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What is the
Common
Sound?

The Office for Common Sound

The Office for Common Sound (OCS) is a temporary public service that is open in Bray from late May through June 2016. Located at the top of Quinsboro Rd, the OCS is open to anyone with an interest in exploring the local sound environment.

The OCS is looking for you to get involved!

If you have something to say about the sound environment in Bray, concerns about noise, memories of sounds that have changed or disappeared, or curiosity about how working with the sonic atmosphere impacts the evolution of places and communities, please contact the OCS.

Discovering a New Sense of Place Through Sound

Sound plays an important part in how we determine our sense of place, yet we often find it difficult to talk about. We discuss the visual form of buildings, streets, and other elements of our towns and cities, but when it comes to sound, we become less certain.

The OCS provides an open platform for talking about the sound of a particular place, gathering different perspectives about this sound, and working together to investigate how this form of research might impact the design and planning of our built environment.

Get Involved

The OCS is searching for individuals and groups to work outwards from the question 'What is the common sound?' in Bray. Although this conversation begins with sound, it is free to shift towards other concerns about public space, local issues, and personal experiences of the area.

The OCS works with people of all backgrounds and ages including:

- Residents
- Local businesses
- Community groups
- Visiting specialists
- Students
- Visitors

The OCS works through methods including:

- Workshops
- Sound walks
- Reading groups
- Field recordings
- Listening sessions
- Mapping exercises
- Interviews
- Surveys

If you would like to get involved, or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact the OCS.

Location

You can visit the OCS any time during its public opening hours - even if you are only curious to find out more about the project. The office is conveniently located just off of the main street in Bray.

The Office for Common Sound

1A Quinsborough Road
Bray, County Wicklow
Ireland

Opening Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10:00 - 18:00

Wednesday: 10:00 - 18:00

Thursday: 12:00 - 20:00

Friday: 10:00 - 18:00

Saturday: 10:00 - 18:00

Sunday: Closed

Contact

Office Manager: Sven Anderson

Email: theofficeforcommonsound@gmail.com

Website: <http://office.minorarchitecture.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theofficeforcommonsound

Twitter: www.twitter.com/thecommonsound

Looking for Specialists

The OCS is also looking for people with specific backgrounds such as:

Musicians

Architects

Urban planners

Environmentalists

Local historians

Artists

Working with sound as it relates to our experience of the built environment and public space is a challenging premise for a project. The OCS is a framework that responds to different interests and perspectives, emphasizing that the expertise needed to approach this complex subject lies in the hands of a diverse array of people. If you are based in Bray or Wicklow and you are working in one of these fields, the OCS would love to have you in for a discussion about your work.

Working in Bray

The first phase of the OCS is focused on exploring issues involving sound within the region of Bray. Knowledge of this territory lies with those who are living in this area, and the OCS is hoping to draw on this local experience to develop its focus. Your ideas and suggestions could have a great impact on the way that the OCS evolves. You are encouraged to share your ideas and comments with the OCS this June.

Reading Room

The OCS houses a collection of books and catalogues focused on sound, architecture, urban design, noise control engineering, contemporary art, and the public realm. All of these texts are available for reading and discussion in the office.

A selection of these texts include:

Atmospheres (Peter Zumthor)

Sonic Experience: A Guide to Everyday Sounds

Writing Aloud: The Sonics of Language

Almost Nothing (With Luc Ferrari)

Site of Sound: Of Architecture and the Ear

Acoustic Territories (Brandon LaBelle)

Spaces Speak: Are You Listening? (Barry Blesser and Linda-Ruth Salter)

Dublin City Council: Ambient Sound Monitoring Network

Productive Uncertainty: Indeterminacy in Spatial Design, Planning, and Management

Architectural Atmospheres (Bohme, Borch, Eliasson, Pallasmaa)

Institute of Noise Control Engineering in America: An Early History

Max Neuhaus: Times Square / Time Piece Beacon

The Image of the City (Kevin Lynch)

Events at the OCS

During June 2016, the OCS will be organizing intimate events and discussions in the office space in order to provide a chance for people who are involved in the project to meet each other and learn more about different perspectives concerning sound in Bray.

These events (and all activities carried out through the OCS) are free to drop-ins, but if you would like to receive invitations and reminders, please email the OCS at:

theofficeforcommonsound@gmail.com

The Office Manager

The OCS is a project by Sven Anderson.

Sven Anderson is an artist working between Ireland and the US since 2001. Anderson's work explores the act of listening within diverse architectural, physical, social, and emotional contexts. His practice is a discursive platform that operates through artistic intervention, academic publication, participatory processes, and interactive design. Anderson's installations and performances are parasitical, feeding off of details of the immediate built environment, the bodies of the audience, and fragments of local history and ecology to suggest emergent, site-specific forms.

His ongoing public art project The Manual for Acoustic Planning and Urban Sound Design received the European Soundscape Award issued by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in 2014. Through this work and other projects, Anderson creates active interfaces between artists, architects, urban planners, policymakers, and the public, identifying spaces for sustainable research and production.

Website: <http://www.svenanderson.net/>

Support

The OCS is supported as part of the Strategic Arts Projects initiative by The Wicklow County Arts Office, Wicklow County Council, Mermaid Arts Centre and The Arts Council.