



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund
<b>Date:</b>	19 August 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives, ext 3427

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	As Members will recall, in August 2013 the Development Committee agreed to open the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund.
1.2	The purpose of the fund is to deliver large-scale, ambitious arts and heritage projects that challenge social exclusion. Proposals must demonstrate how they support the Cultural Framework's Distinctly Belfast and Inspiring communities themes and will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- cross-community</li><li>- cross-city</li><li>- delivered in partnership between cultural and community organisations</li><li>- of benefit to hard-to-reach areas and communities.</li></ul>
1.3	£150,000 per annum was ring-fenced in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 budgets, with the same level of support projected for 2015/16 subject to approval of draft budget estimates. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) agreed to provide match funding of £450,000, bringing the programme budget to £900,000. £10,000 per year is ring-fenced for administrative costs. This means the total funding budget is £870,000.
1.4	Tranche 1 of Creative and Cultural Belfast opened in September 2013, and in February 2014, Members agreed to award a total of £585,000, comprising one exceptional grant of £300,000 and three standard grants of £95,000. Further information on these projects is included at Appendix 1.
1.5	It was anticipated that the second round of funding for Creative and Cultural Belfast would open in April 2015. Three standard grants of £95,000 would be made available.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<u>Value of grants</u> £585,000 of funding was allocated in tranche 1, including £445,000 of ACNI funding. The balance available for tranche 2 is therefore £285,000, including £5,000 of ACNI's funding. However, ACNI funding cannot be used to part-fund a contract at this level.
2.2	It is therefore recommended that the value of grant is reduced from three grants at £95,000 to three grants at £90,000. The surplus of £15,000 will be used for programme support, such as training, marketing and evaluation.
2.3	<u>Timescales</u> Belfast City Council's budget must be substantially spent within the current financial year. It is therefore recommended that the call for applications is brought forward and opens in September 2014. Recommendations for funding will then be presented to Committee in January 2015.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	<u>Financial</u> Funding is included in the TCA Unit's draft budget estimates for 2014/15. ACNI has agreed to provide match funding of £450,000.
3.2	<u>Human Resources</u> This will be covered within the work programme of the TCA Unit.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	The Cultural Framework was subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment and relevant equality and good relations implications have been taken in to consideration.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree to open the second round of the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund in September 2014 to award three grants of £90,000.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeframe: January 2015	
Reporting Officer: Lisa Toland	

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
ACNI - Arts Council of Northern Ireland	
TCA - Tourism, Culture and Arts	

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 - Creative and Cultural Belfast summary of tranche 1 projects	

### **Creative and Cultural Belfast Tranche 1 Grants**

#### **1. Abhainn bheo na Fearsaide/The living river Farset project**

**Lead organisation:** Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich (exceptional grant)

**Partner organisation(s):** The Spectrum Centre

**Value of grant:** £300,000

**Project description:** Through a series of arts and heritage workshops, the Living River Farset/Abhainn bheo na Fearsaid will explore the role of the river in the development of Belfast, discovering the origins of place names, traditions and language and reviving forgotten crafts. It will culminate in a one-day festival, when Fearsaid, a 15ft willow personification of the river Farset, will arise at dawn from the Belfast hills in an explosion of light and sound. Fearsaid will then move through the city, reaching her destination at the mouth of the river at Laganside at dusk for a major festival of water and light.

#### **2. Art at the heart from the very start**

**Lead organisation:** Replay Theatre Company

**Partner organisation(s):** Belfast Childcare Partnership, East Belfast Partnership Board

**Value of grant:** £90,000

**Project description:** Art at the heart from the very start will see babies and families filling the city's streets when Belfast unveils Baby Day, the first-ever festival for babies and their adults. Baby Day will include the world premiere of 'The Belfast Lullaby', to be composed by Neil Martin, which will ring out across the city from City Hall.

#### **3. Draw Down the Walls 2014–16 Visual Arts Showcase**

**Lead organisation:** Golden Thread Gallery

**Partner organisation(s):** North Belfast Interface Network, Lower Shankill Community Association

**Value of grant:** £90,000

**Project description:** Draw Down the Walls will commission a new piece of temporary visual art. The project aims to provoke debate about 'barriers in our society' and will be informed by community participation every step of the way.

#### **4. Nine Nights**

**Lead organisation:** ArtsEkta

**Partner organisation(s):** Annadale Housing Residents Association, New Lodge Arts, Spectrum Centre

**Value of grant:** £95,000

**Project description:** Nine Nights is an outdoor theatre and storytelling experience based on centuries-old Hindu folklore, re-imagined as a mammoth contemporary outdoor spectacle with music, dance and pyrotechnics.