



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Manifesta
Date:	15 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Shirley McCay, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3459

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Manifesta is a biennial exhibition of contemporary art, showing work by approximately one hundred European artists. Exhibitions attract approximately 100,000 visitors during their three-month runs and attract international attention. The first Manifesta was held in 1996 in Rotterdam and the (non-profit) organisational body is located in the Netherlands. It has subsequently been held in Luxembourg, Ljubljana, Frankfurt, Donostia-San Sebastian, Trentino and Murcia. Exhibitors range from established to early-/mid-career artists, who are commissioned to make new projects reflecting innovative practice. Curators are selected according to their experimental methods. The exhibition is supported by publications, including catalogue(s) and a journal. Partnerships are forged to provide education programmes.

2	Key Issues
2.1	Belfast City Council has received a request from Manifesta, via the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, to support the post of a 'Manifesta Bid Coordinator'. The cost to the Council is £10,000 and would support salary costs. Further income of £10,000 has been secured from Derry City Council, £10,000 from ACNI through their Awards for All Scheme and £7,500 in-kind from Belfast Exposed Gallery.
2.2	The potential appointee would work with a wide range of arts, cultural, community and urban regeneration partners regionally and internationally to spearhead, prepare and present a bid for Belfast and Derry to host either Manifesta X in 2014 or Manifesta XI in 2016. The bid will be presented to the Manifesta organisation in December 2011.
2.3	The Manifesta bid co-ordinator would be based in Belfast Exposed, Belfast.
2.4	The total cost to a host region to bring Manifesta is 3m Euro. Depending on proposal agreed for region, Manifesta may invest up to an additional 2m Euro. Impacts to regions are as follows:

