



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	International Curatorial Visit to Turner Prize
Date:	22 October 2013
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
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1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	<p><u>Cultural Framework for Belfast</u> As Members will be aware, the Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012–15 was agreed at September Development Committee and published in October 2012. Its vision is that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">By 2020, everyone in Belfast experiences and is inspired by our city's diverse and distinctive culture and arts. Arts and heritage are valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth, and the city's culture and creativity is renowned throughout the world.</p>
1.2	<p>The Cultural Framework complements the Investment Programme, which recognises arts and heritage as key drivers of the city's economy. It was developed in consultation with the arts and heritage sectors, and the Council's approach has been cited as best practice. Its aims are arranged under four themes – Distinctly Belfast, Inspiring communities, Attracting audiences and Strengthening the sector – and its targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increasing audiences from Belfast by 10 per cent• growing visiting audiences from 15 to 25 per cent• establishing a strong, skilled, multi-faceted arts and heritage infrastructure• generating £8 in income for every £1 invested in the sector
1.3	<p>Distinctly Belfast is about high-quality work that resonates with the people of Belfast and broadcasts our unique qualities to the wider world, enabling the city and its culture to be recognised and valued at home and abroad. Within this theme we are committed to developing opportunities to showcase the quality of Belfast's distinctive culture, arts and heritage locally and internationally.</p>

1.4	International Curatorial Visit to Turner Prize In December 2013 a group of 18 international curators will visit Northern Ireland to coincide with the Turner Prize taking place as part of the Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture programme in 2013.
1.5	In addition, from Sunday 1 December to Friday 6 December 2013 there will be a detailed itinerary to showcase the best of visual arts in Northern Ireland including a three day visit to Belfast. This will include a programme of visits, lectures, exhibitions and events that will give an increased knowledge and appreciation of Belfast's visual arts scene.
1.6	The programme will also feature visits to artists' studios and includes organised talks and tours of contemporary arts spaces in Derry and Belfast including <i>Collected Histories: an exhibition of Northern Ireland Art</i> which focuses on 20 years of the celebrated Belfast collective, Catalyst Arts.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The visit by the international delegation is supported by Arts Council of Northern Ireland and British Council. There are over 40 galleries and several studio spaces in Belfast. Belfast City Council supports a number of galleries and studios across the city through culture and arts funding programmes and it is proposed that we would mark the contribution they make to the city during the international curatorial visit.
2.2	A series of postcards will be designed celebrating leading artists and galleries in the city. It is proposed that these will be presented to the international delegation at a reception at City Hall to mark their visit to Belfast.
2.3	This will also be an opportunity to host a seminar exploring the future of visual arts in the city including the potential development of galleries and spaces. As well as the international delegates, invitations would be extended to key stakeholders from the visual arts sector in Belfast.
2.4	The outputs from the reception would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking to introduce visual arts sector to international curators and key Turner Prize representatives • Celebrating and acknowledging the contribution that visual arts makes to the city • Exploring opportunities for future international connections and exchanges • Examining the potential development of the visual arts sector in Belfast

3	Resource Implications
3.1	Financial A cost of no more than £1,000 for a reception at Belfast City Hall to be found within the Tourism, Culture and Arts 2013/14 budget.

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

5	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that Members agree: To host a reception at Belfast City Hall for the international delegation and key stakeholders from the visual arts sector in Belfast at a cost of no more than £1000

6	Decision Tracking
December 2013	

7	Key to Abbreviations
TCA: Tourism, Culture and Arts	

