

‘Where’s our Green?’



Change Lab 2024

"Where's our GREEN?"

In this collaborative project, we intend to raise awareness on the globally increasing issue of lack of green spaces for children living in urban spaces.

Our Installation aligns with UNICEF's Sustainable Development Goal 3: "Good Health and Wellbeing" and is highlighting issues faced by youth growing up in some areas of Dublin.

Through our close investigation with the young people and general community living in Dublin 8, we aim to highlight their valuable insights addressing the multi - faceted dimensions of these issues.

3

GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



Dublin 8



Respond

Our collaborative body of work emerged from an initial response of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Particular we decided to
Focus on Goal 3 –
Good health and Wellbeing –
As this goal in particular was
consistently reoccurring
when we began
conceptualising our initial
ideas - Dublin 8's lack of
green space.

This deliberate approach
paved the way for our
creative response to the
pressing issue affecting
thousands of children and
schools in the area.

Research

Our research journey commenced with a deep dive into historical campaigns led by local activists advocating for green spaces amidst the surge of high-rise private developments sanctioned by Dublin City Council. Through online resources and direct engagement with affected parties, including young voices represented by the Fatima Homework Club in Dublin 8, we unearthed invaluable insights.

Listening to the children's firsthand experiences illuminated the profound impact of the green space deficit on their behavioral and cognitive development. Moreover, our analysis extended to statistical comparisons, highlighting the stark contrast in green space per capita between Dublin 8 and other areas of the city.

This comprehensive research approach served as the bedrock for our collaborative project, enriching our understanding and guiding our creative response to address this pressing issue.

Stones

Grey

Un Safe

No grass



15

Out of 22
primary schools
in Dublin 8
without Green
space.

8,500

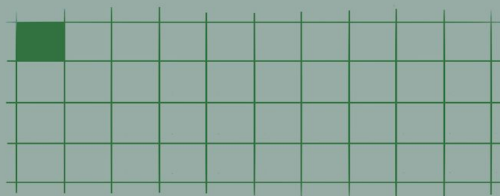
Children without
designated
Green space in
Dublin 8.

0.7m²

Green space per
person, in stark
contrast to an
average of 49 m2
per person in the
wider Dublin area.

86%

Lower than the
EU average of
Green space per
person.



further research data

- Of the €85.5 mill to be spent on Parks and Open Spaces from 2024-2026 the capital spending for SW inner city gets 0.4% (Ironically the DCC's own Civic offices get 0.6% which is more than what's allocated to the 50,000 people in the area).

- If you are a child in D8 you have a 28% chance of accessing university education but you live in other areas such as D4 / D6 you have a 99% chance of accessing secondary education, yet investment in secondary schools in D4/D6 areas continues to be multiples of what is being invested in D8. You are four times more likely to access third level education if you are from Leitrim than if you are from D8 (Maynooth University study, Mancini 2022).

- There are 13 schools in the area and not one pitch to play organised competitive sport. One of the schools in the local area use part of an underground car park for its playground.

- D8 has the lowest Green fraction (parks/sports facilities) in Dublin. The area was ranked 93rd worst of 93 GAA clubs across Dublin in terms of access to green space.

- The local area that has absorbed a 40% population growth over the last 20 years.

Research questions

1. What comes to mind when you think about parks or playgrounds with lots of trees and grass?
2. If you could design a perfect play area with lots of green space, what would it look like?
3. What do you enjoy doing most in parks or playgrounds that have sports equipment?
4. How would having more places to play sports outside make your neighborhood better?
5. Can you imagine a new park nearby with all your favorite sports equipment? What would you want in it?
6. Do you think having more green play areas would make it easier to make new friends? Why or why not?
7. Have you ever had a really fun time playing sports or games outside with friends? What made it special?
8. Why do you think it's important for kids to have places to play with lots of green space?
9. How do you feel when you're playing outside in a park compared to inside at home or at school?
10. If you could add one special thing to a new play area in your neighborhood, what would it be and why?



Create

Materialising our ideas steered us through a process of experimentation, exploring elements like artificial grass, concrete slabs, and card to articulate our concept. However, as we sought to amplify our message, we opted for a more streamlined approach, focusing on impactful simplicity.

Central to our decision was the incorporation of maps, offering viewers contextual understanding of Dublin 8's landscape. Positioning on the gallery window strategically ensured accessibility, allowing the local community to engage with our work as it unfolded and on completion.

In one piece, layered cards over a small cut piece of green symbolized the compartmentalized green spaces in the area. This interactive installation encouraged viewers to explore, mirroring the search for greenery amidst urban confines.





When we began designing our installation, our aim was to create a visual representation of the Dublin 8 area. Using white vinyl sheets and projection mapping, we crafted a detailed map visible from outside the gallery, allowing viewers to grasp the context of our work. Additionally, we integrated cut artificial grass into sections representing green spaces, revealing the extent of the deficit in green space in this particular area.



Jade Bonny is an artist based in Dublin, and currently enrolled in the professional Masters of Education programme in NCAD. She graduated from The National College of Art and Design with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fine Art - Paint in 2022. Her recent art practice revolves around themes of space, societal and environmental issues. She works with a variety of mediums including painting, drawing and sculpture



James Tohill Doyle is a visual artist and educator deeply engaged in confronting social and systemic injustices through his work. His role as a youth worker in Dublin 8 provides him with profound insights into the struggles faced by young people in the community, informing his artistic practice. Doyle's work delves into themes of space and place, including home, regeneration, human interest, and uprootedness. His explorations have garnered recognition, including nominations for the RDS Visual Artist Award 2023, winning the NCAD Staff Prize 2023, receiving the Damn Fine Print Residency Award, and being honored with the St John's Solicitors Prize. Through his art and engagement with youth, Doyle strives to challenge existing power structures and advocate for positive change.



Kriti Khatri is an artist and designer from India, currently residing in Dublin. She completed her Masters in Design from The National Institute of Design and Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Delhi in India. She has closely worked with industries and conducted workshops in India. Before moving to Ireland she was teaching as an assistant professor in Design Institute and Universities. Her strength of working with materials and passion for Art and Design brought her new opportunities in Ireland. Today she is a member of DCCI and has been actively conducting workshops, design installation, and has been participating in events like Culture Night, Gifted at RDS, Clonmel Junction Arts Festival and many more across Ireland.

