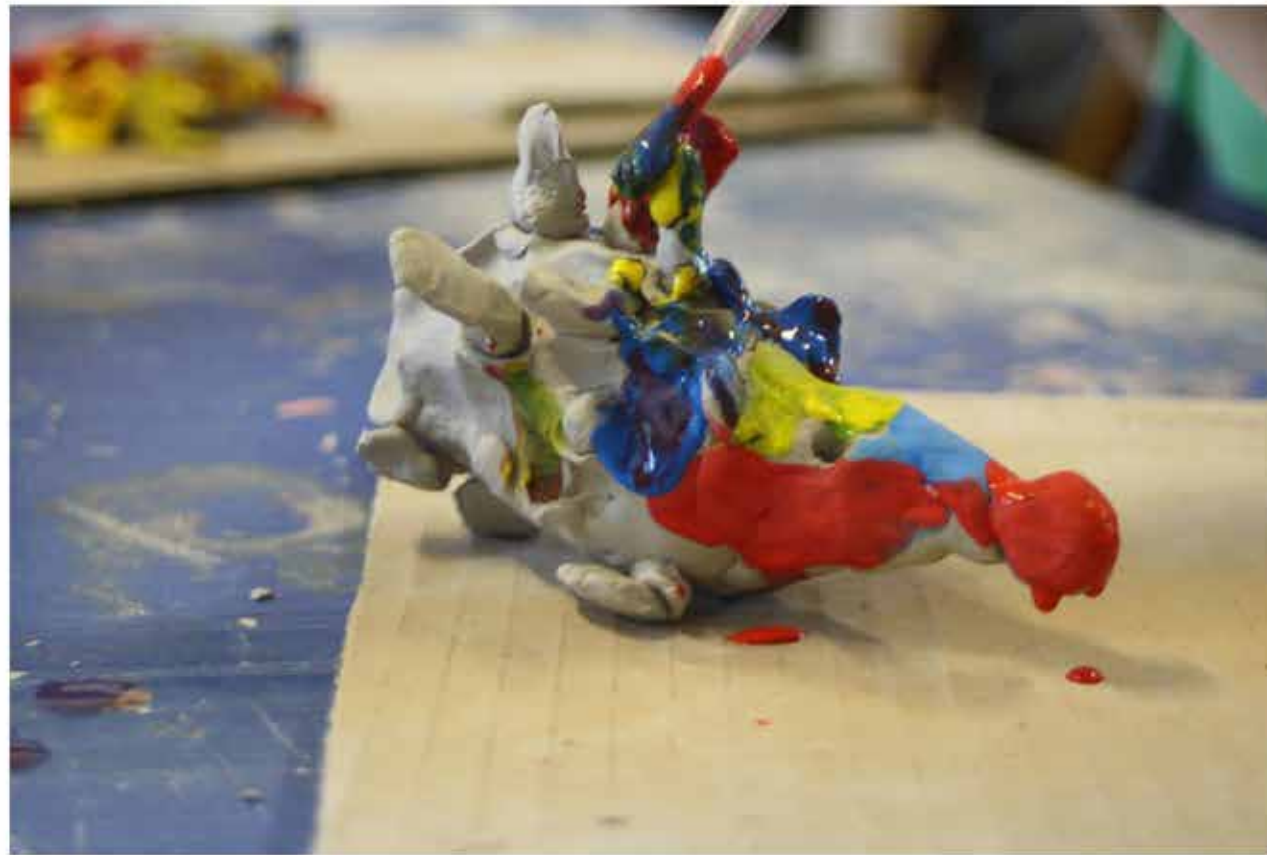
Foroige have been making great use of our Digihub space on Wednesday evenings for most of 2018. Groups of young people with an inclination for digital creativity have been working away for months at a time and it's great to see the space being made use of in the evenings.

Friday afternoon is Furniture Restoration time at Learning Hub Limerick. This group have been making use of the Art Hub for years now and the most beautiful pieces of vintage furniture are rejuvenated week in and week out.









The core principles of the Art Hub are to nurture the creative ambition of young people and create an environment of learning and fun. Through visual practices we aim to tap into the endless supply of creative energy within all children. We constantly strive to find innovative ways to challenge our students and to inspire original work, independent learning, self-initiated projects and experimentation.

External Agencies

The Art Hub has succeeded in maintaining strong relationships with several external organisations for the past number of years and 2018 saw these partnerships being developed even further. Building on the successful relationship with the Northside Family Resource Centre, the Art Hub facilitated the “go-for-it” programme with workshops and icebreaker activities. Each summer the Art Hub provides workshops for visiting groups in conjunction with the other parts of the Learning Hub. Throughout the year we worked with local youth services and schools providing work experience as well as practical project design and delivery.

volunteers

Students from LSAD, LCFE, UL, MIC, LIT and the Institute of Technology Tralee volunteered with Junior and Senior Art assisting class, helping to plan delivery and were given a chance to design and deliver a project of their own that took place over two weeks of classes.

The Art Hub also welcomed several students as volunteer mentors in 2018.

Third Level students provide the participants with a variety of skills from ceramics to animation. This relationship enhances the class experience and gives great on-site training in the educational field to the third level students.

Little Inventors

Little Inventors was the first project of its kind to be run in Ireland and was modeled on the Little Inventors programme which has been extremely successful in the UK. The pilot program ran for 10 weeks culminating in the finished inventions being showcased at the Hub’s 10 year anniversary celebration at the Millenium Theatre in LIT. In 2018 we ran the little inventors again with the homework club from Corpus Christi Primary School for 12 weeks, building on our already strong links with that school.

STEAM Programs at the Hub

Based on the success of the STEAM programmes delivered to local schools, we piloted a urban design program. The project remapped the city asking the young people to rebuild Limerick how they felt it reflected their needs and the greater needs of the community. The project was delivered in Ormston House as part of the Limerick Spring Festival and involved volunteers from UL product design, Hub staff and the staff of Ormston House. A very successful day was had with all of the activities full to capacity. The project was expanded and redesigned to be rolled out to local schools for 2019.

Summer Camps

This year we combined our urban design workshops with the theme of weather. In our summer camps the participants explored this theme through experimentation, practical building, extensive use of technology, and sound recording. The project culminated in an installation complete with a cityscape, virtual weather systems and a soundtrack created by the students.

Gardening Project

in 2018 we developed a small gardening area. This allowed us to develop a curriculum where the young people studied plant biology and photographed and identified plant types in the area as well as the practical skills involved in plant cultivation. We harvested the crop and shared it out to the kids and the local community.

Digital media

As part of the collaboration with the Science Hub and the STEAM programs we ran a 12 week program with Caherdavin Boys School that consisted of 6 weeks of an introduction to digital design and 6 weeks of science classes. The group was introduced to photography, photoshop and digital processes and practices.

