

BLACK CHURCH PRINT STUDIO

STRATEGY
2023-2028





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Foreword from the Board

Black Church Print Studio's Strategy 2023-2028 was approved by the Board on 23rd March 2023.

Black Church Print Studio is designated as a Strategically Funded Organisation by the Arts Council. As a publicly-funded arts organisation with charitable status and a large membership, it is essential that we have a robust Strategic Plan to guide our governance and management. This document outlines our immediate priorities, future plans and provides guidance for our members, board and staff. It aims to ensure we are meeting standards of excellence in governance, operations, arts management and community building.

Black Church Print Studio is a members organisation for professional artists working in fine art printmaking, based in Dublin. We highly value the work of our artists. Since its opening, 40 years ago, it has established itself as a significant and dynamic organisation. It has proved to be a valuable facility and resource for hundreds of artists and is now one of the leading contemporary fine art print studios in Ireland. Over the next five years, Black Church Print Studio aims to bring contemporary printmaking to a larger audience both nationally and internationally.

To devise this strategy plan, Black Church Print Studio engaged an independent strategy consultant. The consultant undertook qualitative and quantitative research inclusive of national and international sectoral research, research on current key arts and printmaking policies, the Studio's Constitution and other relevant Studio literature to date. Together, we analysed survey responses from member artists, non-member artists and other key stakeholders. We also carried out workshops with our strategy steering group, and held discussion meetings with the wider Board of directors and all staff. We believe all these approaches were crucial in devising our strategic plan for the next five years.

This five-year strategy aligns with our key pillars; Learn, Make, Exhibit, Preserve and Collect. It includes the studio's renewed vision and mission statements. It serves to strengthen our central position as a traditional and contemporary printmaking studio by outlining a series of ambitious targets over the next five years.

It particularly focuses on the following priority areas:



Supporting and providing opportunities for studio members and other printmakers.



Realisation of a National Network for Print Studios (Print Network Ireland).



Increasing public engagement, in particular expanding our audience in line with Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Policy.



Developing and encouraging environmental awareness, and a more sustainable practice.



Exploring additional sources of funding.



The success of our Strategic Plan 2023–2028, will be largely determined by the engagement of our members, board and staff who support the core activities and programmes of Black Church Print Studio.



About Us

Black Church Print Studio strives to sustain and develop traditional and contemporary printmaking in Ireland. Its focus on innovation and the inclusion of emerging media in print was a deciding factor in the establishment of the Studio in 1982. This remains a key focus today where traditional techniques are sustained and integrated with new and emerging processes. For the past four decades, the Studio has provided support to hundreds of professional artists.

Black Church Print Studio currently has 85 Studio artists members, who are all keyholders, and who have 24-hour access to the Studio. Black Church Print Studio supports its member artists in their careers, which includes, making affordable cost-effective studio space available and access to specialised printmaking equipment/facilities, but also includes opportunities for peer learning, career development, exhibiting opportunities, selling opportunities, experimentation opportunities and strengthening exchange through building networks. In addition, it is also a resource to external artists by providing non-member access programmes, national and international residencies, learning opportunities, and fine art printing services. It provides public and community engagement opportunities through exhibitions, workshops and open-days. It is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors, which includes artist members and independent external experts. Paid staff are responsible for the day-to-day operational and programme management of the Studio.

Black Church Print Studio is located at number 4 Temple Bar, in the heart of Dublin's City Centre. As part of the redevelopment of Temple Bar in 1994, designed by McCullough Mulvin Architects, the Studio's 4-storey building was custom built as a printmaking workshop. Black Church Print Studio has a Cultural Use Agreement with Dublin City Council for the use of this building. At ground level, there is a double height gallery space, where Black Church Print Studios' programmes exhibitions for two months per year (currently sublet for the remaining ten months). Above the gallery space, on the first floor is a lithographic, relief print and digital print workshop area. The second floor is the etching (Intaglio) workshop area. The top floor provides a workshop for screen print, an analogue photography and photo-etching darkroom. All workshop floors are shared spaces which is conducive to the sharing of ideas, skill-sets and establishing a strong community atmosphere among Studio artists and visitors.

