

Shape the Future of Irish America



IrishEcho THIRD ANNUAL BIG IRISH CAMPFIRE 2022

#IrishCampfire

August 19, 2022
Iona University
New Rochelle, NY

Keynote Speaker:
Seamus Carey,
President, Iona University

Special Guest from Ireland
(LIVE VIRTUAL): **Gerry Adams**

*To include presentations of
Campfire Cara Medals to
representatives of top Irish American
Organizations across USA,
Panels, Awards Luncheon,
and a Celebration of the
Black and the Green.*

EVENT PARTNERS



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Photo: Iona College



Photo: Ben Hider Photography

Join us at Irish America's University – Iona University – for the Third Annual Big Irish Campfire on August 19th, where we will bring together champions of Irish America from right across the nation to build for the future.



Under the strong leadership of President Seamus Carey, Iona University is an inspiring model for transformative and innovative change during the most challenging of times. It is now widely recognized as one of the top colleges for business and entrepreneurship. Building upon this success, Iona recently acquired a new 28 acre campus nearly doubling their footprint with plans to establish a premier School of Health Sciences. This new School will train the next generation of health care professionals, support the communities that Iona serves, and help to meet the nationwide nursing shortage. The expansion also provides new opportunities for their successful athletic teams; a growing performing arts programs and academic enhancements.



If this wasn't enough to bring you around the Campfire, Iona holds a unique place in the Irish American landscape as the only college or university to be established by the Irish Christian Brothers. At Gael Nation they revel in their Irish heritage and associations – where else would you get sports teams nicknamed Gaels and the college motto Gaels Take Care of Gaels?

The Irish values of Iona also shine through in their commitment to inclusion and diversity. Even through the challenges of the pandemic, the Iona Community completed more than 80,000 hours of community service and is now poised to do more through their new Gaelventures business incubator hub.

And of course, President Séamus Carey enjoys the unique distinction of any US college head of having played in the GAA All-Ireland championship at senior level for New York. Through all of these new initiatives, Iona speaks to the future while in its very name – taken from the site of the first island monastery set up in 563 by St Colmcille of Derry – it boasts historic roots reaching back millennia.

There can be no more appropriate home for the Big Irish Campfire. Come join us...and bring marshmallows.



Community & Irish Centers



Festivals & Parades



Culture & Arts



An Ghaeilge



Sport



Media



Heritage



Community Service



Tourism



Business



Government

18 August

6pm Private Dinner for Speakers/Honorees

19 August

8:30am: Registration & Tea/Coffee
Lynch Pavilion

Campfire Conference: Romita Auditorium

9am: Official Opening
Fáilte/Welcome: Séamus Carey, President Iona University
Secretary of Labor Martin J. Walsh
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations, Westchester County

9:15am: The Great Reset: Repurposing Irish Networks for the 21st Century
CHAIR: Jim Frawley, Executive Coach, Founder Bellwetherhub.com, NY
PANEL: Thomas J. Ryan, 2nd Vice President, Grand Council of United Emeralds Societies Inc.
Danny O'Connell, President AOH, Youngstown, Ohio
Tori J.E. Riley, VP Saratoga Economic Development Corporation, representing Irish Business Organisation of New York
Martina Curtin, President Irish Cultural Center of Greater Boston

From 9:45 Discussion with Audience

9:55am How To Defuse a Bomb – the Project Children Story
Catherine Flood, Project Children, Yonkers, NY

10am: Best in Class: San Francisco's \$60m Irish Center Plan

10:15am: Innovating for the Post-Pandemic Era: Creating Sustainable Irish Community Centers & Hubs at the Heart of Rejuvenated Communities
CHAIR: Aileen Leonard Dibra, Executive Director Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers
PANEL: Maureen Kennedy, Co-Founder Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati
Natalie O'Shea, Executive Director, Celtic Junction Arts Center, St Paul, MN
Pat Carolan, Former President Gaelic American Club, Fairfield, CT
Liam Reidy, President United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA

From 10:45 Discussion with Audience

10:55am: The Importance of Ireland's Great Hunger to Future Generations
Joe McDonagh, Director Ireland's Great Hunger Bord, New York, NY

11am: Best in Class: The Transatlantic Partnership between the Celtic Junction Arts Center of St Paul, MN and Aonach Mhacha in Armagh, Co Armagh

11:15am: Campfire Chat: Update on Ireland: Defending Progress, Preparing for Change
MODERATOR: Maureen Bennett, Partner Jones Day, Boston
GUESTS: Gerry Adams
Congressman Brendan Boyle, Washington D.C.

