

The Little **MUSEUM** of **DUBLIN**

DUBLIN'S LITTLEST MUSEUM CELEBRATES DUBLIN IN A BIG WAY.





A+ the corner of Dawson Street and St. Stephen's Green in Dublin is a Georgian building bursting with stories and treasures of the city's past and present. The Little Museum of Dublin is only a few years old but has quickly become a place where Dubliners and visitors alike can stroll, stare, sip and tour their way through 5,000+ artifacts and objects that tell the story of Dublin. From street signs to first-edition novels, each object has been donated by Dubliners making it very much a museum of the people.



Trevor White is the Founder and Director of this unique space and *Connect* magazine caught up with him on the museum's third floor to learn more about this newcomer to Dublin's famous museum scene and how they roll out the red carpet to Dubliners and visitors alike.

Q. Trevor, how did the idea for this museum come about?

A. I always thought it strange that a city of Dublin's size and stature didn't have its own museum. I felt it needed a place to build civic pride because unless you know the story of your city, how can you help chart its future? In 2011 we started an initiative and spoke to City Government about finding a space. That led to this building.

Q. So where did the objects here come from?

A. We put a notice in the Dublin papers inviting people to come with objects that told a story. Nearly 1,000 objects walked in the door after just a few months. Today we have over 5,000 items and people still come to the museum every day with items for consideration. We feel we're making a tangible contribution to Dublin. It's a real privilege to do this.

Q. And what about the museum's "City of a Thousand Welcomes" service?

A. A few years ago a friend and I were in a pub and met an Australian tourist visiting Dublin. We did what Dubliners do: we bought him a pint and gave him advice on what to see while he was here. That night I found myself thinking about Irish hospitality and civic spirit. I ended up talking to the Irish Tourist Board about the idea of how we could welcome visitors and we began the City of a Thousand Welcomes service. It's a free service based here in the Museum that pairs visitors with Dublin natives who take them for a pint or a cup of coffee or tea and offer advice on what to do while they are here. It's a great and informal way for visitors to improve their visit and for Dubliners to show real Irish hospitality. Over 2,000 people have used the service so far.



Q. How have The Ireland Funds helped the Little Museum of Dublin?

A. Historically there hasn't been a tradition of private philanthropy in Ireland. But it's organizations like The Ireland Funds that have taken the lead. Their role has been absolutely vital to philanthropy here. A grant from The Ireland Funds has assisted our education program for children: the "I Love Dublin" classes. School groups can come for free guided tours and activities. To see them have that experience is just great. We're creating a rich awareness in children of the history of their city. We'd like to think they leave here walking just a bit taller.

Q. And what's your vision for the future?

A. We started with a few floors of this building and we're now filling the whole thing. We see a massive opportunity to keep growing and create something that is world class. We really want to thank The Ireland Funds for the support they've given so far. It's been instrumental to the success we enjoy today. They're brilliant partners to work with.



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