



Nano Nagle Place
Exhibition Policy
2024 – 2028



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Exhibition Policy for Nano Nagle Place

This document sets out the regulations governing the Exhibition Policy at Nano Nagle Place (NNP). This includes the policy being discussed on an annual basis by the Museum Steering Group and formally reviewed every year to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. Any revision during the lifetime of the policy shall be submitted to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of Nano Nagle Place for its approval and then for adoption by Nano Nagle Place Museum.

NNP is a Company Limited by Guarantee whose members are made up of representatives from across the International Presentation congregations. A voluntary board is appointed by these members and the Chief Executive Officer of NNP reports to that board. The ELT supports a series of committees that are made up of board members and other expert advisors.

1. Statement of Purpose

A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that research, collects, conserves, interprets, and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible, and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally, and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection, and knowledge sharing.¹

Nano Nagle Place is a vibrant, welcoming, sacred place of living heritage where the energy of Nano can be experienced and where the educational, community inclusion, and spiritual vision of the Presentation Sisters is made real.

We tell the remarkable story of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters through their compelling collections and buildings in our inspirational museum. We work to educate, engage, and inspire while forming lasting relationships with our participants and visitors.

We operate a social justice and educational centre to realise Nano Nagle's legacy for the 21st Century. This centre runs cutting-edge community development projects aimed at positively transforming people's lives.

We care for this special place and welcome the local community, along with national and international visitors to this oasis of beauty, history, ecology, reflection, and spirituality, the home of the Presentation Sisters.

2. Nano Nagle Place Museum Background

Nano Nagle was the foundress of the Presentation Sisters and opened seven schools across Cork City for poor Catholic children during the 18th Century, a point in Irish history when it was illegal for Catholics to receive an education. Nano championed ideals of education and social justice. After her death, the Presentation Sisters have continued Nano's mission in many countries across the globe. Our heritage museum tells the story of Nano Nagle, 18th Century Cork, and the Presentation Sisters.

Our heritage museum is housed in a 19th-century Gothic chapel and tells Nano's fascinating story within the context of the 18th century and is fully interactive using 21st-century technology.

The self-guided heritage experience engagingly describes life in 18th-century Cork before going on to explore the story of how Nano Nagle worked tirelessly to help and educate the poor and disadvantaged of the city. The visitor can then interactively discover how the order she founded, the Presentation Sisters, has travelled across the globe to continue her work.

Access to the 1771 Ursuline building is via our guided tours. Objects owned and used by Nano, now lovingly conserved, are housed here. In this building, too, is 'Miss Nagle's Parlour', a carefully conserved 18th-century room where Nano spent time with the Ursuline sisters and their boarding students.

3. Types of Exhibition Nano Nagle Place

In telling Nano Nagle's story we explore the life's work of an extraordinary woman, who defied social mores to educate the poor and aid the needy. Our permanent exhibition conveys the history of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters via humble material possessions. We currently have two temporary spaces used for Exhibitions. The Temporary Exhibitions to date have been linked to the sisters and their formation and expansion.

We use our Temporary Exhibitions to showcase collections in storage and the richness of our archival holdings. Recent exhibitions have included 'The Changing Face of Cork City' (2019), 'Small Lives: At Home in Cork in 1920' (2020), 'Changing Habits: 250 Years of Convent Life' (2021), 'Lifetimes of Learning: Presentation Sisters and Schools in Cork City and County' (2022) and Branching Out (2023). We see these exhibitions as research opportunities to collect valuable intangible heritage that sits at the cusp of living memory, both of conventual life and educational history. We are a small museum at the centre of a global story, a story we are determined to safeguard, expand and interpret.

The collection gives a unique insight into the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Presentation Sisters. The purpose of the collection is to promote a wider understanding of the vast array of religious artifacts that have been given to the Presentation Sisters.

As part of our Annual Budget, we have allocated €15,000 for our Programme. This funding is intended to support various initiatives within the Programme, including our upcoming temporary Exhibition. The allocation for the Exhibition is in line with our strategic plans to enhance community engagement and promote cultural awareness. We aim to use these funds to create an enriching and memorable experience for all attendees, ensuring the Exhibition meets our high standards of quality and educational value.

The museum prides itself on developing and forming strong collaborative relationships with local community groups to bring alternative or lesser-known histories to light.

The museum currently holds a collection of c.62 objects, with the PSCA (Presentation Sisters Congregational Archives) holding 788 in the archives.

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4. Nano Nagle Place Site

Nano Nagle Place (NNP) is comprised of remarkable Georgian convent buildings, extensive walled gardens, mid mid-nineteenth-century Goldie Chapel, and an early twenty-first-century primary school, all spread over 3.5 acres.

Within the bounds of this site lie the footprints of Nano's first schools and Presentation Convent. Her convent for the Ursuline Sisters, built in 1771, still stands at the heart of the site, in use by the Presentation Congregation since 1827. The Ursuline Sisters thrived here and built extensions to that original building in 1775, 1779, and 1790. When the Ursulines moved to Blackrock in 1825 the buildings were passed to the Presentation Sisters.

The museum is housed in the Goldie Chapel with two further display rooms in the 1771 building. The archive is housed in the building dating from 1772-9.

