

## International Relations Outputs 2016/17

### **China Outputs 2016/17**

#### Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council assisted the Chinese Consulate Belfast with Planning and QC advice on their Capital build on Malone Road (due to open 2017).
- Belfast City Council signed a formal Sister City agreement with Shenyang in May 2016 and has developed a close working relationship with Madam Wang and her team.
- Belfast City Council promoted its successful Rockefeller Resilience work and roadmap at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Shenyang International Smart City event in November 2016, led by the China Centre for Urban Development.
- Belfast City Council provided briefing for the NI Assembly Business Investment and NI Ministers prior to their China visits in 2016.

#### Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council connected Campbell College to the Shenyang Education Bureau and the NI Bureau Beijing to make direct contact for marketing the college to attract Chinese boarding students – ongoing.
- Belfast City Council directly influenced the decision by the China Confucius Institute to increase its number of Chinese teachers from 39 to 52 in Northern Ireland.
- Belfast City Council hosted the British Council China team in December 2016, and shared the education message for marketing.

#### Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council regularly shares Belfast investment opportunity pitch information to contacts made in China at DIT, INI, Shenyang Foreign Affairs, Chinese Chamber London etc. This will be followed up by targeted investor pitch events in May 2017.
- Belfast City Council provided Belfast based Colliers Property and Real Estate company with Belfast promotional material for the Investor event in Beijing in October 2016 (KPMG cited the BCC document as best seen to date in the sector).
- Belfast City Council promoted city investment opportunities to the Chinese Investment Corporation during their visit to Belfast in November 2016, and provided a civic visit in City Hall.
- Belfast City Council provided promotional material to the China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation 2016.
- Belfast City Council hosted the China Merchants Group who represent a number of Belfast and NI companies as their port and beverage distributor in China.
- Belfast City Council assisted a Belfast ex-pat in Beijing to return to Belfast, and enter into a China/NI related business start up.

#### Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council along with Dublin, joined the World Cities Tourism Federation 2016, and retains an updated web presence (100 million Chinese travel outside of China annually for tourism)

## Appendix 1

purposes with only 48,000 travelling to NI).

- Belfast City Council has linked to Tourism Ireland to promote regular positive social media news feed to the China market.
- Belfast City Council co-hosted the 'China Government Chinese Tourism into UK Communities' event in the grounds of the City Hall in September 2016.
- Belfast City Council supported the annual Chinese New Year through a cultural event at the Mac in partnership with Confucius, and through the first ever joint Belfast City Council/Chinese Consulate event in City Hall.
- Belfast City Council shared 150 photos of the City for show at the Shenyang Sister Cities exhibition 2016-18.

## International Relations Outputs 2016/17

### **Nashville Outputs 2016/17**

#### Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council led a mission to Nashville in March 2016 to be re-invigorate the Sister City link.

#### Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council facilitated a Methody College student exchange for 5 Nashville Harpeth Hall students in November 2016.
- Belfast City Council co-hosted 3 Harpeth Hall students for a 3 week work placement in January 2017 and plans are underway in partnership with Strathearn College to facilitate a further exchange.
- Existing links with Queens University Belfast and Nashville's Vanderbilt University have been strengthened as well as new links between Ulster University and Belmont.
- Belfast City Council facilitated connections between the NI Judiciary and the Nashville Bar Association in 2016 - ongoing.

#### Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council connected Cleaver Fulton Rankin to key legal contacts in Nashville within the Belfast-Nashville Sister Cities network.

#### Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council has engaged (on 4 occasions) on an exchange and learning experience with the founder of the Nashville Music Hall of Fame to explore potentially linking with Nashville and Boston regarding the promotion of music in the Belfast Story attraction – ongoing.
- Belfast City Council facilitated connections with Visit Belfast and the Nashville Visitor and Convention Bureau to explore exchange of staff and city promotional material.
- Belfast City Council brokered a link for Queens University Belfast with the Nashville Mike Curb College of Entertainment & Music Business at Belmont University, and are now linking their Sonic Arts Research Centre for exchanges and learning between academics.

## International Relations Outputs 2016/17

### **Boston Outputs 2016/17**

#### Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council through the Chair of City Growth met with Boston Senators and Judiciary on women's legal and equality issues. Interest now exists in making a visit to Belfast to study the equality and legal system here at central local and community level.
- Mayor Walsh appointed a Belfast/Boston Sister Cities Chair and International Development team within his office to progress co-operation under the agreement.

#### Education/Sport:

- Belfast City Council co-sponsored and hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament and engaged professional players with all Belfast Schools, community and youth organisations.
- Belfast City Council began engagement with the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Invitational Tournament December 2017.
- Belfast City Council facilitated connections between Ulster University, Queens University Belfast and Belfast Metropolitan College and the Irish International Immigration Centre in Boston securing 40 further J1 visas, 40 1 year placements in USA and a greater awareness of the programme.

#### Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council endorsed recent Boston inward investments in Belfast eg. Black Duck, Rapid 7.
- Belfast City Council connected with Mass Challenge – a business eco system with a global presence, who are keen to link with a Belfast eco system and ultimately link the 3 Sister Cities.

