



# Reimagine Cork

2017 Projects - A river runs through it

# Introduction:



Inspired by the support we have received on social media and from the people we meet in person in the city, we have developed an ambitious set of projects for 2017.

We have listened to ideas and feedback. The following is what Cork people want to see more of in the city:

**Green Spaces:** Trees, Flowers and urban gardens

**Social Spaces:** Communal areas people would like to visit

**Colour and Interest:** Bring more art, culture & interest to urban spaces

**Workshops:** A place to share learnings with other communities across the wider Cork region

**Reimagine:** Revitalize neglected spaces to make Cork more attractive and to reflect the pride that they have in their city



# Project 1 - St Vincent's Bridge

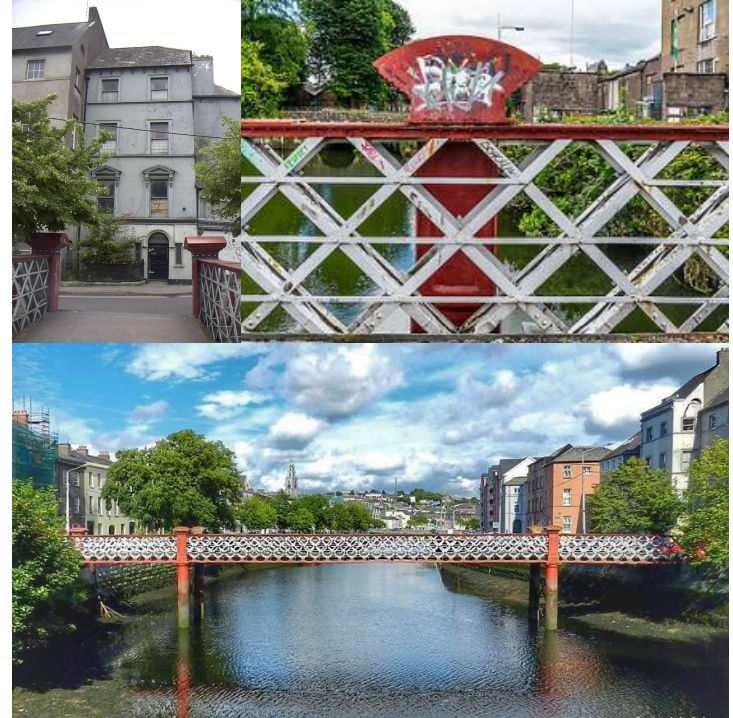


## The Vision

This bridge, which opens on to the iconic George Boole house on Grenville Place, is a stunning example of 19<sup>th</sup> century engineering with lots of artistic details. Unfortunately the bridge is let down by a general sense of urban decay in the surrounding area.

Our plan here is to enhance the bridge by marking its entrance with greenery and by adding splashes of colour and quirkiness.

Restoration Painting works of the bridge are badly needed and we would invite the City Council to consider this site in early 2017.



# Project 2 - Da North Bank



## The Vision

This project will transform the North Bank of the River Lee - from North Mall to Popes Quay –into a vibrant, green recreational hub in the city. There will be a particular focus on bringing more plant life as well as more permanent urban art pieces to the river bank, making it a healthy urban green space to be enjoyed by all.

### North Mall:

We would increase the number of planters with flowers and shrubs, and utilise the green railing for hanging planters. The concentration of trees (17 in total) and their close proximity make this section perfect for a fairy door trail. Seating also needs to be increased and the existing benches need to be painted.

### Popes Quay:

The quay could be utilised for eating lunch and enjoying coffee. Free mobile libraries, outdoor games, art installations and street music could be accommodated, making the river bank a lively place to pass the time. There is scope for temporary artwork and murals on the façade of some of the currently unused buildings, recycled seating in vibrant colours around and in between the trees, and planters for trees and flowers along the bike path and the river wall.



# Project 3 - North Gate Bridge



## The Vision

This bridge marks the historic entry point to the Medieval City. Marking this entrance is symbolic of what the city was and what the city is today.

Leaders of North Main Street funded preliminary works in 2016. We attached troughs, and hung colourful pots whilst planting them all with vibrant seasonal flowers.

In 2017 we hope to attach bracketed arches to the four corners of bridges to further symbolise its entry/exit point to our city's heart.

Repainting of the bridge railings could also complement the kaleidoscope of colour added by the recently planted flower boxes.



