



26 April 2010

Councillor William Humphrey
Chair, Development Committee
Belfast City Council

Dear Councillor Humphrey,

Following a successful pilot in 2009 of Culture Night in Cathedral Quarter, which demonstrated a healthy appetite for more Culture Nights, we have been working closely with Copenhagen and Dublin to develop a model for an expanded event in 2010 and beyond. In October Copenhagen will hold its 17th annual Culture Night, and Dublin is gearing up for its 7th in September.

We learned valuable lessons in the first year, most importantly how closely have to work with each participating organisation to develop appropriate activities. While we anticipate that some aspects of this requirement will diminish as familiarity with the Culture Night model grows, engaging beyond the pilot area presents new challenges. To explain the model, we have developed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining roles and responsibilities (see attached).

Building on the experiences of Copenhagen and Dublin, we envisage a pilot expansion in 2010 along Belfast's arterial routes, working with partners which have an established ability to deliver activities and audiences as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding. We will experiment in Year 2 with the nature and timing of activities, mapping, brochure design, and transportation. Some transportation suggestions from Gaeltacht and Titanic Quarters so far include music and literary walking and bus tours, open-topped busking busses and 'interactive' Black Taxis.

We will liaise directly with key partners as well as strategically through BCC Officers, BVCB, community arts organisations such as New Belfast Community Arts Initiative, and others. The short-term contract staff which produces Culture Night will be coming on board in May and will expand and drive this process forward on a tight budget and timeline. If Year 2 is a success, we anticipate further expansion in Year 3.

The Development Committee's support is critically important to the success of Culture Night 2010. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Freedman
Culture Night Belfast Committee

Culture Night Roles and Responsibilities

Criteria for Culture Night Activities:

- High quality, imaginative events with a clear focus and which encourage individual artistic expression
- Activity must be free
- Activity must be offered continuously throughout the evening or at scheduled times
- Provide a new and imaginative route for people of all ages to connect with the arts and cultural life of the city

Participating Organisation Responsibilities:

- Ensure all relevant insurances, licenses and health and safety documentation required is in place
- Each participating organisation publicises the event as a whole and their own involvement on their website (including Facebook, Myspace etc)
- Each participating organisation to send an email out to their own database about the event as a whole and while highlighting their own event
- Ensure anyone working, volunteering or associated with the participating organisation are aware of Culture Night Belfast volunteering and training opportunities
- All costs associated with each event is the participating organisations responsibility
- Complete the Participation form including details of event by the Submission Deadline

Culture Night Belfast Organisers' Responsibilities:

- Develop and carry out an extensive local, regional and international marketing campaign
- Engage with local communities and groups to ensure their participation
- Provide accurate information about activities and drive footfall
- Create a lively and welcoming atmosphere aimed at enhancing the activity produced by participating organisations
- Coordinate and train a team of volunteers to act as stewards and guides on the night

Benefits of Participation:

- A new and fresh platform to showcase work and engage with new audiences
- Promoting a greater sense of accessibility to arts and cultural buildings.
- Opportunity to develop beneficial relationships between cultural organisations, local business and the hospitality sector.
- Raised public awareness of Belfast as a thriving cultural city through positive media coverage and profile raising opportunities.

Temple Bar Cultural Trust RE: Dublin Culture Night

By Email
Friday 23 April 2010

Dear Patricia,

I'm writing to you in connection with a review we are undertaking of the development and expansion of Culture Night since 2004. We are looking at ideas for 2011 as part of our 20th anniversary celebrations and what we can learn from Culture Night is emerging as a possible theme. So that's why we need to talk to you.

As you know we are working with many partners in cities, towns and regions throughout the island of Ireland to help develop Culture Night as a sustainable and long term part of the cultural life of citizens and communities. We are also interested in how Culture Night can make a contribution to the economic and tourism sectors, as well as strengthening and promoting local and regional identities.

One of the things we are interested in is observing how the Culture Night idea takes root and develops in the various urban and rural settings, given the varied and complex ways that administrative areas and communities are structured and resourced, both formally and informally.

In the case of Dublin Culture Night, for example, the development of the event has been incremental and measured – some would even say slow! – in order to allow us to learn from doing it. This approach to the project has been largely influenced by the methodology and principles of action research and action learning, and we use this approach widely in our cultural development work. This process for Culture Night has involved us in working at many levels with local authorities, national institutions, arts organisations, individual artists and arts companies, the tourism industry, the business community, broadcasters and the media, local & national elected representatives and, above all, the public.

