



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure
Date:	20 April 2009
Reporting Officer:	Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Director of Development, ext 3470
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Relevant Background Information

The Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Culture Arts and Leisure is undertaking an inquiry into 'The funding of the Arts in Northern Ireland,' see Appendix 1 for terms of reference. As a public funding body for arts in Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council has received a request to respond with written evidence.

The inquiry opened on Monday 2 February 2009 and the closing date for submissions for a response was 27 February 2009, with an extension for large organisations such as local councils.

Key Issues

The Culture and Arts Unit collated all relevant information and submitted a written response on Friday 13 March 2009 with the caveat that Belfast City Council has yet to formally consider the draft submission. See Appendix 2 for proposed written response from Belfast City Council.

On the 25 March 2009 a representative from The Culture Arts and Leisure Committee attended the 'Participate Conference, Harnessing Cultural Value in Tough Economic Times' which had keynote speakers and a panel discussion and was organised by Council. The conference had four different topics relating to; Value of Culture and Arts, How we Value the Arts, Can we Afford the Arts Anymore? and The Public Value of Culture Events. The conference was practical, academic and inspirational. Subsequently, Belfast City Council has received a request by the Committee to provide transcripts of the day to add to the funding inquiry.

The Culture Arts and Leisure Committee has invited Belfast City Council to make a presentation on the 28 May 2009. It has been requested that this be a ten minute oral presentation with the opportunity for members of the Committee to ask questions for approximately 30 minutes. The presentation will take place in Enniskillen.

Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Members consider the proposed response submitted to the funding inquiry and make any amendments or changes necessary.2. Agree that Council provides a transcript of the Participate Conference for the funding inquiry.3. That Belfast City Council make a presentation to the Culture Arts and Leisure Committee on the 28 May 2009, in Enniskillen. It is further recommended that the Chair and Deputy Chair make the presentation with 2 officers in attendance. |
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Documents Attached

Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference for funding inquiry Appendix 2 - Written response from Belfast City Council
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