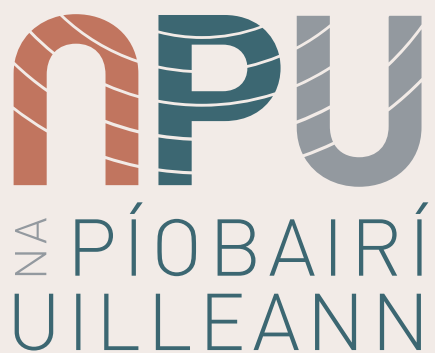


STRATEGY
2022 – 2024

*Sharing the
Sound of Ireland*





STRATEGY
2022 – 2024

01 Background and History

Le sé bliana déag anuas tá ár gcuid straitéisí eagraíochta ag cuidiú linn a chinntiú go mbíonn Na Píobairí Uilleann ag tabhairt airde ar agus ag freagairt do riachtanais ár bpáirtithe leasmhara iomadúla. Tá go leor spriocanna móra bainte amach againn le linn na tréimhse sin. Ina measc siúd tá cur ar fáil ár gcuid teagaisc sa phíobaireacht agus sa déantús píob a bhfuil borradh faoi i gcónaí, athchóiriú 15 Sráid Henrietta, bunú ionad traenála PipeCraft, agus glacadh UNESCO leis an bPíobaireacht Uilleann ar Fhardal na hOidhreacht Cultúrtha Doláimhsithe.

Tá cur chuige cuimsitheach glactha againn ó thaobh fhorbairt na straitéise seo, a chuirfear i bhfeidhm go dtí deireadh na bliana 2024. Tá súil agam go n-aithneoidh sibh an líon mór seirbhísí, clár, agus foilseachán a theastaíonn faoi láthair ó phíobairí uilleann agus ó phobal cheol traidisiúnta na hÉireann sa doiciméad straitéise seo.

This organisational strategy is the fourth such document published by Na Píobairí Uilleann since 2006, we believe that strategic focus has been a key factor driving momentum and achievements of the organisation during the past 16 years. As the organisation has grown and matured, it has become more inclusive and achieved increased reach for uilleann piping and Irish traditional music and song both nationally and internationally.

The ambitious strategy outlined in this document is designed for expansion whilst retaining current in-demand programmes. We believe that it will prove to be invigorating, convincing and exciting for our membership, staff, Board, and stakeholders over the next three years. As can be seen from the list of achievements summarised in 2019-2021 on pages 8&9, we have a strong track record of delivering results against stated objectives. It should also be borne in mind that we delivered despite the adverse impact of a global pandemic.

Once again, the formulation of the strategy followed a rigorous process which included membership surveys, facilitated workshops and as a result we believe, that it is aligned with common objectives we share with a broad range of stakeholders. Examples are our plans to increase the emphasis on, and implementation of additional policies in order to reflect equality, diversity and inclusion.

No doubt there are inherent risks associated with any ambitious strategy however, we believe that we have carefully considered and taken account of those factors and will embrace them with confidence. Who would have thought in 1968 that there would be several thousand uilleann pipers spread throughout the world, that there would be a very large cohort of female pipers, that instruments, tuition and resources would be so readily available to students of piping and pipemaking, that we would have a beautiful building as a headquarters and that uilleann piping would be inscribed on the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage? The

great support we receive by way of Strategic Funding from the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon, other funding agencies and partners will once again be an essential element as we continue to aspire to see our dreams become reality.

Our core programmes for sharing the sound of Ireland through Access, Education, Performance and Preservation are all contained in our strategic plans for 2022-2024 along with four new strategic priorities as follows:

1. Build an International Uilleann Piping Visitor Centre and Theatre by 2026
2. Rebuild our Website
3. Develop and foster relationships with international uilleann piping groups
4. Achieve Investors in Diversity Gold Award and ISO/9001 accreditation

VISITOR CENTRE

We believe that upon completion, the International Uilleann Piping Visitor Centre and Theatre will provide a much needed cultural and community hub which will greatly enhance the cultural tourism offering nationally and internationally aligned with UNESCO recognition for uilleann piping and complete the final stage of Dublin City Council's Henrietta Street Conservation plan published in 2006. The visitor centre and social spaces will enable a significant increase in public engagement, these exciting facilities will now be fully accessible to all in a safe and inclusive environment

It is essential to understand current and future needs of all those who engage with NPU and that we strive to meet their requirements and exceed their expectations.

WEBSITE

The NPU website has been a key success factor in the increased interest and participation in uilleann piping internationally. Whilst the current website has served us well, we are conscious of the need to improve user experience.

