

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber, City Hall and remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2022 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Update on Artist Studios and Makers Space (Pages 1 - 10)**
3. **Extended Cultural Programme (Pages 11 - 18)**



Subject:	Cultural Strategy Update – artist studios and maker spaces
Date:	Wednesday 22 nd June 2022 Monday, 20 June 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the dedicated programme of work and funding schemes to support artist-led organisations in the city
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the contents of this report and agree the recommendations for artist studio grants, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in February 2022, members agreed to open a new funding scheme for artist led organisations

	<p>to provide financial and development support for this sector. Members agreed to allocate £150,000 to this programme as follows:</p> <p>Strand One - Organisational Funding: £100,000</p> <p>Strand Two - Strategic Review: £30,000</p> <p>Strand Three – Micro Grants: £20,000</p>
3.29	<p>Strand one: organisational funding –A new grant scheme, entitled “<i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23</i>” was opened on 12th May 2022 and closed on 31st May 2022. The purpose of this strand of work is to provide financial and developmental support to organisations similar to the support offered under cultural multi-annual grants (CMAG).</p>
3.30	<p>The Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 scheme was advertised widely. The information and application details were emailed directly to a GDPR compliant mailing list representing over 370 organisations from across the cultural and creative sectors. Two online information sessions were held in advance of the deadline.</p>
3.31	<p><u>Criteria for Decision making</u></p> <p>The criteria and guidance for Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 applicants are included in Appendices 1 and 2. Assessments were made, and scoring applied under four key areas of criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit with our investment aims, & themes 3 & 4, of cultural strategy “A City Imagining” • Need and potential impact • Value for money • High quality organisational development plan <p>Assessments were made only on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation such as business plans and strategies.</p>
3.32	<p><u>Assessment</u></p> <p>A summary of recommended grants and proposed grant recipients is included at Appendix 1. A summary of award descriptions is included in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The unit received 8 applications for Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants, requesting a total of £147,620.89. The scoring threshold for award of funding was those applications that scored over 65%. The recommendation is that we fund 8 organisations, with support of £100,000.</p>

3.33	<p>Strand two: strategic review - Members will be aware that In line with the cultural mapping and the work undertaken to date, Committee approved £30k towards a strategic review of artist studios and maker-spaces in Belfast. A tender has been drafted by the Culture Team and an invitation to quote issued. This research to be conducted over the coming months, with a number of long-term recommendations presented to Committee in autumn 2022.</p>
3.34	<p>Strand Three – Micro Grants – Members will be aware that consultation and engagement with the sector demonstrated a need for more agile funding schemes that are available year-round and operate at a micro-grant level. Members approved a pilot micro grants scheme in February 2022 to support career development and support for individual artists working within artist-led organisations. Subsequently, the “<i>Micro-Grant Programme for Creative Practitioners</i>” programme was opened on 22nd May 2022 with an information session for the sector the same day.</p>
3.36	<p>A maximum of £1,000 will be awarded to each applicant within one financial year and a total fund of £20,000 has been allocated to this scheme. This scheme will operate on a rolling basis until March 2023 or until the fund is allocated.</p> <p>Applications will be scored against the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and ambition to develop creative practice or professional development 2. Need and potential impact 3. Potential impact against aims of the grant 4. Potential impact against the aims of Theme Three of the cultural strategy <i>A City Imagining</i> 5. Potential to develop new innovative or collaborative approaches and benefit the wider sector 6. Budget and timeline, value for money <p>13 applications have been received in this initial round, with scoring panels to assess in week commencing 13th June 2022.</p>
3.37	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>An allocation of £100,000 is recommended to “<i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23</i>”. These activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2022/23 budget for the Culture and Tourism section of the Economic Development division of the Place and Economy Departmental budget in line with existing approvals.</p>

3.38	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i> has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). Specific initiatives as required will be subject to a further equality screening.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: <i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 - Recommended Awards</i></p> <p>Appendix 2: <i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 - Award Descriptions</i></p>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3, 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3, 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Extended Cultural Programme Update
Date:	22 June 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - update Members on the dedicated programme of work relating to capacity building and the resultant extended cultural programme feeding 'Belfast Imagining' our year of culture in the city.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the contents of this report and progress against the delivery of capacity building and the extended cultural programme - Approve the programme contained at appendix A regarding the extended cultural programme and associate expenditure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional Irish groups and activities - £100,000 - Minority Ethnic groups and activities - £50,000 - LGBTQ+ groups and activities - £50,000
	Page 5
	Main report

3.0	
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Following a discussion at Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum in February 2022, officers were asked to formulate a proposed programme of events to be organised by Council in partnership with local organisations to celebrate the city’s cultural heritage. That led to officers making recommendations at a meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in February 2022, for a cultural programme to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural engagement programmes with community participants - Cultural showcases open to the wider public - Cultural connections programme including events focussed on fusion and shared heritage - Celebration of the city’s recent designation as a UNESCO City of Music through increasing opportunities to promote the city’s music heritage. <p>Specifically, members will be aware that funding was approved for this activity amounting to,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional Irish groups and activities - £100,000 - Minority Ethnic groups and activities - £50,000 - LGBTQ+ groups and activities - £50,000 <p>3.2 Subsequently, a proposed multi-strand programme to develop cultural and community capacity has been developed by officers in the Culture Development Team. The programme is based on existing research and evidence of need, and on similar projects such as A City Imagining leadership and micro-grants focused on the broad Unionist community.</p> <p>The programme adheres to the principles of the Good Relations Strategy, namely Outcome 5 of that seeks the creation of “An intercultural city and respectful cultural expression within the rule of law”. The programme also supports the aims of the A City Imagining cultural strategy and the Belfast Agenda. It will also complement the roll-out of the co-design framework, due to be presented at August committee.</p> <p>In addition, the programme will offer the opportunity for local people, particularly those from the target communities, to experiment with cultural expression and test drive new ideas and projects with a view to building civic activation and participation in Belfast Imagining 2024, our year of cultural and creative celebration in Belfast.</p> <p>3.3 The programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A series of civic-led events for each target group delivered in partnership with key festival organisations, using a co-design process and in partnership with local artists, communities and cultural organisations, to build capacity and confidence ahead of 2024 and prototype work for larger commissions as part of Belfast Imagining

