

Belfast Festivals Forum Charter



www.belfastcity.gov.uk/culture

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Introduction

There is a growing awareness of the value that festivals and events bring to our social, economic and cultural life. They enrich the experience of individuals and communities; they stimulate the economy; they celebrate arts and culture; and they help develop a greater sense of, and pride in, place.

The Festivals Forum was established in 2006 in recognition of festivals' significant contribution to Belfast, helping to make it a better place in which to live, work, socialise, visit and do business.



Our definition of a festival

A festival is a programme of cultural performances, exhibitions, competitions or other inter-related activities, or an occasion for celebrations marked by a series of organised events.



Purpose of the Festivals Forum

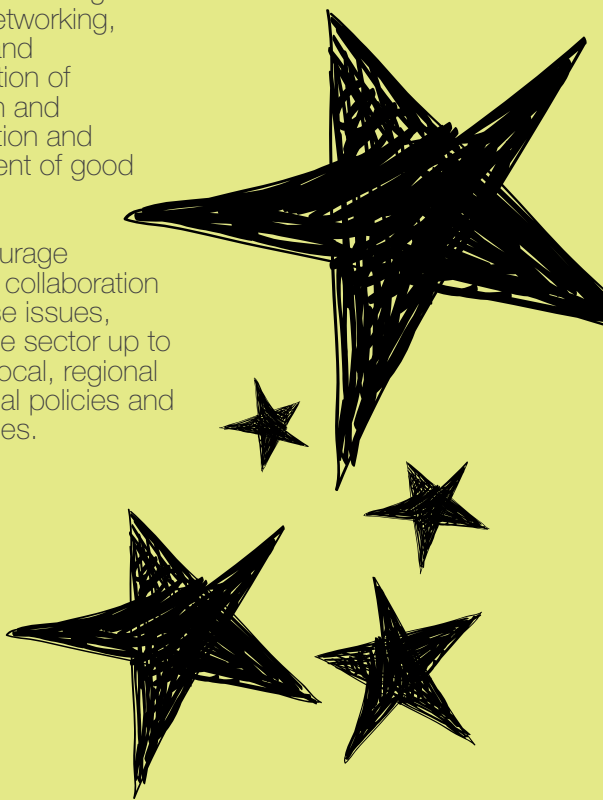
The primary purpose of the Festivals Forum is to bring the festival sector together so that it has recognition, voice and influence.

It will do this through training, networking, research and dissemination of information and the cultivation and development of good practice.

It will encourage synergies, collaboration and expose issues, keeping the sector up to date with local, regional and national policies and opportunities.

Membership

The Forum is open to any organisation with an interest in delivering or supporting festivals in Belfast. Forum members are required to sign up to the Festivals Forum Charter.



Forum vision

Our vision is that Belfast is recognised as a destination that stages high quality festivals accessible to all and placed at the heart of the cultural, social and economic life of the city.

By working collectively, the Forum aims to:

- Improve quality of life
- Enhance visitor experience
- Increase economic impact
- Increase recognition of festivals
- Increase community engagement
- Enhance good relations

Our principles

Members of the Festivals Forum are expected to adopt the following governing principles. Members will:

- Work cooperatively and collaboratively
- Explore new partnership opportunities
- Promote equality of opportunity and respect diversity
- Strive for artistic excellence
- Seek to innovate and encourage new experiences
- Share learning and encourage skills development
- Work to achieve a city-wide and city-centre balance
- Be mindful of other arts, cultural and heritage and arts production and programming in the city
- Be mindful and respectful of other Forum members
- Be mindful of their impact on the environment and take actions to help Belfast become a greener city

Scope of Forum activities

The Forum will develop and deliver an action plan to the benefit of the collective festivals. The actions will be themed around:

- Capacity building
- Influencing
- Marketing and communications
- Monitoring and evaluation

