

# City Gallery to get a €2.5m facelift

A €2.5m overhaul is planned for Limerick City Gallery of Art at Pery Square which proposes to

give visitors a more well-rounded experience of the arts, writes Aine Fitzgerald.

Included in the plans for the centre is an extension to the cafe and a permanent art collection

storage facility, workshop and activity room.

"If given the go-ahead, the new-look gallery will provide visitors with a more pleasant, well-rounded experience harping back to the days of the old library where people can sit and relax and go and enjoy an exhibition if they so wish," said curator Mike Fitzpatrick.

"At the moment we have a chronic shortage of storage space, so this development will focus on increasing the use of space and visitor services," he said.

In accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, Limerick City Council intend replacing existing floor finishes to ground floor galleries, replacing the roof glazing over the east gallery, refurbishing the east gallery and upgrading the existing services in general.

An announcement concerning funding for the project is expected from the Cultural Access Scheme under the Department of the Arts in late spring.

If funding and planning permission are granted, work is expected to commence on the development late in the year.

It is estimated that the work will take one year to complete.

"If we are lucky and get the funding we will probably have to relocate while the work is being completed and pursue off-site projects," said Mr Fitzpatrick.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection at Limerick City Council's planning and development department, City Hall, Merchant's Quay, from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm for a period of four weeks which began on December 18.

Submissions or observations on the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is situated may be made in writing to Limerick City Council, planning and development department, City Hall before 4pm on February 8.

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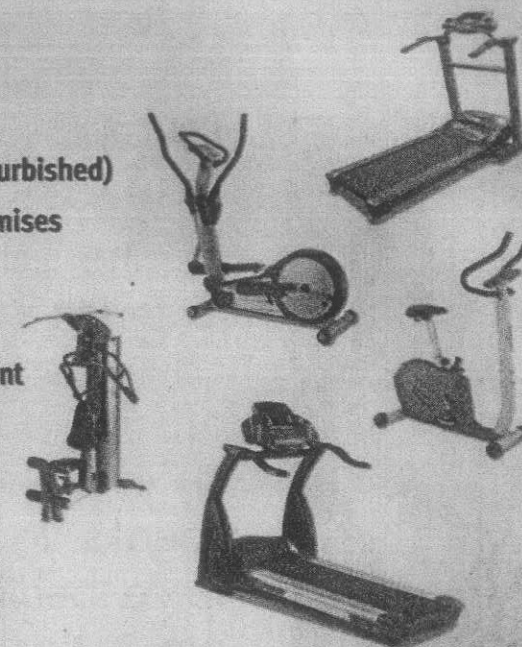
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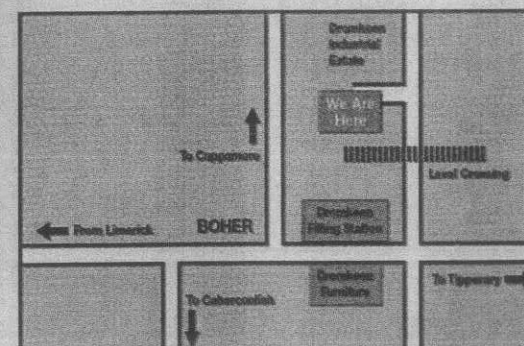
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