



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Multi-Annual and Annual Funding for Culture and the Arts
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Shirley McCay, Director of Development, ext 3459
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kerrie Sweeney, Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager, ext 3586

### Relevant Background Information

Annual Funding for Culture and the Arts was established by Council to assist arts and heritage organisations by providing financial support on an annual basis. Multi-Annual Funding was established by Council to introduce longer-term sustainability to some of the city's flagship arts organisations.

This report provides the Development Committee with recommendations on applications made to Annual Funding for Culture and the Arts 2010-11. The closing date for applications under both schemes was Friday 11 December 2009. Assessments of the applications can be found in Appendix 4.

#### Multi-Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

At the Development Committee meeting of 14 November 2007, Members agreed the selection of 14 Multi-annual Funding clients. These clients entered in to a three-year funding agreement at a minimum annual level of £30,000. On 11 February 2009, the Development Committee agreed the selection of two additional Multi-annual Funding clients. These clients entered in to a two-year funding agreement.

#### Annual Funding for Culture and Arts

The deadline for applications to the 2010-11 Annual Funding was 12 noon on 11 December 2009. A total of sixty applications were received, compared to fifty-three in 2009-10.

Scores and recommendations for Annual Funding can be found in Appendix 3.

#### Criteria for Annual Funding for Culture and Arts 2010-11

The Culture and Arts Eligibility Criteria (shown in Appendix 1), approved by Members at the Development (Arts) Sub-committee of 20 September 2004, were devised in order to assist the Council to work in partnership with arts and heritage organisations in achieving its objectives. They reflect the themes of the Development Department and the Integrated Cultural Strategy.

### Level of Applications

The applications for Annual Funding requested a total of £833,675. In 2009–10 the total requested by organisations (excluding those organisations who are now multi-annually funded) was £733,489.

Requests for grants this year far outstripped available resources. The total request is equivalent to 276.2 per cent of the total projected budget of £301,835.

With a few exceptions, the level of applications has been strong and Annual Funding applicants have put considerable effort into demonstrating how they meet the criteria.

Members are requested to note that income and expenditure is presented in this report as a summary of the information submitted. As agreed previously by the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee, officers have not returned to applicants to request any additional details in relation to their applications. This includes clarification of budgets and in some cases the budgets submitted contain minor discrepancies.

### Principles of the Reporting Process

Organisations submit an application including supporting documentation such as business plans, annual reports, financial statements and policy documents. Officers undertake a lengthy assessment of all applications, scoring them against each of the criteria identified for the scheme.

A summary of this information has been compiled by officers in order to:

- highlight the main strengths and weaknesses in the application;
- ensure optimum transparency as to how decisions on applications have been reached; and
- familiarise Members with the nature and variety of arts and heritage programmes in which the Council invests.

The comments in the summary of assessments aim to outline for Members areas where applicants performed particularly well against specific criteria or where there were weaknesses in the application. The comments relate to both the strengths of the proposed programme and the evidence supplied within the application. It should be noted that where there is limited information supplied to address a specific criterion, this is highlighted as a weakness.

Members are requested to use these assessments in tandem with the scores provided in Appendix 3.

### Grant Histories

For ease of reference full grant histories for Culture and Arts funding programmes for the last 3 years are provided at Appendix 5.

### Minimum Grant

The minimum Annual Funding grant offered is £3,000.

### Rationale for Funding Decisions

The following rationale for awarding funding is based on the following factors, previously agreed by the Development (Arts) Sub-Committee:

- Previous levels of funding
- Strength of the proposed programme as assessed against agreed funding criteria
- Impact of the project including anticipated audiences and participants; impact in the Belfast area; range and scope of the proposed programme
- Level of Council funding when compared to the overall costs of the programme
- Viability of the proposed programme within the funding offered
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### **Key Issues**

#### Multi-annual Funding

The total level of funding recommended for sixteen Multi-annual Funding clients is £697,264. Details of individual awards are provided in Appendix 2.

Belfast City Council funding represents 5.8 per cent of the collective turnover for Multi-annual Funding clients. This equates to a direct return for investment of 1:17. It is felt that this underlines the value for money that these flagship organisations represent and supports the impact of increased investment in these organisations.

Whilst MAF clients have received a 3 per cent annual increase previously, due to current budget constraints only a 1 per cent increase has been included in the budget estimates for both MAF and AF programmes.

#### Annual Funding

The total level of funding recommended for Annual Funding is £301,835. Details of individual awards are provided in Appendix 3.

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

Funding for MAF and AF is included in the draft budget estimates for 2010-2011 of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

#### Human Resources

This will be covered within the work programme of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree to the following:

1. Appendix 2: Recommendations for Multi-annual Funding
2. Appendix 3: Scores and Recommendations for Annual Funding

**Decision Tracking**

Further to agreement and ratification, organisations will be informed whether or not they have been recommended for, and awarded funding by letter

Timeframe: March 2010

Reporting Officer: Kerrie Sweeney

**Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: Eligibility Criteria  
Appendix 2: Recommendations for Multi-Annual Funding  
Appendix 3: Scores and Recommendations for Annual Funding  
Appendix 4: Annual Funding Assessments  
Appendix 5: Grant Histories