Black Church Print Studio is a not-for-profit organisation and has charitable status. It is funded by the Arts Council, Dublin City Council and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in Ireland.



OUR VISION

Black Church Print Studio aims to promote fine art printmaking as an artform and underpin our artists in their (traditional and experimental) print practice.



OUR MISSION

Black Church Print Studio's mission is to enable and elevate contemporary printmaking practices. We do so by providing affordable studio access, specialised equipment, professional support and development opportunities to a community of printmaking artists in a custom-built print workshop in the heart of Dublin's City Centre with a local, national and international remit.





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OUR PRINCIPLES



Provide a well-managed, fully equipped, professional facility with technical, administrative and digital support for full-time members, dedicated printmakers and the wider public.



Maintain a programme of activities that supports professional development and our Public Engagement Plan.



Promote our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy by providing access to the public through our artistic, education and community programmes.



Ensure equitable payments as per Black Church Print Studio's Paying the Artist Policy.



Develop relationships with educational institutions and schools by facilitating tours, demonstrations, workshops, internships, work placements in line with our Child Protection Policy.



Develop national and international exchanges and residencies.



Partner and collaborate with other print studios across Ireland.



Maintain and develop networks with other arts organisations through collaborations and partnerships.



Provide graduate and undergraduate award schemes to Third Level Fine Art students.



Build and maintain our Print Archive Collection (1982 - present).

Leadership

Excellence

Community

Inclusivity

Integrity

Passion

Nurturing

OUR VALUES

Through our programmes, services and people, Black Church Print Studio values are:



Leadership

With 40 years of experience, we are strong leaders in our field. We establish, nurture and maintain strong partnerships with other visual arts organisations. We also continue to partner with other print organisations who share our ambition, to create a Network for Professional Printmakers (Print Network Ireland). We value the purpose of networks of support to ensure the sharing of expertise and cultural experiences. We value the power of knowledge exchange to ensure our organisation remains innovative, relevant and a leader in our sector.

Emerging Practice, 40th Anniversary Exhibition, 2022 Curated by Donna Romano



Exhibition
Programme

Excellence

We encourage and promote excellence and professionalism in printmaking. We strive for professional development and to create relevant experiences for our members and audiences. We also support innovation in printmaking through education, exhibitions, and national and international residency.

Artist Niamh O'Malley proofing *Flag* print with Studio Technical Manager, David McGinn,



Bespoke
Editioning

We have a strong community of artists with a shared ambition to create and promote printmaking. We contribute to the communities we belong to, particularly the Irish artist community and our local community in Dublin. Being part of a community gives a unique sense of belonging and we aim to continue building on that front.

