



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2024 / 2025



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## Introduction

The year at RADE was one of growth, creativity, and recognition, with achievements that highlighted both the dedication of participants and the evolving nature of our community. The year opened with the IHREC launch and panel discussion “*Art and Impact: Personal, Social and Political*” as part of RADE’s *Create Your Rights* project on 26th September 2024. This was a standout event that showcased participant creativity and reinforced RADE’s position as a space for meaningful artistic and social engagement. Artwork by participants was displayed, and a panel discussion with distinguished guests including artist Brian Maguire explored the intersection of art, personal expression, and social impact. The event concluded with a moving poetry reading by poet Colm Keegan.

The year was further distinguished by national recognition through the adult education Aontas STAR Award 2025 for RADE in the Health and Wellbeing category. Selected from 33 applicants in our category across the island of Ireland, this award celebrated RADE’s model of fostering creativity as a platform for personal growth and recovery. It brought national visibility, including a feature on *Ireland AM*, and affirmed the impact of RADE’s programmes in the adult education arena.



Participant numbers grew steadily during this period, leading to full capacity on the CE scheme and the establishment of a waiting list by the end of the year. In response, the Department of Social Protection increased our capacity for 2025–2026, reflecting recognition of both the programme quality and RADE’s capacity to support participants’ development. The year also saw an increase in female participation, contributing to ongoing efforts toward gender equality, while attendance and engagement improved overall.

Emerging from this year were two defining themes of a strengthening and growing community and an expansive creative programme. These themes were evident across all activities, from theatre and creative writing to short film and textile workshops. Participants developed friendships, offered peer support, and took on leadership roles, demonstrating the collaborative spirit that became characteristic of the year.

Creative programmes were particularly dynamic. Highlights included the development and filming of *Sherry Trifle* with Mo O’Connell, theatre projects with Robbie O’Connor and Andrea Scott, textile and visual arts workshops with the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts delivered by Dorothy Smith and Ciara Harrison, and creative writing sessions with poet Colm Keegan and charity Fighting Words. Participants engaged deeply with these activities, developing skills in collaboration, performance, and self-expression. Outings to the Hugh Lane Gallery, the Gate Theatre, Wild Acres Nature Reserve & Bio Diversity Education centre amongst others, enriched learning and reinforced a sense of community and shared experience.

Amidst these successes, RADE also navigated staffing changes. While high turnover remains a sector-wide challenge, the team welcomed two CE Supervisors, a Project Worker, and a summer intern from the University of California. These appointments brought stability and supported programme delivery.

Governance and risk management advanced significantly. RADE developed and renewed its Diversity and Inclusion Policy, ensuring all participants feel valued, respected, and supported. New risk management practices were adopted, and HSE Care Plan and Assessment Forms were integrated into participant support processes. IT systems were upgraded, including Bright Cloud payroll implementation, improving reporting and operational efficiency.

Building and facilities improvements included replacement of windows in the art and staff rooms funded by DCC, along with new flooring and skirtings in the lobby and stairwell funded by the HSE National Lottery Grant.

Financially, the year saw €25,430 in grants and donations all of which supported programmes, outings, creative activities and building improvements.

In summary, the year was a period of achievement, growth, and creative flourishing. The combination of high-quality creative projects, strong participant engagement, national recognition and public-facing events, with the hard work of a supportive and adaptive team has laid a solid foundation for the coming year. RADE continues to provide a space where creativity, personal growth, and community thrive, offering participants the opportunities to explore, connect, and to achieve.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and creativity of our participants, the commitment and professionalism of our staff and volunteers, and the guidance and support of our Board. Each has played an essential role in shaping what has been an extraordinary year for RADE. Together, we continue to demonstrate the transformative power of the arts in recovery, and the strength that comes from building community, fostering growth, and embracing creative endeavour.

**Gill McCaw**

Project Director, RADE



## **Vision, Mission and Structure**

### **Our Vision**

Our vision is that creativity is open to all.

Creativity opens the mind and soul and shows us a different side to ourselves. It can bring us together and connect us to the world. It can give us back our voice and help us contribute to society and the world at large.

### **Our Mission**

Our mission is to engage people who use drugs and those in recovery, with the arts and therapeutic supports and to provide a platform for their artistic expression.

### **Our Purpose**

Our purpose is to provide an addiction service in Dublin 8 that represents our belief in the transformative power of the arts to positively affect people's lives. To do so in a way that maintains high standards of service as determined by our main stakeholders.

