



Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Support for Wheelworks' ArtCart

Date: 16 December 2014

Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470

Contact Officer: Brian Johnston, Tourism, Culture, Heritage & Arts Manager, ext 3586

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	As Members will be aware, Belfast City Council provides revenue funding to 52 core-funded arts and heritage organisations to support the delivery of their annual programmes of activity. This includes £10,000 per year for three years to Wheelworks, a Belfast-based youth arts organisation.
1.2	Wheelworks is the 2014 winner of the Allianz Arts and Business Awards Young People Award. Its programme of activities includes “multiple realities”, which uses digital and traditional arts to address issues facing marginalised and at-risk young people; and “dealing with difference”, a training programme for youth workers and arts facilitators promoting diversity and disability awareness.
1.3	A key tool in Wheelworks' repertoire is the ArtCart, a purpose-built mobile arts hub fitted with a darkroom, sound recording studio, stage and workstations. As well as taking part in festivals and events such as Culture Night, Disability Pride and Belfast Day, the ArtCart enables Wheelworks to bring high-quality, cutting-edge arts provision to areas and communities that lack arts infrastructure and where levels of engagement are below average.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The original ArtCart is now 14 years old and needs to be replaced. Wheelworks has received an offer of £200,000 capital funding via the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI). This funding is subject to delivery of the project by March 2015. However some partnership funding is required in order to lever the ACNI resources.
2.2	Wheelworks has 2.5 full-time equivalent staff working at capacity to deliver their core

	programme of activity. The request from Wheelworks to Belfast City Council is for £12,000 to support the cost of a project manager to oversee all aspects of the design and build, as well as deliver business and communications plans. This funding, which equates to less than 5 per cent of the total project cost, would enable Wheelworks to buy the time and expertise to successfully deliver the capital project.
2.3	Once operational, the new cart can be utilised effectively to ensure further engagement by marginalised communities in cultural and arts-based activities.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<u>Financial</u> This can be funded out of the Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts (TCH&A) Unit's 2014/15 budget.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality and good relations implications attached to this report.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report and agree to fund £12,000 towards the cost of Wheelworks' new ArtCart, as part of a £212,000 funding package, with the remaining resources agreed by ACNI.

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

7	Key to Abbreviations
TCH&A – Tourism, Culture and Arts ACNI – Arts Council of Northern Ireland	