Community

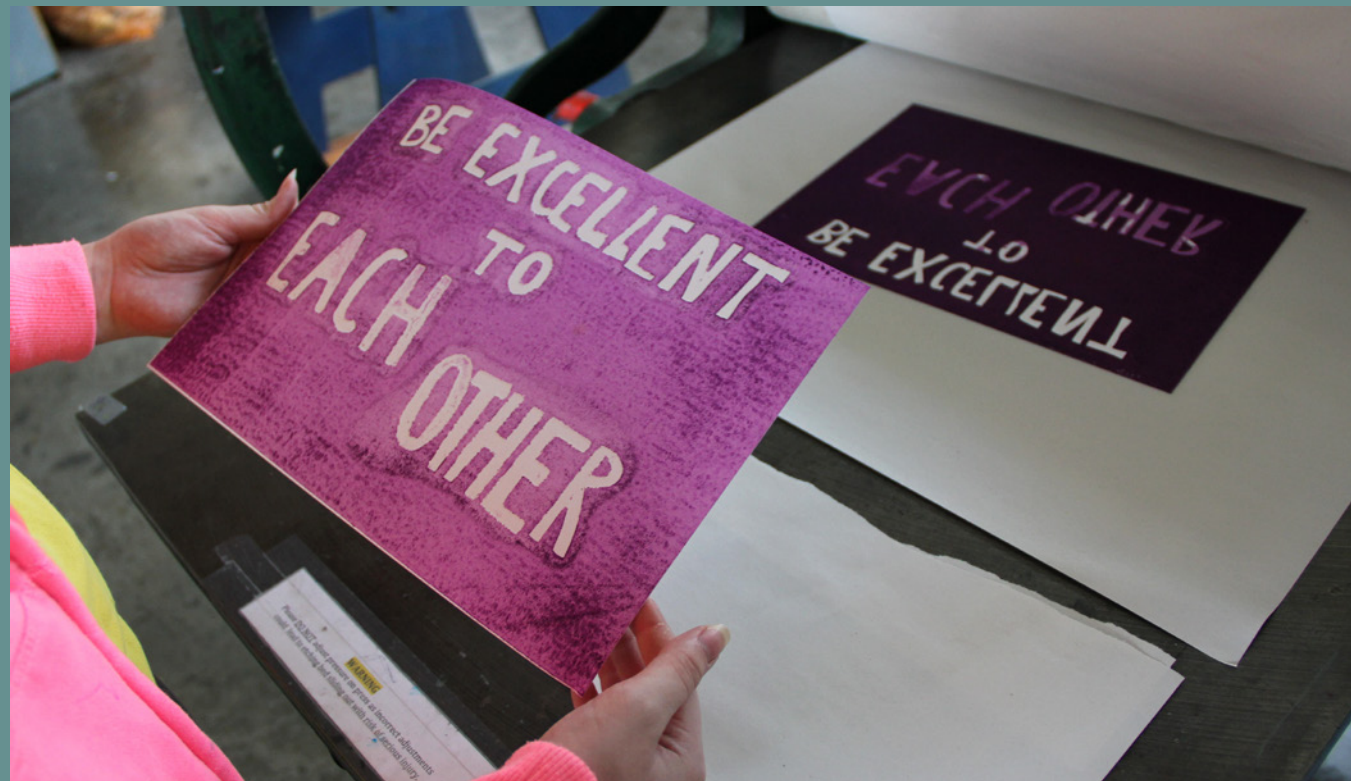
Tutor Maureen Burke with South Inner City Community Development Association over 55's group, 2022



Education
Programme

Inclusivity in our studio means encouraging and promoting a culture in which the diversity of our members, board and staff is valued and respected. We practise treating all fairly, where all can feel confident to be themselves and contribute to the goals and objectives of our Studio as well as work on their personal development. We believe that the arts are for all.

Inclusivity



We continue to uphold the highest level of personal conduct at all times to build respectful and transparent relationships with members, partner organisations, governing bodies, staff and other stakeholders to ensure their trust in our Studio.

Artist Vanessa Donoso Lopez with Master Printmaker Louise Peat



Integrity

Black Church
Process Residency

We are determined to work proactively to preserve tradition and to explore new avenues for artistic creation. We recognise the value of providing a variety of opportunities to develop artists' creative potential. We are passionate about both traditional and contemporary forms of printmaking.

Brian Curling, Artist Talk, International Artist-in-Residence, 2018



Passion

International Artist-in-Residence
Residency

We nurture and support artists at various stages in their careers through the provision of affordable studio access and specialised facilities, as well as providing them with opportunities for professional development. We also seek to foster new talent by offering a number of undergraduate and new graduates' awards for third level students. We introduce second level students to fine art printmaking through our Transition Year work placement programme and print workshops. We also provide primary school workshops and offer studio tours to the public.

Asia O'Driscoll, Black Church Cabinet Award, 2017



Nurturing

Student & Graduate
Awards



OUR PILLARS

Black Church Print Studio's' strategy is supported by distinct pillars, outlining specific areas of interest to the studio which include:

LEARN

MAKE

EXHIBIT

PRESERVE

COLLECT



LEARN

We provide continued support for professional development in creative practice through our specialised workshops, residencies and our annual programming of activities. Our outreach and community programmes seek to promote practical learning through workshops and demonstrations. We also provide workshop tours which promote a greater understanding and appreciation of printmaking practice for the public.