# Project 4 - North Main St Carpark



## The Vision

Cork city centre has a number of brutalist style buildings with exposed sheer walls that would benefit greatly from the addition of greenery. Specifically, the car park on North Main Street, which occupies a historically important site and is built on the old city walls. It is also two to three stories higher than the surrounding low-rise historic streetscape of North Main Street and therefore its concrete façade can jar with the softer, more mature surroundings.

It is proposed that a green wall be constructed on the North and East sides of the building. Specifically, this would consist of long, modular boxes that would be positioned to hang at the open windows of the building. These would be planted with ivy and other (preferably native) trailing and creeping plants. It is envisioned that the greening of the car park would provide the building with insulation and pollution/noise reduction benefits, as well as making the car park more visually attractive and increasing biodiversity in the locality.



# Project 5 - Kyril's Quay



## The Vision

The derelict site on Kyril's Quay is highly visible from across the Lee on Pope's Quay and is passed by large volumes of traffic, cyclists and pedestrians on both sides of the river. While it might take years for the site to be redeveloped it is an area that could benefit from an immediate attack of the customary Reimagine Cork colour and greenery. As a trial run, in 2016, we installed 20 plant boxes with colourful flowers on the old hoardings and also removed unsightly graffiti tags. That there were no instances of vandalism or graffiti showed that once an area is obviously cared for and maintained, be it a derelict site or an alleyway, instances of vandalism and graffiti are significantly lowered.

Now on the new hoarding we propose to carry out the following interventions:

**History Panel:** To highlight the history of the area, we will place a weatherproof dibond panel on the hoardings with historical information relating to Kyril's Quay.

**Artwork:** Similar to previous examples of Reimagine Cork artwork.

**Flower Boxes:** In keeping with Kyril's Quay's historical association with the timber trade, it is proposed that 8 wooden planters, elevated on legs above the ground be secured on the present hoarding and a selection of native saplings be planted in these with bedding plants and bulbs incorporated at the base of the planters, to give year long colour.



# Project 6 - Widderling's Lane

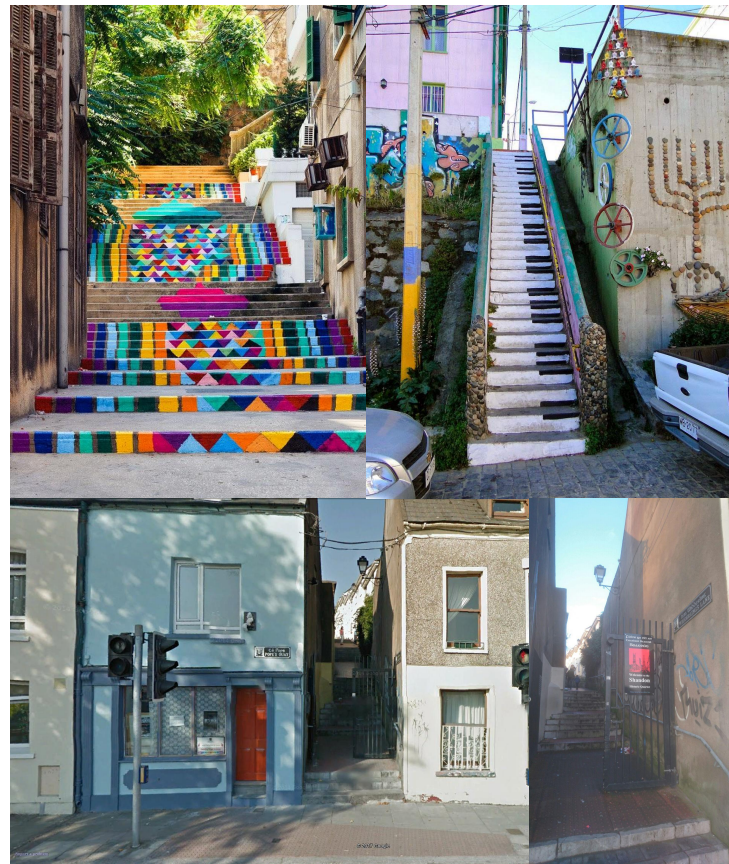


## The Vision

Like many of our beautiful city's lesser-known and less-treaded byways, Widderling's Lane has not been looked after as much as it deserves. This pedestrian route, though small in size, should be celebrated for the important connection it makes between the city centre and the far-too- often overlooked Firkin Crane/Shandon area.

We at Reimagine Cork aim to give the laneway the small bit of TLC that makes a difference. The aim will be to open it back up into the minds of the cities pedestrians, by merely cleaning it up, adding a bit of colour and removing as much shabbiness or obvious eyesores that have been allowed to accumulate.

People power and a lick of paint here and there can go a long way!!



# Project 7 - Cork Opera House



## The Vision

Located in the heart of Cork City, the Opera House has been a Cork cultural institution for nearly 160 years. This important piece of architecture is a centrepiece of our city, an arts hub, a meeting point for locals. The architecture is looking tired and we want to Reimagine it with a beautiful green, living wall. Our aim will be to create a living breathing piece of architecture for the people of Cork and visitors to enjoy.

Cleaner air for the city • The plants will protect the building from the harsh elements of Irish weather • Plants will absorb rainfall and prevent local flooding • Improve the aesthetics of the building • Will last up to 25 years • More nature in the city breathes positivity, naturally.

Working in collaboration with Cork Opera House and a landscape architect we will transform the upper part of the COH. Plants suitable to our climate will be introduced to the wall and in time they will be blooming. Growing customised moss lettering will be explored also. The wall facing the river is the area proposed to Reimagine.



# Project 8 - Patrick's Quay



## The Vision

Patrick's Quay has evolved into a de facto secondary bus station in Cork and is the primary arrival/departure point for many visitors and citizens of the city, yet without any formal infrastructure in place. Passengers waiting for the hourly Aircoach service to Dublin and the City link that leaves every three hours to Galway can be seen awkwardly leaning against the railings of Patrick's Quay with many others struggling to even locate the bus stop! Reimagine Cork feel that this should be turned into a more comfortable and formal bus stop, however, in advance of that, we would like to pilot a temporary parklet with a seating area, greenery and some public art to mark the space.

Putting in temporary (yet fully secured) seating should be central to this. The seating would be south facing to take in the river and the sunshine that (sometimes) hits the north quays of our lovely river. As seen in the photos below, the seating can range from the very basic to the illustrious, budget depending. In tandem with this, Reimagine would like to apply our trademark planting and greenery as well as some public art marking the space. The theme of the art would be to reference its role as the Ellis Island of Cork City with some light hearted references welcoming any foreign guests to our wonderful city or to the teary eyed Corkonian's boarding the misery bus to Dublin. In future times, the space would greatly benefit from some tourist information services, such as electronic touch screen information points and mapping to guide the new arrivees taking their first steps through the city.



# Project 9 - Penrose Quay



## The Vision

Penrose Quay is currently an underused and relatively bland part of the city with much of its riverside area given over to car parking and an unattractive streetscape. It will soon be the primary pedestrian route connecting the bus station and city centre with Kent station (when the new entrance from Penrose/Horgan's Quay is completed).

We propose to add a bit of the trademark Reimagine Cork treatment to the quayside. It is proposed to hang boxes of plants along the quay on the railings and to install a little mini garden in the gravelled area by Brian Boru Bridge.



# Project 10 - R&H Hall



## The Vision

R & H Hall is a building emblematic to the Cork docks, known to all and loved by some. It is unlikely to have many years left with us yet perhaps is one that can and should be celebrated as a piece of our past and to the thriving docks that once were. It is one of the first buildings to great arrivee's to the city from the east and there are few with greater visibility in Cork. Reimagine Cork propose a landmark project that should have the involvement of Cork City Council.

Our proposal is that it would accommodate a temporary or permanent art mural similar to the examples shown on this page. The subject of which should perhaps be put to a competition tender and/or vote by the people of Cork.



# Summary & Leads



Action	Lead
Project 1 - St Vincent's Bridge	Mark Murphy
Project 2 - Da North Bank	Paula Larkin
Project 3 - North Gate Bridge	Team Reimagine Cork
Project 4 - North Main St.carpark	John O'Sullivan
Project 5 - Kyril's Quay	Kevin O'Brien
Project 6 - Widdering's Lane	Alistair Fitzgibbon
Project 7 - Cork Opera House	Rebecca Roche
Project 8 - Patrick's Quay	Tadhg Daly
Project 9 - Penrose Quay	Alan Hurley
Project 10 - R&H Hall	Team Reimagine Cork





Thank You