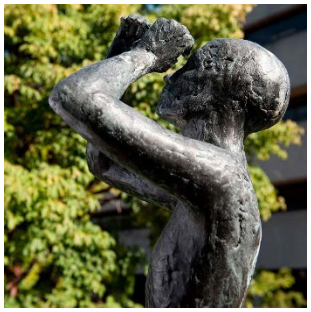

Responding to education precarity

Siobhán O'Sullivan and Séamus O'Tuama

A TRADITION OF INDEPENDENT THINKING

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Precariousness and educational inequality

- Cultural values and norms (not just financial barriers)
- Sense of dislocation from the university (education for haves)

‘I found myself at a university. UCC, and that is really… for rich folks and for middle class people. I felt as if even the walls were saying “you do not belong here”.’

Teresa(*Breaking the Barriers*)

Precarious Dislocation

When I was at UCC in the beginning, I expected a gentle tap on my shoulder and someone saying “You are the wrong person to be here”

Frances (*Breaking the Barriers*)

Precarious Dislocation

The feeling is that education is not for me... UCC or CIT is not on the minds of the kids who live here... there is still a huge class divide

Teresa (*Breaking the Barriers)*

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Models of Community-University engagement

- Moral responsibility to recognise and respond to education precariousness.
- Importance of identifying as ‘we’ with the university.
- But people with precarious relationships to education are not addressed by the university.
- Connection needs to occur at varying points throughout the experience of education if participation in university education is to be established or maintained.
  - Harwood et al, 2013: 26

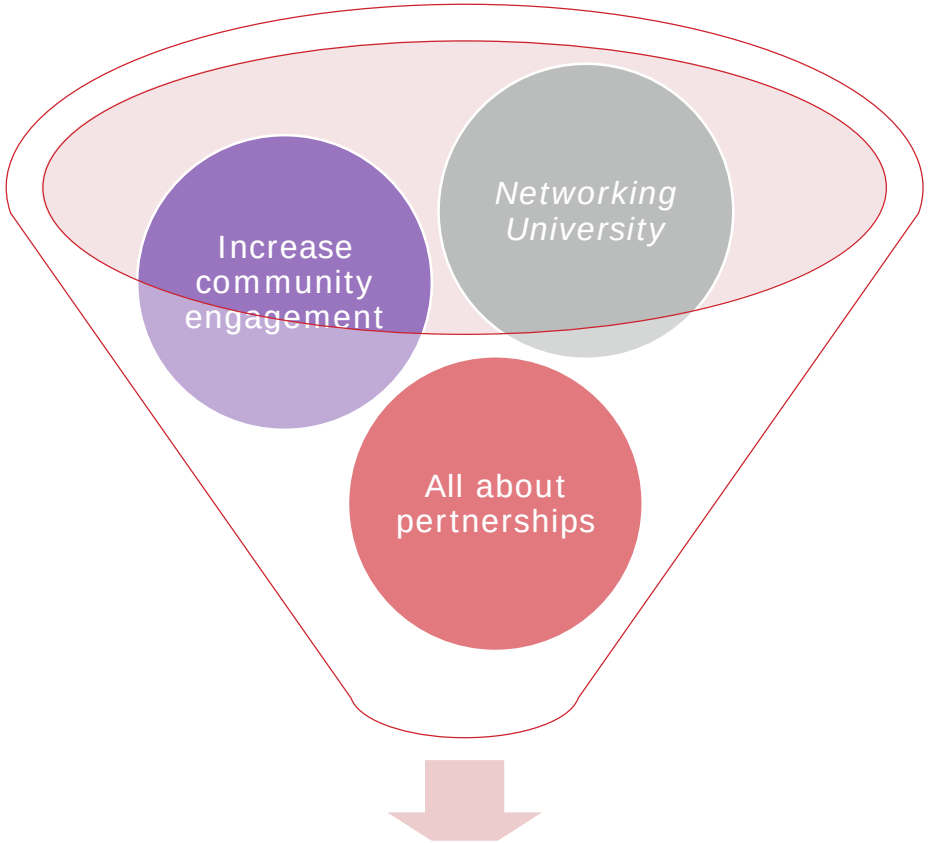
Education and precariousness

... education aims to provide time and space for the precarious existence of this world and to preserve its indeterminacy