Haunted Basement

In what is now an annual fixture in our calendar, the Art Hub team transformed our basement into one of the most frightening Haunted Houses we have ever had. The Senior Art class worked with the coop students to design the Haunted basement and their designs were made into a terrifying reality.

**For further details contact
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Due to the expansion and upgrade of our gym, the Learning Hub Kickboxing Club has grown from strength to strength, with 2018 being our busiest and most successful year to date.

We started our year off by introducing a number of new classes to meet the general public need for health and well-being projects. We have classes on 5 evenings of the week with styles and age groups to suit everyone. We have Little Ninjas for 5-8 years, Junior Kickboxing for 8-16 years, Boxing for 10 years+, Cardio Kickboxing for 16 years+ and Elite K1 & Kickboxing.

We also ran numerous workshops in our local schools and community.

As a club we travelled to many other counties to compare our skills with other clubs in friendly sparring sessions. We also welcomed these clubs to our own gym on several occasions to sharpen our skills.

Throughout the year we have taken part in numerous tournaments throughout the island of Ireland as well as in the UK. Our students excelled in Galway, Tipperary, Waterford, Tyrone amongst others and picked up National and International titles making a real impact in the martial arts world. Due to this ongoing success, one of our students was given a mayoral reception in May of 2018. It was really great to see Hayleigh Kiely get the recognition she deserves.

12 Medals brought home from Martial Arts World Championships in Italy

The Unified World Championships were held in Carrara, Italy from the 1st to the 4th of November of 2018 and seven competitors from the Learning Hub Limerick Kickboxing Club made the journey to take part. Over 28 International Federations and 5,000 athletes participated in what was an incredible event and Ireland's representatives did us more than proud.

Seven fighters won 12 medals including 5 Gold, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze across several disciplines.

Hayleigh Kiely, already an Irish and 5 nations champion as well as a student at Mary I college, won 2 Gold medals, one in Kickboxing and one in K1 rules. Tyrone Cronin O'Brien, a first year student at LIT, also claimed a Gold medal and became full contact kickboxing champion of the world. Robert Maloney and Michelle Fitzgerald both had the performances of their lives to clinch a Gold medal apiece. Liam Purcell, Sarah Howard and Paul O'Brien (who travelled as both coach and competitor) all gave their utmost and did very well to take Silver medals.

**For further details contact
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Science Hub

The Science Hub aims to encourage children's interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The Science Hub is predominantly aimed at children from Primary School, particularly schools with designated disadvantage status (DEIS). Statistics show that children from DEIS schools are less likely to choose STEM subjects at secondary level. At the Science Hub we aim to combat this by teaching STEM in a fun and interactive manner, which increases engagement in Science from an early age.

Science and Engineering faculties, as well as individual academics and students from the University of Limerick and Limerick Institute of Technology support this project. Science Foundation Ireland, Confirm and Regeneron are also key supporters of the Science Hub. The Science Hub is based on the Learning buddies model which partners young people with undergraduate mentors. The partnership is one which spreads the message of "Science for all", through involvement of all involved partners; third level institutions, pupils and teachers in partner schools, the Learning Hub, industry and the community.

In 2018 the Science Hub reached its highest user rate, we reached a footfall figure of 3335 users. This is an increase by 11% compared to the year previous. This is very encouraging growth for the Science Hub. We reached these numbers through a variety of projects that we have in the Science Hub.

Science Hub Schools Project

In 2018 we held many Science workshops in the hub, we held STEM workshops, which introduced primary school children to topics such as Space, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science. These are topics that are covered in Secondary School, by introducing them at primary level we hope the children will be more likely to choose these subjects at secondary level. We ran technology workshops and we also ran STEAM projects, which aimed to teach children Science through Art representation.

After School Club

Our after-school Science Club is aimed at children between the ages of 9 and 12. Every week children from the locality come to the Science Hub where we carry out a wide range of exciting Science experiments. The children get stuck into the experiments and enjoy learning about Science in a fun way.

STEAM Summer Camps

In 2018 we held a captivating Summer Camp, which focused on the subject of weather. The children learnt all about the Science behind weather such as measuring wind speeds and making their own barometers. To bring the science to life the children made a spectacular art installation. The children made their own rainclouds that were lit up to depict lightning and they created their own thunderstorm recordings by utilising everyday sounds such as clapping their hands and stomping their feet

Science Week

In 2018 we held an extremely successful Science week where we reached out to many schools in Limerick. During our jam-packed Science Week we ran Magic Shows, Cosmetic Chemistry classes and Sticky Science classes.

ITLG Young Innovators

In 2018 the Science Hub supported the ITLG Young Innovators conference in Shannon Airport on November 15th in 2018, we managed a group of 15 international student volunteers based in Mary Immaculate College, to facilitate the event. The volunteers set up the conference the day before and on the day they mentored 800 secondary students at the show. It was a colossal operation, we were proud to contribute to the success of this national event.

BT Young Scientist

The Science Hub ended 2018 on a high with the great news that the Afterschool Science Club would be taking part in The Primary Science Fair as part of the BT Young Scientists competition with their project titled "Can Seaweed Be Used as a Fuel?" The children enjoyed the quest to find a more suitable source of energy that would be much better for the environment than fossil fuels.

Plans for 2019

For 2019 we look forward to a full year of Science activities, engaging with more schools, delivering another fascinating Summer Camp and Science week.

For further details contact
roseanna@learninghub.ie





The Digi Hub plays a key role in integrating ICT and digital technology into all of the activities that run at the Hub. As well as being a stand alone project with it's own set of activities, the Digi Hub is used frequently by many other Hubs as well as by External Organisations.

STEAM Workshops

Through our programme of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) activities, ICT was integrated successfully across our projects. The Digi Hub was used for online research, scratch animation, Arduino workshops, Digital design and digital photography as well as elements of projects taking place in the Science, Art, Music and Health Hubs.

Workshops with Schools

Over the course of 2018 we ran courses in Scratch programming and digital photography/editing with 3 local DEIS primary schools and 1 local DEIS secondary school. These courses lasted approximately 6 weeks and feedback from these was very positive.

The committee for Gaming Hub consists of staff members as well as representatives from 4th to 6th class in Thomond Primary and Corpus Christi Schools. The project is still in it's early phases but it has the potential to be a great success with 132 children taking part in the pilot phase from September to December of 2017.

RESTART Project

Learning Hub Limerick partnered up with RESTART Limerick (an SFI funded project based out of UL) to host several Iphone repair events at the Hub. The purpose of these events, aimed at teenagers, was to upskill people in phone repair and spark an interest in the recycling of technology. Qualified technicians walked the teenagers through the process of the repair from start to finish and at the end the participant left with a phone in perfect working order as well as the basis for learning more about repairing technology if they wished to do so.

