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John McGrillen Director of Development Belfast City Council

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Dear Mr McGrillen,

As the academic contact at Queen's with responsibility for developing our growing links with Vanderbilt University, as part of the sister cities partnership between Belfast and Nashville, it is my pleasure to invite Belfast City Council through you to consider sending representatives to Nashville with our university delegation when we next visit.

A tentative date has yet to be fixed – a likely time would be this autumn or very early in 2013 – but the plan will be for Vanderbilt to host a festival of creativity involving our writers in the Seamus Heaney Centre and other colleagues working in the Creative Arts here at Queen's during the visit. This will be followed shortly afterwards by a return visit to Belfast by Vanderbilt colleagues for a similar kind of event, but on a different theme, here at Queen's.

I do hope the Council will consider taking part in our latest planned visit and very much look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

John Thompson Chair of English Textual Cultures