

Feedback from Sister City Partners

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

“The Arts Council is keen to raise the profile of Northern Ireland arts and artists on the international stage. The partnership with Belfast City Council and the Nashville Steering Group has proved to be one effective means of achieving this objective for the benefit of our thriving music sector.”

Queen’s University

“Queen’s University welcomes the opportunity to develop its strong ties with Vanderbilt University at Nashville through its growing series of academic partnerships that bring together students and Faculty members across all of the academic disciplines represented in both educational institutions. Our association with the Sisters Cities committees offers an opportunity to expand and diversify such educational opportunities in a manner that can only be of benefit to Belfast as well as Queen’s. We welcome the opportunity to work together in creating new international synergies in research and education for the benefit of our local communities.”

Tourism Ireland

“Tourism Ireland is committed to working in partnership with organisations and agencies to raise the number of tourists coming from the US to Northern Ireland. The association of Belfast with Nashville at the level of the mayor’s office and the Sister Cities committees has led to increased attention to Belfast by respected American musicians and broadcasters. These underpin our efforts to promote Belfast and Northern Ireland as a place with a great music tradition and vibrant live entertainment scene that is worth travelling the Atlantic to experience.”

U.S. Consulate

“The United States Consulate is proud to acknowledge and support the unique links established between Belfast and Nashville. The historic connections between these proud Cities epitomize the deep genealogical and cultural bonds that exist between Northern Ireland and the United States. Those behind the Sister City partnership should be applauded for their achievements in building creative, mutually beneficial, and exciting partnerships in areas like music, education, and tourism. Relationships like these improve the quality of life of residents, they foster civic and community pride, and they help improve their respective economies. We wish those involved in the Belfast-Nashville initiative every success in their ongoing efforts”.

Northern Ireland Tourist Board

“A vibrant music scene is a real bonus for any tourist destination and Belfast is one of the most exciting and dynamic in the world today. Our music and diverse range of festivals offer the visitor great reasons to visit Northern Ireland. Our challenge is to make sure that our music and festivals are presented in a way that enables the visitor to experience it.”

BBC Ralph McLean

“Walk down the main thoroughfares and side streets of Belfast and just like Nashville you’ll hear music, of just about every description, pouring out of just about every doorway. It’s how we define ourselves and it’s how we present ourselves culturally to the world. It’s a legacy of great art that we are rightly proud of and when a musician from Belfast meets a fellow performer from Nashville they know they’re talking to a like minded soul, an individual for whom the thousands of miles of separation mean nothing.”