

Business Case for Belfast City Council

The Pipes are Calling - An indoor spectacular of piping, words and music, from Ulster and beyond

Introducing the applicant

Co-operation Ireland's mission is: 'to underpin political agreement on the island of Ireland by building positive relationships at community level, both within Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, through the promotion of mutual understanding and co-operation'. This is achieved by 'working with groups from all religious and cultural communities to build vibrant societies based on the principles of respect for diversity and peace and reconciliation'.

Co-operation Ireland delivers innovative and exciting cross-border and cross-community projects to a wide range of school, youth and community organisations. Groups are linked on a cross-border basis and, through a series of reciprocal exchanges; they get to know one another, learn about each other's cultures and traditions and learn to respect one another. Through this model, groups have an opportunity to discuss the often 'swept under the carpet' topics of culture, identity and religion.

Co-operation Ireland is currently delivering Entwined Histories Programme looking at developing a shared history of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Ulster Covenant and will use this model to develop community outreach elements of The Pipes are Calling event.

Co-operation Ireland Projects – 2012

Categorised into the following areas

- Community and Youth projects
- Education Projects
- Shared Learning Projects
- Service Delivery Programmes

Complete list of projects with brief details - Appended Document 1

Relationship with Belfast City Council

Co-operation Ireland has secured support for the past three years from Belfast City Council for its flagship cross border cycle challenge, the annual Maracycle which brings hundreds of visitors to Belfast over the last weekend in June.

All its current Cultural and Arts Projects attract participation from within the Belfast City Council area, these include:

All-island Pride of Place Awards – previously hosted and sponsored by Belfast City Council.

All-island School Choir Competition – two previous finals televised live by RTE from Ulster Hall and Waterfront Hall respectively and this year's final scheduled for the new Titanic Building.

Co-operation Ireland Civic-Link Schools Project involves Belfast Schools.

Co-operation Ireland Entwined History Project works with 90 young people from six Belfast schools and youth clubs.

Introduction to Project and Strategic Context

The charity sees its role as promoting leadership towards reconciliation and peace building. It also acts to tackle head on any barriers to the continued development of our peace. There is no doubt that handled sensitively the 10 years of historical anniversaries can show how far Northern Ireland has come in its development of understanding and respect of different cultures and traditions.

Failure to deal sensitively with this period could reignite old wounds and have a detrimental effect on the huge strides which have been made politically and at community level to endorse acceptance and respect between our various cultures and traditions.

Co-operation Ireland proposes to act as a conduit to deliver, consolidate and deepen the process of peace building and reconciliation on the island through the promotion of sensitivity created programmes and events which celebrate and commemorate diverse historical anniversaries. Co-operation Ireland seeks enrichment with the celebrations not limitations. They should occur in a balanced and non threatening manner which seek to educate and strengthen understanding and respect between our various traditions and cultures.

With the support of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Co-operation Ireland has commenced to deliver an Entwined History project.

Entwined Histories Project - Remembering, Understanding and Learning Programme which, using the context of the 100th anniversary of the Signing of the Ulster Covenant, works with six communities to explore the intertwined nature of our shared history and examine how major events are viewed through the lens of different traditions and perspectives. By developing a shared understanding of this historical event, the programme will promote mutual respect by giving the groups a better understanding of processes that lead to the events that have shaped our society.

A more detailed summary of the Programme - Appended Document 2

The charity has also an aspiration to deliver a high profile cultural event of considerable significance that would jointly showcase the best talents of our diverse cultures in An Indoor Spectacular Celebration of Pipe Music.

The Pipes are Calling - An indoor spectacular of piping, words and music from Ulster and beyond.

Over the next five years, Co-operation Ireland proposes to deliver a series of professionally directed and sensitively produced cultural events in Northern Ireland's premier entertainment venue, the Odyssey Arena Belfast. Diverse cultures, traditions and religions will be celebrated and anniversaries commemorated moving beyond politics and promoting understanding and respect through words and music. Anniversaries as diverse as The Ulster Covenant and The Irish Proclamation could be sensitively and jointly celebrated, though the whole concept of the planned events espouse joint celebrations of our strong and vibrant communities.

Each event will offer a unique promotion of our diverse cultures and traditions and how they influenced the creation of a legacy of world famous traditional industries. What unites our people will be celebrated through a carefully crafted and sensitively edited narrative of poetry, prose and drama.

Co-operation Ireland proposes five consecutive annual spectacles which can stimulate, educate and promote respect for other traditionally held points of view. The evenings will promote exceptional talent and harmony performed by a well-balanced programme of elite acts truly representative of the wonderful cultural diversity existing in Ulster and beyond.

Bagpipes, Uilleann pipes, orchestra choir, poetry, prose and actors will perform and deliver a narrative which uniquely celebrates the differences which often have been used as barriers to understanding and respect.