INTERNATIONAL UILLEANN PIPING GROUPS

The resounding success of International Piping Day events over the past eleven years has made it abundantly clear to us that uilleann piping groups are now reaching critical mass such that we should foster and develop relationships with groups in order to further promote uilleann piping and Irish traditional music in countries around the world. A key element of this development will be the establishment of residency and mentoring programmes.

ACCREDITATION - DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Objective third party scrutiny and validation of how we operate and deliver services is of paramount importance as we strive to manage a growing and continuously improving organisation.

The Diversity Bronze Award by the Irish Centre for Diversity to NPU in 2021 reflected the successful work carried out to embed



Gay McKeon
CEO

Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) across the organisation. This work is increasingly important given the diverse interest in the uilleann pipes, both nationally and globally, and the emergence of new voices in Ireland.

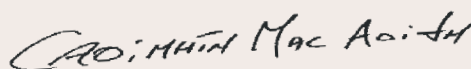
We have worked diligently to champion these values in our activities and to show leadership in this area but it is important to stress this is very much an ongoing process.

In this strategy we commit to continuing this work to ensure that we reach all sectors in society, at home and abroad. We will work to implement and embrace the required policies in order to achieve Silver and Gold awards before 2025.

ENHANCED CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

We acknowledge that it is essential to understand current and future needs of all those who engage with NPU and that we strive to meet their requirements and exceed their expectations. We commit to continuously improving our processes and systems and ultimately improving the organisation's overall performance to ensure enhanced customer satisfaction.

We will implement improvements to our systems, processes and communications and then apply to NSAI for ISO/90001 certification so that improvement will permanently be an objective of the organisation.



Caoimhín Mac Aoidh
Chairman



2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2019 – 2021

Some of the significant milestones achieved since publication of our previous strategy include:

ACCESS

- + 12 tuition Locations
- + 32 pipes on loan
- + 7 publications
- + 50 International Uilleann piping day events

EDUCATION

- + 55 piping teachers
- + 39 scholarships
- +1,261 pipemaking student training days
- +476 reed making student training days

PERFORMANCE

- + 462 artists
- + 94 Piping from the Parlour videos
- + 12 piping tionóil
- + 252 public performances

PRESERVATION

+ 897 videos on website

+ 3,950 hardcopy
images catalogued

+ 18 heritage pipes
donated

+ 9,000 digital images
catalogued

GOVERNANCE

+ diversity accreditation

+ planning permission
16 Henrietta Street

+ 21% Artist fees

+ 2% membership
survey

FUNDRAISING

+ €69k donations

3. PURPOSE, VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

PURPOSE

Promote the teaching, making, playing and cultural heritage of the uilleann pipes.

VISION

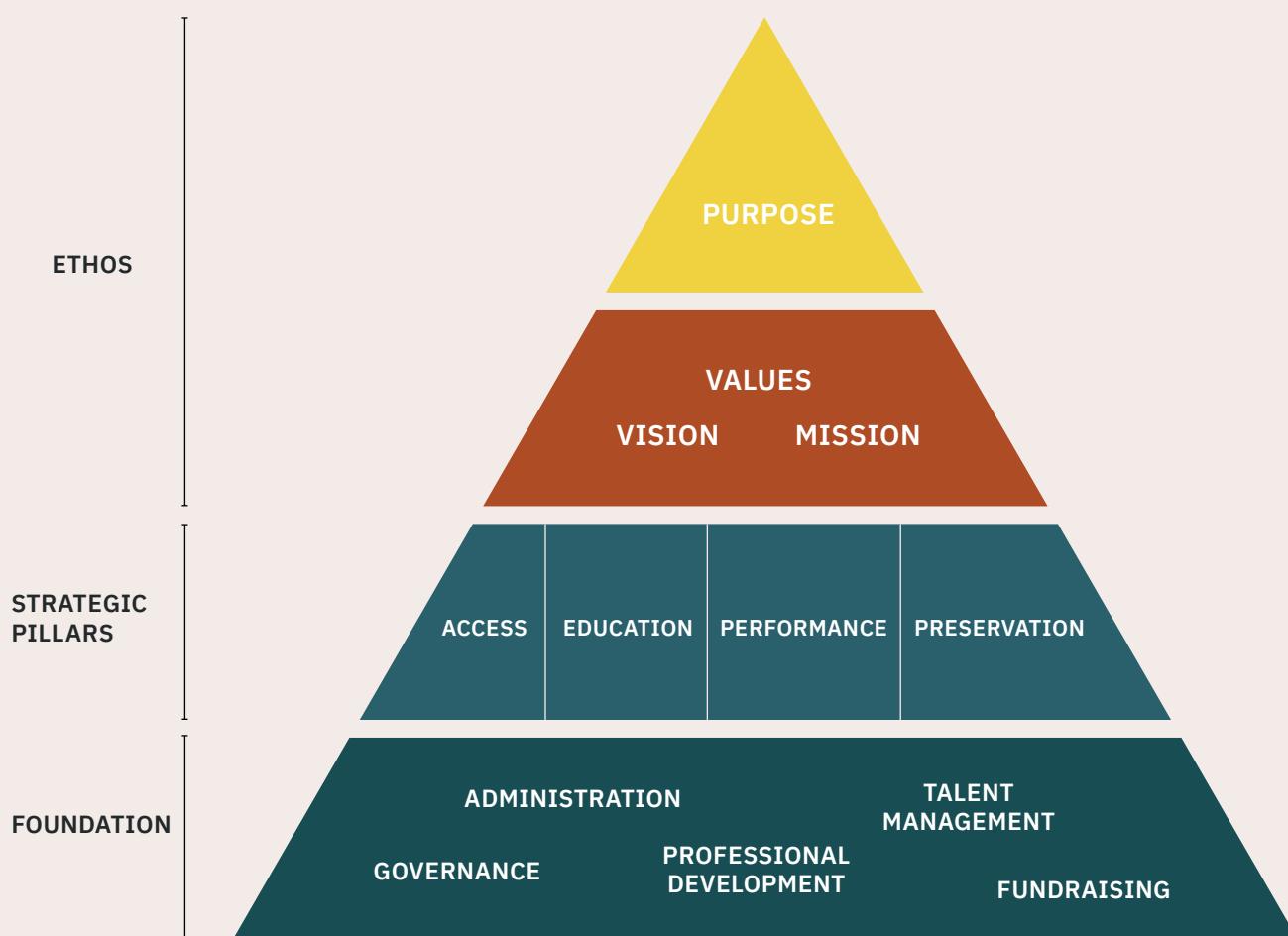
Uilleann piping is an enduring and uniquely Irish art form that enriches people's lives. We commit to safeguard and promote uilleann piping nationally and internationally as an inclusive cultural practice.