- Vandenabeele, Reyskens and Wildemeersch (2011) p204

- It is not about solving precariousness
- It is about being useful in a precarious context

ACE's Community Mission



Key Community Projects

- Learning Neighbourhoods – Cork City
- Weave Project – Kerry County Council
- Adult & Community programmes

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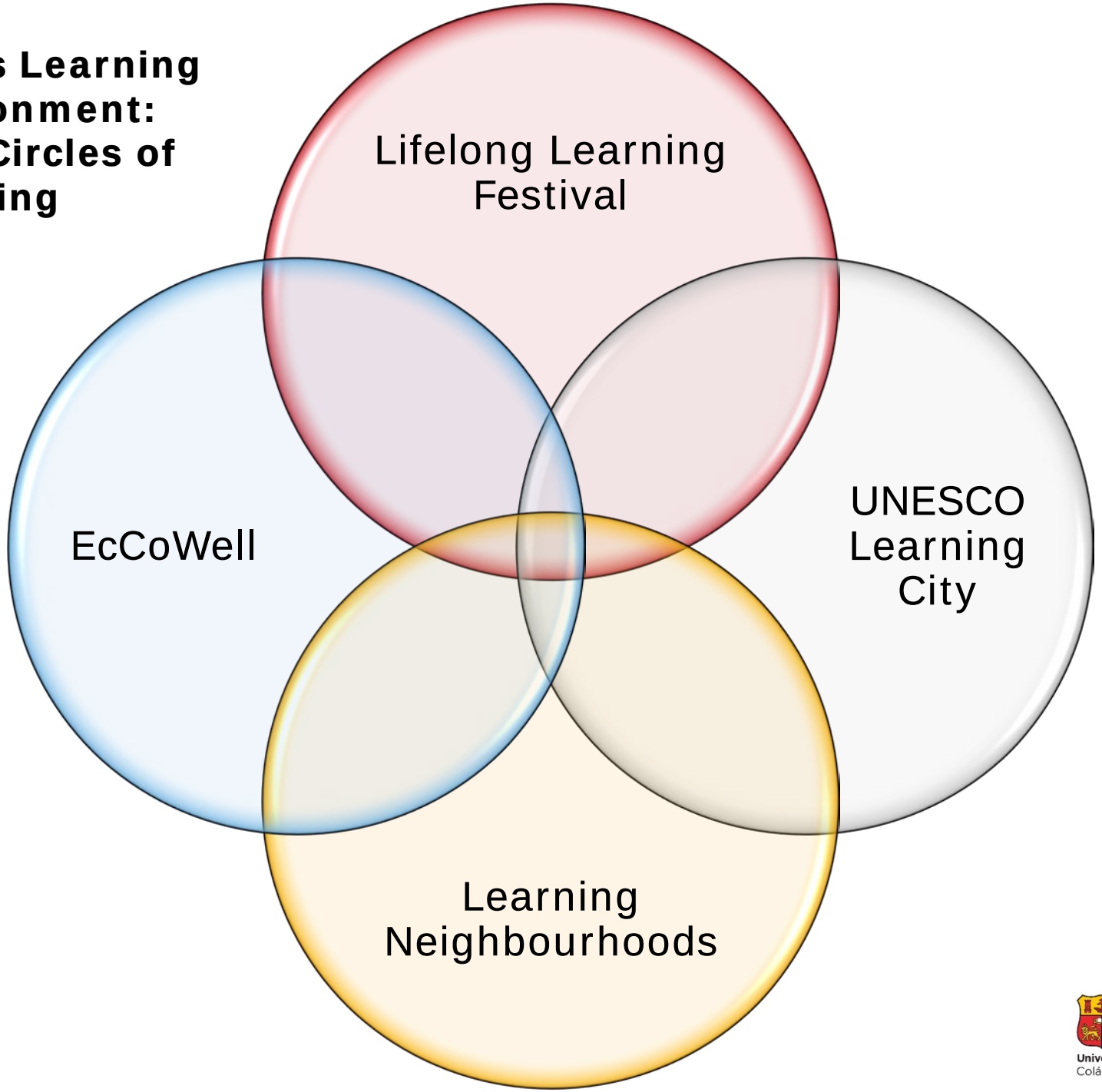
Collaborative Culture