MAKE

We create an environment that supports innovation and enquiry, and we provide resources and space for artists to make work and develop their skills. We provide technical support and professional development opportunities through our exhibitions, residencies, awards and workshops.



EXHIBIT

We provide opportunities for the public to experience printmaking through our dynamic exhibition programme in the gallery space at 4 Temple Bar. We connect audiences to our work through other public activities and through our on-line print shop on our website. We collaborate with other organisations and venues to showcase and promote print as an artform.



PRESERVE

We strive to preserve the craft of fine art printmaking. We value openness to changing methodologies and concepts in print in parallel with respect for the preservation of time-tested traditional printmaking techniques such as copper etching, stone lithography and screen printing.



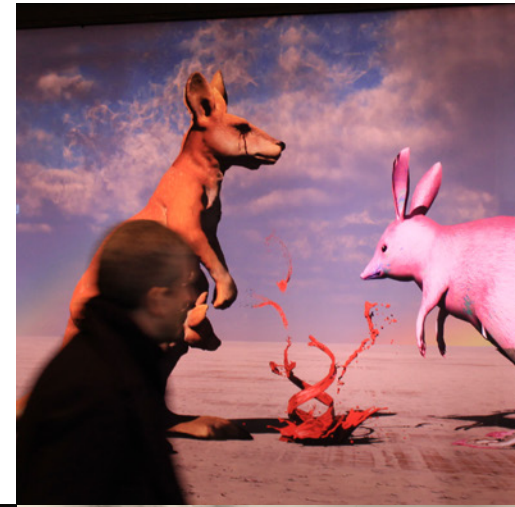
COLLECT

We have an archive of prints representing the annual production of prints created in our studio from 1982 to present. This is an important record of print-making in Ireland. Black Church Print Studio is working towards creating a digital archive of this work which would be openly accessible to artists, galleries, researchers and academics across the globe.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

In this section, we have listed the aims and actions to deliver our Vision, Mission, Principles, Values and Pillars from 2023-2028 subject to increasing organisational capacity and securing the necessary expertise. This plan is formed to focus on the following priority areas to advance the strategic position of printmaking in Ireland.



1.

Supporting and providing opportunities for studio members and other printmakers.

ACTION POINTS

Train, develop and support all members to achieve their career ambitions and align their work with the strategic goals of the Studio.

Develop new opportunities for members through Print Network Ireland.

Devise a digital archive of our Permanent Print Archive Collection.

Grow our new online print store and our buyer client database.

Increase visitors using our digital printing services and darkroom facilities.

Provide more up-skilling workshops for members and other professional development opportunities.

Enhance visitor experience by upgrading the internal environment.

2.

Realisation of a national network for Print Studios (Print Network Ireland).

ACTION POINTS

To increase operational capacity, efficiency and effectiveness through collaborative working.

To be ready for Print Network Ireland's future development and growth (as the representative body for print and artists using print in Ireland).

To extend each studio's offer of facilities, opportunities and support to the whole PNI studio membership.

To increase awareness, appreciation and credibility of printmaking as an artform among audiences, print buyers, the general public, the visual arts sector, wider arts sectors, stakeholders, and funders.

3.

Increasing Public engagement, in particular expanding our audience in line with Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Policy.

ACTION POINTS

Ensure all operations in the Studio and all collaborations are dealt with in line with Black Church Print Studio EDI policy. These are inclusive of Employment, Accessibility, Partnerships and Collaborations, Marketing and Communications, etc.

Building on and nurturing existing collaborations to create strong and strategic alliances with at least one printmaking studio internationally.

Continue to build and expand external partnerships to support Black Church Print Studio Programmes.

Enhance our community involvement with key community partners, third-level institutions and lifelong learners.

Improve branding and brand awareness with graphic design investment.

Build the Studio's public profile by disseminating information on opportunities and services offered by the studio through our website, social media and other suitable means.

4.