MISSION

Share the Sound of Ireland through Access, Education, Performance and Preservation, underpinned by excellence in values and processes.

VALUES

- Demonstrated commitment to inclusive participation
- Apply unyielding integrity in all aspects of our organisation, operations and decision-making
- Maximise outcomes through partnerships with organisations, volunteers and professional artists



4. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

4.1 Build International Uilleann Piping Visitor Centre and Theatre by 2026

“The visitor centre and social spaces will enable a significant increase in public engagement...these exciting facilities will be fully accessible to all in a safe and inclusive environment.”

4.2 Rebuild website to provide enhanced user experience

- improve experience for learning resources and archive material
- easy member signup/renewal and management of memberships
- share information and news, promote NPU events, programmes and publications

4.3 Develop relationships with uilleann piping groups initially in three countries as a pilot

Develop relationships with uilleann piping groups in three countries

4.4 Achieve Investors in Diversity Gold Award from the Irish Centre for Diversity

“The ‘Gold Investors in Diversity EDI Mark’ is all about excellence and ensuring EDI is part of the DNA of our organisation. In this stage, we will demonstrate how EDI is embedded across everything, and as a result is influencing the “lived experience” of all stakeholders in a positive way.”

4.5 Achieve ISO /9001 accreditation

ISO sets out the essential requirements for practical and effective Quality Management Systems, leading to increased performance and productivity and improved user satisfaction

5. STRATEGIC PILLARS

5.1 ACCESS

Provide inclusive opportunities to engage with and enjoy the uilleann pipes

GOALS

- 5.1.1** Provide a range of pathways to access information about and tuition for uilleann pipes
- 5.1.2** Develop our social media presence to raise awareness of uilleann piping among the general public
- 5.1.3** Improve our website to provide access to news, information and piping related materials

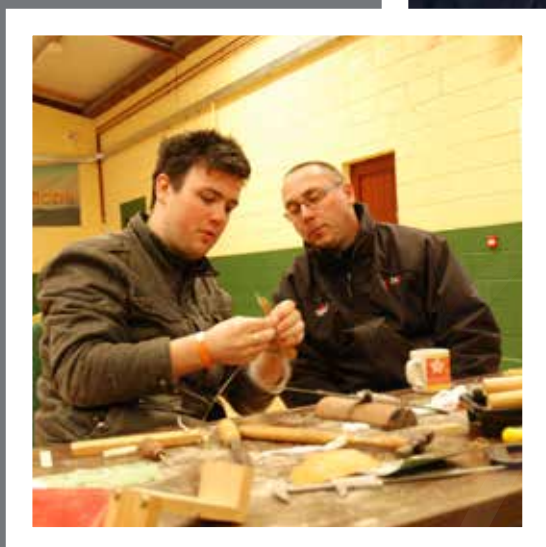
CORE ACTIVITIES

- 5.1.4** Improve user experience and functionality on our website to connect with NPU and access digital content
- 5.1.5** Maintain a social media presence through our digital marketing strategy and social media plan
- 5.1.6** Create a range of YouTube videos to promote awareness of uilleann piping
- 5.1.7** Develop a programme of online piping and reedmaking tuition to remove geographic barriers to access to piping tuition
- 5.1.8** Develop teachers to provide widespread access to expert tuition around the country and internationally
- 5.1.9** Develop International Uilleann Piping Day to raise awareness of uilleann piping and to build uilleann piping networks internationally



