



# IrishEcho

**Big Irish Campfire 2021**  
**10am-4pm,**  
**Rosie O'Gradys, New York, NY**  
**Friday 27 August**  
**Hybrid**  
**Followed by Gala Dinner**  
**honoring The Rebuilders (6-9pm)**



Community &  
Irish Centers



Festivals &  
Parades



Culture &  
Arts



An Ghaeilge



Sport



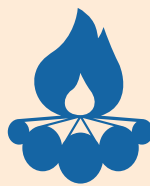
Media



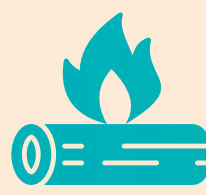
Heritage



Community  
Service



Tourism



Business



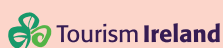
Government



## Programme

[irishecho.com/campfire](https://irishecho.com/campfire) **#IrishCampfire**

### HEADLINE PARTNERS



### SESSION PARTNERS





- 10am**      **Opening Address:** Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato, Assembly District 23, New York, NY  
**Welcome from the New York Irish:** Ciaran Madden, Consul General of Ireland in New York.
- 10:15am**    **Rebuilding Community: A Call to Action for Irish American Colleges**  
Chair Rob Walsh, Special Advisor to President of Manhattan College  
Panel: Katie Conboy, President, St Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN  
Seamus Carey, President Iona College, New Rochelle, NY  
Lori Gallagher, Director William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies, University of St Thomas, Houston, TX  
Fr Joseph McShane, President Fordham University, NY
- 10:45am**    **Fuelling the Revival: Small Businesses at the Heart of Prosperous Communities**  
Chair: Brian Moran, Small Business Edge Podcast  
Panel: Kathleen Maguire, First Contact NY  
Conor Hawkins, GM Curtiss Hotel, Buffalo, NY  
Kathy Bellwoar, PPT Consulting, Philadelphia, PA  
Larry O'Toole, President, Gentle Giant Moving Company, Boston, MA
- 11:15am**    **When the Healing Has Begun: Irish American Arts as Post-Pandemic Tonic**  
Chair: Maria Deasy, Chair Irish American Writers and Artists Inc.  
Panel: Clodagh Bowyer, Deputy Director Irish Screen Ireland, Los Angeles  
J.R. Sullivan, Interim Artistic Director, Irish Theatre of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Representative of Maine Irish Heritage Center, Portland, ME  
Larry Kirwan, Author, Playwright, Singer-Songwriter, New York, NY
- 11:45am**    **Bouncing Back: Reinvigorating our Irish Museums, Arts and Heritage Centers**  
Chair Elizabeth Stack, Executive Director Irish American History Museum, Albany, NY  
Panel: Maureen Kennedy, Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati, OH  
Kevin McCluskey, President East Side Irish Club, Cleveland, OH  
Natalie Nugent-O'Shea, Executive Director Celtic Junction Arts Centre, St Paul, MN  
Representative of Irish American Cultural Center of New England, Canton, MA
- 12:15pm**   **Rebuilding the Irish American Community: Irish Organisations Rising to the Challenge**  
**Introductory Presentation by Daniel O'Connell**  
Chair: Daniel O'Connell, President Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Panel: Pat Uniacke, San Francisco GAA, Chair San Francisco Irish Famine Memorial Committee, Past-President GAA North America, San Francisco, CA  
Caitriona Clarke, Chairperson Aisling Irish Center, Yonkers, NY  
Representative of Irish American Business Chamber and Network, Philadelphia, PA  
Maura Clare, Treasurer, Irish American Network U.S.A, CT
- 12:45**      **Irish America Giving Back: A Shoulder to Lean on for The Irish Diaspora**  
Chair: Siobhán Dennehy, Executive Director Emerald Isle Immigration Center, Queen's County, NY  
Panel: Emily Ashinhurst, Executive Director, Irish Diaspora Center, Havertown, PA  
Marilyn Madigan, Vice President Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Anne Cassidy-Carew, President United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA  
Gwen Glazier, President The Women of Irish Heritage Inc, Northern New Jersey, NJ

- 1:10pm. The Campaign to save the American Irish Historical Society headquarters.**  
Sophie Colgan, Host Navigating New York podcast.
- 1:15pm Tús Úr: Lessons from Lockdown: How to Build on Increased Interest in Irish Language Across America**  
Fáilte: Introduction by Representative of Foras na Gaeilge  
Chair: Caoimhe Nic Giollarnáith, Irish Network NYC  
Panel: Vincent Beach, Chairman St Pat's-St Jarlath's GAC, Cleveland, OH  
Prof Keola Donaghy, University of Hawai'i, Maui College, Big Island, HI  
Liam Guidry, Rúnaí/Secretary, Dáltaí na Gaeilge, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Caitríona Weafer, Uachtarán/President, Conradh na Gaeilge, Los Angeles, CA
- 1:45pm Irish American Solidarity in the Workplace: Revamping Professional Irish Networks for a New Era**  
Chair: Michael O'Brien, Partner Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC, Philadelphia, PA.  
Panel: John O'Brien, Editor ilrish, Cleveland, OH  
Jennifer Frankola, President Brehon Law Society of New York, New York, NY  
Peter F. Whalen, President Grand Council of United Emerald Societies, New York, NY  
Jennifer Flynn, Section Manager, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Con Edison. Member Emerald Society of Con Ed. P
- 2:15pm A Camino for our Times: On the Trail of Frederick Douglass in Dublin, Belfast and New York**  
Chair: Senator Tim Kennedy  
Panel: Gerry Adams  
Prof Christine Kinealy, Director Institute of Ireland's Great Hunger, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT
- 2:45 Ní Neart go Cur Le Chéile: In Unity is Strength – Reconnecting Irish American Veterans**  
Chair: Jay Hart, Chief of Police, Torrance Police Department, CA  
Panel: Lt. Col. Michael Shinnars (rtd.), Alexandria, VA
- 3:15pm Lessons from Lockdown: A New Toolbox to Rebuild Transatlantic Bridges**  
Chair Jim Lamb, President Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA  
Panel: Ciara Archer, Operations Director, Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library, Phoenix, AZ (or center representative)  
Prof Jim Walsh, University of Colorado, Rocky Mountain Irish Roots Collective, Denver, CO  
Andrew Elliott, Director Northern Ireland Bureau, Washington D.C.  
Paddy Meskell, Chair Emeritus, Solas Nua, Washington D.C.
- 3:45pm Festivals in Flux: Resuscitating our Irish Fests**  
Chair: Andy Cooney, Troubadour, NY  
Panel: Caron McMahon, Irish Heritage Club, Seattle, WA  
Mike Mitchell, Executive Director Irish Fest, Milwaukee, WI  
Kieran McGirl, Board Member Irish American Building Society, Great Irish Fair of New York, NY
- 4:15pm Close.**
- 6pm Gala Dinner honouring The Irish Rebuilders**