External Organisations

Various external groups made use of the Digi Hub facility throughout the year including Foroige Tech Space and the Limerick Youth Service for various technology related projects. Digital mapping, Digital photography, animation and general computer literacy were just some of the projects carried out by these organisations. St Augustines School made use of the facility extensively throughout the year also as a base for their Driver Theory Test preparations course.

Story Hub

This year, the Story Hub programme ran from January to June welcoming 266 children from primary schools in Limerick City and County as well as from County Clare through our doors. We had a total of 11 schools visit for the programme publishing a total of 22 story books which they wrote and illustrated with the help of our team of 3rd level student volunteers. During the second half of the year, due to a greater focus being put on STEAM projects at the Hub and a significant drop in our numbers of placement students, we decided to put this programme on hold. However, this programme is still being offered as an option to visiting schools and there is definitely scope for it to be reintegrated into our regular timetable in the future.

Plans for 2019

During 2018 we will continue to provide local schools, community groups and other organisations with ICT based educational activities. We already have a school group booked in to take part in a 10 week Digital Media course at the Hub as a Science/Art link up project.

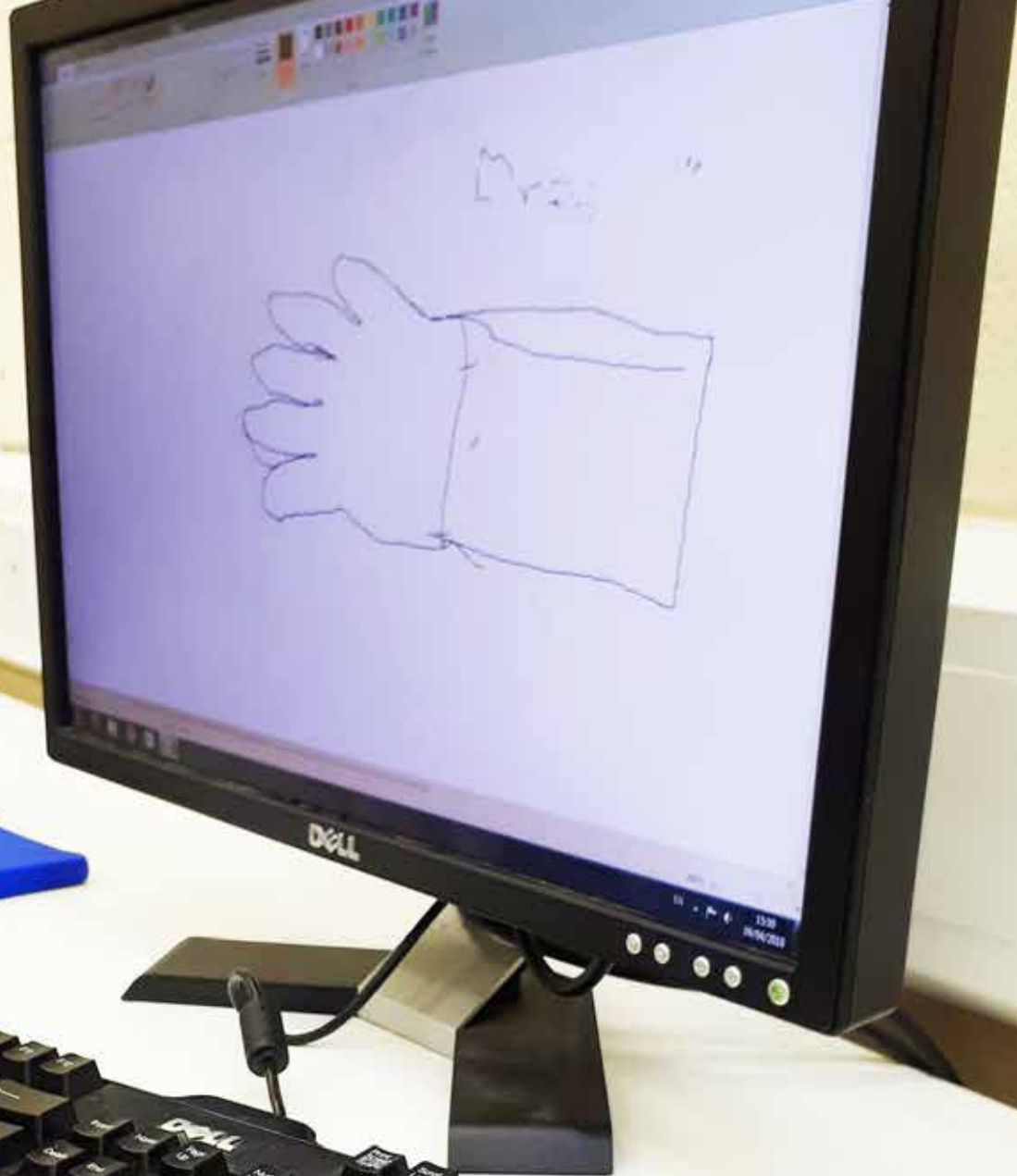
Due to the fact that we have had a technology based TUS worker on staff for the past year, we have significantly developed the range of activities we can offer in the DigiHUB. We have developed resources to include more hands on coding workshops including a short Arduino course.