- 5.1.10** Hold regular events (Rowsome, Regional Tionóil, Ceol Sa Chlub, Tionól, SSWC, Breathnach) to provide inclusive access to piping tuition and performance
- 5.1.11** Provide opportunities to Try the Pipes at a wide range of events, working with partnership organisations to ensure inclusive engagement with all communities in Irish society
- 5.1.12** Raise awareness of uilleann piping in the context of intangible cultural heritage
- 5.1.13** Promote the use of the Irish language by incorporating it into our daily activities, events and publications
- 5.1.14** Initiate research into cane quality and suitability for global piping communities
- 5.1.15** Expand our Pipes on Loan programme in order to meet demand for access to quality instruments for beginners





5.2 EDUCATION

Engage the knowledge and experience of the uilleann piping community and build partnerships to provide meaningful educational opportunities.

GOALS

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>5.2.1 Continue to develop tuition in Ireland, expand online tuition programmes and support tuition for piping groups outside Ireland</p> | <p>5.2.8 Introduce a reedmaking programme for young people to develop a new generation of reedmakers</p> |
| <p>5.2.2 Encourage reedmaking and basic pipes maintenance among young people and piping students receiving tuition through NPU programmes</p> | <p>5.2.9 Publish a maintenance manual for uilleann pipes</p> |
| <p>5.2.3 Provide a range of pipemaking training programmes to serve pipemakers and aspiring pipemakers at all stages of development, documenting and recording pipemaking and reedmaking skills</p> | <p>5.2.10 Publish additional plans and images of classic sets of pipes</p> |
| | <p>5.2.11 Expand the LEARN series of online tuition videos</p> |
| | <p>5.2.12 Record and publish additional online piping tutor videos</p> |

CORE ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>5.2.4 Expand the number of NPU piping tuition locations through partnerships</p> | <p>5.2.13 Partner with organisations to reach communities within Ireland who have previously not had the opportunity to learn the pipes</p> |
| <p>5.2.5 Expand online tuition in piping and reedmaking and include an online element to regular NPU events</p> | <p>5.2.14 Provide scholarships in piping, reedmaking, and pipemaking for young people and emerging pipemakers</p> |
| <p>5.2.6 Expand tuition programmes with piping groups throughout the world</p> | <p>5.2.15 Develop the Pipemaking Perspectives video series</p> |
| <p>5.2.7 Provide tuition at PipeCraft for all levels of experience, from introductory courses in reedmaking and maintenance to upskilling for experienced pipemakers</p> | <p>5.2.16 Film and publish the processes of bag and bellows making</p> |
| | <p>5.2.17 Deliver an annual course on the development and context of the uilleann piping tradition aimed primarily at uilleann piping teachers</p> |

5.3 PERFORMANCE

Create performance opportunities for uilleann pipers and develop audiences

GOALS

- 5.3.1** Provide a range of inclusive performance opportunities, both formal and informal, for pipers at every level of development, from beginners to professional musicians
- 5.3.2** Stimulate public interest in the traditional arts to enable a wide range of people to experience the uilleann pipes
- 5.3.3** Form strategic partnerships with venues and organisations around Ireland to promote performances to local audiences
- 5.3.8** Provide informal performance opportunities for players at all levels of development, both adults and children, at Annual and regional Tionóil
- 5.3.9** Collaborate on provision of public events through partnerships with national event organisers, organisations and venues to provide access to quality instruments for beginners

CORE ACTIVITIES

- 5.3.4** Support artists by providing performance opportunities at monthly Session with the Pipers public recitals, and annual Ace and Deuce of Piping showcase concert
- 5.3.5** Host Breandán Breathnach and Leo Rowsome annual commemorative events showcasing uilleann piping through recitals and lectures
- 5.3.6** Host and broadcast 12 Notes and Narratives lecture/performance events annually, promoting all aspects of the traditional arts
- 5.3.7** Provide an introduction to performance for young musicians through 12 annual Ceol sa Chlub recitals



5.4 PRESERVATION

Inspire engagement with the living heritage of uilleann piping by proactively conserving and transmitting a broad range of archive resources relating to the uilleann pipes

