

1. To what extent do you agree with the mission, vision and values

- Strongly agree X
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Do you have any further comments on the mission, vision and values?

We commend ACNI in commitment to developing and championing the arts through investment and advocacy. We believe that a vibrant arts sector is essential for fostering creativity, enhancing well being and driving social and economic prosperity. As stewards of our city's cultural landscape we understand the importance of expertise in ensuring the highest quality of artistic experiences for our residents and visitors. We are dedicated to creating opportunities for participation and engagement across all segments of our community.

Collaboration is essential for leveraging resources and expertise to maximise the impact of arts initiatives. BCC is committed to partnering with ACNI, local arts organisations and artists, and other stakeholders to foster a thriving arts ecosystem that benefits our city and its residents.

The mission, vision and values align well with those of Belfast's cultural strategy 2020-2030, *A City Imagining*; and our community plan the Belfast Agenda, which recognises the power of culture and arts to help make our city and region a better place to live, work, and visit. Furthermore, the mission, vision and values complement our ongoing strategic outputs, including UNESCO City of Music plan, Belfast 2024 cultural programme, and Neighbourhood Tourism Plan. We look forward to continuing our partnership to advance the arts and cultural sector in Belfast and Northern Ireland.

2. To what extent do you agree with Outcome 1

*A more financially stable arts sector*

- Strongly agree X
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

3. To what extent do you agree with Outcome 2

*A sector that develops, looks after its people and is more inclusive*

- Strongly agree X
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

4. To what extent do you agree with Outcome 3

*A sector that is better supported to develop through experimentation and innovation*

- Strongly agree X

- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

5. To what extent do you agree with Outcome 4

*A sector that contributes to social and economic benefits, and cares about the environment*

- Strongly agree x
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

6. To what extent do you agree with Outcome 5

*More people from all backgrounds can enjoy arts experiences*

- Strongly agree x
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

7. To what extent do you agree with Outcome 6

*A sector that is more valued across society and government*

- Strongly agree x
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Do you have any further comments on the outcomes or actions:

In alignment with Belfast City Council's cultural strategy, "A City Imagining," and our commitment to the delivery objectives of Belfast 2024, we fully support the endeavour to develop a more financially stable arts sector. Cultivating financial stability within the arts sector is paramount for sustaining and enhancing cultural vibrancy, creativity, and community engagement.

A financially stable arts sector not only ensures the longevity of artistic endeavours but also fosters economic growth and social cohesion within our city. It enables artists and cultural organizations to focus on their craft and innovation. This stability encourages diverse artistic expressions, fosters talent development, and attracts investment, tourism, and new audiences to Belfast.

Moreover, financial stability allows for greater resilience during times of crisis, ensuring that the arts continue to thrive even in challenging circumstances. By investing in the financial stability of the arts sector, we are investing in the well-being and prosperity of our communities, fostering a dynamic

cultural landscape that enriches the lives of all residents and visitors alike.

We fully endorse the need to develop a sector that prioritises the well being of its people and embraces inclusivity. Nurturing a sector that looks after its people is essential for fostering creativity, resilience and sustainability. By prioritising the welfare of artists, cultural works and practitioners we create an environment where individuals can thrive, innovate and contribute meaningfully to our cultural landscape ultimately delivering against our vision of a vibrant and diverse Belfast. Embracing inclusivity ensures that the richness of our cultural heritage is celebrated and that all members of our community have equitable access to participate and engage in cultural experiences, opportunity and resources.

Through collaborative efforts and meaningful partnerships we can break down barriers, amplify marginalised voices and create a more inclusive and equitable arts sector that reflects the true essence of Belfast's identity.