Each show could commemorate important historical anniversaries in a balanced and celebratory fashion which entertains and showcases an ability to learn to respect and understand rather than change. Each evening will feature a unique programme that combines the energy and skill of some of our greatest professional artists with some of our most promising young talent.

Co-operation Ireland's experience in delivering its Remembering, Understanding and Learning Programme will be used to create unique community outreach programmes which can form part of the Odyssey Spectacular Programme.

Our Patron's Leadership – setting the scene

Co-operation Ireland's joint patrons Her Majesty the Queen and President Michael D Higgins and previously President Mary McAleese have positively set the scene for how the coming decade of historical anniversaries present an opportunity for real dialogue and exchange to promote mutual understanding and respect while recognising the processes that led to the historical events that have shaped our society.

During her visit to Dublin Castle in May, Her Majesty the Queen stated

"Indeed, so much of this visit reminds of the complexity of our history, its many layers and traditions, but also the importance of forbearance and conciliation of being able to bow to the past but not being bound by it."

Past President Mary McAleese stated

“This visit is an acknowledgement that while we cannot change the past, we have chosen to change the future.”

In his first visit to Northern Ireland to attend the Co-operation Ireland All-Island School Choir Grand Final in Derry in November 2011, President Michael D Higgins stated

“he would endeavour to continue to build upon the important task of deepening and sustaining peace within and between communities in every part of our island. People that can sing together in harmony is a great omen for the future.”

Pipes are Calling – Concept Development

Co-operation Ireland set to develop a concept that would be truly representative of all that is best in our various cultures, that would by its very make-up promote goodwill and harmony between those communities that normally celebrated their cultural traditions separately. This concept could subtly counteract the hundreds of one-sided celebrations that will take place over the next 10 years under the banner of 10 years of historical anniversaries in both nationalist and loyalist communities in Northern Ireland.

Having shared the concept with many of the stakeholders, Co-operation Ireland conceded that expertise would be required to have the artistic flair and production competence to take this event to proposal stage. After consultation with the management team at the Odyssey Arena, Co-operation Ireland enlisted the help of Dan Gordon, Angela McCloskey and Neil Martin to develop the raw concept into a dynamic and innovative show that would have the right elements to capture the public's interest and simultaneously create an indoor spectacular of piping over a five year period.

The Pipes Are Calling has been devised by Director/Writer Dan Gordon and Musical Director/Composer Neil Martin and they will be integral to the successful development and delivery of this major and ground-breaking cultural event. Dan and Neil are both highly respected professionals with extensive experience in their respective fields and excellent industry contacts.

The Pipes Are Calling celebrates, through pipes, drums, words, music and dance, the unique vitality of these shores. The performers are the very best in their fields – global exponents of bag-piping and uilleann piping, dazzling world champion drummers, leading actors, world-famous singers, international choreographers, award-winning youth choirs and an all-island youth orchestra. They are all drawn together here for the first time.

In addition to especially composed music, there will be tailor-made arrangements of songs and music known to all. And to further enhance this imaginatively staged event, there will be carefully selected film archive, poetry and prose that will tie together the various strands.

Through the common language of music and the arts, we can strengthen friendships and find space to enjoy and celebrate our shared past, present and future. Let us enjoy what we have exported and what we attract, as we give voice to those from these shores who have enjoyed global bearing. Our Time – Our Place.

Please note the creative content proposed for the event and outlined in this report will evolve and may be subject to amendment. The formal contractual engagement of artists will only take place once the event has been commissioned with a budget identified and dates finalised.

Never before have such diverse resources been drawn together for an evening's entertainment. And equally importantly, never before has such a subtle, dignified and warm handshake been extended through music and the arts to the communities of Ireland, north and south, as well as the diaspora overseas. Music and the arts can offer a balm and a vision that will have long-term benefits socially, financially and politically. This is in total keeping with Co-operation Ireland's objectives. The timing of this event is also most opportune – 2012 and 2013 are unique years in which the wider spotlight is on us once again and we can let the world see what this place has to offer. The opportunities afforded by the close planetary alignment of Titanic, Derry City of Culture and the Irish Open Golf must be seized.

In keeping with Co-operation Ireland's wider objectives, we felt it particularly important that the event is fully inclusive - accessible to both main traditions within our community. This in itself is a challenge, but will also be one of the strengths of the event. Our approach to the development of the creative concept and programme has been informed by a shared vocabulary:

- Innovative
- Exciting
- Exchange
- Cross-border
- Culture
- Mutual understanding
- Youth
- Artistic magnitude and relevance

And for a show of this calibre and dimension, the simple regurgitating of old songs and tunes is not enough. That would, in our view, make for a parochial Sunday afternoon attraction which would struggle in a venue like the Odyssey. What we propose is to draw together a unique cast the likes of which has never been seen before, and ergo nothing exists musically for this combination. So writing is essential to making this unique event happen. We must create a new thing entirely, a high-end stadium show celebrating what belongs to the people of these shores, drawing together elements both local and international and without prejudice or taint of creed or politics. It offers a forward-thinking vision of the common ground, and positivity on this scale requires creativity. Without this originality, we have nothing new to say.

