



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Portrait of a Nation
Date:	15 October 2008
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern Director of Development ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Managing Director Waterfront Hall and Ulster Halls, ext 1401

Relevant Background Information

Belfast City Council has been approached by the regional Heritage Lottery Fund, on behalf of the Liverpool Culture Company (LCC). As part of Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations LCC together with the HLF are organizing a national youth project entitled 'Portrait of a Nation'.

'Portrait of a Nation' was created to explore young peoples' views on identity, heritage and culture across the UK, and is to feature projects from 17 cities. In May this year, as part of the LCC/HLF horizontal scanning process for this nationwide project, they identified the Waterfront's Urban Arts Academy (UAA) as an example of a suitable project for the city that could be used as the basis for Belfast's involvement in the Festival event.

Belfast Waterfront has organized the Urban Arts Academy (UAA) for 4 years and is a creative training project aimed at young people and delivered through Belfast Waterfront Hall. Since its inception in 2005, over 1000 young people have attended training courses in disciplines such as DJing, Rock Music, Music Production, Computer animation, Graphic Design, Photography, Radio, TV and Film Production, Aerosol Art, Street Theatre, Journalism, Fashion Design and Comic Book Illustration.

Partners of the Urban Arts Academy have included locally based artists and national broadcasters including the BBC, Channel 4, Sonic Academy, Soundlines, Belfast Exposed, Oh Yeah, Northern Ireland Music Commission, Bruised fruit, The Beat, Blaze FX and Cando Interactive.

'Portrait of a Nation' will bring together a total of 17 cities and 22 different projects (5 of which have been based in Liverpool) as part of the closing celebrations of Liverpool's year of Culture.

Other cities participating include: Liverpool, Bradford, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, Canterbury, London, Brighton, Birmingham, Derby, Norwich, Oxford, Inverness, Brighton, Bristol and Cardiff.
The event will take place in St George's Hall, Liverpool on 2 December.

Key Issues

The Liverpool showcase will present up to forty young people from Belfast with an exciting opportunity to showcase their project to a wider audience, and provide a positive PR opportunity for Belfast City Council and the city.

It is envisaged that the format of the project that will be held in Liverpool will be based around delivering a mini Urban Arts Academy.

Core elements will include:

- Performance by rock band from 2007 UAA
- Performance by DJ
- Performance by trans 2008 lap off champion (form of Djing on a computer)
- Live drawing
- Aerosol art demonstration
- Photographic exhibition
- DVD made by young people about 'their' Belfast
- Street theatre performance
- Live drumming

Heritage Lottery and Liverpool Culture Company have indicated that they will be issuing invitations to attend the showcase event in St George's Hall on the 2 December and would like the Lord Mayor and appropriate City Council members to attend.

Resource Implications

Staffing

Two members of Waterfront staff have been working on the planning, organization and delivery of project. In addition, travel for the group will require additional Belfast City Council staff resources to travel with the group to ensure compliance with child protection.

Financial

Since the Heritage Lottery Fund and Norfolkline are meeting most of the costs associated with the participation of the deputation from Belfast in his event, the cost to the Council should not exceed £750.

Recommendations

That Members note the contents of the report and approve the attendance of the Lord Mayor, Chair and Deputy Chair, or their nominees, to the showcase event in Liverpool, together with a maximum of five officers, as appropriate.

Key to Abbreviations

HLF – Heritage Lottery Company
LCC – Liverpool Culture Company
UAA – Urban Arts Academy
PON – Portrait of a Nation

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