What is Unit18?

Trinity College Dublin is creating a space that can be used by people who live in the local community. Unit18 will provide a space where people can meet, learn, socialise and do things together to benefit all local residents. This space will provide education, arts and social initiatives for all ages.

Get in touch

We want to develop this shared space with local residents who will use it. Whether you are 8 or 80, we want your input.

What do you think the Unit could be used for?

How should it be decorated?

Let us know by emailing gcld@tcd.ie

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What type of programmes will take place in Unit18?

Educational and cultural programmes will be focused on the following themes:

- **Technology and Innovation**
- **Arts, History & Culture**

Recent meetings between Trinity and local residents and the findings from the Dublin Docklands Social Infrastructure Audit 2015 indicate that continued development of training and upskilling is needed. A shortage of cultural and creative outlets and venues, particularly for young people was also highlighted. The themes also relate to the vision for the development of the Grand Canal Innovation District where there will be an educational focus and also public and cultural spaces.

- **Expansion of the Voluntary Tuition Programme** (run by St Andrew’s Resource Centre and Trinity)
- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)** programmes for local youth e.g. coding & multi-media workshops
- **Digital literacy for adults**
- **Artist-in-residence with community workshops**
- **History and Cultural Heritage Programming**

However, we are at the early stages of developing a programme and still want to hear your ideas so that we can tailor initiatives based on the interests of local residents.

If you would like to see something in particular delivered in the space please get in touch through the contact details overleaf.

How will Unit18 be developed?

The layout and programming of Unit18 will adapt over the coming months as we experiment with programmes and attendees and evaluate interest and uptake. We will take your feedback on board. We would like input from potential users of the space on how best to design and develop the Unit.

In time, we will build a committee with representatives from Trinity, local residents and neighbouring organisations to manage the programming and use.

Who are we working with?

Within Trinity, we are working with Science Gallery, Bridge21, TAP, Douglas Hyde Gallery, the Lir Academy, the Centre for Social Innovation and others to develop a broad and engaging programme. We are also working with St Andrew’s Resource Centre, local schools and other organisations to ensure we listen to what local residents would like.

Who can use Unit18?

Anybody living nearby with an interest in technology, the arts, or with a desire to further their education or enhance social opportunities for local people.

What will come next?

Plans are in place to develop the Grand Canal Innovation District. This District is about connecting researchers, start-up companies, larger corporates, community, arts organisations and venture capitalists to benefit the locality, city and country. The aim is to drive inward investment, new collaborations and jobs. Many of these groups already exist in the Grand Canal area, but this district will not just be a business park, but a place where we can organise events and connections, a place where everybody, whether office worker, tourist or local resident will want to spend time, socialise and innovate.

Trinity is re-developing its 5.5 acre site at the heart of the proposed district. A key part of this plan will include delivering benefits to the local community through educational initiatives, participation in cultural events and access to public spaces.

The development of Unit18 is just the beginning of what will be a much more significant community engagement programme over the years ahead. You can read more at [www.tcd.ie/innovation-district](http://www.tcd.ie/innovation-district)