Target audience

The Pipes Are Calling will have a very broad catchment, including the piping fraternity, which numbers many and will be beguiled by this unique collaboration. It will have strong appeal for the bands associated with the drum corps, the friends and families of the amassed youth choirs and orchestra, and the general public. The internationalism of the NYPD Band who we hope to involve in the event will attract too, and the huge spectacular combination of such high-end artists will lure its own following. The PR and marketing strategy will be key and a major influence on sales. We believe there would be scope to take advantage of promotional opportunities around the many high profile events in the wider calendar of Pipe Band Championships over the period May – August.

Meeting Strategies or policies relative to Belfast City Council

The event will be good for tourism with a cast of some 400 participating artists and an audience of 2000 + visitors coming to the city from USA, Scotland, Republic of Ireland and from throughout Northern Ireland. Co-operation Ireland will promote visitor stays through the Belfast Convention Centre.

The international exposure in the USA can send a very positive message to one of Northern Ireland Tourist Board, key target market.

The event will impact positively on the image of Northern Ireland and in particular the external image, it will showcase Northern Ireland internationally and Belfast nationally, bringing direct and indirect benefits through participant and visitor spend.

It also creates and sends positive messages that Northern Ireland is a vibrant place to do business with communities at peace with themselves and an acceptance and understanding of the various cultural traditions which impact upon our society.

The event will help to enhance Northern Ireland's growing reputation for potential business investment opportunities and will have a positive impact on the economy with significant numbers of both participating artists and spectating audience.

The event will continue to build on the recent successes of Belfast and Northern Ireland as a must visit Tourism destination adding to the recent high profile spectacles of the MTV awards, the opening of the Titanic Signature Project and the forthcoming Irish Open Golf Championship at Royal Portrush, the opening of the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, and next year's City of Culture Celebrations and World Police and Fire Games.

The Show will be a perfect fit to the Northern Ireland Tourism strategy for 2012 going forward "our time our place" and will add considerably to the provision of authentic cultural experiences for visitors.

The event will also have considerable merit in delivering good relationship policy especially in Belfast City Council area.

Meeting the Programme for Government

The Pipes are Calling project is required because in general our communities celebrate their cultures separately. This project is a direct attempt to normalise joint celebration and participation in cultural arts projects.

As nothing of this calibre or scale has been organised previously in Northern Ireland's premier entertainment venue, the show itself will exhibit cross community leadership improving relations between communities previously considered as representative of one or other community.

The collaborative working and outreach programmes in various communities throughout Northern Ireland between participating pipers, musicians, choirs and orchestras and the production team themselves will enhance co-operation and communication between artists who do not often have an opportunity to work together.

The project can become a positive example of how far Northern Ireland has come that it can now celebrate together the incredible depth of cultural talent it has within its diverse traditions.

Happening at the start of the ten years of historical anniversaries, it can counter any negativity surrounding one-sided celebrations of the diverse range of historical anniversaries which will be celebrated by one community or the other over the next 10 years.

The project as outlined meets with the goals of DCAL by:

Enabling a wide and diverse range of communities to experience and learn more of our wonderful cultural assets. This event is high end on World renowned talent with the very best of pipe music exponents accompanied by the very best in home grown champion choral and orchestral ensembles.

The project's community outreach programmes will promote creativity and innovation among drummers, actors and marching pipers in several communities throughout Northern Ireland under the watchful eye of expert choreographers and drum majors.

The Pipes are Calling is a headline Indoor Celebration of Piping which highlights and respects the diverse range of cultural talents and enhances co-operation between their organisations, members and individual exponents of this tremendous art form.

Meet Arts Council Policy placing the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life.

The event meets the requirement and policy of the Ulster Scots Agency in attracting young people into the tradition of Pipe Band music.

It meets Co-operation Ireland's strategic objectives by:

Excerpt from Co-operation Ireland Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013 Appended Document 2

The project will improve understanding at community level within Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland as the participating artists are truly representative of both communities within Northern Ireland and the event will have considerable participation from pipers, choirs and orchestras from Republic of Ireland.

The community outreach programmes will be specifically targeted at disengaged young people bringing them up to participation in a professionally organised high end show from humble beginnings at local pipe band level or drum major level.

It will raise awareness of the work of Co-operation Ireland and act as a showcase for the benefits of co-operation for mutual benefit at both a cross community and cross border level.

It will highlight the need to remain focussed on ensuring that any barrier to the development of our peace needs to be tackled head on in a proactive and innovative manner.