## **International Relations Action Plan 2017/18**

### **China Actions 2017/18**

#### Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council will co-host the Chinese Minister Counsel for Science and Technology during his return visit to Northern Ireland and Ulster University, to specifically look at best practice in Green Technology.
- Belfast City Council will lead a multi-partner outward mission to 6-13 China in May 2017 to explore education, investment and business cooperation.
- Belfast City Council will host the first Shenyang inward Mayoral visit in 2017.

#### Business/Investment:

- Belfast City Council will host an inward business mission from the London Chinese Chamber of Commerce with Invest Northern Ireland in 2017.

#### Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council secured an opportunity to feature a Belfast art performance in Shenyang in 2018 when the 18<sup>th</sup> World Cities Association for Mayors will meet. Belfast City Council is working with Confucius to select and fund this.
- Belfast City Council will support Chinese New Year 2018.
- Belfast City Council connected the Irish Football Association with the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Shenyang Peace Football Tournament to send a team of U12 and U13 to Shenyang in August 2017.

## **International Relations Action Plan 2017/18**

### **Nashville Actions 2017/18**

#### Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council will lead a cross sectoral mission to Nashville from 17-20 May 2017
- Nashville has confirmed that the city will lead an annual cross sectoral delegation to Belfast each October for the annual International Homecoming, to engage in the event, meet Belfast and Boston colleagues, and continue to progress on collaboration.

#### Education/Sport:

- Ulster University secured Department of Economy funding to hold a competition to take 10 Undergraduate students to Nashville in April 2017 for a multi-sectoral programme (147 students applied).
- Belfast City Council will again facilitate a Harpeth Hall student work placement for 3 weeks in January 2018 in partnership with Strathearn College.
- Belfast City Council has helped facilitate a March 2017 Methody College student (5) exchange with Harpeth Hall.
- The NI Judiciary is planning an initial exploratory visit to Nashville in May 2017, along with the Belfast City Council delegation.

#### Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council delivered a 3 way Sister City Life and Health Science company showcase and business to business programme in Boston in October 2016. This has led to a focused sectoral inward mission to Belfast from Nashville from 2-4 April 2017 and all partners desire to host 3 way annual events in Boston to grow the sector and linkages at business and academia level.
- Generator NI has engaged with the Nashville Centre for entrepreneurship and will lead a delegation of leading Belfast musicians to Nashville in September 2017 to develop business opportunities.

#### Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council will continue the conversation with Charles McCutcheon and the Nashville Music Hall of Fame, with regard to engagement in the new visitor attraction, and creating Belfast/Boston/Nashville 3 way music tourism trail.
- Belfast City Council has connected the BBC with Nashville's Annual Country Music Awards to explore the potential of mainstreaming the awards live in Belfast (Ulster Hall), and simultaneously promoting the revival and growth of country/folk music here in Northern Ireland.

## International Relations Action Plan 2017/18

### **Boston Actions 2017/18**

#### Political/Civic:

- Belfast City Council will host a cross sectoral mission from Boston from 5-7 June 2017.
- Belfast City Council is donating an organ donor arts sculpture to Boston on 3 December as part of the global cities initiative to celebrate and provide organ donorship.  
Note: Belfast was gifted the sculpture now located in Botanic Gardens by the City of Galway
- Belfast City Council will host Boston and Nashville delegates during the annual International Homecoming in October 2017.

#### Education/Sport:

- Ulster University will enter into a collaborative arrangement with Emerson College, Boston on animation. This link was made via Belfast City Council.
- Belfast City Council linked Belfast Metropolitan College to the Massachusetts Association of Colleges and Universities – ongoing.
- Belfast City Council secured a Harvard University keynote speaker for the launch of the Belfast Metropolitan College Belfast Business Show 2017.
- Belfast City Council will co-host the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament and Gala dinner in November 2017.
- Belfast City Council will co-host the inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Belfast Invitational Tournament in December 2017.

#### Business and Investment:

- Belfast City Council will host a Worcester (MA) trade mission coinciding with the inaugural Basketball Tournament in December 2017.
- Belfast City Council and CSIT (Centre for Cyber Security) will host experts from Nashville and Boston at the annual Belfast Cyber Security Summit 2-4 April 2017.
- Belfast City Council will provide Boston introductions for the first INI Sport technology trade mission to Boston on 5-8 June 2017.
- Belfast City Council will lead a cross sectoral Belfast in Boston week in October to coincide with the annual Boston based Life and Health Science event.

#### Tourism/Culture/Arts:

- Belfast City Council linked the Mac Belfast to Harvard University to explore receiving a Samuel Beckett exhibition in Belfast 2017.
- The Visitor Convention Bureau Boston and Visit Belfast will co-operate to promote the new Nordic low cost Belfast to Providence flight.

**International Relations Action Plan 2017/18**

**Other planned 2017/18 activity**

- Belfast City Council will host a visit of 22 students and teaching staff from the Columbia University in the state of New York, looking at planning and architecture practice in Belfast, and linking with both universities.
- Belfast City Council will host an inward study visit from Stockholm City Council from 24-26 April 2017, around the theme of regeneration and port/maritime development.
- Belfast City Council will host a visit from the Royal Family of Bahrain who will be on an exploratory visit to Dublin and Belfast looking at investment opportunities – date TBC.