### **Our Strategy**

- Grow RADE's reputation as an innovative alternative to drug use and as a stimulating, well run, effective and welcoming service.
- Build a sense of community and engage with participants, stakeholders, intra-agency partnerships and the wider community.
- Continue to build a programme of stimulating, professional-led arts workshops.
- Build equality, diversity and inclusion at RADE.
- Provide a safe and healthy workplace environment for all staff, volunteers and participants.

### **Our Methods**

RADE works with people in recovery from drug use as well as those managing or moving away from active use. We harness creativity as a tool for positive change, building confidence, self-esteem, and new skills. Through theatre, film, art, and writing, participants experience teamwork, responsibility, and achievement. Public showcases of their work provide motivation and pride, while also challenging stigma and changing how society views people who use drugs.





## **Our Structure**

RADE is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. Overall oversight and strategic management is provided by a voluntary Board of Directors who give guidance to the Project Director. The Project Director manages a team of Task Force (SICDATF) Vote funded project workers and DSP community employment supervisors, who in turn support CE workers and participants.

## **The RADE Board of Management as of August 2025**

**Geoff Power** Chairperson, **Matthew DeCourcy** Secretary, **Lorcan Claffey** Treasurer, **Carol Casey** Director, **Dominique Cleary** Director, **Jane O'Hanlon** Director, **Úna Lowry** Director



## Participants and Therapeutic Supports

RADE's capacity for the period August 2024 – August 2025 was 21 on the Community Employment scheme funded by The Department of Social Protection, (16 participants, 4 support workers and 1 cleaner/housekeeper) in addition to places funded by the HSE via the South Inner City Drug and Alcohol Task Force Vote (SICDATF).

The following statistics are for the year Aug 2024 - Aug 2025 and reflect numbers at the end of that period:

- 15 participants are currently on the CE scheme
- 7 participants are currently on the HSE/ CE pre-entry scheme
- RADE currently has 2 CE Support Staff - Rehab team
- RADE currently has 2 Task Force Vote funded Project workers – Rehab team
- 2 participants are engaged in follow-up support
- Current gender breakdown in RADE is Male 14: Female 8

Summary of progress from 2023-24 to 2024-2025 also shown in table below:

- CE programme numbers increased by 36.4%
- Task Force Vote numbers increased by 16.7%
- Male participation fell slightly (–6.7%)
- Female participation grew strongly (+300%)
- Gender balance moved toward greater equality: 12% women → 36% women

Programme Participation				
Programme	2023–24	2024–25	Change	% Change
CE Programme	11	15	+4	+36.4%
Task Force Vote Funded	6	7	+1	+16.7%

Gender Overall	2023–24	2024–25	Change	% Change	Share 2023–24	Share 2024–25
Men	15	14	–1	–6.7%	88.2%	63.6%
Women	2	8	+6	+300%	11.8%	36.4%

2024-2025 was a successful year for RADE with growth in attendance across the whole programme. Women's participation also grew significantly while men's slightly decreased achieving one of RADE's long-term goals of an improved gender balance on the programme.

One CE Support Worker left RADE during this period. Another was interviewed in August 2025 and is due to begin working at RADE in September 2025. This keeps the number of CE Support workers stable at 3. One place remains available along with Housekeeper role.

Therapeutic Supports offered include recovery supports through weekly Relapse Prevention sessions, key working, counselling and referrals to other agencies and medical teams.

## **Referrals**

90 people were referred to the RADE programme over the last 12 months.

Referring Agencies:

- Ana Liffey Drug Project
- ARC Crumlin
- Barrymore House
- Boyd Medical Practice
- CAS Tallaght
- Casadh
- Chrysallis
- City Clinic Amien Street
- Community Response
- Crisis Service Bray
- Cuan Dara
- De Paul Ireland
- Donore Drug Team
- Focus Ireland
- Grangegorman Clinic
- Haven House
- McVerry Trust
- NDTc
- Paddy McGrath Housing Project
- PMVT Stabilisation
- Probation Service
- Rialto Drug Team
- Salvation Army
- Simon Community
- Sober Living Programme
- Sophia Housing
- Tabor House
- Teach Mhuire
- Tiglin
- Turrus
- Tús
- Youthcase Management





## **Training and Education**

In 2024–2025, RADE participants once again demonstrated a strong commitment to education and personal growth, completing more than 80+ training engagements across accredited programmes, industry-standard courses, health and safety certifications, and non-accredited learning. Accredited progression included QQI minor awards at Levels 5 and 6 in areas such as Group Facilitation, Mental Health, Herbal Remedies, and Community Development, alongside a major award pathway with one participant undertaking a BA (Hons) in Integrative Counselling and Art Therapy. Industry-standard training further broadened skillsets, with participants engaging in Barista Foundations, Forklift Training, Trauma-Informed Care, and creative development through The Gaiety School of Acting and Qi Gong Facilitation.

