



Subject:	Other Voices Proposal
Date:	13 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Clare Mullen, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date on the Other Voices event to be held in Belfast between Thursday 26 and Saturday 28 October 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note the update on the Other Voices event planned for October 2017.- Note the opportunities for youth and community engagement in all of the events.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Members may be aware that Other Voices began as a one-off music event in a small church in the west of Ireland in 2002. Since then, it has grown to become one of the most significant music events across the island of Ireland. Its reach has extended beyond its Dingle base and the prestige attached to this event has grown since its inception. In 2013, the event was held in Derry-Londonderry as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations. In 2016, Other Voices recorded live from Austin, Texas as part of the SxSW international music event. In Summer 2017 there was an ‘Other Voices’ stage as part of the annual Electric Picnic concert in County Laois. The event has also been produced in New York.</p>
3.2	<p>Members will recall that at the June 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members approved financial support of £40,000 towards the ‘Other Voices’ event to be held in Belfast in October 2017. The organisers visited a number of potential venues in the city and decided on Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts as the hub for the concert and wraparound events. As noted in the previous Committee report, it is intended the 2017 event will be a precursor to a larger multi-annual project based in Belfast to help position the city strategically as an attractive, smart and creative city region that is a great place to live, work visit invest and do business. This is in line with the emerging City Positioning work.</p>
3.3	<p>Other Voices has attracted a range of well-known performers since its first transmission in 2002. In addition to high profile acts, it has attracted many indigenous acts and has provided a platform to highlight up-and-coming talent. The event is currently broadcast on RTE’s television and digital platforms, and has had more than 16 million views and more than 7,000 followers on You Tube. It also involves a wide range of outreach and engagement activity with local residents and those involved in the culture and arts sectors.</p>
3.4	<p>Planning work for the October 2017 event in Belfast is well under way. At this stage, the following programme elements are planned:</p>
3.5	<p>Other Voices Main Stage: Four to five bands will be performing alongside headline acts and specially selected newer local acts. Acoustic performances and interviews with the acts will take place in a series of locations in and around the main venue. The main concert will take place on Saturday 28 October at 8.00pm. Access to the event will be free of charge but organisers will work with the Council and local partners to consider some type of “golden ticket” access, using local promotional channels to raise awareness</p>

and promote positive messaging around the event.

3.6

Belfast's Edge: This is a series of talks, demonstrations, panel discussions and performances to facilitate cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral connections around the question of how Belfast's creative edge can be exploited in selling the City as a location for investment as well as a vibrant tourism destination. Attendees will include a diverse range of stakeholders from the arts, technology, creative industries, broader business interests, policy, education and the media. It will address themes and ideas such as:

- 'Creative Belfast' – looking at how music can contribute to building a tech community in a smart, forward-looking city.
- 'Taking Charge' – a series of empowering creative sessions covering practical topics including the use of tech to help create a vision and sound; using tech to empower young entrepreneurs; plotting pathways to a career in the creative industries; creative problem-solving using hacks.
- 'Making Waves' – practical talks, demonstrations and networking with creative industry experts with advice on topics such as writing, performing, editing, filming, production, digital rights, dissemination and control of content.
- 'Northern Sounds' – exploring the music and tech potential of the Belfast region as a pivotal pillar in the construction of the city's strategy and its bid for 2023 European Capital of Culture.

3.7

There will be an opportunity to explore how the new Belfast brand can be utilised to promote the narrative about Belfast's creative talent and potential. This event will take place in Duncairn Theatre from 10.00am - 6.00pm on Saturday 28 October. Access to the event will be free of charge, by prior registration.

3.8

Creative Quarter: Four community engagement events will be held in venues in North, South, East and West Belfast. These events will be targeted at young people (who will be on leave for half-term at this time). They will focus on the opportunities for skills development and employment in the creative sector as well as demonstrating the impact of technology on all walks of life. Young people will have to register to attend and organisers will work with the Council as well as local schools and youth groups to encourage participation from key target groups. Details are currently being finalised and these will include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Creating Change – Tech for Transforming Your Community”: This event will use a ‘Hackathon’ to engage with community to tackle a local issue and collaborate with digital expertise to empower individuals to regenerate their communities. - “Creating a Safe Place Online”: This event will focus discussion on online safety, reputation and wellbeing. - “Creating an Entrepreneurial Culture”: This event aims to inspire young people to be entrepreneurs and will look at the opportunities of the tech and digital sectors in particular, in line with the employability and skills priorities. - “Creating a New Vision – the Creative Industries”: This event will explore the many opportunities within the creative industries in Belfast. <p>The format for each of the events will comprise a focused engagement session followed by live music performance by local artists. The events will take place on Thursday and Friday 26 and 27 October.</p>
3.9	
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The overall cost of the event is likely to be in the region of €200,000. The Department for Foreign Affairs (DFA) has committed €100,000 to the event. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its June meeting, agreed to allocate £40,000. The organisers are seeking additional financial support from ACNI and Tourism NI in order to meet the shortfall.</p> <p>BBC NI is providing in-kind financial support regarding transmission and the provision of outside broadcast facilities and technical crew.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>The Other Voices concert and community engagement workshops are open and free of charge to all members of the community. The workshops are being held in accessible venues in North, South, East and West Belfast in order to maximise opportunities for engagement and participation.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None.