

Press Release – 23rd May 2022

Galway City Council are hosting a range of events to celebrate Africa Day 2022

Galway City Council in partnership with the Africa Day Team at the Department of Foreign Affairs are again planning to celebrate Africa Day 2022. A series of events and initiatives are taking place to mark Africa Day 2022, supported by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Galway City Council.

Africa Day in Galway City has grown from strength to strength since it was first introduced, and this year organisers hope it will be the best yet. Africa Day is a celebration of culture, food and community. This year will see Ireland's largest-ever Africa Day programme, with events being held nationwide. Africa Day 2022 will see the return of in-person events for the first time since 2019.

Minister for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy TD, said: "Ireland has been enriched in so many ways by the presence of a vibrant African community. Ireland's arts, culture, business, community development, sport and so much more have been strengthened by people of African origin or descent. Africa Day is about recognising that contribution and celebrating the culture and potential of the continent as a whole.

"After two years of online events, this year will see the welcome return of in-person events nationwide. Irish Aid's partnership with local authorities will bring the fun of Africa Day to communities around the country. I am delighted that Africa Day 2022 is set to be our biggest-ever Africa Day celebration."

Given the community based nature of the celebration, Galway City Council is supporting a number of local community groups with their plans to mark Africa Day this year, aimed at promoting a positive image of Africa; celebrating the vibrant cultural heritage of Africa and the contribution made to society by African communities and people of African descent. Communities will continue to enjoy multiple wonderful opportunities to learn more about how Galway City engages the countries and people of Africa in so many positive ways.

African United Galway (AUG) are planning to celebrate Africa Day at Salthill Park, Galway on the 28th May 2022 from 2pm to 6pm in an Electric show of culture through music, arts and entertainment, food and cultural fusion. This year, Africa Day 2022 will reinforce the strong collaboration of all the African organisations in Galway to create a symphony of unity and cohesion.

The Galway African Diaspora will celebrate Africa Day this year with the strong collaboration of all the African organisations in Galway to create a symphony of unity and cohesion. S.O.S Congolese Youth/Galway, African United Galway, Galway African Diaspora, Shining Light, African United Galway and GoCom Radio (broadcasting live) have worked to create a festival that will surely showcase Galway as a city of Culture and a City of the tribes.

A number of primary schools across Galway City will take part in the 'Show Racism the Red Card programme', organised by the FAI Development Officer. This programme will be targeted to 5th / 6th class pupils which incorporates class based videos to promote inclusion. Each school will also research African history in advance as a class project to form part of the programme.

AMDALAH Africa Foundation is holding a summit and talent show, focusing on innovation, inclusion, youth empowerment for developmental transformation of disadvantaged youth with an educational component showcasing the beauty of Africa through a presentation called – *The Africa No One Told You About*. The summit will offer a dynamic platform to young people to engage in critical and interactive dialogues in the form of discussion and career building sessions, project presentation, debate and networking through fun activities and games.

Finally, Shining Light are arranging a friendly soccer match with the local community Gardaí in Galway on the 23rd May at Knocknacarra FC sports grounds. They are also involved in planning and organising the main Africa Day event to be held on the 28th May 2022 at Salthill and a youth Africa Day celebration to be held at Ballybane library on the 25th May 2022.

Africa Day, which falls on Wednesday, 25th May each year, celebrates the richness of African cultures and the contribution of people of African descent to Irish life. Africa Day celebrations are organised by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African embassies in Ireland and local authorities around the country.

For more information visit www.AfricaDay.ie and www.galwaycity.ie
Contact: Emma Johnston, Community Department, Galway City Council.
Tel: 091 536538