- Enable people to work with and demand something of the university
- Partnership model between university and community
- Community identify its own needs in dialogue with university and other educational providers
- Identify educational needs throughout the life cycle
- Intrinsic values of learning – not just about jobs
- Work orientation adopt ‘Reflexive Activation’ approach

Cork's Learning Environment: Four Circles of Learning



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Design of Learning Neighbourhoods

- Collaboration key
- Public engagement in both neighbourhoods.
- Coordinating groups, members from community stakeholders
- Agenda shaped by regular local meetings.
- Drew on approach of Cork Lifelong Learning Festival.

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LEaRNING NeighbOurhood

A Learning Neighbourhood is an area that has an ongoing commitment to learning, providing inclusive and diverse learning opportunities for whole communities through partnership and collaboration.

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Neighbourhood Activities

- Supporting and promoting ongoing neighbourhood learning and events
- Networking and connecting groups
- New initiatives:
  - 25+ UCC Neighbourhood workshops with academics from across university
  - Learning Neighbourhoods talks and events at the Lifelong Learning Festival, April 2016
  - Ballyphehane Open Morning
  - Faces of Learning Poster Campaign
  - Knocknaheeny STEAM Education

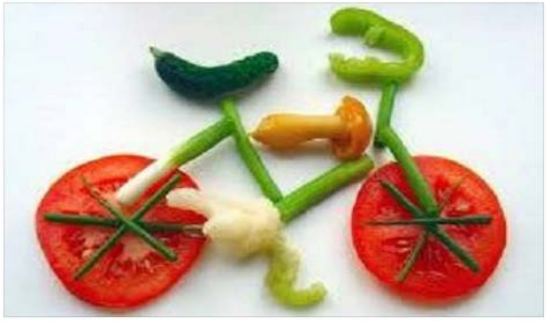
UCC Neighbourhood Lectures

Learning Neighbourhoods Cork
March 14 ·

Tomorrow in the Torytop Ballyphehane Cork City Libraries, Learning Neighbourhoods Cork will be hosting Pat O'Leary's "Introduction to Mindfulness" from 11am. All welcome to attend. "Practicing mindfulness helps us to wake up to our lives, to what is happening in this moment, with an attitude of kindness towards ourselves and our experience".

Learning Neighbourhoods Cork shared their photo.
April 22 ·

This fantastic talk will be on in Hollyhill Library today at 11am! All are welcome!



Learning Neighbourhoods Cork Like Page
April 21 ·

Dr. Janas Harrington of UCC will give a free public lecture on "Healthy Food, Healthy Body" on April 22nd at 11am in the Cork City Libraries Hollyhill. This ill...