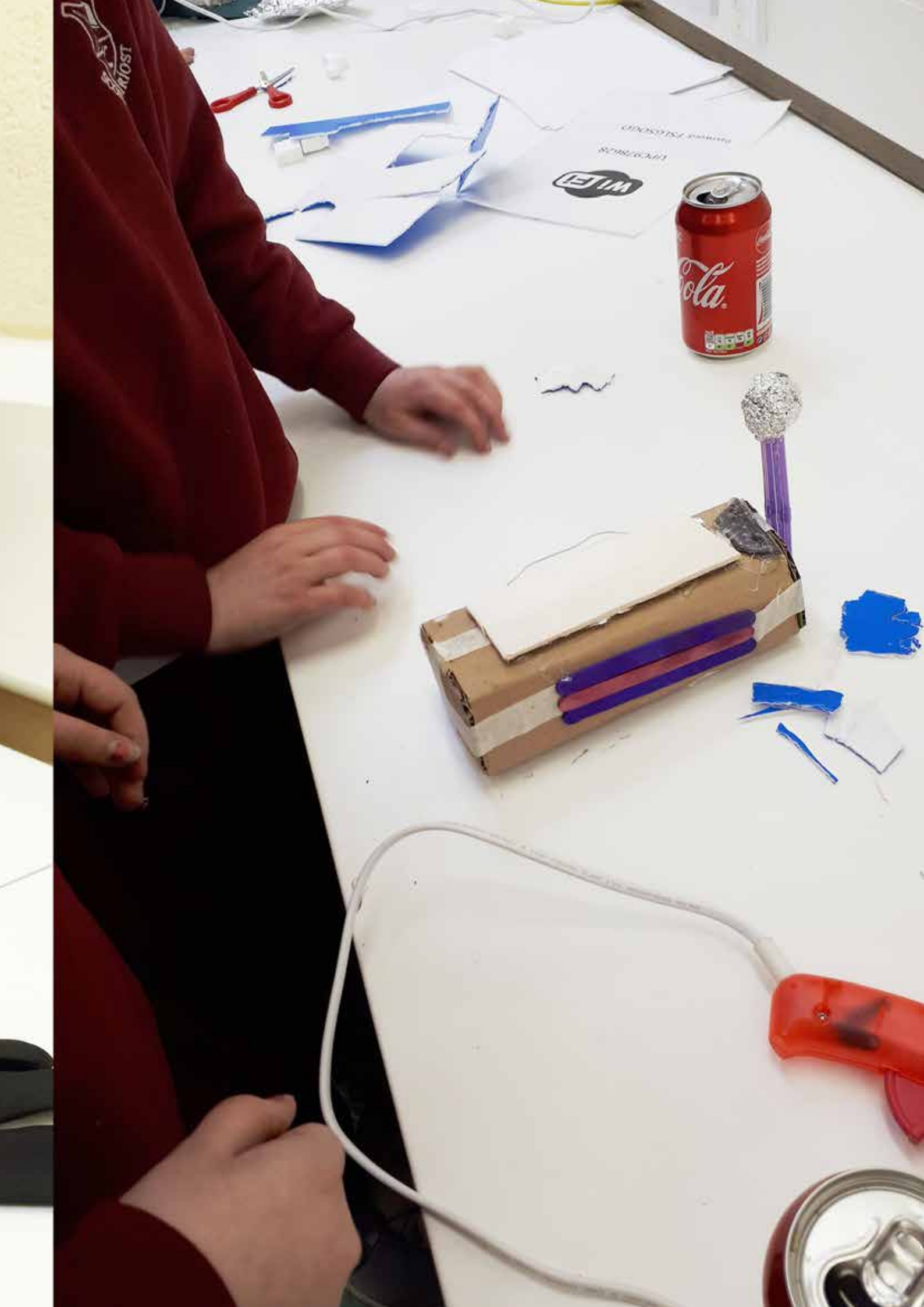
A new afterschool club has been set up which will focus on Digital product design. Children will learn how to use tools like 3D Paint to design models of their own inventions which they can then build physical prototypes.

Finally, several adult learning groups have signed up for activities in the DigiHub in 2019 including a computer literacy course for adults with additional needs.