GOALS

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>5.4.1 Update the online archive infrastructure to make archive materials easier to access</p> <p>5.4.2 Create an integrated catalogue of all NPU archive holdings</p> <p>5.4.3 Promote awareness of the extent of the holdings in the NPU archive</p> <p>5.4.4 Collect and organise materials that relate to the history of NPU</p> | <p>5.4.10 Conserve and share legacy material from our extensive archive holdings.</p> <p>5.4.11 Identify, measure, photograph and publish technical data on notable sets of uilleann pipes</p> <p>5.4.12 Actively promote research into the history of uilleann piping and provide opportunities to deliver and publish original research</p> <p>5.4.13 Develop a comprehensive Collection Development Policy for the NPU archive</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

CORE ACTIVITIES

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>5.4.5 Research, actively collect and share materials associated with uilleann piping and pipemaking</p> <p>5.4.6 Deliver a three-year publications programme representing the wide range of cultural practices relating to uilleann piping</p> <p>5.4.7 Record and digitise performances at all NPU events each year and share online via our archive resource</p> <p>5.4.8 Seek out innovative and sustainable platforms for NPU publications</p> <p>5.4.9 Expand the collection of uilleann pipes in the archive with historic piping artefacts and provide structured access for research. Where appropriate, loan instruments for performance</p> | <p>5.4.14 Collect, conserve and share items received through donation.</p> <p>5.4.15 Regularly publish an Archive Blog to contextualise archive content and encourage new users to explore the available materials</p> <p>5.4.16 Publish An Píobaire as a regular resource for pipers and make it available in hard copy and digital formats</p> <p>5.4.17 Enhance metadata on archival materials allowing for easier search and navigation</p> <p>5.4.18 Safeguard practices relating to uilleann piping in the context of intangible cultural heritage</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

6. OPERATIONS

6.1 OPERATIONS

The platform from which we apply our values and achieve our vision, mission and goals is as follows:

GOALS

- 6.1.1** Implement ISO 9001 Quality Management System in order to enhance stakeholder satisfaction
- 6.1.2** Use Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to monitor performance against stated strategic goals and core activities

CORE ACTIVITIES

- 6.1.3** Invest in staff development and mentoring in order to deliver on our organisational strategy and arts plans
- 6.1.4** Proactively manage IT systems to support the work of the organisation
- 6.1.5** Proactive maintenance and conservation of listed building at 15 Henrietta Street and enhancing of health & safety infrastructure at PipeCraft to ensure safety for staff, users and visitors



7. DIGITAL STRATEGY

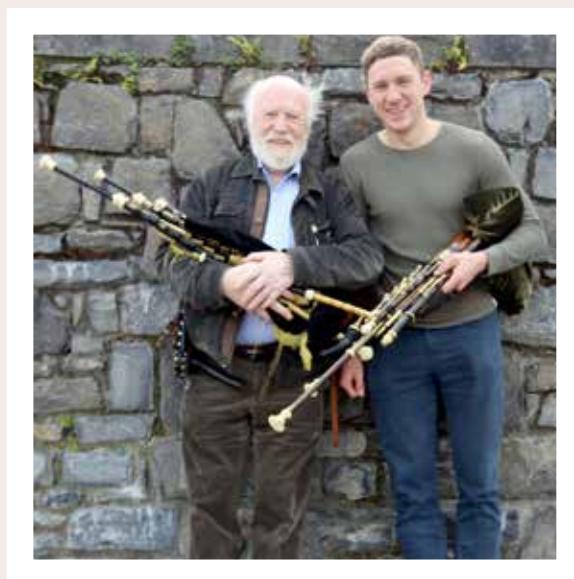
Use our social media and website presence to communicate activities to all stakeholders

GOALS

- 7.1.1** Replace current website in order to improve user experience across all platforms and devices
- 7.1.2** Expand use of social media communications on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and extend social media reach with additional platforms

CORE ACTIVITIES

- 7.1.1** Implement key priorities as identified in digital communications audit
- 7.1.2** Improve website navigation and accessibility for all user types
- 7.1.3** Improve E-commerce capabilities to streamline online shop, membership and donation functions of the website
- 7.1.4** Implement a content scheduling calendar for social media planning and publicity
- 7.1.5** Share funding and training opportunities for pipemakers, artists, teachers on website



8. GOVERNANCE

Governance supports delivery of our objectives, NPU commits to adhere to the following over the three-year cycle