Need for Project and Expenditure

Co-operation Ireland carried out two rounds of consultations with the various stakeholders within the piping fraternity in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The first was a sounding by Co-operation Ireland on the merits of the concept and the second was by the assembled production team on planning the event as described.

The most significant evidence of the need for this type of project is the fact that the Northern Ireland Assembly has appointed Ministers Arlene Foster and Caral Ni Chuilin to jointly plan commemorative events covering the signing of the Ulster Covenant, the First World War and the 1916 Rising. (Using Historic events as chance to build bridges – Jim Gibney, Irish News, 22 March 2012).

Caral Ni Chuilin also stated in the Belfast Telegraph in March “ we can all learn valuable lessons from our pasts through the medium of the arts, let's make this a decade of shared remembrance”

Newspaper press clippings – Attached

Co-operation Ireland seeks to establish a five year indoor spectacular of piping which will help to normalise joint celebration and remembrance of cultural diversity and the decade of historical anniversaries.

It is the belief of the stakeholders that a high end performance show would be required to engage the public, attract the required level of participation and lead to a successful PR and Marketing campaign and hence good ticket

sales. A series of acts performing one after the other would simply not be of the quality required to capture the public's imagination.

With the high end performance and production comes a professionalism and expertise that must be paid for at the going rate. Although many performers will be performing voluntarily for little more than travel and subsistence, elements of the Programme for the Evening will involve scriptwriting the show, composing new pieces for pipes and combined orchestra and choir and the international participation of the NYPD Pipes and Drums.

Co-operation Ireland has already secured a five year commitment of £100,000 in kind contribution for the project from The Odyssey Trust.

All fees quoted and services to be provided are commensurate with those appropriate for a show of this international flavour and class.

Objectives and Constraints

Objectives

1. The Pipes are calling will be showcased on the 22nd September 2012 in the Odyssey Arena, Belfast. It will be the first in a five year series of ***"An indoor spectacular of piping, words and music, from Ulster and beyond."***
2. 100 pipers representing the best of both traditions will be participating jointly in the Show.
3. 50 drummers will be mentored by Mark Wilson for an extended period in advance of the event.
4. Outreach programmes will deliver Entwined History output to Drummers and Actors in communities across Northern Ireland.
5. 2000-4000 ticket sales to a wide audience base both internally within Northern Ireland and also in the Republic of Ireland.
6. The Cross-Border Orchestra of Ireland will perform accompanied by **over 100 Choir of children from cross-community backgrounds.**
7. Almost 400 participating artists from many areas of Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and the USA will form the cast for the show.
8. A comprehensive media campaign in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and in the USA. The event will also be promoted by the Odyssey's Marketing team and through the huge network of Pipe Band associations.
9. A unique joint celebration of the best of our diverse cultures will showcase superb piping talents.

Constraints include:

Not getting match funding and/ or sponsorship
Reduction of planning time
Not enough time to run the outreach programmes in various communities within Northern Ireland
Inability to contract with the key stakeholders and participants
Poor ticket sales
Ensuring artists will co-operate
Sensitivities of participation in major cross community flagship event
Spiralling costs
Delivery of an effective marketing campaign
Insufficient time to bring on board effective media partners

Co-operation Ireland does not have the resources to deliver this event without considerable public funding.

It does not yet have the track record to attract major corporate financial support through sponsorship.

Identification of Options

Option Title and Number	Option Description
1. Status Quo	Maintain the current level of service provision. The event would not happen.
2. Run Event as outlined in application	Event would happen within budget and targets would be met. A successful first year of the planned five year project could increase future revenue through increased ticket sales and corporate sponsorship. All elements of the event as described can be delivered if the public bodies can confirm support for this concept within a tight time schedule.
3. Reduced scale event	Event would not have been able to achieve the targets as outlined in the application and it would not be high enough in profile to appeal to the artists or potential audiences. The outreach programme would be reduced and the PR would be significantly lower, hence having less of an impact. The international dimension to the event would not be feasible.

4. Larger scale event	Event would cost more and the outputs would remain the same as Option 2. Replacing local talent with internationally renowned professionals would greatly increase cost of running the show but would actually detract from the objectives which make the show unique and in line with the policies of the event supporters and funders, Co-operation Ireland, DCAL, DETINI, NITB, Belfast City Council and the Ulster Scots Agency.
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Proposed Budget for the Programme

Possible Sources of Income

Ticket Sales	53,543
Corporate/In-kind Sponsorship	20,000
Belfast City Council	25,000
Ulster - Scots Agency	4,332
DETI	95,000
DCAL	95,000
Total	292,875

