

COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROJECTS, North Belfast



New Life for Brookfield Mill – Town Houses and Apartments. The old mill building contains 55 apartments and an additional 22 town houses.

New “shared” Community / Education, Health & Leisure Centre



Flax Trust is working in collaboration with ABC Trust and Urban Villages to develop this Community Regeneration project providing health, recreational and training facilities and an arts centre.

Galgani New Housing Development



The Galgani development consists of 53 new affordable housing units of which 29 are houses, 24 apartments and 5 retail units

**Flax Trust Scholarships and Apprenticeships 2021
Young People from North Belfast win Flax Trust Scholarships and Apprenticeships for third level education**

Antoin Morelli	Aimee C Whelan	Brendan T Keenan	Christina Davis
Chloe Hamill	Callum McGilloway	Chloe McKinley	Clodagh Benson
Danielle McClurkin	Ethan R Dodd	Eva McKernan	Eimear T Quinn
Eimear McAllister	Grace Smyth	Hayley Coulter	Holly Ewings
Mollie Tolan	Maryanne McDonald Burns	Georgia O' Neill	Jack Burns

The Flax Trust Music Bursary Awards 2021

Queens University Belfast



Katie Lyons, Soprano



Colm Mohan, Cello

The Flax Trust Conductor's CBYO Award

Tilly Martin, Oboe. Winner of The Flax Trust Conductor's Award City of Belfast Youth Orchestra Conductor Paul McBride



Naimh McCloskey, Flute



Dairine McCaughley, Soprano

Welcome to the Thirty Second New York Event

FLAX TRUST LUNCHEON
Wednesday, October 12th 2022

Guests of Honor

John A Coleman
President Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in the City of New York

Sophie Colgan
Program Director the Ireland – U.S. Council

Aer Lingus
Acceptance Bill Byrne
Senior Vice President Global Sales United States of America

The Links
36 East 62nd Street

Luncheon Chair

Tom O'Brien
Chairman, President & CEO
Sterling Bancorp
Director, Flax Trust / America

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Charitable Organisation

We are very grateful to
Mutual of America for
this invaluable facility.

Luncheon Chair

Tom O'Brien

Chairman, President & CEO Sterling Bancorp
Director, Flax Trust/America

Honorary Luncheon Co-Chairs

Emma Wade-Smith British Consul General	Helena Nolan Consul General of Ireland
Andrew Elliot Director/Counsellor Northern Ireland Bureau	John J. Kelly, CPCM Managing Partner Hanover Stone Partners, LLC
John R. Greed, Chairman, President & CEO Mutual of America	Senator George J. Mitchell DLA Piper
Michael J. Dowling CEO Northwell Health	James P. MacGilvray, CEO J P Mac, LLC
Loretta Brennan Glucksman Philanthropist	Gerald Crotty President Weichert Enterprise LLC
Joe Browne, President Joe Browne Agency	Niall J. Murray, President Rockabill Development LLC
Patricia Harty Editor/Co-Founder Irish American Magazine	P. Douglas Benson Management Consultant
David O'Sullivan Exc Director The Ireland- U.S. Council	Ed McDermott Jr. President Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
James W. Griffin CEcD Exec.Dir. of City of Hornell IDA (ret.)	Shawn M. Griffin, Partner Harris Beach PLLC
Cathy Toner	Dr. John & Patricia Brennan
John Feerick, Norris Professor of Law Founder and Senior Counsel Center for Social Justice, Fordham University	Patrick Grace President & CEO Grace Institute Foundation
Edward Kenny sr. Bridget Kenny	Robert Reilly Fordham Law School (ret.)
Michael J. Gibbons, Chairman Ireland - U.S. Council Foundation	Joseph Hummel, Vice President External Affairs, Mutual of America
Sean Davis, Regional Director The America's Enterprise Ireland	Alison Metcalfe Exec. Vice President North America, Australia New Zealand Tourism Ireland
Brian Conroy, IDA Executive Director Vice President North America	Andrea Haughian Vice President Invest NI – New York
James Dale GM Hyatt Regency Jersey City	Bebhinn Gallen DS Rainbow Room, Rockafella Centre
Paul Gallon GM Pier Sixty LLC	Anton Moore GM The Gansevoort Hotel
Mary J. Grace Restoration Design Consultant Vice Chair Flax Trust / America	Mary Hart. Vice President New York Commercial Bank (ret) Treasurer Flax Trust/America
Fr Myles Kavanagh C.P.	Sr Mary Turley pbvm

