



**Comharchumann Cumarsaide
Pobal Bhaile Atha Cliath Thoir-Thuaidh Teo**

RCN: 20205453

Annual Report 2021

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Chairperson's Report

The last year brought many challenges to the Near Media Co-op. However, I am happy to report that the members and staff of the co-op rose to tackle those difficulties and helped it to perform well. I want to thank everyone in the co-op, who contributed to maintaining good broadcasting standards during this time.

Although the impact of the Covid pandemic is still with us, we are gradually working our way back to 'normality' and we are commencing to complete projects, which were delayed, as a result of the pandemic.

Near Media Co-op is now a big multi-faceted operation. It takes a lot of hard work to administer it. It is often said that good organisation is seldom seen. The members of the Committee of Management (COM) take on a lot of administrative, regulatory and legal responsibilities of the co-op and I want all members to be aware of that load. Our Secretary, Sabrina Ryan, has alluded to this in her report. So, I wish to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank, on behalf of us all, the members of the COM for their commitment and diligence.

As you are aware, we are embarking on an exciting project in a major upgrading of our studios. This will involve a large financial investment. We wish to thank those who have contributed to this project fund. We plan to continue broadcasting during this upgrade. No doubt, we will encounter disruption because of this. I ask all members and presenters to cooperate with the project team, who has been tasked with this job.

You remember that at the last co-op meeting, I threw down a challenge to everyone involved in the operation of this co-op. I asked everyone to make a small improvement in what they do every month. Small incremental steps can have big impacts on organisations. If we do this, we will continue to improve our performance in all aspects of our operation. I look forward with confidence to the coming year.

Thank you.
Declan

Declan Cahill,
Chairperson,
Committee of Management
Near Media Co-op

September 2022

Secretary's Report

The Near Media Co-op Committee of Management saw a busy 2021 with monthly online meetings at which staff and volunteers were in attendance.

The Committee of Management has a responsibility as the governing body of Near Media Co-op to report on a regular basis to multiple statutory bodies. The Committee provided oversight and governance in respect of support provided by the Departments of Education, and INTREO at the Department of Social Protection as well as the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland and The Charity Regulator.

Registration of Near Media Co-op as a charity occurred in 2020 and, as such, in 2021 the Committee of Management undertook a body to work to ensure compliance with the principles of the Charity Regulator's compliance record. Compliance with legal and statutory frameworks is of vital importance and is integral to ensuring that our organisation operates high standards of governance and administration

2021 saw the phased rollout of membership within our organisation as mandated by the shareholding members. As a result, there was a significant increase in applications for shareholding of the Near Media Co-op further strengthening the ethos of a media cooperative in the democratic ownership of all its shareholding members.

In 2021, Near Media Co-op signed up to the BAI Sustainability Network and the 17 goals which aim to make the Irish broadcasting sector a sustainability leader that uses its collective voice to create a greener, more inclusive, more resilient future for all.

Covid-19 continued to present a challenge in 2021 and it is important to thank everyone who contributed to ensuring that Near Media Co-op continued to inform, entertain and educate the communities to which we broadcast.

Sabrina Ryan,
Secretary,
Committee of Management,
Near Media Co-op

September 2022

Treasurer's Report

Introduction

2021 continued to be a challenging year for Near Media Co-Op. However, with the assistance of the Government Wage Subsidy Scheme and the support of our funding partners, we saw for a year-on-year growth and the provision of a stabilising source of income. We continue to manage the delayed implementation of several radio and TV projects due to COVID-19 restrictions.

At this time, I want to acknowledge the support given by our funding partners: City of Dublin Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection / INTREO (formerly FÁS), Dublin City Council, The BAI Sound & Vision scheme, from the TV licence fee, Members and Friends of Near

All played a vital role in supporting Near Media Co-op during 2021 and continue to support our community media organisation. Our audit shows that with careful management and control of funds the Co-op closed 2021 in a stable sustainable pattern.

Outlook

Although we continue during 2022 to operate in a difficult trading environment, the forecast on Income shows a predicted return to growth and towards the end of 2022 the organisation will embark on a capital expenditure programme. The Co-op produces consistent audits which result from continued policies towards maximising access to grant income, whilst closely monitoring expenditure patterns. This year's audit sets out the Co-op audit and the Intreo project audit referenced within the main Co-op audit. This will allow for a clearer financial statement of the overall positioning of Near Media Co-op.

Vincent Teeling,
Treasurer,
Committee of Management
September 2022

Near FM

Sound and Vision Radio Programming

Through the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland Sound and Vision scheme, Near FM continued to produce high quality radio series on an annual basis, collaborating with new and diverse range of community partners, in order to achieve high quality in tandem with our ethos.