Health and safety remained a cornerstone of training, with strong engagement in Fire Safety, Suicide Awareness (ASSIST and SafeTalk), First Aid Response, Naloxone Administration, and Food Safety. Alongside these formal certifications, non-accredited opportunities fostered creativity, wellness, and community connection through high-participation courses in Yoga and Meditation, Drumming, Drama and Storytelling, and Creative Writing. Staff also invested in their own professional development, building expertise through Trauma-Informed Care and creative skills training at The Gaiety School of Acting. Together, these achievements highlight RADE’s ongoing commitment to fostering recovery, resilience, and empowerment through diverse learning pathways.



**External Training Courses Undertaken by RADE Participants (Aug 2024 – July 2025)**

Accredited Training	
<i>Minor Awards Undertaken</i>	Number
QQI Level 6 Group Facilitation	1
QQI Level 6 Mental Health (Open College)	1
QQI Level 5 Community Development	1
QQI Level 5 Herbal Remedies	1
	<b>Total: 4</b>
<i>Major Awards Undertaken</i>	Number
BA Hons Integrative Counselling and Art Therapy P/T	1
	<b>Total: 1</b>
Industry Standard Training	
Forklift Novice Course	1
Attachment Based Approach in Social Care	1
Group Facilitation Training (Meitheal)	1
Gaiety School Acting for Camera Suite	1
Gaiety School - Beginners	1
Barista 2-day Foundation	1
Trauma Informed Care	6
Qi Gong Facilitator Training	1
	<b>Total: 13</b>
Health and Safety Training	
ASSIST – Suicide awareness and prevention	1
Safe Talk Training – Suicide awareness and prevention	1
Fire Safety Training	9
First Aid Response	1
First Aid Responder Refresher	2
Naloxone Training	1
Children First Mandatory Reporting Training 1	1
Food Safety (HACCP Level 1 & 2)	1
	<b>Total: 17</b>

<b>Non-Accredited Training</b>	
Yoga and Meditation	12
Drama and Storytelling	10
Trauma Informed Yoga	9
Drumming - Harteland Rhythms Course 1	13
Drumming - Harteland Rhythms Course 1	12
Cooking for Men	1
Cooking with Paul-Take-A-Bite	1
Introduction to Key Working and Care Planning (unfinished)	1
Furniture Restoration and Upholstery	1
Community Reinforcement Training	1
Creative Writing – The People’s College	1
	<b>Total: 62</b>

### **Training Highlights 2024–2025**

- **80+ training engagements** completed by participants across accredited, industry-standard, health & safety, and non-accredited programmes
- **Accredited awards:** QQI Levels 5 and 6 in Community Development, Herbal Remedies, Mental Health, and Group Facilitation
- **Major award progression:** 1 participant undertook a BA (Hons) in Integrative Counselling and Art Therapy
- **Industry-standard training:** Diverse skill-building across Barista Foundation, Forklift Training, Gaiety School Acting, Trauma-Informed Care, and Qi Gong Facilitation
- **Health & Safety focus:** Strong participation in Fire Safety (9), First Aid (3), Suicide Awareness (2), and Food Safety
- **Non-accredited learning:** High engagement in creative and wellness-based programmes, including Yoga and Meditation (12), Drumming (25 across two courses), Drama and Storytelling, and Cooking
- **Staff development:** CE Supervisor completed training in Trauma-Informed Care and Gaiety School of Acting (Beginners)

### **Employment/Work Experience:**

- **Work Placement Outcomes (August 2024 – July 2025)**
  - **CE Participants: (1 person)**
    - Paid Drug Support Worker Ana Liffey
    - Tai Chi Facilitator
    - Volunteer Yoga teacher at Rialto Community Centre
    - Catering Assistant CE Programme Rialto
    - Peer worker at Ana Liffey
    - Ana Liffey – Peer Worker/Tai Chi Facilitator (1)

- Peer led yoga teacher at RADE
- **CE Support Workers:** 1 individual
  - De Paul Homeless Service (1) – relief worker
  - Promoted to Project Worker at RADE

### **Totals**

- **CE Participants:** 1
- **CE Support Workers:** 2

**Overall:** 3 individuals actively engaged in employment or work placements

### **General Progression**

**Housing:** One participant has transitioned into independent living.

### **Counselling Services**

The RADE Counselling Service has provided steady one-to-one therapeutic support throughout the year, engaging up to four participants at different points between August 2024 and July 2025. Brian Murtagh continues as a volunteer counsellor, working weekly with up to three participants; he has recently taken a short summer break but remains engaged with the service and continues under regular professional supervision. This counselling offers participants a safe, supportive and confidential space, complementing RADE's creative and therapeutic programmes and strengthening individual recovery journeys.



