

Statement from Solas Project Board of Directors - Head Gardener Graham Jones stepping down

After five years at Solas Project, Graham Jones will be stepping down from the position of Head Gardener (Chief Executive), effective, September 30th 2016, to move to full-time study at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

Graham co-founded Solas Project in 2011, becoming head of the organisation in the same year. During that time he has successfully led on developing the charity's vision, mission, systems and strategy as well as the expansion of its programmes and fundraising efforts. In 2013, Graham was awarded Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's Elevation Award.

Under Graham's leadership, Solas Project has grown into an organisation with five programmes serving over 600 young people between the age of six to 23 in Dublin city centre.

Ray Murphy, Chairman of the Board of Directors, says: "On behalf of the Solas Project Board of Directors I would like to thank Graham for his unwavering commitment and dedication to the young people of inner city Dublin over the past five years, and acknowledge the contribution that he has made to the community through his vision, which has translated into pioneering and resourcing a number of unique and critical programmes.

"He has built a strong foundation for the development of Solas Project, one we are confident new leadership will build upon to continue to serve the young people of Dublin in innovative, relevant and effective ways and see the organisation go from strength to strength. We wish Graham every blessing as he takes his life in a new and exciting direction."

Graham Jones, outgoing Head Gardener of Solas Project, says: "It has been a tremendous privilege to be part of Solas Project over the past five and a half years. As Head Gardener, I have had the joy of leading the organisation in deepening and expanding our roots in the community we love through all of our programmes and playing our part in seeing the potential of young people realised.

"I am immensely proud of the young people we work with and would like to thank each and every one of them for their enthusiasm, commitment and daily inspiration – their potential knows no bounds. I have learned a great deal from this community and the people who work hard every day to ensure it thrives. It has been a pleasure to be part of such an excellent staff team at Solas Project and I know that through their dedication and expertise, Solas Project is in a strong position. In moving on, I remain a friend and ally."

Recruitment for the position of Chief Executive is underway and the expectation is that his successor will be in place before the beginning of the new school year. The Board, with the support of Graham and Solas Project staff, are working to ensure a smooth transition and look forward to welcoming the new head of the organisation once recruitment is complete.

Solas Project's five programmes will continue to run as usual. Any queries relating to those can be directed to the relevant staff members below:

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