Estimated Expenditure – One performance

	Estimate £	Sub total
Organiser's Professional Fees		48,000
Director	6,000	
Script writer	3,000	
Musical Director	4,000	
Composer	15,000	
Project Manager	20,000	
Artist's Fees		69,000
Orchestra	4,000	
Bands	4,000	
Drum corps	5,000	
Choir	1,000	
NYPD	20,000	
Actors	5000	
Singers	5000	

Musicians	3,100	
Narrators/Presenters	3,000	
Choreographer & dancers	5,400	
Community Outreach Facilitators	13,500	
Travel, Accommodation, Catering		15,000
Airfares, trains, taxis, drivers etc	5,000	
Catering	10,000	
Production and Technical		
Producer	6,000	55,500
Production Manager	1,000	
Stage Manager	1,000	
Studio time - sound recording	1,500	
Film footage - research and edit	6,000	
Video screens & cameras	6,000	
Sound - hire, rig, operation	12,000	
LX - hire, rig, design, operation	18,000	
Staging units & construction	4,000	
Venue		32,000
Hire, fit-up & staffing, box office	32,000	
Press and Marketing		33,000
PR	3,000	
Print	5,000	
Advertising	15,000	
Website	2,000	
Guest tickets	2,000	
Imagery/photography	2,000	
Communications	4,000	
Administrative Costs		15,000
Office, phone, insurance, bank, operating expenses, bank charges, postage, phone, broadband etc.	15,000	
Contingency (5%)		13,375
Monitoring and Evaluation		5,000
TOTAL		292,875

Monitoring

Arrangements for management and execution

Co-operation Ireland will manage the project and appoint a Project Management team.

Procedures of dealing with potential and actual cost overruns

Budgets will be agreed with the funder and will be strictly monitored via a spread sheet whereby all actual expenditure can be logged and measured against projected spend. Procurement will be adhered and quotes will be obtained to ensure optimum value for money. Any changes in budget requirements will be approved by the funder in advance of purchasing a service or item.

Co-operation Ireland has the skills and staff experience of being an intermediary funding body for Peace 1 and Peace 2 and delivers many public funding projects such as the Modernisation Fund

Progress reports and their timing

Monthly progress report detailing operational progress and expenditure will be collated by the Project Manager and submitted to DECAL.

Who has overall responsibility

Project Management team has overall responsibility. The Pipes are Calling project has created a committee comprised of the production team and the project management team. The committee will meet on a fortnightly basis upon approval of event funding.

Post project evaluation (PPE):

A post project evaluation will be carried out by an independent evaluator. The terms of the appointment will be agreed in advance with the funders. An additional £5,000 has been included in the event budget to meet with the requirements of our funders relating to PPE.

Appended Document 1

Co-operation Ireland Projects 2012

Community and Youth Projects

FACE (Family and Community Engagement Programme)	<p>The overall aim of the FACE is to reconcile the services' families based in locations throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland with the indigenous/neighbouring communities and traditions within Ireland. Over the course of two and a half years the project aims to reconcile and integrate services' families and surrounding communities locally and regionally in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>The project is a partnership between Co-operation Ireland, local/regional community stakeholders, Army Welfare Service/MoD and a regional network from four locations to strategically reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation locally and regionally.</p>
Youth Leadership Programme	<p>The Youth Leadership Programme was established to help build positive futures for young people who have the potential to be leaders in their community but are currently vulnerable to involvement in high-risk and criminal activity. Currently being delivered in the Kilwilkie area of North Lurgan and the Greater Shantallow area in Derry/Londonderry, the programme aims to divert participants from crime and anti-social behaviour by providing them with a support structure to address personal and social challenges in their lives. Key outcomes include personal development, building pathways to further education/employment, and promoting belonging and participation in the wider community.</p>
CAN project - Youth Development Project	<p>This project is funded by the EU through the CAN (Carrickfergus, Antrim, Newtownabbey) Peace III cluster. It will involve identified young people, who will participate in a programme of accredited training including Good Relations Skills, Decision Making and Leadership skills amongst others. They will then be encouraged and supported to identify and support small, youth led projects in the CAN area which will address Good Relations issues. The project will run for 18 months and will work with at least 16 youth organisations and 150 young people.</p>