In 2021 the following series were produced and broadcast:

Trinity Talks: The Road Less Travelled

The Road Less Travelled is a series from the Trinity Long Room Hub and Near FM featuring current and past students from Trinity College Dublin who have taken the road less travelled to education. We meet men and women from all walks of life who have overcome social barriers and surpassed prejudice and discrimination—all for the opportunity to study at third level and in Trinity's Arts and Humanities. In this series, we celebrate different experiences in education, meeting fascinating people with unique life stories. The Road Less Travelled radio series is produced by Trinity Long Room Hub and Near FM with the support of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland through the television licence fee. The Trinity Long Room Hub would like to thank Trinity's Access Programme (TAP) for their assistance in relation to the series.

All episodes are available at <https://nearfm.ie/podcast/category/arts-2/the-road-less-travelled/>

New Drama Hour

Our series of audio drama's written exclusively by women writers, continued into 2021. Even with the imposition of Covid-19 we managed to safely produce more episodes in the series. These included Paddy Goes to Petra written by Aine Ryan and Black Cherry written by Krystal Sweedman and directed by Anna Nugent.

75 Years on the Go

Near FM producer, Enda Roche, produced a 3 part documentary series on the history of CIE.

<https://nearfm.ie/podcast/category/documentaries/culture/75-years-on-the-go/>

The Hugh Lane Concert Series

In its fourth season, this captures the best in Irish and international based composers and musicians performing in front of a live audience at the Hugh Lane Gallery in Parnell Square. The series showcased contemporary, traditional, classical and jazz music concerts as part of the Sundays @ Noon concerts. To date we have produced and broadcast 23 concerts from the Hugh Lane. As lockdown continued in 2021, we were fortunate enough to still be able to work with our partners. There were no audiences for much of series 4 but we were there to capture some amazing performances from Nava, the RIAM Percussion Ensemble, The Spero Quartet and Patrick Rafter.

Near TV

Training

We continued to give training and support in *Premiere Pro*, *Final Cut* and *After Effects*, as well as on location camera and sound training. They have filmed, edited and uploaded short videos similar to the previous *Lost in a Word series during lockdown*. And have filmed on location in the Hugh Lane Gallery. New staff working camera on a music programme recorded as-live and live edited on a Blackmagic system. We have also continued to develop the skills of the two staff members still with us in animation and sound.

Mobile phone video training

We designed and presented training on mobile phone filming for the CTA's Learning Network. The mobile phone training took place over a Thursday and Friday in March (10:30-12:30 and 1:30 - 3:30 each day with some exercise outside for the class time.) The training was very well received by participants.

Facilitation skills for online platforms (CTA)

On completion of the mobile phone training we were asked to produce a training for trainers to give skills for facilitating groups in online platforms. This took place over two Fridays at the end of June beginning of July. We are currently waiting on feedback forms; however qualitative feedback given at the end of the course was very positive. Each of these courses was held through the CTA (Community Television Association) and their new Learning network.

TV Productions and Dissemination

Hugh Lane Concert series:

This series of filming took place over 5 concerts from April to June. The performers are listed below. The concerts were filmed as-live however we included interviews with the musicians.

Performers include: Ficino Ensemble, Elaine Clark (violin), Nathan Sherman (viola), Ailbhe McDonagh (cello), **Berginald Rash** (clarinet) with guests, Annalisa Monticelli (piano) & Fiona Gryson (harp), **Ellen Janssen (piano) & Yseult Cooper Stockdale (cello)**, **Dermot Dunne (accordion)**, Nick Roth (saxophone), Mia Cooper (violin), Malachy Robinson (double bass), **Francesco Turrisi (piano)**

Culture Night TV 2021

Culture Night TV was produced in September 2021. The overall theme for this year is LGBTQIA+ and this was a large production which took many training sessions and upskilling in pre-production and on the job itself. It was filmed in Outhouse and we had a presenter from Outhouse and TENI (The Transgender Equality Network)

The overall programme is 2.5 hours and consists of as-live interviews, music and poetry performances and pre-recorded segments from different LGBTQIA+ organizations around Dublin. This mixed format allows for trainees to develop skills in a variety of different areas.

Lost in a word Series

As mentioned in the previous report this was series continued through the lockdown where short videos were produced by Near TV trainees and staff, predominately on their mobile phones during lockdown. Each is a short video based on a word. We asked new staff to continue this idea looking at the city re-opening after lockdown with short videos: *Open Season* represents our road to reopening after lock-down. It was shot and Edited by Adam Heapes on Sony Xperia. *Reopening 2021* Near TV filmed a snippet of our reopening. Shot and Edited by Paul Farren

Outreach

Women on Air - In June and July 2021 we ran a media and broadcast course for women only, details here [women on air](#). This course was held online via zoom, in September 2021 we organized 2 practical workshops face to face in the radio studios and opportunities for participants to come in and shadow and observe presenters live on air.

