



EUROCITIES Culture Forum

Belfast & Derry City

CULTURE: BUILDING BRIDGES

Wednesday 26 March - Saturday 29 March 2014

(Draft programme at 20/03/14)

Belfast and Derry City have been significantly transformed in recent years and are growing in ambition, confidence and popularity. Culture has played a key role in this transformation.

Under the title "Culture: Building Bridges" we will tackle the issues of improving social cohesion through culture; the power of community arts; and reaching new audiences.

We will look at how our strong and distinctive cultures contribute to an innovative arts sector, inspiring a new confidence and energy amongst citizens. We will show you how arts and culture has created dialogues, built bridges, connected communities and neighbourhoods, and changed our cities' landscapes - both physically and socially. We will explore how the sharing of diverse cultures, spaces, identities and histories has created new identities for both cities. We have many great examples to share.

We will also consider how financial investments in culture have led to tangible outcomes such as skills development and more attractive cities; how qualitative social impacts such as inclusivity can be measured; and how we might better articulate the broad value of culture.

For more info on Belfast and Derry City:

- www.visit-belfast.com
- www.derryvisitor.com

All working documents useful for the meeting are available on the EUROCITIES members' website <http://tinyurl.com/lz4vwtl>

In case you can not log in please send an email to members@eurocities.eu

Wednesday 26 March in Belfast

1700 - 1815 Steering Group meeting at The MAC (Belfast's newest arts venue)

www.themaclive.com

1900 Welcome reception at Oh Yeah Music Centre. www.ohyeahbelfast.com.

Informal buffet & live music.

The Oh Yeah music centre is a former bonded whiskey warehouse in the heart of the Cathedral Quarter, Belfast's cultural district. It is spread over three floors and features a performance space, a drop-in area, office units for creative industries, a recording studio and exhibition space.

STUART BAILIE, the CEO of Oh Yeah music centre, will provide information about the centre. One of the co-founders of Oh Yeah, Stuart has written for NME, Mojo, Q, The Times, The Irish Times, Uncut, Classic Rock and Hot Press. He was Assistant Editor of the New Musical Express (NME) and worked as a press officer for Warner Records and was a talent scout for Sony Records. He presents a weekly BBC Radio Ulster music show and writes a BBC blog. He has written sleeve notes for U2 and wrote the authorised story of Thin Lizzy. He has scripted the Belfast Music Bus tour and also narrates the walking tour on the iPhone app, Belfast Music.

LITTLE BEAR are a four piece band from Derry City, playing emotionally literate rock, they have received some fantastic reviews - Including both "Flavour of the Month" and "Ones to Watch" from BBC Introducing. They have had tracks playlisted widely including on BBC Radio One. The band have just released their first single with Smalltown America records.

FIONNUALA FAGAN and CLARE GALWAY are PhD music students at Queens University Belfast. Fionnuala is an artist, composer, and singer and has performed her work at many festivals and arts venues.

Thursday 27 March Thematic conference in Belfast

Culture: Building bridges

Venue: City Hall

0900 Registration, refreshments at City Hall.

Belfast City Hall is Belfast City Council's civic building, dating from 1906. It is located in Donegall Square, in the heart of Belfast city centre. The site was once the home of the White Linen Hall, an important international linen exchange.

- 0930 **Civic welcome by Councillor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Lord Mayor of Belfast**
- 0940 **Official Opening:** EUROCITIES Culture Forum Chair, Matteo Lepore, Deputy Mayor, Bologna
- 0950 **Keynote welcome speech:** Councillor Deirdre Hargey, Chair of Development Committee, Belfast City Council
- 1005 **Keynote welcome speech:** Ms Oonagh McGillion, Director of Legacy, Derry City Council
- 1020 **Presentation: culture as a bridge builder within cities** (Conor Shields, Community Arts Partnership, Belfast. www.comartspartner.org).

Conor Shields is Chief Executive of Community Arts Partnership. Community Arts Partnership takes the lead in the promotion, development and delivery of community arts practice, in the belief that the arts can transform our society at a cultural, social and economic level.

In his presentation, Conor will examine how community arts can positively transform our society, maximise access and ownership of culture, develop original creative thinking and affect positive change in our cities.

Conor is a multi-instrumentalist and has been a performing musician and facilitator for over thirty years. Conor has worked with theatre companies, broadcast media and film, development education and community development agencies, and as an arts practitioner, has facilitated workshops through a range of disciplines in theatres, community settings, schools and prisons. Along the way, he has studied Law, Politics and Business at London School of Economics, University of Ulster and Cass Business School (City University, London) respectively. He has designed and led a number of programmes, festivals and international research initiatives.

- 1050 **Presentation: culture creates confident city identities** (Helen Marriage, Artichoke. <http://www.artichoke.uk.com>).

Helen Marriage is a co-director of the UK creative company Artichoke. Artichoke is one of the UK's leading independent arts companies, working to transform landscapes and expectations through its unique way of realising the ambitions of artists and the dreams of the public.