Jim Quinn, President Emeritus Tiffany & Co., President Flax Trust / America

John Coleman

President Friendly Sons of St Patrick
in the city of New York



John is a portfolio manager at Morgan Stanley. Prior to Morgan, he was a principal at Longbow Capital Partners, an alternative asset management firm, where he worked in senior investment and operational roles. He began his career on the New York Stock Exchange.

John was awarded an MBA from Columbia Business School and an A.B. in economics, cum laude, from Georgetown University. He is a CFA® Charter holder and a member of the CFA Society of New York. He lectures in economics as an adjunct professor at Seton Hall University and lives in New York City with his wife and three daughters.

John A. Coleman has served as the President of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St Patrick in the City of New York since 2019. The Society has been in continuous operation as a charitable organization since its founding in 1784, and focuses its philanthropic efforts in the areas of education and Irish arts & culture.

Over the course of John's tenure, the Society voted to admit women to its membership for the first time in its history, incepted a scholarship fund and has formed long term partnerships with Irish cultural institutions in New York City.

New York 2021 Flax Trust Award Recipients



Gerald C. Crotty
President, Weichert Enterprise LLC



Shawn M. Griffin
Partner, Harris Beach PLLC

The Flax Trust as a registered, charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes and personal development.

Sophie Colgan

Program Director
The Ireland-U.S. Council



Sophie Colgan is a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Living in New York having immigrated to America almost a decade ago, she has made her mark in her professional career as a young leader and innovator in several prestigious organizations spanning business and cultural affairs in the Irish American community. Currently, she is the Program Director for the Ireland-U.S. Council, the leading business organization serving the dynamic and important economic and

business space between America and Ireland. She has also spearheaded recent efforts to reform the American Irish Historical Society. She earned wide acclaim for her successful efforts at broadening and developing community engagement projects for the Society.

She has been a key figure in a group of influencers who are working to block the sale of the Society's signature headquarters on Fifth Avenue in New York City. She shaped several community-based campaigns – none more telling than a community-wide Petition of support urging action to prevent this iconic jewel from passing from ownership of the community of Irish Americans not just in New York but throughout the United States.

Sophie has founded a fast-growing management consulting company SC Communications which offers strategic and management services in communications, strategy and event planning. She counts among her clients, successful companies such as CIE Tours International, the leading travel tour operator across the Atlantic into Ireland.

She hosts her own internet-based podcast "Navigating New York" interviewing guests who are immigrants to the United States. She discusses their personal and professional journey as they build new lives in America. She hopes that through these conversations she helps to make living in New York a little less overwhelming for new arrivals.

In 2015, Sophie was the New York Rose of Tralee, an International Festival in Ireland that recognizes the achievements of Irish women in Ireland and around the world. She also headlined The Meithel – a community effort to source and deliver PPE to frontline healthcare workers during the worst of the Covid Pandemic.

Recently, Sophie coordinated a charity run in Central Park in the aid of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and an "Empowering Women in Sport" hybrid event to fundraise for local female amateur sports teams in New York.

In April, 2022 Sophie was honored by the Irish American Building Society for her contribution to the Irish American Community with "The Irish Spirit" Award.