JUAH – Journey Towards Understanding and Healing	<p>Donegal Peace and Reconciliation Partnership have engaged Co-operation Ireland to undertake a year-long project to support ex-service personnel (Garda and Irish Defence Forces) from Donegal who served during the Troubles. The project seeks to acknowledge the role played by these forces and remove the widespread silence about their participation which has left many feeling isolated and neglected. Participants will be able to share their experiences of conflict with ex-service personnel in Northern Ireland, through joint residential activities and exchange visits. Co-operation Ireland will also provide befriending and counselling services to individuals, helping them to overcome the lingering legacy of isolation which has blighted their later years.</p>
North East project	<p>This project is funded by the EU through the North East Peace III cluster (Coleraine area). The project will work with 20 groups over a 15-month period. 10 groups will be identified from throughout the NE Peace III cluster area and the other 10 from the border counties. The project is focused on developing cross border links between a wide range of groups- faith, ethnic minorities, business, community, youth, sporting, etc. The project also involves the 10 NE groups developing a Legacy Project that will sustain their relationships beyond the lifetime of the project.</p>
Co-operation Ireland with Morgan Stanley – Banking on the Future	<p>Supported by Morgan Stanley Net-Éire group, the two-day academy course at their London Canary Wharf offices gives young people an opportunity to engage in learning about leadership, identity and career opportunities at the bank.</p> <p>The project targets a select number of young people from both traditions in Northern Ireland, as well as from the Republic of Ireland, working together with a cross section of young people from around London. A particular focus is given to those who show leadership potential and would benefit from the experience.</p> <p>The project will provide young people who may have leadership potential with the opportunity to engage with banking professionals and other young people from diverse backgrounds in order to gain insights into the employment opportunities and career paths in the banking industry as well as to build confidence and employment skills.</p>

All-Island Pride of Place Awards	Pride of Place is an all-island competition, which is directed towards recognising improvements by local communities to create civic pride in their area. The competition focus is on people coming together to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about their area.
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Education Projects

Entwined Histories – Part 1, The Ulster Covenant	<p>The first in a series of commemoration projects linked to the upcoming decade of historical anniversaries. Young people engage in learning about the signing of the Ulster Covenant, preceding and subsequent events; the general political, economic & social context of 1912; and basic film-making skills. Each group of young people then produces a short film through which they state their perspective and feelings on an important historical event.</p> <p>90 young people aged 14-17 (6 groups of 15) drawn from a cross section (religious, academic and socio-economic) of schools and youth groups in Belfast/Greater Belfast are participating in the project.</p> <p>The main objective of the project is to explore the intertwined nature of our shared history and examine how major events are viewed through different traditions and perspectives. Through this work we hope to achieve increased understanding of this historical event leading to greater mutual respect across religious and political divides.</p>
Civic-Link	<p>Civic-Link is a cross-border schools and youth project, focusing on fostering both good relations and active citizenship. It is an action-learning model, which requires young people to identify and research local community issues, develop public policy solutions and advocate at policy level for their enactment. They must also partner and collaborate with schools from Northern Ireland and work together on solving common Community issues. They meet twice during the project, once in each other's communities/jurisdictions, to share and develop strategies for advocating solutions and to build positive relationships.</p> <p>30 schools in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland (15 partnerships), involving up to 600 young people participate in the project.</p> <p>The project fulfils the dual objectives of addressing the on-going need for respect, understanding and political generosity and the curricular need for active and practical engagement of students within their communities, extending beyond the classroom.</p>

Co-operation Ireland Student Journalism Project	<p>The aim of Co-operation Ireland's annual journalism conference is to encourage student journalists to examine how the media can contribute to a greater understanding of the peoples' cultures and traditions, both at a national and international level. Each year the conference is addressed by leading journalists and industry experts. The conference is specifically for journalism students from universities and colleges in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The conference is an opportunity to examine topical stories and network with their peer group. It is sponsored by the News Letter, the Irish News and The Irish Times.</p>
<p>Louth projects (i) Schools Connecting Cultures - Co-operation Ireland's Cross-Border Intergenerational Project for Primary Schools</p>	<p>The "Schools Connecting Cultures" project addresses the priority identified by the Co. Louth Peace and Reconciliation Partnership of consolidating peace building among young people.</p> <p>The project will work directly with 6 primary schools (5 from across Co. Louth and 1 from Northern Ireland) delivering a programme of activities, workshops and networking opportunities which will build awareness among the participants of sectarianism and racism and encourage and empower them to challenge such issues effectively with their peers and in the wider community.</p>
<p>'Spiral For Schools' Co-operation Ireland's Cross-Border Intergenerational Project for Secondary Schools</p>	<p>The "Spiral for Schools" project addresses the priority identified by the Co. Louth Peace and Reconciliation Partnership of consolidating peace building among young people.</p> <p>The project will be located throughout Co. Louth but will also have a cross-border element to include a secondary school from within Northern Ireland, with a particular focus on the urban centres of Drogheda and Dundalk, and the Cooley peninsula. Project activities will mainly centre on these areas also. This will ensure the inclusion of ethnic minority and minority faith communities, as well as those who have been directly affected by the conflict (victims) and those who have been displaced as a result of it.</p> <p>8 schools will be recruited to take part, 7 in Co. Louth and one in the Newry and Mourne district of Northern Ireland. It will also involve the recruitment of 8 older people from both sides of the border to participate in the storytelling and mentoring experience of the project.</p>