11:40am: The Black Abolitionists in Ireland
Prof Christine Kinealy, Director Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT

11:45am: The Road Less-Travelled – Building Bridges to a Diverse America
CHAIR: Elizabeth Stack, Executive Director Irish American Heritage Museum, Albany, NY
PANEL: Sonnie W. Hereford IV, Huntsville, AL, Organizer Huntsville St Patrick's Day Parade, 1996-2011, First African-American Pupil in Alabama School System
Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt, Representative Maine State Legislature, Vice-Chair Maine Irish Heritage Center, Portland, ME
Christian J. Bolden, Board Member African American Irish Diaspora Network (AAIDN), Washington D.C.
Connor Martinez, Chief of Staff for Mayor Eric Adams' Community Affairs Unit, New York, NY
Theresa Tobin, Chief of Interagency Operations, NYPD

12:20pm: 'Marketing Ireland' in the USA — How To Press the Right Green Buttons
CHAIR: Sara Stanton, Cara Tourism, Boston, MA
PANEL: Alison Metcalfe, Executive Vice-President USA & Canada, Tourism Ireland
Michael Morris, International Sales Director, Hinch Distillery, Co Down
Michael Meade, Group CEO Sullivan's Brewing Company, New York, NY
Elizabeth Crabill, CEO CIE Tours, Morristown, NJ
Jeff Wright, Director of Corporate Sales, Aer Lingus North America

12:50pm: Video message from Foras na Gaeilge

12:55pm: The Importance of Ireland's Great Hunger to Future Generations
John Foley, President Ireland's Great Hunger Museum of Fairfield, Inc.



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1pm: **BIG IRISH CAMPFIRE AWARDS LUNCHEON**
 Venue: Burke Lounge
Campfire Keynote:
SPEAKER: Séamus Carey, President Iona University
 'Building a Bright Future for Irish America —
 Challenges and Opportunities'
Introduced by Assemblymember Amy Paulin, Scarsdale, NY

SPECIAL AWARDEES
THE BLACK AND THE GREEN BRIDGE-BUILDER AWARD
 Sonnie W. Hereford IV

SPIRIT OF IRELAND AWARD
GRADAM SPIORAD NA HÉIREANN
 Theresa Tobin, Chief of Interagency Operations, NYPD

WINGS OF IRISH AMERICA AWARD
 Jeff Wright, Director of Sales North America, Aer Lingus

PRESENTATION OF CAMPFIRE CARA MEDALS
 Presented to Champions of Irish America

2:30pm: **Rob Walsh Neighbourhood Tour**
 Iona University - New Rochelle Town & Gown

5pm: **Big Irish Campfire Farewell Finale**
 Iona University Pipe Band
 Vote of Thanks to Iona University: Brendan Cremins,
 Business Development Executive Leader,
 Gartner, Washington D.C.
 Presentation of Irish Echo Person of the Year Award
 to Christine Kinealy

Ticket and Advertising Information

To advertise in our special online and print brochure:

Full Page: \$1,500 **Half Page:** \$800 **Quarter Page:** \$425

Tickets may be purchased via our website: www.irishecho.com/events

Conference only: \$65.00

Luncheon only: \$120.00

Full Pass - Conference & Luncheon: \$170.00

Contact Information

TEL (1)- 212-482-4818 Monday - Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM • **Email:** moboyle@irishecho.com

Shape the Future of Irish America



CAMPFIRE LUNCHEON

August 19, 2022 • 1.00pm

Iona University, New Rochelle, NY

Keynote Speaker:

Seamus Carey, President, Iona University

To include presentations of Campfire Cara Medals

TICKET PRICE: \$120

Pair of Tickets \$230 • Table for \$1,100

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