

BELFAST FILM FESTIVAL

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To: Kerrie Sweeney
Tourism, Culture and Arts
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Festivals Coordinator

Belfast City Council's Festivals Forum has provided a platform for the strategic development of the city's festivals, and we welcome the Council's recognition of the important role festivals can play in promoting and celebrating Belfast.

The success of the festivals sector in Belfast is dependent on a strategic, joined-up policy, which acknowledges the role and impact of different festivals and promotes mutual understanding between the sector and its funders.

The Festivals Forum Action Plan for 2010-11 has been developed through the Forum, which has representatives from a wide range of arts, heritage and community festivals from across the city, both large and small. However, having an Action Plan in place is not enough. The Forum requires additional resources in the form of a member of staff in order to ensure the successful execution of its Plan.

The Festivals coordinator will play a central role in developing a festivals strategy for the city and lobbying for increased recognition of and support for festivals, in addition to delivering practical measures such as training and pooled resources.

The Festivals Forum considers this appointment key to the continued growth of the sector and to the development of a vibrant, sustainable and forward-looking city of festivals.

Yours sincerely

Michele Devlin
(Festival Director)
Festivals Forum Chair