



VIRTUAL

GOLDEN  
BRIDGES

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Connecting Boston,  
Massachusetts and Irish America  
with Northwest Ireland

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Diaspora



Community



Business



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The 12th annual Golden Bridges Conference and Awards will take place virtually on 20 November 2020 from our broadcast studio in the Guildhall, Derry. Our purpose is to build mutually beneficial links of community, culture, commerce and education across the Atlantic.

Eastern Standard Time

Irish Standard Time

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Publisher, The Irish Echo</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>
<b>8:35am</b>	<b>Welcome to the Twelfth Annual Golden Bridges Conference</b> Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston (Invited) Cllr Rena Donaghy, Cathaoirleach, Donegal County Council Cllr Brian Tierney, Mayor of Derry and Strabane District Council	<b>1:35pm</b>
<b>8:50am</b>	<b>Dispatches/Teachtaireachtaí</b> Lament for the Wild Geese performed by flutist Amy Gillen	<b>1:50pm</b>
<b>8:55am</b>	<b>A Connected Northwest, Strength in Alliances and Strategic Partnerships, INW a Unique Post-Brexit Opportunity, Bridge to UK and EU</b> John Kelpie, CEO, Derry and Strabane District Council and John McLaughlin, CEO, Donegal County council in conversation with Jeananne Craig, Journalist	<b>1:55pm</b>
<b>9:15am</b>	<b>A Northwest Ireland Gateway through the Brexit Challenge.</b> Introduction: Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister for Agriculture Chair: Paul McFadden, Broadcaster Sinéad McLaughlin, MLA, SDLP, Foyle Pearse Doherty TD, Donegal	<b>2:15pm</b>
<b>9:50am</b>	<b>Dispatches/Teachtaireachtaí.</b> Danny Boy performed by City of Derry International Choir Festival Bád Eddie	<b>2:50pm</b>
<b>9:55am</b>	<b>When Given Lemons...How Innovative Small Businesses Survived the Covid-19 Challenge</b> Chair: Sonia Nic Giolla Easbaig, Founder Ligid TV, Donegal Laura Hamilton, President, Boston Irish Business Association, Boston Kieran Kennedy, Managing Director, O'Neills Sportswear Jennifer Neff, Co-Founder & CEO, Elemental Software John McDermott Production Manager, RAP (Rapid Action Packaging), Donegal Mairead Anderson, Boathouse Restaurant/SeaShack, Killybegs, Co Donegal	<b>2:55pm</b>
<b>10:20am</b>	<b>The Bigger Picture: Why Culture Counts in the Time of Covid</b> Chair: Mary Cremin, Director Void Gallery, Derry Maggie Maguire, An t-Acadamh Ceoil, Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, Derry Joyce Linehan, Chief of Policy and Planning, City of Boston Úna Campbell, An Gailearaí, Donegal Tara Lynch, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Boston	<b>3:20pm</b>





Education



COVID-19



Tourism



Brexit

Eastern Standard Time

Irish Standard Time

10:45am **Three: Arranmore Island – the Most Connected Island in the World.**

3:45pm

10:50am **Dispatches/Teachtaireachtaí**

3:50pm

Dave Mosley, CEO Seagate  
A Mhamaí Lig Mé chun Aonaigh, Amhráin Inis Eoghain  
Packie Bonner, former Ireland Goalkeeper  
Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Oideas Gael

11am **Testing Times**

4pm

Ray O'Hanlon, Editor, The Irish Echo, in conversation with  
Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney (Invited)

11:15am **Ulster University Gamechanger: New School of Medicine.**  
**Speaker:** Louise Dubras, School of Medicine, Ulster University

4:15pm

11:25am **Opportunity Amid Crisis: Remote Working  
and Natural Environment playing to Advantage of Northwest?**

4:25pm

**Chair:** Dr Sandra Moffett, Acting Head of Department of  
Global Business & Enterprise, Ulster University  
Sean Moynihan, Principal, Moynihan Group, Boston  
Micheál Ó hEanaigh, CEO Údarás na Gaeltachta, Donegal  
Representative of Randox, Donegal (Invited)  
Aidan O'Kane, Director, Allstate NI  
Anne Marie Conlon, Head of Economic Development,  
Donegal County Council



11:50am **The Journey Back for Tourism: Investing Now for A  
Reimagined Visitor Experience**

4:50pm

**Chair:** Garvan O'Doherty, Hotelier, Derry  
Jim Carmody, GM Seaport Hotel, Boston  
Des Connolly, Financial Director, Vesada Private Limited  
Alison Metcalfe, Executive VP USA & Canada,  
Tourism Ireland  
James Doherty, CEO Sliabh Liag Distillers, Donegal



12:20pm **New Approach for a New Era: Northwest Gateway to  
Foreign and Indigenous Investment**

5:20pm

**Chair:** Paul Gosling, Author and Commentator  
Paul Hannigan, CEO LYIT, Donegal  
Peta Conn, Executive VP, Head of Americas Invest NI  
Prof. Liam Maguire, Executive Dean, Faculty of Computing,  
Engineering and Built Environment Ulster University  
David Roche, Director, FinTech Services, Prmerica  
Head of Corporate Social Responsibility  
Jessica Benson, VP, IDA Ireland, East Coast of the  
US and Canada



12:50pm **Dispatches/Teachtaireachtaí**

5:50pm

Irish Black Bottom performed Tara O'Grady  
Amazing Grace performed by City of Derry International Choir  
Festival which includes schools from Donegal, Strabane and Derry  
Ceol an Phíobaire performed by Aobha Ní Aragáin, Amhráin Inis Eoghain



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1pm

**Golden Bridges Annual Awards Presentation**

Opening Remarks: Laoise Moore, Irish Consul General in Boston

Guest speaker: Maura Healey, Attorney General,

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Featuring a special presentation on the Donegal Diaspora

Project by Joanne Kilmartin, Donegal County Council

**2020 Honorees**

Congressman Brendan Boyle

Kathy Savage, Recipient of the Dave Burke Award

Steve Burke, Irish Cultural Centre

Prof Christine Kinealy

Grace Cotter Regan, President Boston College High School

Senator Nick Collins, Massachusetts State Senate

Councilman Frank Baker, Boston City Council,

Pádraic McLaughlin, Buncrana & Boston, GAA

Mark Porter, Buncrana & Boston, Businessman, Director,

Irish Pastoral Centre, Boston & Cancer Research Fundraiser

Connemare Gaels, Boston

Joseph Burke, Deputy Secretary, International Business Development, Pennsylvania

6pm



John Donovan  
Maureen Bennett  
Sean Moynihan  
Nuala Friel Wright  
Eugene O'Flaherty  
Martina Curtin  
Sean Getchell  
Nuala McGowan  
John Foley