In her presentation, Helen will look at how culture can create and reinforce city identities, by providing a platform for artist's most impossible ideas and inserting their work into the everyday life of society. She has found that collaborative, high impact artistic work can create massive unexpected disruption to the daily life of a city - challenging perceptions of reality and self identity, and bringing people together in a unique and powerful way.

Helen's company recently produced Derry City's UK City of Culture festival of light 'Lumiere' which attracted audiences of 179,000. Artichoke has

produced some of the UK's most striking large-scale art events ranging from Royal de Luxe's *The Sultan's Elephant*, through Antony Gormley's Fourth Plinth project *One & Other*, to *Peace Camp* by international theatre director Deborah Warner and actor Fiona Shaw. Artichoke's interests lie at the conjunction of art, politics, communication and transformation. This work has taken the company into an examination of the nature of control over the public domain and the ways in which our cities and landscapes can be re-imagined. It is the company's belief that while their transformation of the landscape is ephemeral, the transformation of the individual is permanent.

There will plenty of time for questions after the coffee break. Delegates will be invited to write questions on post-it notes during the presentations.

1120 Break

1145 Q&A session / Panel Discussion

Panel members: Cllr Deirdre Hargey; Conor Shields; Matteo Lepore; Helen Marriage; and Laura Cassio, European Commission, DG Education and culture.

Session moderated by Ali Fitzgibbon, Director of Young at Art and Artistic Director of Belfast Children's Festival. (www.youngatart.co.uk). Young at Art coordinates an international festival and a variety of projects that encourage children and young people under 18 to enjoy the arts, develop awareness of its impact on their lives, and have a say in what their arts provision should be.

1300 Lunch (served in room)

1400-1700 Parallel workshops

A. SHARED CULTURAL SPACE - taking place at Crescent Arts Centre, a diverse community arts centre with a wide range of arts and cultural activities for over 30 years. www.crescentarts.org

In this session, we will look at the role of culture in creating shared space (physical, social, psychological) and the importance of nurturing this within the city context. We will discuss what new challenges are faced by cities for stability in social cohesion, and consider how culture and arts can be used as a way of developing mutual understanding.

Welcome and introduction by Keith Acheson - Director, and Ann Feely - Outreach and Education Officer, Crescent Arts Centre. Session moderated by Eimear Henry, Belfast City Council.

Contributors:

- **Gearóid (Gerry) Ó hEara**, Chief Executive of Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin. www.culturlann-doire.ie Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin is Derry City's purpose-built Irish language, cultural and enterprise centre, based in the historic Great James Street area. It is a space for learning, creativity, exploration and enterprise and hosts a variety of cultural organisations and enhances access to services and facilities for the city's culture enthusiasts and Irish speaking community.
- **Brendan Clarke & Peter Richards - Draw Down the Walls project.** www.facebook.com/ddtw#!/drawdown.thewalls "Creating the conditions to imagine a city without barriers". This is a cross-community project that uses art and language to examine Belfast's controversial interface walls. They use art to engage traditionally hard to reach groups, in particular detached young people, living on or at interfaces or within interface communities. They have worked with international artists to install new public art and create new shared space in interface areas.
- **Liam Lynch, T13.** www.t13.tv Belfast's T13 Urban Sports Academy and Shared Cultural Space is a best practice model for sustainable social enterprise. Located at the heart of Belfast's Titanic Quarter and set in a former shipbuilding warehouse, T13 is a pioneering vision of shared culture, leisure and community. They focus on shared space accessible to the whole community; economic stability through social enterprise; and active lifestyles promoting increased and safe participation in urban sport, art, dance, and music. T13 offers everything from BMX to skateboarding, urban art to DJ sessions, free running, breakdancing, music events and art galleries.

B. QUALITATIVE IMPACTS OF CULTURE - taking place at **Linen Hall Library**, Belfast's oldest library founded in 1788, and the last subscribing library in Ireland. www.linenhall.com

In this session, we will examine how cities measure and demonstrate the value of culture and arts, and how this might be developed for the future. We will look at the benefits of culture beyond the intrinsic and economic impact, and consider how, through the instrumental impact of cultural activity, our societies can be transformed.

Welcome and introduction by Julie Andrews - Director, Linen Hall Library.
Session moderated by Mags Byrne, DU Dance.

Contributors:

- **Brenda Kent, New Outcome Measures project.** Brenda is a

consultant and a coordinator at Arts & Disability Equality Charter. She has worked in participatory arts at strategic level for over 20 years. She is leading the creation of a *new outcome measures* project which will see Belfast City Council and partners work together to develop meaningful measures which will empower them to demonstrate the value of arts and culture and secure future investment. The intention is a joined-up approach to outcomes that will be informed by the sector and will influence grant-making programmes and cultural strategies.