All Island School Choir Competition	The All Island School Choir Competition organised by Co-operation Ireland and RTÉ will take place during the Autumn 2012. This is the fourth televised series of the All Island School Choir Competition, which brings young people together throughout the island and encourages the tradition of choral music in second level schools. The four regional heats will take place in Cork, Castlebar, Ballymena and Drogheda with the grand final televised live from the new Titanic Quarter on Sunday the 11 of November.
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Shared Learning Projects

Local Authority Programme	<p>The aim of the Local Authority Programme is to progress and develop meaningful cross-border relationships within the local government sector. The Local Authority Forum is a strategic partnership comprising five Chief Executives from the Society Of Local Authority Chief Executives NI (SOLACE) and five County Managers from the County and City Manager's Association (CCMA). The work of the forum is developed through practical joint projects and the sharing of knowledge, expertise and best practice.</p> <p>The sub-groups and areas of work currently being undertaken by the forum range from Spatial Planning, Social Inclusion and Waste Management to the role of local government in job creation on a regional and cross border context.</p> <p>In addition to SOLACE NI and the CCMA, the work of the Local Authority Forum is also supported by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), the Department of the Environment, NI and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, ROI.</p>
Research Project on Racism and Sectarianism in County Donegal	<p>Co-operation Ireland has been appointed by the Donegal Peace and Reconciliation Partnership to undertake research into the nature and extent of sectarianism and racism in the county. Funded under the Donegal PEACE III Action Plan, this project aims to provide a greater understanding and insight into how sectarianism and racism is manifested in Donegal, including how and in what contexts these are experienced by different groups and the factors contributing to producing/sustaining sectarian and racist attitudes, behaviours and practices.</p> <p>The research will provide a benchmark for assessment of the Action Plan and will also inform policy and practice by identifying emerging issues and developing recommendations for appropriate mechanisms and responses by public sector organisations in the county.</p>

Service Delivery Programmes

Modernisation Fund	<p>Co-operation Ireland is involved in the delivery of the Modernisation Fund Capital Programme, in behalf of the Northern Ireland Department for Social Development. Its aim is to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Groups and organisations from across Northern Ireland have been able to invest in new buildings and equipment that make a difference both to the organisation and to the communities that they serve. The Programme achieved this not only through the provision of financial support to assist asset improvement, but also by promoting and supporting collaborative working arrangements that encourage resource sharing and shared learning. The Modernisation Fund Capital Programme is delivered by Co-operation Ireland in partnership with Community Places and Community Evaluation NI.</p>
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Appended Document 2

Entwined Histories Project - Remembering, Understanding and Learning Programme which, using the context of the 100th anniversary of the Signing of the Ulster Covenant, works with six communities to explore the intertwined nature of our shared history and examine how major events are viewed through the lens of different traditions and perspectives. By developing a shared understanding of this historical event, the programme will promote mutual respect by giving the groups a better understanding of processes that lead to the events that have shaped our society.

This project is being delivered in partnership with Cinemagic who will organise an intense film making project based on original ideas that are worked up with the community groups at a series of facilitated workshops. All the workshops will explore in detail the history of the period, how the Covenant came about, who the key players were and their histories. This process will uncover facts that may surprise for example Edward Carson was born in Dublin and was a fine hurler. Skilled facilitators, history professionals and film industry professionals will be used to make this programme educational but engaging and fun. Each of the six areas will be invited to make their own short film about the Signing of the Ulster Covenant. This may be documentary, drama reconstruction or even a comedy but it will reflect their new understanding of the event. The groups will share and explain their film at a final shared workshop showing how selective we are about commemoration and how we focus on what we think is brave and good and fits our understanding of who we are, but must importantly giving an opportunity to re-connect with our shared identity.

The final event will be a public screening of the short films on the 23 September 2012 in Belfast City Hall allowing our participants to mark the anniversary in a very public and inclusive fashion.

Programme Objectives

- To use land mark historical anniversaries to reclaim shared history, build mutual understanding and respect across religious and political divides.
- To work with six communities to explore the historical events and how intertwined our history is and how it was impacted by world events.
- To hold a public showcase event to illustrate how history can be used to move forward in reconciliation not backwards to justify old battles or prove a point of view for hostilities and division.

Context

This project will be the pilot for a series of projects that will use various medium and tools to explore the other historical events coming up this decade

- 1912 Ulster Covenant
- 1916 Battle of the Somme
- 1916 The Easter Rising
- 1919 War of independence

Appended Document 3

Co-operation Ireland Strategic Plan 2010 – 2013

Strategic Priorities

In response to the needs and challenges faced, Co-operation Ireland has identified the following Strategic Priorities for the period 2010-2013.