We recognize that fostering an environment of experimentation and innovation is crucial for the continued growth and vitality of our cultural sector. Innovation drives progress, and by encouraging experimentation, we not only empower artists and cultural organizations to push boundaries but also cultivate a dynamic and resilient cultural ecosystem. Through initiatives such as providing funding for innovative projects, facilitating collaboration between artists and technologists, and offering support for transformation, we aim to nurture creativity and drive positive change within the cultural sector. These are core principles that have underpinned the development and delivery of Belfast 2024, our major cultural programme, which will lead to positive multiple legacies for the city.

In alignment with the objectives of Belfast 2024, our city's cultural strategy emphasizes the importance of nurturing a creative ecosystem that generates social cohesion, fosters innovation, and drives economic growth. We recognize the significant role that the arts and culture play in enriching people's lives, enhancing well-being, and creating opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Moreover, we are fully committed to the principles of "People, Planet, and Place" as the underpinning values guiding our city's development and the Belfast 2024 programming. In line with these principles, we believe that a sustainable cultural sector is essential for the well-being of our communities and the health of our environment. By integrating environmental considerations into cultural programming, infrastructure development, and organizational practices, we can minimize our ecological footprint and contribute to a greener, more resilient city.

Regarding the statement concerning the accessibility of arts experiences to people from all backgrounds, we wholeheartedly agree that fostering inclusivity is paramount in enriching our cultural landscape. Our commitment to this principle is embedded within the Belfast Agenda and Belfast's Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 *A City Imagining*, and is aligned with delivery objectives and strategic outputs such as Belfast 2024

Our Cultural Strategy, *A City Imagining* emphasizes the importance of democratizing access to the arts, ensuring that individuals from diverse backgrounds can actively participate and engage with cultural experiences. Through strategic partnerships, community engagement initiatives, and targeted programming, we aim to break down barriers to access and create opportunities for everyone to enjoy and contribute to our vibrant arts scene.

Belfast 2024 further underscores our dedication to inclusivity through its core principle of co-creation and open procurement of projects, and by prioritizing projects that promote cultural diversity, foster social cohesion, and empower marginalized communities. By investing in grassroots organizations, supporting emerging artists, and facilitating cross-cultural exchanges, we strive to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable cultural ecosystem.

In alignment with these overarching frameworks, we are fully committed to collaborating with the Arts Council Northern Ireland and other stakeholders to advance our shared goal of expanding access to arts experiences for people from all backgrounds. By working together, we can harness the transformative power of the arts to build a more connected, resilient, and inclusive society.

We wholeheartedly endorse the notion that the arts and cultural sector should be more valued across society and government. Our city's cultural strategy, *A City Imagining*, embodies this sentiment by recognizing the integral role that arts and culture play in shaping Belfast's identity, fostering creativity, and promoting social cohesion.

As we look forward to the delivery objectives outlined in Belfast 2024, it becomes even more apparent that the arts are not merely a luxury but a fundamental component of a thriving and inclusive society. Through initiatives such as cultural festivals, community arts projects, major cultural events, and public art installations, Belfast continues to demonstrate the transformative power of the arts in enriching lives, stimulating economic growth, and bridging divides.

However, for the sector to truly flourish, it requires robust support and recognition from both society and government. This includes adequate funding, policies that prioritize cultural development, and partnerships that foster collaboration between government agencies, cultural organizations, and communities.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Arts Council Northern Ireland to champion the cause of valuing the arts across all sectors of society and government. By doing so, we can ensure that Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole continue to be vibrant, innovative, and culturally rich places to live, work, study, invest and visit.

Belfast City Council fully supports and welcomes the objective outlined in the draft strategy and stands ready to collaborate with the Arts Council Northern Ireland and other stakeholders to achieve these shared objectives.

8. What would you view as the 3 most important themes associated with the draft final 10 year strategy

- A more financially stable arts sector
- A sector that develops, looks after its people and is more inclusive
- A sector that is better supported to develop through experimentation and innovation
- A sector that contributes to social and economic benefits, and cares about the environment
- More people from all backgrounds can enjoy arts experiences
- A sector that is more valued across society and government

