



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Proposed Mural Artwork - Ormeau Park
Date:	12 September 2013
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Stanton Martin, Community Parks Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The council have been approached by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Unit with a proposal to fund a new mural to replace the old existing Latin American mural located in Ormeau Park. The aim of the new mural is to celebrate the complex mix of cultures and ethnicity present in the Ormeau area.
1.2	The existing mural in Ormeau Park was commissioned in 2009 by Northern Ireland's Latin American Association in partnership with the Housing Executive's Community Cohesion Unit and cross community peace building organization, Intercomm. This 'Shared City' project was partly funded by the council's Good Relations Unit. This mural celebrated cultural diversity in our City and was painted by two Chilean artists with help from the local community.
1.3	The existing mural had an expected limited lifespan due to the materials used and the effects of outside elements over the years; subsequently it has deteriorated and is in need of replacement.
1.4	A nominated artist has been working in consultation with all groups in the Ormeau area regarding content and style of the proposed new mural. (see appendix for proposed artwork).
1.5	The new mural features imagery relating to European cultures; Chinese culture: i.e. the dragon, the teapot and the birds; Indian culture: i.e. some of the flower and leaves are traditional Indian woodcut; African culture: i.e. the African masks on the tree, and patterns around the eyes (these relate to African animals like the Zebra).

1.6	<p>There are also elements of both Nationalist and Unionist community i.e. the An Droichead crest and tin whistle player and the local Orange Hall and flute band player, together with local imagery i.e. the river, Ormeau Bridge, local football club, cycle path, runners.</p> <p>In its complexity the bright colours and the style used are inspired by European paintings. There is almost an abstract element in the way the sections intersect and create space for the community aspirations.</p> <p>There would be a good mix of volunteers helping with the painting; representing a range of people from different communities in the local area.</p>
2.	Key Issues
2.1	Although the Existing mural will be removed a record of the Latin American mural in a smaller format will be displayed.
2.2	The new mural is designed to be inclusive of all groups living in the Ormeau area.
2.3	It is accepted that all murals have a limited life span in line with materials used and from a maintenance perspective, has no cost impact on the Council.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>There would be no financial implications for the council.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p>
3.2	There would be no Human Resource implications.
4.	Equality Implications
4.1	Local community representatives as well as the assigned artist have worked together closely and carried out consultation with the local communities to ensure the mural is representative of all in the Ormeau area.
5.	Recommendations
5.1	It is recommended that the Committee agree to the request to replace the mural in Ormeau Park as outlined.

6.	Decision Tracking
6.1	Stanton Martin, Community Park Manager to oversee development.
7.	Key to Abbreviations
7.1	none
8.	Documents Attached
8.1	Appendix - proposed Artwork