



Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Culture and Arts Small Grants

Date: 4 December 2012

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	As Members will recall, the Development Committee approved the Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012–15 in September 2012. The Cultural Framework contains details of new funding schemes to support the successful delivery of the strategy. These include:
1.2	<u>Arts and Heritage Project Funding</u> This fund replaces the Rolling Programme, which awarded grants of up to £3,000 to innovative arts and heritage projects.
1.3	To date in 2012/13, Rolling Programme has supported 19 projects. It is projected that these projects will engage 1,598 participants and reach an audience of 39,226. £31,490 has been allocated to date, and the amount remaining in the budget is £17,800.
1.4	<u>Community Festivals Fund</u> Belfast City Council accepted the commission from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to administer the Community Festivals Fund in the Belfast area. The fund is 50 per cent funded through DCAL and 50 per cent through Council revenue. At the Development Committee in August 2008, Members agreed to delegate the authority to award grants under this fund to the Director of Development.
1.5	The Community Festivals Fund invites applications from arts, heritage and community organisations that are planning a community festival in Belfast. The primary aim of the fund is to increase the capacity of festival providers, and it also supports the cost of festival programming, such as exhibitions, family days, historical talks and concerts.
1.6	In 2012/13, £146,000 has been invested in 37 festivals through the Community Festivals Fund. Fourteen festivals have or will (by March 2013) take place in the city centre; 11 in South Belfast; 5 in West Belfast; 3 in North Belfast; 3 in East Belfast; and 1 in Shankill.

1.7	It is projected that these festivals will engage 54,295 participants and reach an audience of 475,680. There is no money left in the Community Festivals Fund budget for 2012/13.
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2	Key Issues
2.1	Arts and Heritage Project Funding and Community Festivals Fund will open on 3 January and close on 1 February 2013. The maximum grant available under each scheme is £10,000.
2.2	These grants will be administered by the Central Grants Unit supported by the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit. The grants will be widely advertised in local newspapers, on the Council and partner websites and through mailing lists. There will also be a series of information surgeries in venues across the city.
2.3	<u>Arts and Heritage Project Funding</u> Arts and Heritage Project Funding is for one-off projects that are innovative and/or will support organisational development.
2.4	At the Development Committee in April 2008, Members agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Development to award grants under the Rolling Programme. Members are requested to also delegate authority to award grants under Project Funding to the Director of Development.
2.5	An amount of £160,000 is included in the 2013/14 draft budget estimates.
2.6	<u>Community Festivals Fund</u> DCAL's contribution to the Community Festivals Fund 2013/14 is subject to the outcome of the central government budget consultation. Confirmation of their subvention is expected by March 2013. £74,000 is included in the Department's budget estimates for 2013/14.
2.7	No funding will be approved prior to confirmation of an offer from DCAL and ratification of the 2013/14 budget estimates.
2.8	Members are requested to continue delegating authority to award grants under Community Festivals Fund to the Director of Development.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Funding is included in the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's draft budget estimates for 2013/14.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> This will be covered within the work programme of the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality and Good Relations Considerations attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the contents of this report, and 2. Agree to delegate authority to the Director of Development to award grants under the Arts and Heritage Project Fund and Community Festivals Fund

6	Decision Tracking
There is no Decision Tracking attached to this report.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
DCAL - Department of Culture Arts and Leisure	