We are particularly interested in the genesis and growth of Culture Night in the Cathedral Quarter and any projected expansion or development of the event in future years once the event has been established and generated profile, excitement, anticipation and credibility among all stakeholders. We are interested in comparing notes with you at this critically important early stage of Culture Night in the Cathedral Quarter in order to help us understand any future development strategies and long term plans for consolidating and expanding the event.

In our case in Dublin, the evolutionary story for Culture Night looks remarkably like yours in that we started very close to home in order to get established and build up capacity and competence before broadening and expanding:

- Year 1 Temple Bar Open Day 2004
- Year 2 Temple Bar Open Night 2005
- Year 3 Dublin Culture Night 2006: first expansion beyond Temple Bar into the central urban area, around 40 venues, local authority support begins
- Year 4 Dublin Culture Night 2007: second growth into all main city centre areas, first mapping of cultural quarters as destinations, around 80 venues

- Year 5 Dublin Culture Night 2008: consolidation as a main event with over 100 venues in 6 defined cultural quarters in Dublin, + other cities on board for first time, Government support begins
- Year 6 Dublin Culture Night 2009: around 125 venues in Dublin + 10 other cities and towns coming on board

We are interested in knowing about your ideas and vision for the growth of your Culture Night project in the Cathedral Quarter or more widely in Belfast as we feel that in time, there will be good opportunities for promotion, tourism and other cultural, civic and economic activity that could be of mutual benefit and both local and city level.

We are talking to a number of other cities as well about Culture Night and their ideas and visions for development. The emerging consensus seems to be based on having a couple of years of establishment and consolidation, then some measured expansion. This probably reflects resource constraints and realism rather than low levels of ambition! I think as well that the example of Dublin, which has in turn been influenced by learning from Copenhagen and other cities, has been a useful guide and confidence booster for everyone who has come on board. The message really is that we had to start very small with little more than ideas and ambition and not reach too far too fast. And like yourselves, we have shown that it can be done!

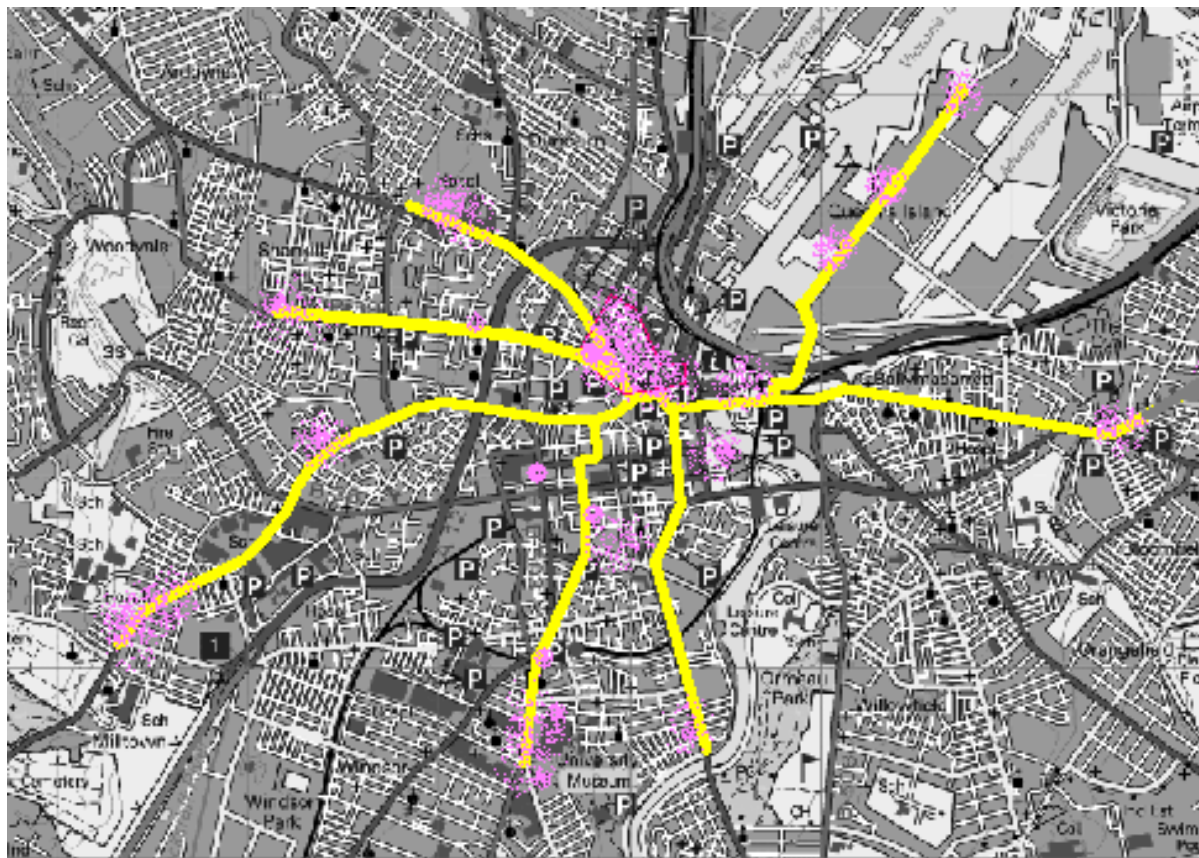
One of our ideas next year during our 20th anniversary celebrations in Temple Bar is to have a discussion or seminar based around Culture Night and we would hope that the Cathedral Quarter experience and learning could be part of this.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you again in Belfast to talk about this in more detail, and we hope that you will be able to cooperate with us on this.