Over a 4 year project, Jack Coughlan Architects managed the conservation and new architectural design at Nano Nagle Place, resulting in a re-imagining of the site. The glass sculpture that surrounds Nano's tomb was designed by Cork-based designer-sculptor Eoin Turner, while Cork-based graphic designer Hurrah Hurrah created the branding and distinctive site orientation.

The €12 million restoration undertaken from 2014 to 2017 turned a site nearing dereliction into a stunning public garden, an engaging museum, and a bustling community education hub. The financial cost of this regeneration was borne by the International Presentation Congregations. In recognition of the scale and quality of the endeavour, the site won the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland Master Planning Award in 2020. Our stunning grounds, graveyards,

courtyards, convent garden, contemplative garden, and modernist pavilion (Good Day Deli) café are open to Corkonians and visitors.

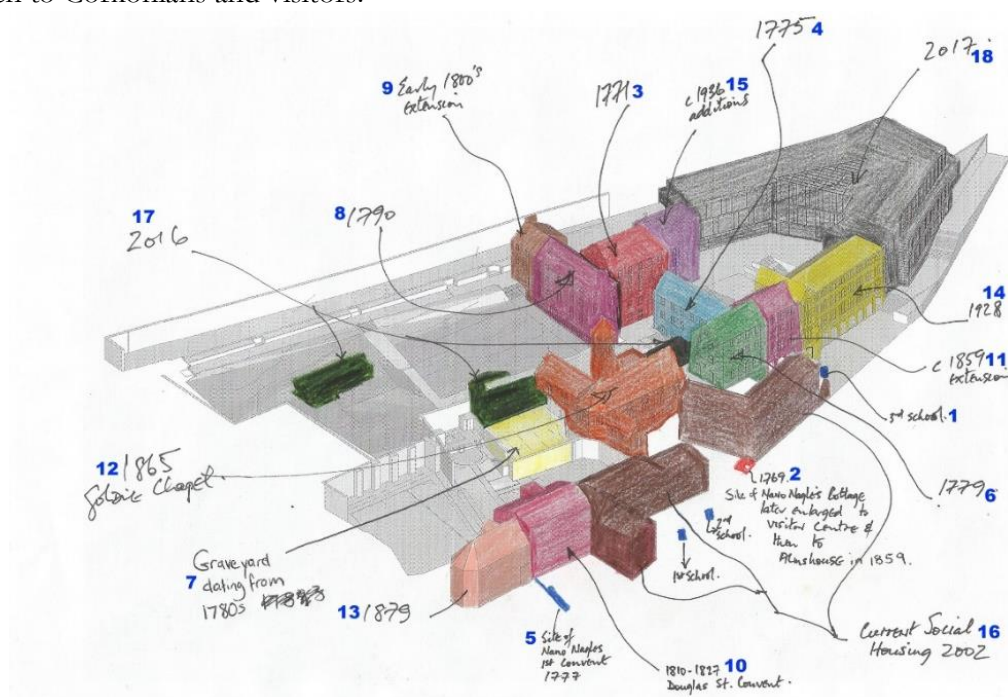


Figure 1 The Nano Nagle Place complex, the museum is housed in the 1865 Goldie Chapel, colour-coded orange. There are two further display rooms in the 1771 building coloured red here. The archive is housed in the building marked in green, marked 1779.

5. Policy Vision

- 5.1 A world-class museum operated to international museum standards (MSPI).
- 5.2 A collaborative museum focussed on creative and fruitful partnerships forged on innovation.
- 5.3 A site of living heritage preserving and championing the heritage and values of the core community, the Presentation Sisters.
- 5.4 An engaging museum for everyone.
- 5.5 An activist museum about an activist woman (Nano Nagle) and the women who came after her.
- 5.6 This policy extends to digital exhibitions accessible online or presented onsite.
- 5.7 To increase public access to the museum's collection – both onsite and offsite.
- 5.8 Ensure that all information relating to exhibitions is based on the highest standards of learning.
- 5.9 To be as supportive of as wide a variety of learning styles as resources allow and to contribute towards life-long learning.

- 5.10 To engage and communicate with a wide range of audiences – particularly new community groups or cultures not served by the museum's permanent exhibition.
- 5.11 To make financial provisions in the annual budget to organize and promote exhibitions with subject matter and content that supports the museum's mission statement.
- 5.12 The exhibitions shall be used to increase awareness of cultural diversity.
- 5.13 The museum will also accept loans from external sources to be included in our temporary exhibitions. Though the museum is reluctant to take on loan material for our permanent exhibitions, exceptions can be made depending on the object or material being offered.
- 5.14 The museum will endeavour to keep all audio-visual elements of our exhibitions up to date and fully maintained.
- 5.15 Evaluations and visitor statistics of both temporary and permanent exhibitions shall be collected, and the information gathered used to influence the future development of exhibitions.
- 5.16, When possible, appropriate workshops, events, museum tours, and lectures will be run in conjunction with and to complement both temporary and permanent exhibitions.
- 5.17 Ensure that within the capabilities of the Museum, all objects on display are protected from loss, damage, or physical deterioration.
- 5.18 Exhibitions will have a presence on the Nano Nagle Place website and social media platforms.

6. Irish Language Policy

Please see our Irish Language Policy.