For further details

info@learninghub.ie







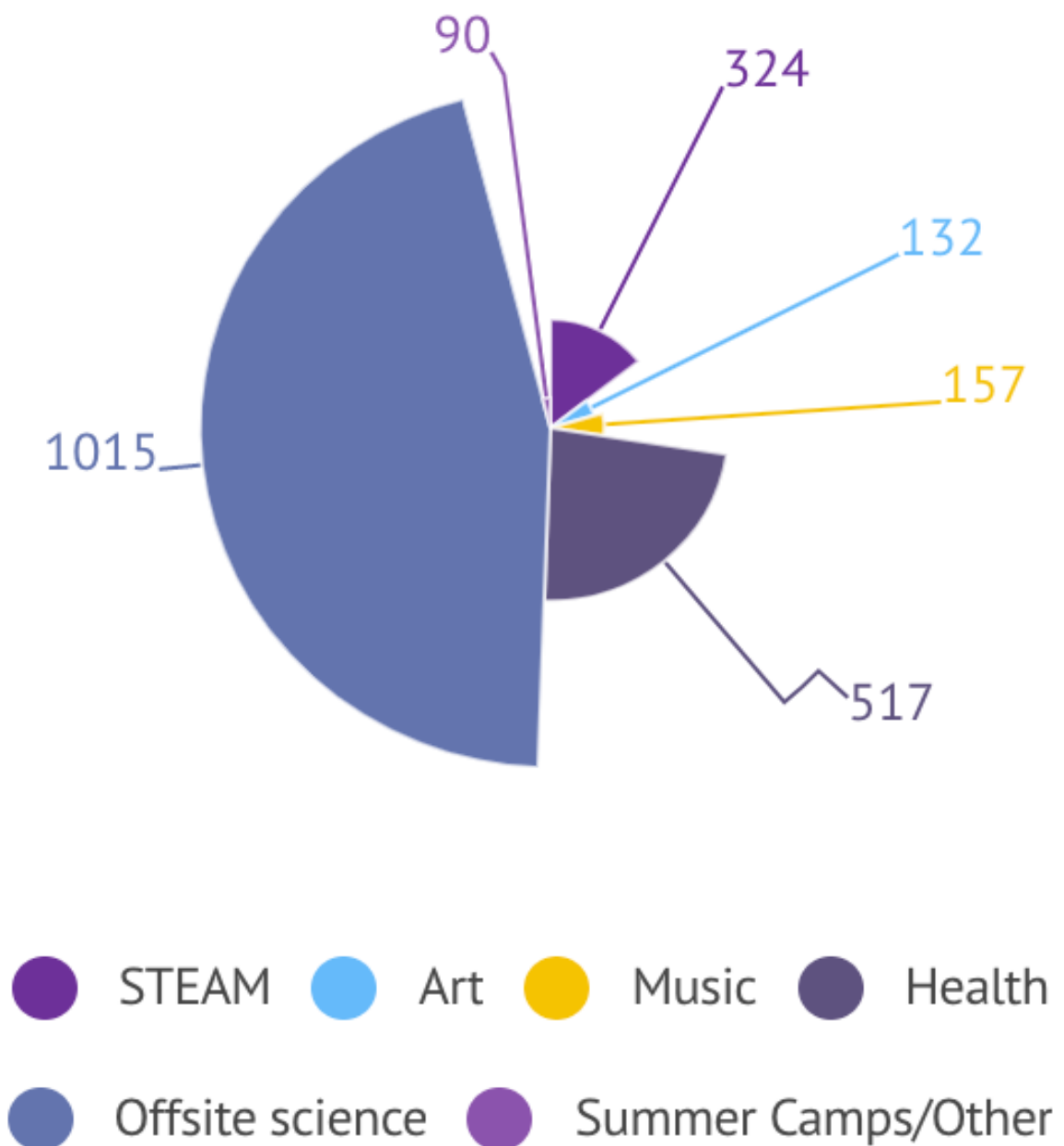




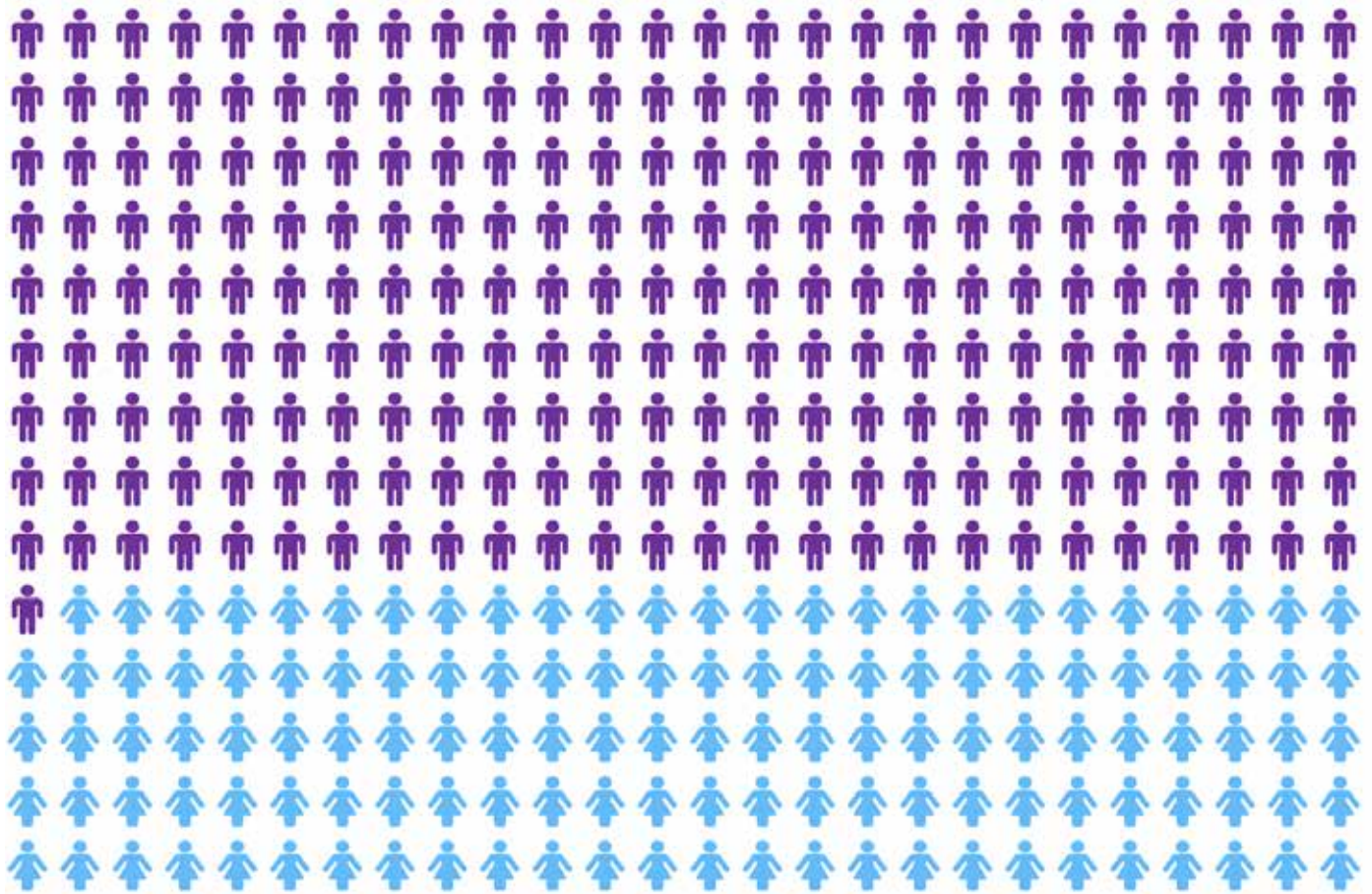


29,626 people used th

User Breakdown by Activity



The Learning Hub in 2018.



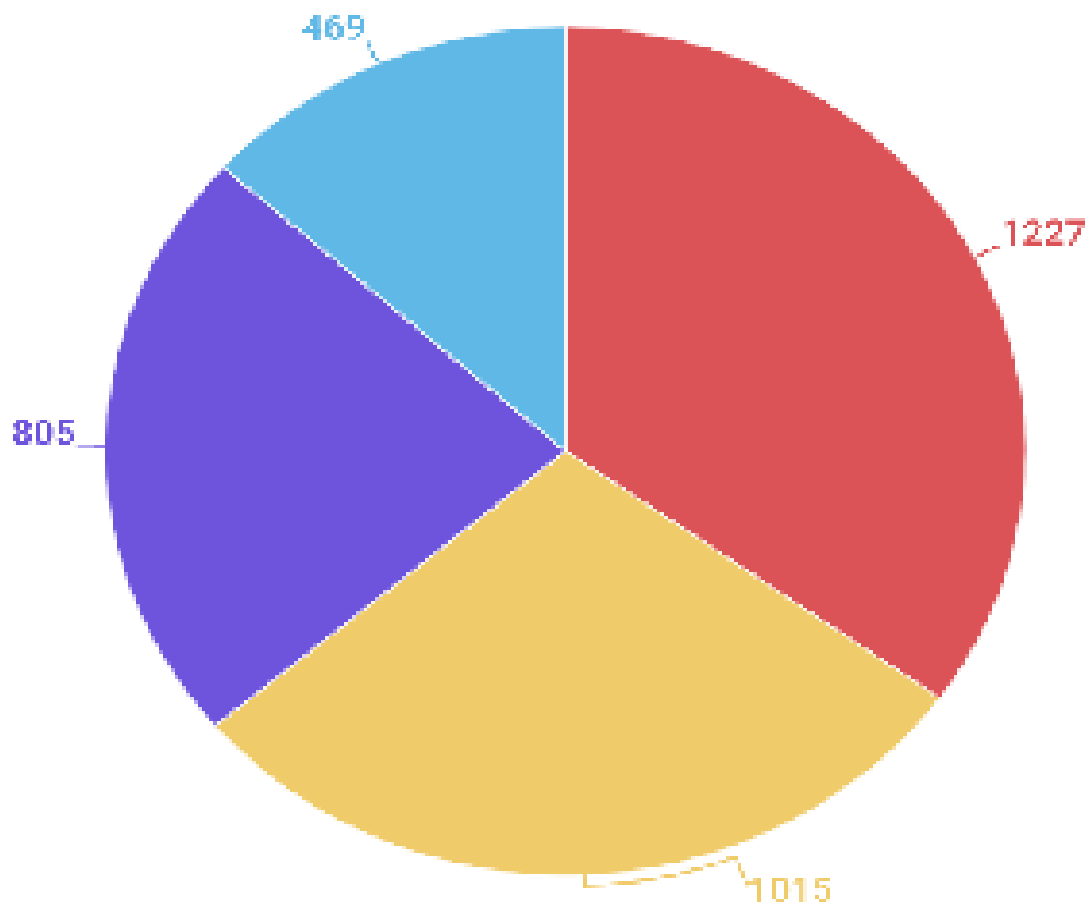
● Male (750) ● Female (411)

