

Culture Night Belfast

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Culture Night Belfast
Friday 24 September 2010
Participation of the Arterial Routes

Date: 21 June 2010

Relevant background Information:

The Culture Night Belfast team have been working towards developing a network of partners from Belfast's key arterial routes who are committed to supporting a concentrated core event in the Cathedral Quarter as well as showcasing the rich cultural output from other areas of the City.

Titanic Quarter

Ann Harty – Development Manager, Titanic Quarter Limited

CNB met with Anne Harty, Development Manager of Titanic Quarter Limited to look at how the developing Titanic quarter could participate in Culture Night Belfast. Historical and cultural buildings such as the Titanic Drawing Office, the Pump House Visitor Centre and Cafe and the Painthall Studios offer locations which could potentially facilitate early evening activities such as children's drawing workshops, film screenings, tours and talks.

Ann Harty is liaising with relevant key personnel within the area to gauge interest and encourage ideas for participation in Culture Night Belfast. This includes the Titanic drawing office, Painthall Studios, NI Film Commission, NI Science Park, the Nomadic, Belfast Metropolitan College campus, Lagan Boat Company and W5.

Shankill Road

Ros Small – Greater Shankill Partnership

Julie Andrews – General Manager, Spectrum Centre

Bobby Foster – Events and Programming Manager

CNB met with Ros Small (Greater Shankill Partnership), Julie Andrews (General Manager, Spectrum Centre) and Bobby Foster (Events and Programming Manager, Spectrum Centre) to discuss how the Greater Shankill area can input to the Culture Night Belfast event. The staff have extremely enthusiastic ideas about how the arts and cultural, multipurpose

Spectrum Centre could host events and workshops to showcase the cultural activities in the area.

Within the Spectrum Centre alone the managers suggested utilising the Information Room, the Interpretative Centre, dance studio, main hall and minor hall. The staff within the centre are very keen that Culture Night be used as a platform to showcase the numerous dance classes already happening at the Spectrum Centre including salsa and hip hop.

Theatre groups who use the Spectrum Centre including the Talent Tribe are being approached in relation to developing taster sessions to encourage participation with the group and increase awareness of their productions. The kitchen facility within the building would allow the centre to provide a catering facility for families attending Culture Night events and staff suggested creative workshops such as sweet making to engage with and encourage young people to the Centre and what it has to offer.

North Belfast

John McCorry – Development Programmes Manager, North Belfast Partnership Board

Katrina Newell – New Lodge Arts

Jo Jordan – Clifton House

Ashok Sharma – Indian Community Centre

Leslie Quinn – Arts for All

CNB met with John McCorry, Development Programmes Manager for the North Belfast Partnership Board to begin initial conversations about North Belfast's participation in the Culture Night programme and look at the most effective way of connecting North Belfast and the Cathedral Quarter. Potential participants include organisations and venues such as the Indian Community Centre, Crumlin Rd Goal, New Lodge Arts, Clifton Street Orange Hall, Clifton House, and Arts for All which contribute to the culture corridor of North Belfast.

Interest from Clifton House, originally Belfast's Poor House was very positive with managers beginning to brain storm how they could best utilise the opportunity of Culture Night to encourage visitors to the venue. Arts organisations working within the communities in North Belfast such as Arts for All and New Lodge Arts have been in regular contact with the Culture Night Belfast team with plans and ideas for participations and performances. Ashok Sharma, manager of the Indian Community Centre in Clifton Street has been contacted and is beginning to consider participation opportunities.

A 'pitch session' for potential participants in Culture Night was held in the North Belfast Partnership where guests were invited along to learn more about the background and vision of Culture Night and discuss how best to incorporate the area into the event. Arts organisations including New Lodge Arts and Arts for All are very keen that their groups have the opportunity to showcase their ongoing projects within the Cathedral Quarter and really feel about of the 'buzz' and excitement associated with the Culture Night experience.

Representatives from Clifton Street Orange Hall and Crumlin Road Gaol could not attend the pitch session however opportunities for cultural tours or theatre are being explored.

East Belfast

Sammy Douglas – East Belfast Partnership Board

Jim Patton – Artist

Sandy Smith – CS Lewis Tours

Engine Room Gallery

CNB met with Sammy Douglas from the East Belfast Partnership who suggested numerous possible ways how arts and cultural organisations, individuals and venues in East Belfast could participate in Culture Night.

Within a walk able radius in East Belfast lie the Creative Artists Exchange at Portview Trade Centre, the Holywood Arches Library and Art Centre, the Engine Room Gallery, the CS Lewis Memorial and Westbourne Presbyterian Church. Local artists, tour guides, writers and performers were suggested as possible participants, these included water colour painter and historian Jim Patton, local artist Ross Wilson and Dan Gordon, local actor and director amongst other performers, singers and community groups.

Following an early meeting, CNB had discussions with Sandy Smith, tour guide of Belfast's CS Lewis tours in relation to potentially hosting 'taster' style tours for Culture Night on 24th September.

Further discussions and planning is scheduled to take place following the next meeting of the East Belfast Partnership Board.

Gealtacht Quarter/West Belfast

Eimear Ní Mhathúna – Director, Cultúrlann

Frainc MacCionnaith – Events Manager, Culturlann

Sean Paul O'Hare – Director, Féile an Phobail

Brid O'Gallchoir - Aisling Ghear Theatre Company

Representatives from Belfast's Gealtacht Quarter are extremely excited about participation in Culture Night Belfast 2010 and have been forthcoming with creative ideas to include the arts and cultural activities from the West Belfast area. A tandem event linking St Peter's Church and St. Anne's Cathedral has been suggested. In September Cultúrlann will be in the process of having some construction work, the external hoardings have been proposed for a Culture Night related mural and pavements used for graffiti art, participants and artists could then move down to the Cathedral Quarter to perform and present to spaces within the Cathedral Quarter. The cafe in Cultúrlann presents an ideal family dining facility, a much needed contribution to Culture Night based on feedback from the 2009 event. Contacts in West Belfast also suggested animating or decorating black taxis with some forms of local artwork and information.

South Belfast

Anne McAleese – Chief Executive, South Belfast Partnership

Sarah Hughes – Press and Marketing Officer, Queens Film Theatre

Graeme Farrow – Festival Director, Belfast Festival at Queens

Ulster Museum

Naughton Gallery

CNB have made contact with Anne McAleese from the South Belfast Partnership board as an initial point of contact for the South Belfast area. Participation from venues and organisations including the Naughton Gallery, Belfast Festival at Queens, Queens Film Theatre, the Ulster Museum, the Chinese Welfare Association and the Ulster Orchestra is being looked at and meetings have been scheduled with relevant personnel. Possible contributions to Culture Night include free screenings in the Queens Film Theatre as well as projection of QFT films within the Cathedral Quarter. The galleries and museum are being encouraged to programme free, late afternoon/early evening events to engage and encourage families and young people in the cultural activities. Belfast Festival have suggested programming performances within the Cathedral Quarter area to engage with new audiences ahead of their annual festival in November.

Translink, Belfast

CNB have had discussions with Carol Marsden, Brand Manager for Translink to look at how the organisation can support Culture Night Belfast both as a potential sponsor for the entire event and at ways of linking the arterial routes with one another and the City Centre. The nature and scale of this partnership is being confirmed in the coming weeks.