CORE ACTIVITIES

- 8.1.1** Ensure that NPU complies with the governance and reporting requirements for a company limited by guarantee
- 8.1.2** NPU will continue to update its Risk Appetite Statement (RAS) and Corporate Risk Register (CRR)
- 8.1.3** NPU will continue to maintain a documented system of internal controls to manage the extent of possible key risks as identified in the CRR and consistent with the RAS and will arrange to test the operating effectiveness of these internal controls on an Annual Basis
- 8.1.4** Maintain effective financial management processes and reporting, including prudent budgeting to ensure that NPU is in a position to meet its financial obligations as they fall due over the three-year cycle
- 8.1.5** Monitor organisational performance in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion and achieve Investors in Diversity Gold Award from the Irish Centre for Diversity
- 8.1.6** Conduct and publish member surveys every two years to monitor progress and inform future strategy
- 8.1.7** Include young people in decision making

9. FUNDRAISING

Raise funds over the three year period of this strategy for projects and capital infrastructure

GOALS

- 9.1.1** Raise €7,506,000 through a fundraising campaign and from central government to build and fit out an International Uilleann Piping Visitor Centre and mews Theatre at 15/16 Henrietta Street
- 9.1.2** Create an operational plan for NPU's various fundraising income streams with targeted annual amounts
- 9.1.3** Build valued long-term relationships with funding partners to create a sustainable stream of funding to maintain existing infrastructure and facilitate the expansion of services



About Na Píobairí Uilleann

Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU), the Society of Uilleann Pipers was founded in 1968 when there were less than 100 uilleann pipers remaining. Today NPU is a thriving arts organisation dedicated to Sharing the Sound of Ireland through Access, Education, Performance and Preservation.

Since unveiling its restored Georgian premises at 15 Henrietta Street, Dublin, in January 2007, NPU has been busy catering for the expanding demand for regular tuition, as well as releasing many significant publications and recordings. With demand for pipes considerably exceeding supply, a dedicated Training Centre – PipeCraft – was established in 2011 to deliver training in the very highly skilled craft of uilleann pipemaking.

NPU is accredited by UNESCO as a competent Non-governmental Organisation in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

NPU lobbied the Irish Government to ratify the UNESCO Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage which resulted in the inclusion of Uilleann Piping on the UNESCO representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2017.

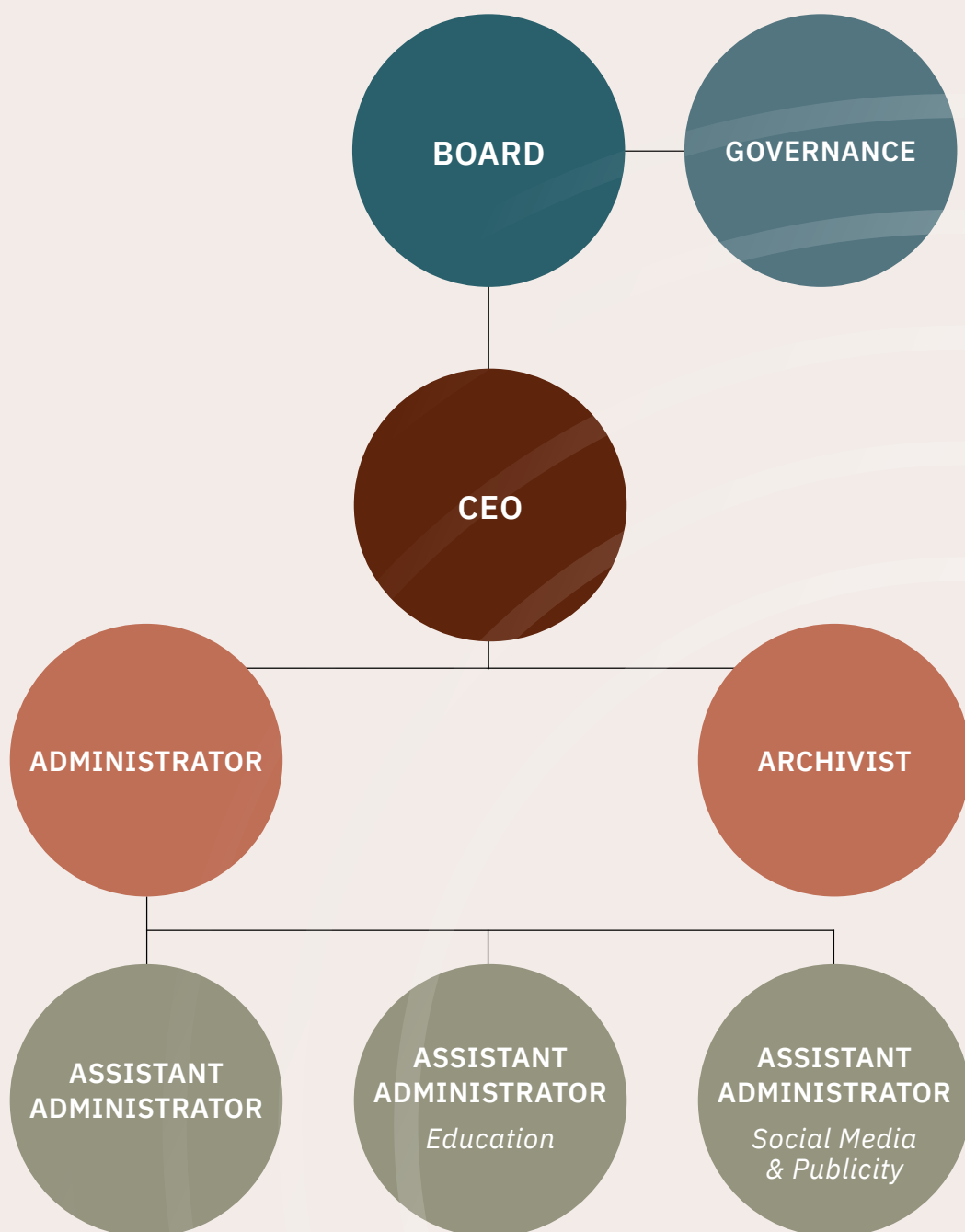
In 2021, NPU achieved the Diversity Bronze Award from the Irish Centre for Diversity.