User breakdown



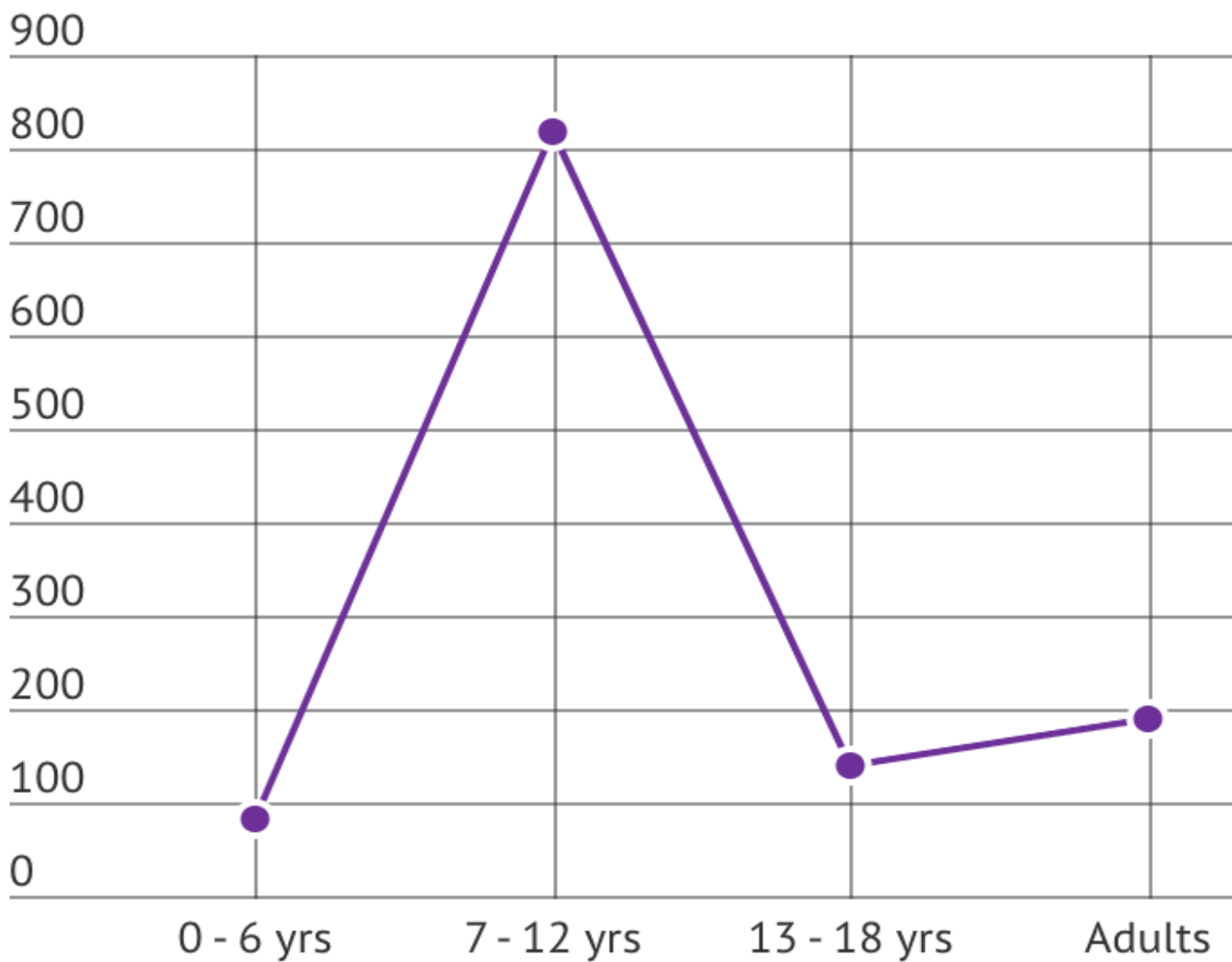
3561

Total participants

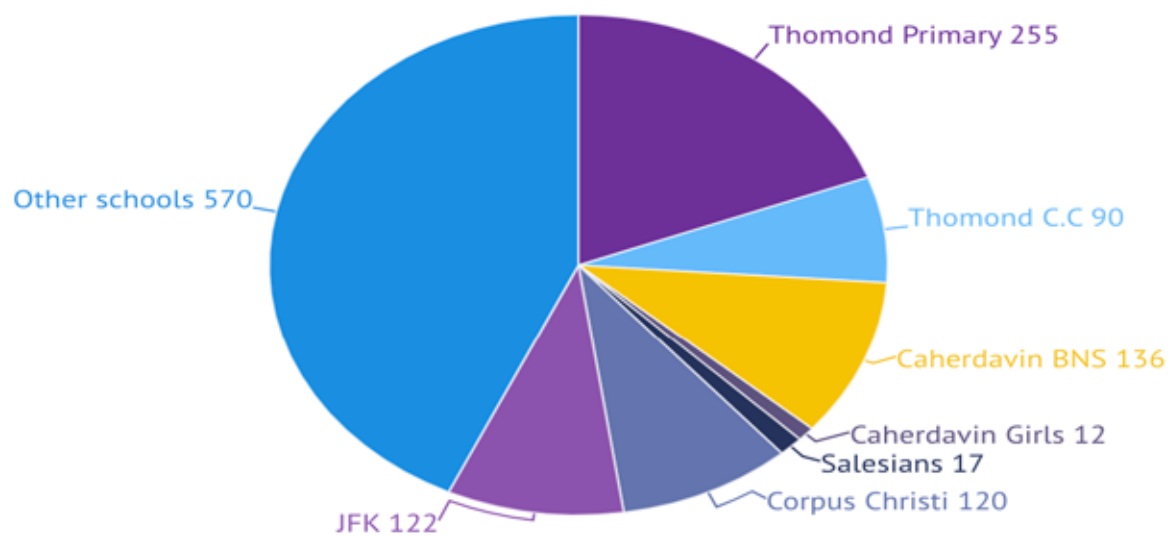


- Total Participants internal
- Offsite Science
- Studio (total recording)
- External Users

