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# Million makeover for 60-year old city gallery

by Marie Hobbins

GOOD news for art lovers and all those who take pride in the city's more attractive civic buildings is that a government allocation of one million euro will speed up the development and upgrading plans for Limerick City Gallery of Art on Pery Square.

City Council has planned a new cafe on the north side of the gallery, a storage space for the gallery's prestigious permanent collection, workshop and activity space on the gallery's east side, new floor finishes on the gallery's ground floor, replacement of roof glazing over the east gallery and refurbishment of the east gallery.

The refurbishments will be carried out to comply with requirements attached to a protected structure, such as the gallery building. Congratulating the gallery's curator, Mike Fitzpatrick and his team, there was no mistaking the genuine delight of Defence Minister, Willie O'Dea, that the landmark Limerick building has received the required funding.

"I was very pleased to be in a position to assist Mike and his team through my discussions with my cabinet colleague, Minister for Arts, Seamus Brennan. The grant is well deserved and will allow the people of Limerick and beyond continue

to enjoy the magnificence of the city gallery," he told the Limerick Post.

"Among the new improvements there will also be a new library, reading area, upgrading of the administration area and overall renovation, all of which will ensure that the appeal of the gallery is enhanced for the benefit of us all, young and old.

"The gallery's exhibitions are renowned and are always well received and this grant will now ensure this continues - I'm really delighted," enthused the minister.

Equally chuffed, Mr Fitzpatrick told the Limerick Post that although there is yet no firm date for commencement of work on the gallery, he and his staff are

highly encouraged and looking forward to the building's enhancement.

"This is particularly pleasing, given that the gallery will be celebrating its 60th birthday this year - the upgrading works will be a huge step forward and will make the building even more attractive for everyone who visits."



# Adare's Old Creamery