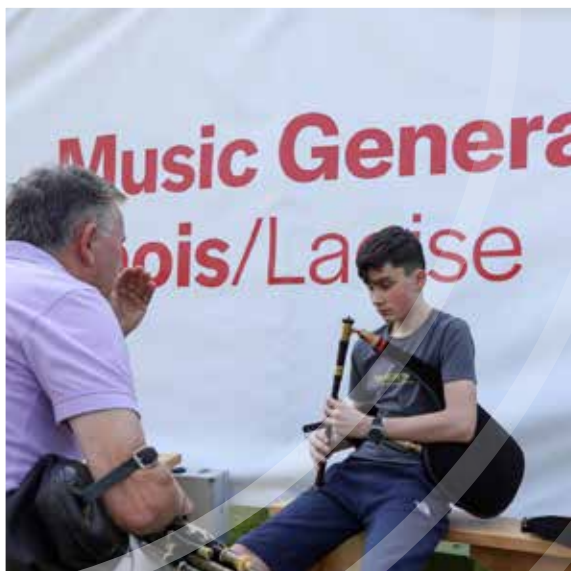
Na Píobairí Uilleann's primary funding agencies include The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and Dublin City Council.

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APPENDIX I

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

	2022	2023	2024
ACCESS			
Total piping tuition locations	28	30	32
Total sets of pipes available to loan	140	145	150
Number of try the pipes events	10	10	10
EDUCATION			
Additional number of piping teachers trained	10	15	20
Scholarships awarded	09	11	14
Number of pipemaking student training days*	420	420	420
Number of reedmaking student training days*	200	220	250
PERFORMANCE			
Number of public performance events	85	90	95
Number of individual artists engaged	160	180	200
PRESERVATION			
Number of publications	3	3	3
Media uploads Website	300	320	340
FUNDRAISING			
Revenue Funds required	€3,000	€1,000	-€6,000
Capital Funds required	€387,000	€3,279,000	€4,165,000

APPENDIX II

FINANCIALS (ALL FINANCIALS IN € '000s)

	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
All figures in €000's				
Grant Income	531	564	573	1,668
Project Income	177	182	188	547
Other Income	46	48	50	144
Total Income	754	794	811	2,359
Governance Expenditure	492	506	522	1,520
Charitable Expenditure	265	289	283	837
Total Revenue Expenditure	757	795	805	2,357
Profit/Loss	-3	-1	6	2
Capital Expenditure	412	3,279	4,165	7,856
Total Expenditure	409	3,278	4,171	7,858
Opening Cash	327	-82	-3,360	
Total Expenditure	409	3,278	4,171	
Closing Cash	-82	-3,360	-7,531	

EVENTS AND REGULAR PROJECTS

SESSION WITH THE PIPERS

Session with the Pipers is Na Píobairí Uilleann's recital series, showcasing performances by traditional artists in a listening environment. The event takes place monthly and performance videos of all events are available on our online Archive. Since 2006, Session with the Pipers has presented performances by more than 600 artists, representing the artistic richness and diversity of the Irish traditional arts.

NOTES & NARRATIVES

Notes and Narratives is a unique opportunity for musicians, singers and dancers to present their research into aspects of the traditional arts in an engaging and entertaining format. The series is aimed at fellow practitioners of the traditional arts, students, enthusiasts and the general public to enhance their overall appreciation of music, song and dance. Running since 2010, the event takes place monthly in NPU's headquarters at 15 Henrietta St and is available live online via NPU TV.