- Increasing dialogue, understanding, and co-operation at community level, within Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- Increasing opportunities for disengaged communities to participate in cross-border and cross-community activity.
- Increasing the engagement of young people in cross-border and cross-community activities which develop their leadership potential and skills for living in a shared society.
- Researching and developing innovative cross-border activities of relevance to the priorities and interests of people in the Republic of Ireland.
- Promoting the further development of a supportive policy environment for cross-border and cross-community work.
- Raising awareness, in Ireland and internationally, of Co-operation Ireland's role and the ongoing need for peace building work.
- Maintaining the sustainability of Co-operation Ireland in a challenging funding environment by ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of our structures and processes.
- Diversifying our sources of funding and exploring new ways of working with partners in the public, private, and community and voluntary sectors.
- Develop our organisational capacity to identify and respond to emerging needs and opportunities for cross-border and cross-community activities.
- Exploring and identifying opportunities for Co-operation Ireland to share learning and practical experience internationally.

Our Vision

A peaceful and stable island, free of sectarianism, where cultural and political differences are respected, and where people of all backgrounds can live and work together for a better future.

Our Mission

Our mission is to underpin political agreement on the island of Ireland by building positive relationships at community level, both within Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, through the promotion of mutual understanding and co-operation

Press Clippings (see attachment)

Co-operation Ireland Accounts 2010 (see attachment)

Godsend to the construction industry, creating up to 7,000 jobs over six years. And it will have an economic spin-off for the rest of the economy, generating an estimated 11bn.

This investment, largely funded by private finance which will speed up the completion of the project, is a tremendous sign of faith in the city and its impact should be felt for many years to come.

It may have taken years to get the go-ahead, but the new visitor centre at the Giant's Causeway is being built with all possible haste, partly in an effort to cash in on the Irish Open at nearby Portlust this summer.

Tourism authorities hope the centre will boost visitor numbers to the Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage site, to 645,000. That would be a magnificent return, given that tourism is one of the growth areas in the economy with the most immediate potential.

Another tourist attraction, the dry dock where the ill-fated Titanic was fitted out, is also to be given a cash injection to protect it from the sea and make it more integral part of the whole Belfast.

The Thompson Graving Docks Titanic experience. The Thompson Graving Docks Titanic experience. The Thompson Graving Docks Titanic experience.

The case projects collectively create an air of optimism even at a time of economic uncertainty. Certainly there is plenty of bad news about businesses closing and people fearing for the future.

However Northern Ireland does have its advocates and people of vision who believe it is a place well worth investing in and for that we should be very grateful.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

THE Belfast Telegraph's daily pledge is to produce newspapers that make the difference: Newspapers that campaign, inform and entertain and that put your interests first. Every day our readers are at the heart of our journalism.

Seven-year-old Francisca Amador pauses in the window of her home in San Pedro, Dominican Republic.

Let's make this a decade of shared remembrance

All of us have different life experiences which shape who we are and where we find ourselves today. We are all on a journey, but our different backgrounds, sometimes colour our views on the experiences and journeys of others.

This is what makes remembrance of history so complex and, at times, both difficult and painful.

However, taken collectively, our journeys are intertwined and connected in so many different ways. At times, our own personal beliefs are challenged and we change, or modify, our opinion. The history of this island can provide such chal-

It was surprising to learn that Winston Churchill, whose father coined the phrase "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right" and who became the iconic British Bulldog, the prime minister, had spoken at the grounds of Belfast Celtic to advocate Home Rule for Ireland and was at one stage, locked out of the Ulster Hall by rioters.

The story behind this speech was explored through a lecture that

We can all learn valuable lessons from our past through the medium of the arts, says **Caral Ni Chuilín**



historian Dr Ramonn Phoenix and not just a catalogue of localised events. They should not be viewed in isolation.

The period was also a decade of ideas about global movements on nationalism, unionism, empire and liberty. I am supportive of an inclusive, not triumphalist and strategic approach to commemorations and the creative ways in which the arts and cultural sectors can help to tell the stories behind such events.

The knowledge and skills within the arts, museums, libraries, public records and our creative industries can help us explore historical facts, review different interpretations and gain a better understanding of who we are and how our past shapes our relationships today. This was also reflected in business, industry and participation in the war.

The 1912-22 period in Ireland is noted that, in spite of the house

being made up of very different traditions, we were all agreed that we would take forward this issue in an inclusive manner.

The Community Relations Council (CRC) and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have developed a set of principles to remember the past.

The key issue is not whether these events are remembered, but how they are remembered.

I endorse these principles. They can help us remember historical events and provide a framework to examine our more recent past. We should not wait another 100 years before we do that.

The CRC and HLF will be holding a series of lectures entitled '2012-2023 Remembering the Future'. It will launch at the Ulster Museum and, at that event, the Ulster Covenant and the Proclamation of the Irish Republic will be exhibited side-by-side.

This will symbolise our connected history and the importance of understanding different narratives and locating events within their wider historical context through our archives and artistic endeavours.

Caral Ni Chuilín, MLA, is Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure