As we plan our route to 2040 it is vital that we recognize the significant role of the creative industries in transforming the global economy and providing huge employment opportunities.

Globally we Irish are recognized for our great contribution to Arts and Literature. We have also made great contributions to developments in science, medicine and technology driven by our innate creative capacity. Fuelled by this legacy today we see a burgeoning Irish economy trading globally and attracting to our shores the worlds most dynamic and innovative companies. Increasingly one of the primary reasons for Ireland being such an attractive base is the quality of our highly educated and creative workforce.

Through its 'Creative Ireland' initiative Ireland has recently instigated the idea of placing creativity at the centre of all Irish life. This progressive development with adequate investment and encouragement will see even greater momentum to resolving many of the worlds needs in 2040. With adequate supports, investments and infrastructure there is no doubting the leadership role that our creative community can play.

Adding to this magnificent legacy, Ireland today comprises a diverse multi-cultural society, which can only strengthen this creative dynamic. Modern and young, sharing a vision for an enlightened future, a progressive society and a world embracing human rights, these newer generations will be armed with advanced creative ideals through focusing on local communities engaged in creative enterprise. A society that is environmentally aware, sophisticated in its understanding of clean technologies, of a healthy soul and spirit with a desire to build a sustainable and humane world in 2040.

Central to fostering this great potential will be the input from our artistic and creative community in challenging and questioning what is outmoded, and proposing and presenting what is progressive.

'Smart City' not only relates to technologies but to accommodating happier and smarter citizens.

We will only reap what we sow.

Vincent McCabe