## **Artistic Achievements**

The year at RADE was marked by an extraordinary range of creative activity, reflecting the organisation's commitment to harnessing the transformative power of the arts in supporting recovery. From theatre and creative writing to visual arts, film, and holistic workshops, participants were actively engaged in developing skills, expressing themselves, and building connections with their peers.

The year opened with the IHREC launch and panel discussion, *Create Your Rights: Art and Impact*, on 26th September 2024. Participant artwork, including t-shirts, booklets, and badges, was displayed at the event, and a distinguished panel including artist Brian Maguire, Maria Fleming CEO First Fortnight, theatre-maker Robbie O'Connor and John O'Donnell SC writer and lawyer, explored the intersection of art, personal expression, and social impact. The event concluded with a moving poetry reading by Colm Keegan and offered participants and attendees a powerful demonstration of how creativity can amplify voices and experiences.



*Photo 1 Credit Emma May*





## **Short Film**

Participants worked with Mo O'Connell, director of the Dublin International Comedy Film Festival, on the development and production of *Sherry Trifle*. The project involved intensive preparation, script review, and careful attention to pastoral support to ensure participants were confident and supported in lead roles. Filming in March 2025 demanded focus and collaboration, and participants rose to the challenge, demonstrating dedication, resilience, and creativity. By July, the final cut of the film was close to completion, with excitement among participants at the prospect of a screening, including at Mo O'Connell's festival later in the year. This project highlighted the combination of skills development, performance, and storytelling that characterises RADE's approach to recovery through the arts.

## **Visual Art and Textiles**



Art on Fridays, led by CE support worker Dermot Byrne, continued to provide a consistent and popular creative outlet. RADE participants also engaged with the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts (RHA) in multiple art projects, including textile workshops and sessions with artist Dorothy Smith and Ciara Harrison, Learning and Public Engagement Curator at the RHA.

These projects allowed participants to explore new techniques and mediums, culminating in a forthcoming public exhibition planned at the RHA in September 2025.

## **Theatre**

Theatre remained a cornerstone of RADE's creative programme. Robbie O'Connor returned to develop scripts and lead workshops, providing participants with opportunities to read and perform their work. Complementing this, Andrea Scott of Floating World Productions led a three-month project, *Moment Work Through Movement and Text*, supported by sound artist Marc Aubele and photographer Thom McDermott. Andrea's approach encouraged participants to explore body, object, space, and voice in collaborative storytelling. One participant reflected on the experience as "a compelling and enlightening use of our time... combining learning and discovery with opportunities for creativity and self-expression." The project produced a booklet of texts and photographs capturing the energy, imagination, and collaborative spirit of the group, reinforcing the value of theatre as a medium for personal and collective expression.



## **Creative Writing and Storytelling**

Poet Colm Keegan ran a series of workshops developing film scripts and creative writing skills. These sessions including a rehearsed reading of *Let's See What Happens*, and involved close mentorship, discussion, and performance, allowing participants to see their own stories brought to life by professional actors. Fighting Words, a project founded by Roddy Doyle, also partnered with RADE, supporting participants in creating scripts and short stories. Participants attended a trip to The Gate Theatre to experience live readings of their own work by professional actors, reinforcing the connection between writing, performance, and public engagement. Storytelling workshops led by CE support worker Thomas McCarthy provided further opportunities for participants to develop narrative skills through oral storytelling, comic book scripting, and video imagery, strengthening confidence, sequencing, and creative thinking.

## **Holistic Workshops and Yoga**

Holistic and movement-based workshops, including African drumming with Sinead Harte, offered participants an alternative form of creative expression and relaxation, promoting rhythm, coordination, and wellbeing. Yoga sessions continued, including Yoga in St. Patrick's park in August, facilitated by a mix of volunteers and paid instructors, alongside peer-to-peer movement workshops, integrating mindfulness and trauma-informed practices.



## **Garden Project**

The garden project, facilitated by Deirdre Madden, combined practical horticultural skills with creative and therapeutic outcomes. Participants engaged in seed planting, garden clearing, and nature-based interventions, resulting in a thriving Recovery Bed and a bounty of fruit and vegetables. Weekly sessions and outings reinforced a sense of community and provided an experiential link between nature and creativity.

