



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Botanic Sculpture
Date:	12 April 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stephen Stockman, City Parks Manager (East)

1. Relevant Background Information

The Community Arts Partnership (CAP) was established in 2011 following the merger of New Belfast Community Arts Initiative and Community Arts Forum, and continues to build on the success of these two leading community arts organisations. CAP takes the lead in the promotion and development of community arts practice and supports and collaborates with community groups, schools, artists, the public, arts centres and other organisations in Northern Ireland and beyond.

CAP is asking for approval to erect a community-led Public Sculpture at the entrance area of Botanic Gardens, opposite the statue of Kelvin at the main University Road gates. CAP describe this as an iconic piece of public art, developed, designed and produced through community arts participative practice, which will further enhance the relationship between Belfast's communities and its most iconic Gardens.

The piece has been constructed from 12 components that make up a 2.4 metre diameter sphere, teed-up slightly on a raised platform allowing ground clearance. CAP has secured all project funding for the development of this sculpture. Ten 'petals' of equal size have been developed by ten diverse community groups across Belfast. These groups include; under 16 and over 16 groups, an older people's group, an Irish language group, an ethnic minority group and groups from socially deprived areas. Each group has developed relief imagery in clay on identical flower petal templates. The templates have then been cast in aluminium. Their size and dimensions are the same but the relief imagery reflects their community and cultural identity. The flower petals join together to create the overall sphere shape, the Belfast Bloom.

	<p>It is anticipated that the piece will be unveiled in a launch bringing together all the groups that have worked on the art piece together with representatives of the Arts Council, Belfast City Council, DCAL and the Department of Foreign Affairs.</p>
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2.	Key Issues
	<p>The key issues for the Committee to note are:</p> <p>The Art work will be given to the Citizens of Belfast at no cost for the art work.</p> <p>The Council has been asked to take responsibility and incur the costs of installation, public liability and maintenance of the new Art work.</p>

3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Finance</u> Council would be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost of installation (cost to be established) • the cost for cleaning and maintenance • the provision and maintenance of suitable shrub planting around the Art work initially costing approximately £2,000 <p>These costs can be supported within existing Parks and Leisure budgets.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> No impact.</p> <p><u>Asset</u> The erection of the proposed sculpture would enhance Botanic gardens adding another feature of interest for park users.</p>

4.	Equality and good relations implications
	<p>This provides the potential to attract communities and tourists to the City to view this piece of Community Based artwork. The sculpture represents community cohesion and the aspiration of the groups involved in seeing our parks and open spaces shared by all members of the community.</p>

5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that the committee grant approval to install and maintain the art work subject to an appropriate legal agreement being entered into between</p>

	The Council and CAP.
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6.	Decision Tracking
	Stephen Stockman, City Parks Manager (East)

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	CAP Community Arts Partnership DCAL Department of Cultural, Arts and Leisure

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Information and Mock up of Belfast Bloom Sculpture.