Aer Lingus

Acceptance **Bill Byrne**

Senior Vice President Global Sales United States of America



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Discover Ireland with Aer Lingus, the Irish flag carrier, operating 14 direct routes between North America and Ireland connecting travelers from cities such as New York, Chicago, Washington D.C., Boston, Orlando, Philadelphia, Toronto, and Miami. It is the only airline to fly direct to Ireland from the West Coast, operating flights from San Francisco,

Seattle, and Los Angeles. Additionally, Aer Lingus provides transatlantic services to Shannon, flying direct from JFK and Boston and non-stop service from JFK and Orlando to Manchester, UK.

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Customers flying with Aer Lingus enjoy a warm Irish welcome at all stages of their journey. Aer Lingus' modern fleet of aircraft offer both Business and Economy class cabins. Wi-Fi is available to purchase on board, and the entertainment system puts customers in charge of their own personal screen as they cross the Atlantic. Catering is developed with top chefs to bring customers a fusion of the finest modern and traditional Irish food. Transatlantic flights feature complimentary meals and soft drinks. Transatlantic customers benefit from US Customs and Border pre-clearance at both Dublin and Shannon airports. This means that those flying to the U.S. can clear U.S. immigration, customs and agriculture controls. The benefit of this is that customers can land as a local and simply collect their baggage and get on with their day!

Aer Lingus is committed to a lower-carbon future and has pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and has committed to powering 10% of its flights using sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) by 2030. Visit aerlingus.com.

Bill Byrne is the Senior Vice President, Global Sales for Aer Lingus, based in the United States. Byrne played a critical role in Aer Lingus throughout the pandemic, and his leadership is invaluable as it moves forward in recovery. Byrne oversees corporate and leisure passenger sales across the entire Aer Lingus network.

Before joining Aer Lingus, Byrne was the Vice President of Inbound Sales for Hertz. In that role he was responsible for sales of the Hertz, Dollar and Thrifty brands from all global markets for rentals in the United States and Canada. Byrne also looked after all sales programs for Federal and state governmental agencies.

He enjoyed a 30-year career at United Airlines lastly as the Managing Director of Specialty Sales, where he was responsible for passenger sales in a number of specialized segments such as On-Line Travel Agencies, Military and Government Travel, Leisure, Meetings and Incentives, Small Business Products, and the Caribbean. He also led sales of United Vacations.

Among his other roles at United he was responsible for Global Sales transformation, Central Division Regional Sales, and Country Director for France. He also was the Managing Director of Organizational Development.

The School for Social Enterprises in Ireland (SSEI) founded in 2005 as a strategic alliance between Flax Trust and Ulster University is devoted exclusively to leadership, management, business development programmes and events for the social economy sector.



Rosie McCreight



Gerard Gray



Catherine Barr



Ronagh O'Donnell



Linzi A Webb



Rachel Duffy



Alison Keenan



Gearoid MacSiacas



Aoife Hughes



Niamh Logan



Lisa McCaul



Barbora Snowarska



David Crooks



Lauren Cunningham



Cara McLoughlin



Julie Clydsdale

- 1 Supported Employment Worker, Alternative Angles
- 2 Digital Fabricator, Play for care / Fabrication
- 3 Centre Director, Women Centre Derry
- 4 CEO, Oak Counselling Services
- 5 Housing Officer, Clanmil Housing Association
- 6 Project Co-Ordinator, Liberty Consortium /Thrift
- 7 CIC Director, Eos Community Consulting
- 8 Director, Forbairt Feirste
- 9 Founder, Accent All
- 10 Project Lead, Autistic Products & Services
- 11 Social Enterprise Manager, Women's TEC
- 12 Community Devt Office, Polish Language, Culture, and Affairs (POLCA)
- 13 Project Manager, Newtownabbey Arts & Cultural Network
- 14 Community Engagement, BITC
- 15 Project Coordinator, St Columb's Park House
- 16 Business Development Lead, Groundwork NI



Flax Trust Arts production of Fiddler on the Roof 2022 MAC Theatre, Belfast - cast of 60

Leads:

Teveye:
Bass/Baritone
Jim McGuigan

Golde:
Soprano
Megan Mooney