Developing and encouraging environmental awareness, and a more sustainable practice.

ACTION POINTS

Seek to develop a more environmentally friendly practice.

Set up a sub-committee to research a more sustainable print practice for artists.

Endeavour to secure funding for research into non-toxic printmaking materials with a better environmental approach and make available to studio members for experimentation.

Reduce our impact on the environment by measuring, understanding and reporting on progress.

5.

Exploring
additional
sources of
funding.

ACTION POINTS

Undertaking a due diligence review of all systems and procedures across the entire organisation.

Enhancing and developing existing revenue streams.

Sourcing and securing new revenue opportunities for a continuous development of our studio and services offered to all our stakeholders.

Conclusion

Building on 40 years of excellence in print, Black Church Print Studio values building sustainable approaches to preserving and enhancing our stakeholders make-up, our professional activities and our programmes. As an artist member collective it engages with external artists and the public through its dynamic exhibitions, residencies, expansive education programmes, community workshops, public dialogues and other engagements and continually aims to push the boundaries of printmaking. Black Church Print Studio Strategy 2023-2028 comprises a renewed Vision, Mission, Values, Pillars and a set of strategic goals diligently informed by consultations with our stakeholders. This is a living document that informs all areas of the organisation's development. It is an ambitious plan which aims to enhance our Studio's activities and focus on sustainable growth and capacity building. By the end of the five years, we aim that this plan is able to deliver on our set goals across all strands - continuous support for members,; establishing a print network for Ireland; increasing public engagement; community building; becoming more environmentally conscious; continuing to build partnerships; and finally to secure additional funding.

Black Church Print Studio is recognised as a strategically significant resource for artists in Ireland. We will continue to strive to promote printmaking as an artform and towards making Black Church Print Studio a dynamic, exciting, celebrated and embraced studio by all across Ireland.

GENERAL INFORMATION

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday 10 am - 5 pm 24hr access for Studio Membership

CONTACT DETAILS

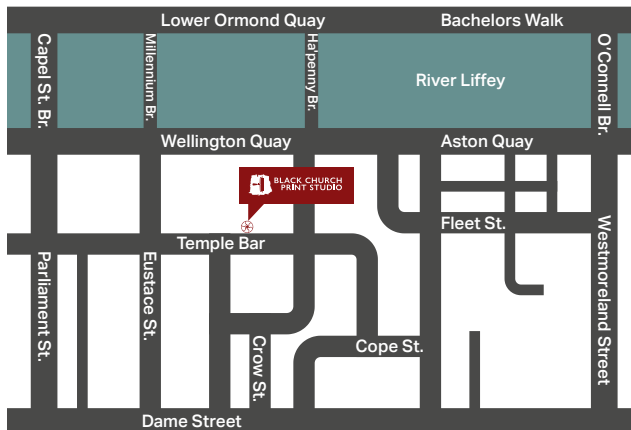
info@blackchurchprint.ie / 01 67736294

ADDRESS

Black Church Print Studio, 4 Temple Bar, Dublin 2, D02 YK53

SPECIFICATIONS

For deliveries Black Church Print Studio is accessible up until 11 am. It is located on the main temple bar thoroughfare opposite the Temple Bar Pub and alongside Temple Bar Gallery + Studios



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tracy Staunton, *Chair*
Alan Crowley, *Secretary*
Eamonn Griffin, *Treasurer*
Cathleen Noctor
Ann Gilleece
Caroline Byrne
Órla Goodwin
Sinéad Kathy Rice
Michael Rubio Hennigan

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Hazel Burke, *General Manager*
David McGinn, *Technical Studio Manager*

FREELANCE STAFF

Emma Aine O'Leary, *Digital PR*
Seerish Sansassy, *Bookkeeper*

ARTIST TEACHER PANEL

Ella Bertilsson
Maureen Burke
Caroline Byrne
Siobhan Cox
Alan Crowley
Caoimhe Dalton
Janine Davidson
Ann Gilleece
Emily Mc Gardle
Louise Peat
Vincent Sheridan

FUNDERS

