

Development Committee

Tuesday, 31st October, 2006

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT (ARTS) SUB-COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Kelly (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Humphrey); and
Councillors Adamson, Cunningham, Hartley, Lavery,
Long, P. Maskey and McCausland.

In attendance: Ms. S. Wylie, Head of Urban Development;
Ms. S. Stevenson, Culture and Arts Manager;
Ms. C. O'Toole, Arts Development Officer; and
Miss L. Hillick, Committee Administrator.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Kirkpatrick and Stalford.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4th October were taken as read and signed as correct.

Councillor Hartley

The Chairman (Councillor Kelly), on behalf of the Sub-Committee, congratulated Councillor Hartley on the recent publication of his book on the history of the City Cemetery entitled "Written in Stone".

Meeting with the Minister with Responsibility for the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Ms. M. Eagle, M.P.

The Culture and Arts Manager advised the Sub-Committee that an All-Party deputation would meet with the Minister with responsibility for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Ms. M. Eagle, M.P., on 6th November in order to discuss the levels of investment in Belfast's Cultural Sector. She pointed out that, whilst the meeting would commence at 11.30 a.m., a briefing for the Members of the deputation would be held in the City Hall prior to that meeting at 10.30 a.m.

Noted.

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**Development (Arts) Sub-Committee,
Tuesday, 31st October, 2006**

Rolling Programme to Support Innovation in Culture and Arts

The Head of Urban Development reminded the Sub-Committee that, at its meeting on 2nd November, 2005, it had agreed to the implementation of the Rolling Programme to Support Innovation in Culture and Arts during the financial year 2006/2007.

She pointed out that the purpose of the Programme was to assist arts or heritage organisations to avail of opportunities for grant-aid which arise during the year, including those which became available after the closing date for Annual Funding or Multi-Annual Funding applications. Grants awarded through the scheme would range from £250 to £3,000.

She reported that the undernoted applications for funding under the terms of the Programme had been received:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Spanner in the Works	Costs associated with the performance of "Cuss the World" at the Adelaide Fringe Festival during March, 2007	£3,000	Funding of £2,960
Ulster Orchestra	Costs associated with a programme of community workshops and concerts	£3,000	Recommended not to award a grant on this occasion

The Sub-Committee adopted the recommendations.

Les Rencontres Networking Meeting

The Sub-Committee considered the undernoted report in relation to the Les Rencontres Networking Meeting:

"Relevant Background Information"

At Development (Arts) Sub Committee of 8 March 2006, Members agreed to support a Les Recontres networking meeting taking place in Belfast, 23 – 26 November 2006 by providing a venue and hospitality for delegates. The agreed budget was estimated at £5,000.

One of the three key partners of this event (Banlieues D'Europe) has received an offer of European Commission support towards this event; however this offer is conditional on cash contributions from other sources and excludes 'in kind' contributions. An 'in cash' contribution of £5,000 from Belfast City Council towards this conference would lever an additional 43% of funding from the European Commission, (this is the equivalent of £3,772), which is a significant part of the budget for the meeting. Belfast City Council would coordinate the venue and hospitality as planned, and Banlieues D'Europe would pay suppliers. They have offered written assurance and guarantees that there shall be no delays in their payments.

Key Issues

The key partners in this event are: Les Rencontres, Banlieues D'Europe and Community Arts Forum. Officers from the Culture and Arts Unit have had an advisory and guiding role since the planning stages of this event. There are existing long-standing links between the partners and Belfast City Council and the event is an exciting networking opportunity under an important and uniting theme. The event should attract positive international profile for Belfast, as well as attracting international delegates and associated spend in the city over the 4 days.

Belfast City Council has agreed to provide a welcome speech to the delegates at City Hall, and the High Sheriff has agreed to welcome all the delegates at the networking dinner at City Hall on evening of 24 November 2006. Members are encouraged to attend and a programme will be circulated shortly.

Resource Implications

Financial

No additional financial resources required. The approved budget to be paid directly to Banlieues D'Europe as a contribution to the networking meeting.

Human Resources

This will be absorbed within the planned work of the Culture and Arts Unit.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members

1. Note the above report.

2. **Agree that our financial contribution of £5,000 (maximum) towards delivering this networking event can be paid directly to Banlieues D'Europe.**
3. **Agree that attendance at this networking meeting to be considered an approved duty and to approve any expenditure relating to travel, subsistence and hospitality arising from the decision."**

The Sub-Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

Artist in Residence

The Sub-Committee considered a report in relation to the work which was underway currently and that which had been completed by the Artist in Residence and, following discussion, noted the contents of the report and agreed that Dr. E. Wheeler, the Artist in Residence, be invited to attend a future meeting in order to provide a presentation in relation to the work completed to date.

Forum for Local Government and the Arts

The Sub-Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th October, it had agreed that:

- (i) the Council participate on the Forum for Local Government and the Arts for one year, with a report in relation to the Council's participation in future years being submitted after that period;
- (ii) it be represented on the Forum by the Chairman (or her nominee) and an appropriate officer from the Culture and Arts Unit; and
- (iii) clarification be obtained in relation to the membership fees payable by the Council and any in-kind contributions to the Forum and reported back to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

The Culture and Arts Manager reported that the Council's membership fee would be waived for a period of one year, although it was anticipated that the Council would be requested to make an in-kind contribution through the hosting of a meeting of the Forum. She reported further that, should the Council continue to participate in the Forum after the one year trial period, it was anticipated that a membership fee of 50% of the normal annual rate would be required to be paid for the 2007/2008 financial year, with full membership fees payable thereafter.

The Sub-Committee noted the contents of the report.

Skills Development for the Cultural Sector

The Sub-Committee agreed to note the contents of the report in relation to skills development within the Culture, Arts and Heritage Sectors.