Age Profile of Users

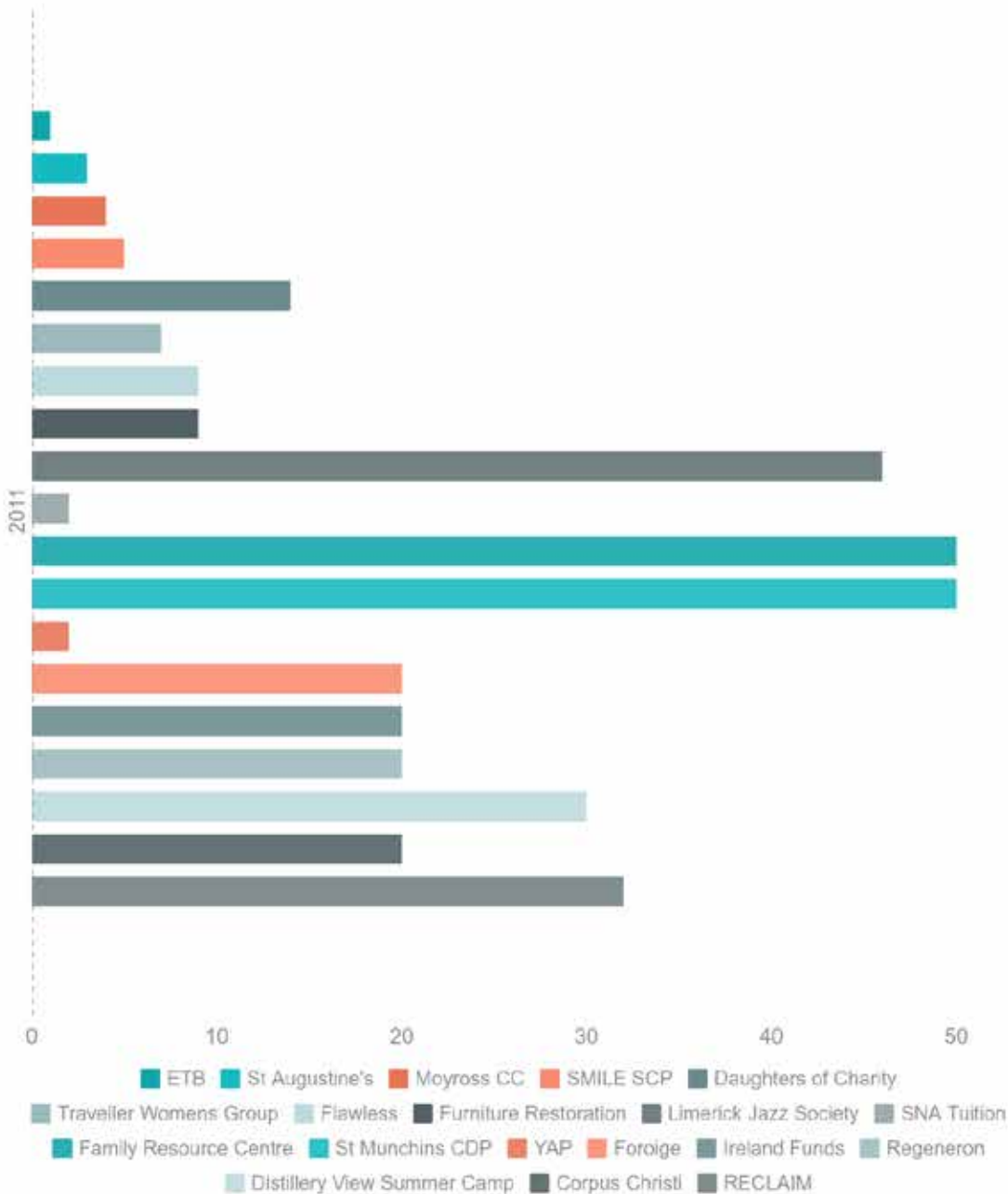


Breakdown of schools at the Learning Hub in 2018...



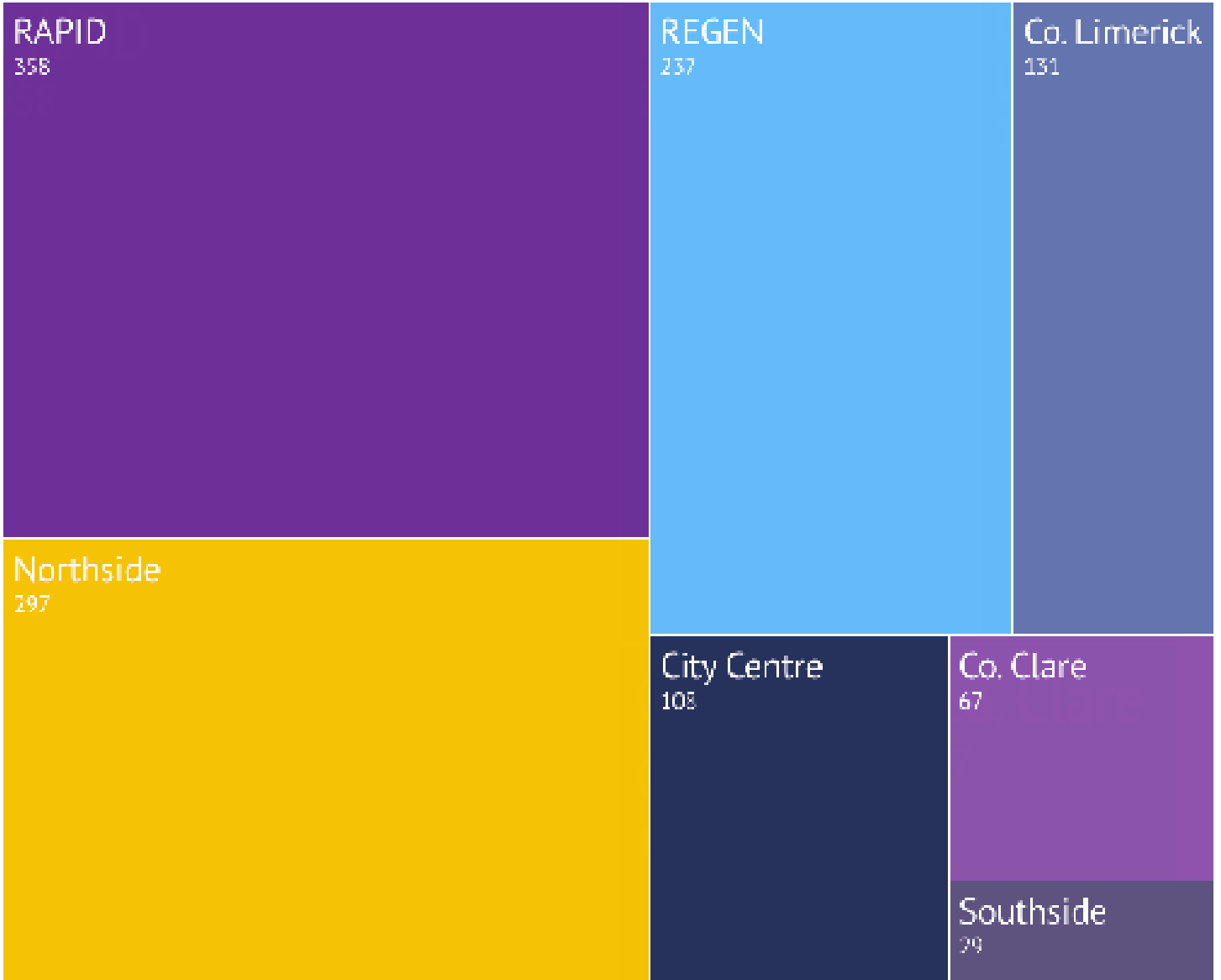
570 students from surrounding areas across the city and county.

