Biosphere Reserves are places, designated by UNESCO: to find creative, effective ways for people and nature to thrive together.

The functions of a Biosphere Reserve are:

**Conservation:** promoting the protection of landscapes, habitats, wildlife and cultural values

**Learning:** supporting education and research, for a better understanding of nature and global issues

**Development:** fostering a sustainable economy and society for people living and working in the area

What is a Biosphere?
Feasibility 2015 - Concept Design
Massing Model
The Discovery Centre & the Biosphere
View across the salt marsh
Key Themes & Stories

Key interpretive themes are the building blocks – the core content – on which the interpretive programme is based. They identify and convey the unique significances of Bull Island, Dublin Bay and the UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve.

The Big Idea

Theme 1: Natural Heritage

The accessible, ever-changing wild habitats of Bull Island and Dublin Bay encourage personal connections to nature and allow first-hand discovery of the diverse coastal and marine environments and species essential to the health of our planet and our own well-being.

Theme 2: Human Influence

The long history of human use and intervention in Dublin Bay offers opportunities to reflect on our changing attitudes towards the natural world and how our actions can both harm and benefit wildlife – the latter exemplified by man’s unintended creation of Bull Island.

Theme 3: The Biosphere

The UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve provides an invaluable local laboratory for studying global environmental issues that affect us all including biodiversity, sustainable development and climate change, contributing to and benefitting from a support network of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves worldwide facing similar challenges.
The Discovery Centre
Schematic Plan

1. External welcome signage
2. Lobby - possible intro projection on glazing
3. Reception - desk brought forward from columns to improve sightlines & staff interaction
4. Foyer - bench seating & introduction graphic
5. Sculpture courtyard

6. AV Theatre - short film
7. Bull Island Pod - mixed media interpretation
8. Biodiversity Wall - mixed media interpretation
9. The Nest - ‘Game of Consequences’ (guided)
10. A Global Network - large scale dynamic projection
11. The Hide - direct views of the mudflats & indirect (camera) views of other locations in Dublin Bay
12. A Human Landscape - mixed media interpretation
13. Lookout Tower - panoramic views

14. Buffer Zone - bench seating & large scale photographic prints updated seasonally
15. Temporary Exhibition - hired out regularly
16. ‘What's On?’ - digital visitor information updated weekly/monthly (events, wildlife, etc)
17. Research updates - digital signage on the outside of “The Nest”

18. Education room(s) - divided in two
19. Retail - visible from Reception with shared desk
20. Café
21. Winter Garden - inc Kiosk
The Nest

This circular space hosts a fully immersive, audio-visual, interactive "game of consequences" in which a small group of around 10-15 visitors at a time must collaborate.

AV Theatre

This short audio-visual presentation will give a broad overview of the Dublin Bay Biosphere, providing an impressionistic glimpse into its natural biodiversity and human uses.

The Hide

Located alongside the large windows looking out over the adjacent mudflats, this is a quiet space focused on observation and "learning by seeing".