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three new targeted Creative Practitioner Bursaries awarded to artists working in Residence with these three target groups via paired communities and festivals and on a multidisciplinary basis - LGBTQIA+ Programme Delivery via a bespoke action plan developed from, ongoing research regarding LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation in the city’s cultural offer - Utilising similar principles behind the current body of research on LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation, commission research into on visibility, participation and representation by Minority Ethnic groups across the city’s cultural sector and cultural offer. - Diversity of Language: Tying in with Council’s Language Strategy and Equality team commission research, recommendations, and pilot programmes exploring the diversity of language in our city through cultural activity - On-going engagement with target groups to co-design and co-create the action plans and recommendations coming from this programme of work - Engagement events with target groups, leading to civic engagement events / projects celebrating and showcasing target groups and Section 75 groups. <p>A breakdown of specific areas of spend, alongside further detail on proposals and their rationale, are included in Appendix A.</p> <p><u>Equality & Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All events and projects will take equality and good relations implications into account and will be reflected in any agreements issued to partner organisations. The underpinning ‘City Imagining Strategy’ was subject to EQIA and screening.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no new financial implications. A breakdown of specific areas of spend and resource requirement is included in Appendix 1.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Recommendations for extended cultural programme</p>
	None

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A - Recommendations for extended cultural programme

Project	Project Description	Rationale	Action required & time	Total Value
Co-design, curation and delivery of prototype events and programmes, for each of the three target groups	A series of civic-led events for each target group delivered in partnership with key festival and cultural organisations, using a co-design process and in partnership with local artists, communities and cultural organisations, to build capacity, partnerships and confidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will test drive co-design framework - Encourages people to think about how to express their culture - Gives small manageable budgets to local groups working at grassroots level - Contributes to action 1.3 of A City Imagining Cultural Strategy - will lead towards increased civic participation, strengthens capacity and experience of local groups, and encourages creativity and ideas for 2024 celebration of culture 	<p>Quotations sought in June 2022.</p> <p>Organisations to commission 5- 10 events to be co-designed and delivered from July 2022 to March 2023. With each organisation using £5,000 towards management and organisation costs. (£30,000 for each target group.)</p>	£90,000
3 Creative Practitioner Bursaries / Artist in Residence	Three new targeted Creative Practitioner Bursaries awarded to artists working in Residence with these three target groups via paired	- creates artists in residence to work with specific groups	Recruitment and selection to begin in June 2022. (£10,000 for each target group)	£30,000

	communities and festivals and on a multidisciplinary basis			
LGBTQIA+ Programme Delivery stage one	LGBTQIA+ Programme Delivery via a bespoke action plan developed from, ongoing research regarding LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation in the city's cultural offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - evidence based recommendations for capacity-building actions - maintains momentum of participation - enables testing of new ideas for projects and events - strengthens capacity and experience of local groups and individuals, and encourages creativity and ideas for 2024 celebration of culture 	Report due October – roll out of programme delivery stage one from October 2022 – March 2023	£10,000
Minority Ethnic Research and Recommendations	Utilising similar principles behind the current body of research on LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation, commission research into on visibility, participation and representation by Minority Ethnic groups across the city's cultural sector and cultural offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is no relevant research to inform us on visibility or participation by minority ethnic groups in the city's culture - generates evidence of need and demand for future investment and support - supports action 10.3 of A City Imagining Cultural Strategy 	Quotations issued in July 22. Research completed by Dec 2023.	£10,000
Language as Culture: research, recommendation, and programme delivery	Diversity of Language: Tying in with Council's Language Strategy and Equality team commission research, recommendations, and pilot programmes exploring the diversity of language in our city through cultural activity	Supports action 3.6 of A City Imagining Cultural Strategy	Quotations issued in July 2022 for co-design and delivery of programme in partnership with relevant organisations and festivals	£30,000

Engagement events with target groups	On-going engagement with target groups to co-design and co-create the action plans and recommendations coming from this programme of work. Leading to civic engagement events projects celebrating and showcasing target groups and Section 75 groups.	A selection of cultural showcases highlighting partnerships to express cultural diversity in the city. This work will be featured in existing festivals and works within Traditional Irish Groups and will assist a greater reflection of the diversity inherent in current Irish Culture. The work will form part of the prototyping and development to feed larger commissions in 2024.	Agree that this resource be used by Culture Team for series of engagement events featuring works by each of the three groups in partnership with Traditional Irish Groups Events to be completed by March 2023.	£30,000
--------------------------------------	--	---	---	---------

This page is intentionally left blank