<https://sites.google.com/site/newoutcomemeasures/>

- **Michael Gallagher, Strategy and Regeneration Manager at Ilex-Derry's Urban Regeneration Company.** www.ilex-urc.com Ilex promotes the physical, economic and social regeneration of Derry City and has redeveloped the former military base of Ebrington (26 acres) along the riverfront. Ilex built the Peace Bridge which opened in 2011 and was funded by the EU's Peace III programme (Shared Space initiative).
- **Mags Byrne, Artistic Director, DU Dance.** www.dudancen.com Mags has been working professionally in dance over 28 years and has worked extensively in educational and community settings across the world. Her creative mission is to promote the major transformational potential of dance as a means of producing long-lasting social and personal change within participants and those who witness it.

1900 Evening drinks reception, City Hall.

1930 Dinner, City Hall. To include live music and entertainment

Friday 28 March in Derry City

Working Groups and EUROCITIES business session

0845 Meet at BELFAST CENTRAL STATION for train journey from Belfast to Derry. **Note: this is a scheduled train service so please be on time.**

1125 Arrival at Derry train station & transfer by bus to Foyle Street for Millennium Forum Theatre (Luggage storage at Millennium Forum)

1145 Buffet lunch at Millennium Forum www.millenniumforum.co.uk

1245 Welcome by Mayor Martin Reilly & Introduction to Derry City

1315 Guided to Working Group venues

1330-1615 Working Groups meetings in parallel (including coffee break)

- **Young People and Culture - Nerve Centre**, a music venue for young people also hosting a cinema, a GCSE programme on creative skills and a fab lab www.nervecentre.org
 - See WD 3 for a detailed agenda and all useful documents
- **Mobility of Artists - Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company**, one of Ireland's leading dance companies offering a unique approach to dance performance and participation www.echoechodance.com
 - See WD 4 for a detailed agenda and all useful documents
- **Access to Culture - Verbal Arts Centre**. Since 1992 the centre promotes the language arts, celebrates commonality and diversity, the development of knowledge, understanding and excellence in creation, performance and critical practice across the verbal arts forms, together with research, publication and provision of information. www.theverbal.co
 - See WD 5 for a detailed agenda and all useful documents
- **Resources for Culture - Playhouse Theatre**, one of the largest, most productive and vibrant Art Centres on the island of Ireland with a remit to simply "Make arts accessible to all" www.derryplayhouse.co.uk
 - See WD 6 for a detailed agenda and all useful documents

1615 Guided walk back to Millennium Forum

1630-1730 Eurocities Business Session - Millennium Forum Theatre

Chair: Matteo Lepore

- Feedback from parallel workshops
- Approval of the minutes of the Gdansk Culture Forum, October 2013 (WD 02), and of the agenda of the business session
- Connecting to the EUROCITIES network and update on the EU urban agenda (WD 7, 8 and 9) - Nicola Vatthauer, EUROCITIES
- EUROCITIES forthcoming publication on 'Access to culture for social inclusion' - Valerija Zirdzina, Riga
- Non financial support to the local cultural sector - Anne Poidevin, Strasbourg
- Young people and culture - Olga Smit, Rotterdam
- Cities supporting the mobility of artists - Dominique David, Nantes
- Forthcoming events

- Creative industries working group, April 3-4th in Barcelona - Bart Doucet, Ghent
- European Lab 2014, May 27-28th in Lyon - Julie Hervé, EUROCITIES
- Culture Forum in Strasbourg, October 22-25th - Anne Poidevin and Marion Perez-Laugel, Strasbourg

- The Culture Forum in 2015
 - Call for host cities
 - Chairmanship of the culture forum in 2015-2016
- Open Space: announcements and reports from members
 - "The art of visitor" : Turin looking for partner cities for a European project on contemporary public art - Alberto Lalli, Turin

1730 Guided walk to hotels with luggage (City Hotel/Tower Hotel)

17:30-18:00 Steering Group meeting (members only) at Millenium Forum

2000 **Informal Buffet Evening at Shirt Factory** (First floor, entrance via The Void Gallery) <http://theshirtfactoryderry.com/>

Delegates will have the opportunity to visit an exhibition called The Glass Album, a major cross-border project delivered by BT Portrait of a City as one of the City of Culture elements that carries onto into 2014, the legacy year. The project demonstrates the fascinating connections that contemporary artists can make with Derry-Londonderry and Donegal, as a border city and county respectively, and their unique shared history and heritage.

Saturday 29 March in Derry City

0930-1130 City Walking Tour - 0930-1130 (departs from Tower Hotel at 0930)

The City Walking tour will be provided by Michael Cooper, a Blue Badge tourist guide. The tour will include a walk on the world famous 17th century Derry City Walls where an explanation will be given of the 17th century Ulster Plantation, the 1st Derry Presbyterian church, Ulster Scots emigration and the Siege of Derry in 1688/1689. There will be a visit to St Augustine's church and an explanation of early Christianity, before stopping at Bishop's Gate to receive a commentary on St Columb's College, the Peacewall and the Courthouse. The tour will finish with a view of St Columb's cathedral, the Fountain estate and the Georgian Quarter. There can be an optional visit to the Guildhall or a walk across the Peace bridge, with a walk back through William Street and the Bogside to explain the conflict/peace process.