20 External Organisations



powered by

User Breakdown by Region

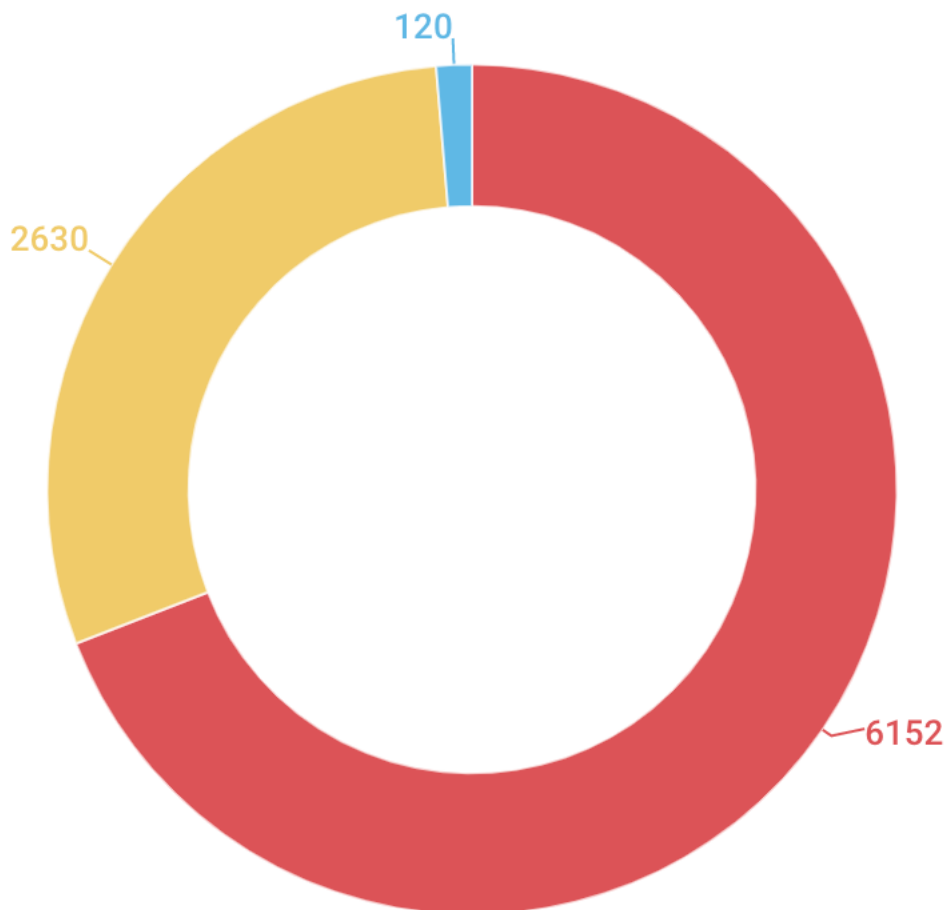


Volunteers and Work Placements 2018



8902

Volunteer hours so far this year broken down as follows.....



● 3rd level (6152 hrs) ● TUS (2630hrs) ● TY (120hrs)

A special thank you to all of our Student Volunteers!





DIRECTOR'S AND COMPANY INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

Gillian Barry (Chair during 2018)

Susan o Neill (elected Vice Chair during 2017)

Marcus Horan

Tiernan O' Neill

David O' Connell

Susan O' Neill

Meave Liston

Vivienne hogan

Beradette Walsh

Elaine Mc Grath

AUDITORS & ACCOUNTANTS

Liston, Lonergan and Associates,

Fifth Floor, Cornmarket Square, Limerick

SOLICITORS

Dundon Callanan

17 The Crescent

Limerick

SECRETARY & REGISTERED OFFICE

Susan o Neill

REG NO: 427243

ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2018

INCOME	2018	2017
Social Intervention fund (Limerick City and County Council)	56,000	59,455
JP McManus Charitable Foundation	45,000	40,000
POBAL - CSP	38,066	37,418
PAUL Partnership	23,209	23,209
Limerick Institute of Technology	20,000	20,000
Science Foundation Ireland	25,000	24,000
TUSLA Child and Family Agency	21,756	21,756
Regeneron	20,000	20,000
University of Limerick	10,000	10,000
University of Limerick (Presidents Dinner)		15,000
Fundraising and Donations	12,429	23,538
Energy for Generation Fund - Electric Ireland		10,000
Internally Generated Income:		
Irelands Fund	-	14,079
Project Income - Music Hub & Facilities Hire	48,628	23,498
Total	<u>334,167</u>	<u>305,588</u>

** Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) continue to support Learning Hub Limerick by providing funding in the form of paid teaching hours. The value of these teaching hours has not been recognised in euro terms in the income statement.

Income is recognised on a cash receipts basis, as a result not all income relating to 2018 is included as income in the financial statements.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE

2018

2017

STAFF COSTS	209,558	224,028
STAFF TRAINING	357	
-		
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	78,139	75,341
PROJECT FUNDING	21,316	21,638
DEPRECIATION	<u>50,930</u>	<u>55,638</u>
	<u>360,300</u>	<u>376,645</u>

LEARNING HUB LIMERICK LIMITED BALANCE SHEET

	2018	2017
	€	€
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	53,346	53,346

CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	11,233	3 50
Cash at bank and in hand	84,674	63,014

CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FAILLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	30,692	14,285
	_____	_____
NET CURRENT ASSETS	65,215	49,079
	_____	_____
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	118,561	102,425
	_____	_____
Members' Funds	118,561	102,425
	_____	_____





Thanks to all of our Donors in 2018



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
COLÁISTE MHUIRE GAN SMÁL



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OILSCOIL LUIMNIGH



LIT
LIMERICK INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



Science
Foundation
Ireland



pobal

government supporting communities

REGENERON
science to medicine®



THE IRELAND FUNDS



Limerick School of Music
Explore the possibilities!



Vodafone
Ireland
Foundation



*An Roinn Gnóthaí Pobail,
Comhionannais agus Gaeltachta
Department of Community, Equality
and Gaeltacht Affairs*



Lcetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oilirina
Luirnigh agus an Chláir
*Limerick and Clare
Education and Training Board*



SICAP

**Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme**



**Energy for
generations**

TÚSLA

**An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency**



National Development Plan 2007 - 2013



LIMERICK CITY / CATHAIR LUIMNIGH



**SALESIAN
SISTERS
IRELAND**



**ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund**







BAROMETER

Ellen
Jake
Megan



High pressure

10:55
Tue 10
Sunny



Low pressure