LEO ROWSOME COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

The Leo Rowsome Commemorative Event takes place annually in Henrietta Street on the last Saturday in February. The event celebrates the life and achievements of Leo Rowsome. Leo Rowsome was one of the most significant figures in uilleann piping in the twentieth century, as a piper, pipemaker, activist and piping teacher. The event celebrates all aspects of Leo's legacy including piping tuition, pipemaking and reedmaking tuition, a lecture and piping performance, followed by a social gathering with informal music.



ACE & DEUCE OF PIPING CONCERT

The Ace & Deuce of Piping Concert is Na Píobairí Uilleann's annual concert. The Concert presents the very best of traditional music, song and dance.

BREANDÁN BREATHNACH COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

The Breandán Breathnach Commemorative Event takes place annually in Henrietta Street on the first Saturday in December. The event celebrates the life and achievements of Breandán Breathnach. Breandán Breathnach was one of the most significant figures in uilleann piping in the twentieth century, as a piper, organiser, researcher and collector. The events of the day celebrate all aspects of Breandán's legacy and include piping tuition, reedmaking tuition, a lecture and piping performance, followed by a social gathering with informal music.

PIPING FROM THE PARLOUR

Piping from the Parlour began in early 2020 in order to provide an opportunity for pipers to showcase their music from their home to an online audience. These video performances reflect the wide range of piping styles and approaches from uilleann pipers around the globe.

PIPECRAFT

PipeCraft is the Na Píobairí Uilleann instrument making training centre. The facility was fitted out in 2011 to create an environment to transmit pipemaking and reedmaking skills. Since 2011, students have participated in courses in all aspects of pipemaking and reedmaking. PipeCraft currently hosts a range of short courses in pipe and reedmaking and Ballyfermot College of Further Education third-level instrument making courses for pipes and other instruments.

TUITION PROGRAMMES

NPU provides a range of regular tuition programmes. Weekly classes take place at our headquarters in Henrietta Street, Dublin and in more than 29 locations throughout Ireland. Working with a number of partnership organisations, chiefly Music Generation, NPU offers piping tuition delivered by experienced piping teachers. Our website also offers a range of online piping tutorials for piping students who are unable to access regular in-person tuition. NPU teacher development training is delivered to younger pipers who plan to teach the pipes, providing information, advice and mentoring from successful, experienced piping teachers.

PIPES ON LOAN

The long-running Pipes on Loan Programme provides high-quality starter instruments to learners, removing economic barriers to access to uilleann pipes.

This programme was expanded to include the long-term loan of a number of exemplar sets of uilleann pipes donated to Na Píobairí Uilleann.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship programme provides young pipers and aspiring pipemakers with the opportunity to attend summer schools and access tuition from leading pipers and pipemakers. These scholarship programmes ensure the transmission of highly developed key skills and information to the latest generation of pipers and pipemakers.



AN PÍOBAIRE

An Píobaire is NPU's regular publication for members. It is published four times a year. An Píobaire features news on NPU's activities and upcoming events and a wide variety of material relating to all aspects of uilleann piping. A broad range of contributors present original research on historical aspects of piping.

ONLINE ARCHIVE

The online archive features our collection of video, audio, images and texts relating to uilleann piping and the traditional arts. Through the generosity of participating artists, all materials are freely available to all for research and entertainment.

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMMES

Our publications programme presents piping across a range of media platforms. Recent publications include printed tune collections for the uilleann pipes, archive material from master pipers and new recordings of young performers. The programme aims to be a source of entertainment and inspiration to all traditional musicians.

INTERNATIONAL UILLEANN PIPING DAY

International Uilleann Piping Day takes place in November each year and was established by Na Píobairí Uilleann in 2011 to raise awareness of uilleann piping and to build uilleann piping networks internationally. Coordinated by NPU, the event has developed into a worldwide celebration of the instrument and events have taken place in more than 40 countries.

CEOL SA CHLUB

Ceol sa Chlub is a long-running performance series programmed, promoted and managed by young people. The event takes place monthly in Henrietta Street and provides a platform for young musicians in a welcoming and safe environment to develop their presentation and performance skills.


SCOIL SAMHRAIDH WILLIE CLANCY UILLEANN PIPING PROGRAMME

Na Píobairí Uilleann work closely with Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy to organise the piping element of the summer school. NPU provides knowledge and expertise to programme the piping recitals and concerts, select tutors for piping and reedmaking classes and leverage our resources to promote the piping events of the week.

ANNUAL TIONÓL AND REGIONAL TIONÓL

Na Píobairí Uilleann has held an Annual Tionól every year since the organisation was founded in 1968. The Tionól is an opportunity for pipers to gather socially and share their interest in uilleann piping. The event includes workshops, performances and lectures. An additional regional Tionól takes place annually to support the developing interest in piping in Ireland.





npu

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