Civic Engagement: Sharing library knowledge, collections and expertise with local artists
A project in part fulfillment of PGDHE

Subject: Information resources for art practitioners

Overview of Best Practice/Innovation:

Participants: Co-creators of curriculum

Blended learning approach
- Electronic
- Print
- Art activities
- Shared expertise/knowledge
- Browse library art collection

How it Worked:
Two sessions, 2 hours. 12 Adults. Mixed age group. Group co-creators curriculum

Youtube - demonstrations in watercolours, oils, acrylic, printing and pricing

Library catalogue for art books, display of art books in room

Printed handouts- watercolour tutorial, hanging and framing art

Short Art activities - blind and imaginative drawing exercises

Browse art section in library

Shared knowledge/expertise – lots of discussion

Informed, social approach – parity of esteem

Invited to use library in following weeks

Lessons Learned:
• Library has knowledge, resources and expertise to play a vital role in civic engagement
• Involve group in the curriculum design
• Use a blended approach to include all learners and to maintain interest
• Sharing of knowledge and expertise increases confidence, ownership and social cohesiveness
• Unexpected results: Stimulated ideas and actions for future development of the art group

Contact: Susan Durack, Library, NUIM.
Susan.Durack@nuim.ie