## **Digital Media**

Brian Greene of Dublin Community TV worked with participants to develop content creation skills and produced a short documentary for Citywide's 30th Anniversary. This project demonstrated how digital media can capture participant perspectives and provide a platform for all voices, further integrating creativity into RADE's broader mission.

## **Outings and Public Engagement**



Participants attended a variety of cultural outings, including the Hugh Lane Gallery, Wild Acres Nature Reserve, the Cavan Centre, and The Gate Theatre. These experiences extended learning beyond the classroom, encouraged social engagement, and reinforced the principles of community, growth, and creative endeavour that emerged as the defining pillars of the year.

Across all activities, RADE participants demonstrated remarkable creativity, resilience, and collaboration. From theatre workshops to contemplative textile work, from scriptwriting to filmmaking, and from movement workshops to drumming sessions, the year showcased how artistic practice can serve as a transformative tool for recovery.

The achievements of this year would not have been possible without the commitment, creativity, and energy of everyone involved. Our participants brought courage, curiosity, and imagination to every project, exploring new forms of expression and supporting one another throughout. The dedication and professionalism of RADE's staff ensured that programmes ran smoothly, fostering an environment in which creativity could flourish. We are also grateful to our board members, facilitators, artists, and external partners whose guidance, expertise, and collaboration enriched the year's artistic programme. Together, this community of participants, staff, and collaborators has made 2024–2025 a truly exceptional year for RADE, demonstrating the power of the arts to inspire, heal, and connect.



## **Partnerships and Interagency Work**

### **Rehabilitation Partnerships**

Addiction Response Crumlin; Amien Street Clinic; Ana Liffey; Beaumont Hospital; Casadh; Chrysalis Community Drug Project; Citywide Network; CrossCare; Coolmine Therapeutic Community; DePaul; Community Response; Dr Steven's Treatment Centre; First Fortnight; Focus Ireland; Gateway Mental Health; GP; Grangegorman Primary Care; Haven House; Hazelwood House; Kelly Hudson; HSE Addiction Services; HSE Drimnagh Treatment Centre; Jane's Place; Merchant's Quay; Mountjoy Probation Services; Brian Murtagh; SICDATF; NDTG; NOVAS; North West Inner City Task Force; PMVT; Rape Crisis Centre; Ruhama; Scoil Tresa NAOA; Sli; Spellman Centre; Stanhope Centre; Grangegorman; Tiglin; The Bridge Project; The Loft; and TUS.

### **Artistic Partnerships**

Anca Danila, Andrea Scott Floating World Productions, Anto Seery, Brian Greene, Brian Maguire, Ciara Harrison, Clare Monelly, Colm Keegan, Colm Quearney, Deirdre Madden, Dorothy Smith, Fighting Words, Maria Fleming First Fortnight, Gaiety School of Acting, Gate Theatre, Hilary Fannin, Hugh Lane Gallery, Lou Van Laak, Marc Aubele, Mo O'Connell, RHA Academy of Arts, Robbie O'Connor, John O'Donnell, Rosalinda Schut, Talent Academy, Walk of Leaf, Senem Donatn Mohan, Sinead Harte, and Thom McDermott.

### **Educational Partnerships**

Ana Liffey Drug Project; Aontas; Art Therapy Foundation; Carmichael Centre; Casadh; CDETB; Coffee Laboratory; DCM Training; Dublin Adult Learning Centre; Dublin Business School; Epilepsy Ireland; First Aid for Everyone; Foundations Project; Fusion Training and Development; GSA; Mindfulness Ireland; PsyCare Ireland; Quality Matters; RR Consultant Services; Sure Skills; The Learning Curve Institute; Túsla; Uisce; and Warrenmount Community Education Centre

## **Funders**

### **Core Funders**

RADE acknowledges the vital support of its core funders: the Department of Employment and Social Protection (DEASP) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) via the South Inner City Drug & Alcohol Task Force (SICDATF) Vote. This core funding underpins the delivery of our programmes and ensures the continuity and stability of our services.

### **Grants**

Alongside core funding, RADE has secured additional grant support from a range of valued partners, including CDETB REACH, Cork Street Fund, Dublin City Council Community Development Grant, HSE National Lottery and MQI Community Grant. These grants enhance our capacity to deliver high-quality programmes and to further develop innovative responses for our participants. RADE extends its sincere gratitude to all funders for their continued commitment and belief in our work.

## **Annual Audited Accounts**

RADE financial year runs from August to August. Audited accounts will be available at the end of the 2025.