See More

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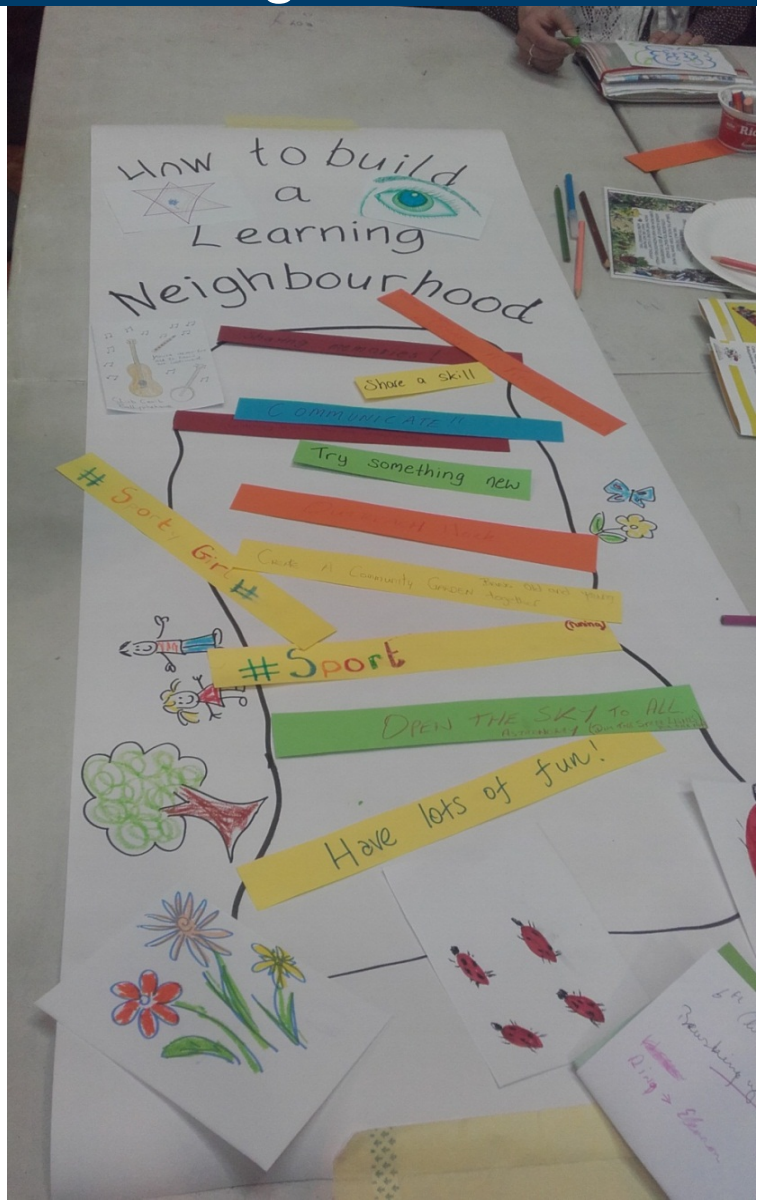
Ballyphehane Learning Neighbourhoods Open Morning, Lifelong Learning Festival



How to build a LEaRNING NeighbOurhood

Share skills between generations

Share memories

Create a tepee; make a wisdom tent

Tap into your creative side

GET TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE

START A CONVERSATION

TELL YOUR STORY

Pass on kindness & understanding to your grandchildren

Listen to each other

Listen to your mam

Join a group and pool ideas

GO TO SCHOOL

Get to know what's going on locally

Get involved in intergenerational groups

READ THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

WATCH THE NEWS

Use your local CDP or Community Centre

Use the library

Go to College

LEARN FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE DAY CARE CENTRE

Walk & chat & share interests

Encourage each other & stick with it

Try something new

Use your imagination

Have fun!

Join in

Open your ears!

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

Believe in others

Be open

BE AMBITIOUS

PLAY NICE!

Break down barriers

SHARE

Keep learning at the heart of the community

PLAY TOGETHER

Smile & say Hi

Created by:

Ballyphehane Day Care, Ballyphehane Arts & Crafts Initiative, Ballyphehane Community Association, Ballyphehane Togher CDP, Togher Family Centre, An Clabhan Community Creche, Togher Family Centre Pre-School, Toraige Youth Group Ballyphehane, Scoil Maria Assumpta, Bacailscoil An tEaglaigh Naofa, Morning Star N.S., Greenmount N.S., Togher Girls N.S., Community Dardai Learning Neighbourhoods UCC, Cork Healthy Cities, HSE South, Read Write Now Basic Adult Education, Tory Top Library, Ballyphehane 1916 Committee, Community Artist, CDS – COPE Foundation, Cork ETB Lifelong Learning Festival/UNESCO Delegation. Facilitated by Karen Meikle. Design by James Sandquest

Faces of Learning
Photography and Exhibition

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

FACES OF LEARNING

BALLYPHEHANE

FACES OF LEARNING

KNOCKNAHEENY

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STEAM Schools Science Education Programme

Recognising good practice

Presentation of certificates by Cork City Council CEO, Ann Doherty

Presentation of certificates by Lord Mayor to Ballyphehane and Knocknaheeny Learning Neighbourhood Groups.

End of Year Lord Mayor's Reception

Faces of Learning participants

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End of Year Lord Mayor's Reception

Presentation of certificates by Lord Mayor to UCC Lecturers

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How can the emerging model contribute to the universities community engagement?

- Enhance the links and partnership between university and communities
- Bottom up rather than top down
- Develop new initiatives and collaborations
- Promote and showcase lifelong learning and celebrate and award good practice

LEaRNING NeighbOurhood

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