All the best for now.

Dermot McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Temple Bar Cultural Trust
Lorraine Maye, Deputy Head of Cultural Development, Temple Bar Cultural Trust

Initial DRAFT mapping of proposed Culture Night Belfast 2010 routes and partners:



Key Contacts and Expansion Partners to date:

John McCorry – North Belfast Partnership
Roz Small - Greater Shankill Partnership, Spectrum Centre
Eimear Ní Mhathúna - Cultúrlann Mc Adam Ó Fiaich
Sean Paul O'Hare - Féile an Phobail
Graeme Farrow - Belfast Festival at Queen's
Anne Harty – Titanic Quarter
Waterfront Hall – Adam Turkington

Proposed:

Engine Room Gallery - Cliff Brooks T: 90455184
Joan Burney of Cinemagic re: Dee Street Community Centre & Short Strand Festival
Keith Acheson _ Crescent Arts Centre

Others to follow

We hope to work again and in new ways with the artists, organisations and businesses from 2009:

1 Giant Leap
Acitore Artezione
Adapt NI
Adhoc
Aisling Ghear
Artery NI
Arts and Disability Forum
Arts Ekta
Bbeyond
The Beat Initiative
Belfast Book Festival
Belfast Cathedral
Belfast Childrens Festival
Belfast Community Circus
Belfast Exposed
Belfast Film Festival
Belfast Pride Festival
Belfast Print Workshop
The Black Box
The Black Box Cafe
Brown and Bri
Cahoots NI
Catalyst Arts
Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival
Cathedral Quarter Steering Group
Celina Balderas Gusman
Clements - Rosemary Street
Clements - Royal Avenue
The Cloth Ear
Committee on the Administration of Justice
Community Arts Forum
Craft NI
Cusp Ltd, St Anne's Square
Dance Resource Base
Dance United Northern Ireland
Deer's Head
Duke of York
ESC
Factotum
Flax Art Studios
Forum For Alternative Belfast
Friends Of The Earth
Gathering Drum
GBL Productions
Golden Thread Gallery
Green Shoot Productions
Homely Planet
Joanna Karolina
John Hewitt
Kabosh
Kev Largey
Lagan Boat Company
Live Music Now
M - Productions
Mac, The

Maiden Voyage
Marcus Music
The Merchant Hotel
Motion2Music Ltd / Beyond Skin
New Belfast Community Arts Initiative
New Lodge Arts
NI Environment Agency
NI War Memorial
Nick's Warehouse
North Belfast Interface Network
Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission
Northern Visions
Oh Yeah Music Centre
Open House Festival
Open House Festival - Chilli Fest
Opera Theatre Company
Oscillations Festival
Orbit Dance
Paperjam Design Ltd
Potthouse, The
Premier Inn
Prime Cut Productions
PS2 Gallery
Ramada Encore Belfast
Ransom Productions
RAOB (Head Office)
RBA arts group
Replay Productions
Safehouse Artspace Gallery
SHAC Residence
Source N.I
The Spaniard
St. Georges Parish Church
St. Patrick's
Start Together
Streetmonkey, Ltd.
Tinderbox Theatre Company
Todd Architects & Planners
Trans Festival
Truth Unit
Ulster Architectural Historical Society
Ultach Trust
Unite Against Hate Campaign
University of Ulster, Cultural Events & Dev.
Waterfront Hall
Westland Supergirls
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