Integration Nation - This was a media training course we ran online in October and November 2021. Training support to CE staff who organized the training and follow up with the 4 participants who applied for their own radio programme after completing the training: Asian Talent by Alice Chau, Soul sound by Phil Behan, AfroVibes by Abofu Alemka and Do you speak Tech? by Patrick Domanico. Media Training with young adults from Kilmore West Youth Project (KWYP)- continuation of the media training and broadcast support with 5 young adults from KWYP in Near FM's studios. Fortnightly workshops on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm that resulted in the production of music and talk programmes. [Link to one of the programmes.](#)

Media and broadcast training course over 5 days in October for 7 teachers from Vigo in Spain. This course was offered face to face by a variety of established and new trainers in the studios and training room at Near Media Co-op.

Production of Culture Night TV 2021. This year was the final of three years of Culture Night TV. This year we focussed on the LGBTQIA+ community coming as live from Outhouse on Capel Street including interviews with community organizations, activists, artists, poets, and live music. Example of a vox-pop What does Pride mean to you? recorded for the production

European Project Management: MILES is an Erasmus + project on Media Literacy in collaboration with 6 other community radio stations in Europe and will run from August 2021 to August 2023 including project meetings online and face to face with the participating partners. This project identifies, tests and documents good practice concepts and methods and helpful resources for Media Information Literacy -training and developing applicable methods for evaluating this training with trainers and learners. This project aims to provide good practice and deliver helpful guidance for all adult education providers who want to become more active in this field.

European Project Management: Europe in my backyard- Radio reporting on the European Cohesion policy is a radio campaign with a focus on organizations, projects and strategies for a more connected, competitive, greener, social and sustainable Ireland. Near FM will broadcast 20 x 30min programmes weekly from February 10th 2022.

It will also involve the creation of 5 short videos about current projects supported in the Leinster region and a webinar with key players and experts. This project is a collaboration with a collaboration with Radio Dreyeckland in Baden Wurttemberg in Germany, EMA in Andalucia in Spain, Radio Popolare in Lombardy in Italy, Radio Student in central Slovenia, Civil Radio in central Hungary and us, Near FM, in Leinster.

Near FM is part of the Northside Community Forum - Steering Group engagement and support to the Northside Community Forum Meeting.

Continuous engagement with community members and organizations and subsequent linking in for radio interviews with existing programmes.

Production of Hiberno Goethe: German Irish Conversations Podcast in collaboration with the Goethe Institut Irland. This podcast dives into the many colours of arts, language and life across cultures. St. Pauli fan and former Düsseldorfer Ciarán Murray and his guests explore the connecting moments of German and Irish life. What do musicians, dancers, artists, writers pick up from either culture? How are they inspired and enriched by the other? For all listeners who like to go and think beyond borders. This series started in November 2020 and is due to complete in summer or autumn 2022. Social Enterprise support through training by SECOP to Near Media Co-op.

Online

Our community podcast network, NearCast went from strength to strength in 2021. In June of 2021 Paul Loughran was invited to deliver a workshop on podcast to members of The Wheel. From this, two new podcast clients came on board to work with NearCast and have their podcast produced. These were The Irish Foster Care Association and the Prevention and Early Intervention Network.

Other podcast series ongoing since 2021 include the excellent Hiberno Goethe: Irish/German Conversations, made with the Goethe Institute, Dublin. This podcast is produced by Dorothee Meyer Holtkamp, Ciaran Murray and Neil Farrelly. This Podcast dives into the many colours of arts, language and life across cultures. St. Pauli fan and former Düsseldorfer Ciarán Murray and his guests explore the connecting moments of German and Irish life. What do musicians, dancers, artists, writers pick up from either culture? How are they inspired and enriched by the other? For all listeners who like to go and think beyond borders.

Mind the Gap podcast series – Started in December 2021, join Mary Oyediran for a brand new podcast series called Mind the Gap. In this series was she meets a number of special guest's about their experience of racism on their mental health. Mind the Gap delves deep into the impact racism has on the everyday lives of the African community living in Ireland.

There are currently 15 podcasts with a combined total of 160 episodes hosted on the site. There have been 7,704 downloads.

Listen Again Site

In the past year 1190 new pieces of audio have been uploaded to the website bringing us to a total of 11,238 interviews available on the site.

There have been almost 50,000 downloads in the past year.

The most downloaded in the past year:

- Dublin Punk Untold – episode 1 – There was nothing
- Lifeline – Robins, Sparrows, Thrushes, Blackbirds and many more need a helping hand through the coldest months.
- Lifeline – Santa Claus & Irelands Air Traffic Controllers who Help and Guide Santa's Sleigh over Ireland.
- Beyond The Back Page – Author, Alex Duff.
- Northside Today: Kilmore Celtic news

Livestream

Total Listener Minutes over the last year - 8546126 (Approximately 16¼ years)

11.14 Terabytes of data. There have been 7,704 downloads.

Our main social media sites on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have grown steadily to just over 7,000, 3,000 and 1,000 users respectively