



Subject:	Cultural Strategy Update – artist studios and maker spaces
Date:	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022 Monday, 20 June 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the dedicated programme of work and funding schemes to support artist-led organisations in the city
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>note the contents of this report and agree the recommendations for artist studio grants, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in February 2022, members agreed to open a new funding scheme for artist led organisations

to provide financial and development support for this sector. Members agreed to allocate £150,000 to this programme as follows:

Strand One - Organisational Funding: £100,000

Strand Two - Strategic Review: £30,000

Strand Three – Micro Grants: £20,000

3.29 **Strand one: organisational funding** –A new grant scheme, entitled “*Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23*” was opened on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and closed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. The purpose of this strand of work is to provide financial and developmental support to organisations similar to the support offered under cultural multi-annual grants (CMAG).

3.30 The Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 scheme was advertised widely. The information and application details were emailed directly to a GDPR compliant mailing list representing over 370 organisations from across the cultural and creative sectors. Two online information sessions were held in advance of the deadline.

3.31 Criteria for Decision making

The criteria and guidance for Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 applicants are included in Appendices 1 and 2. Assessments were made, and scoring applied under four key areas of criteria:

- Fit with our investment aims, & themes 3 & 4, of cultural strategy “A City Imagining”
- Need and potential impact
- Value for money
- High quality organisational development plan

Assessments were made only on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation such as business plans and strategies.

3.32 Assessment

A summary of recommended grants and proposed grant recipients is included at Appendix 1. A summary of award descriptions is included in Appendix 2.

The unit received 8 applications for Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants, requesting a total of £147,620.89. The scoring threshold for award of funding was those applications that scored over 65%. The recommendation is that we fund 8 organisations, with support of £100,000.

3.33	<p><b>Strand two: strategic review</b> - Members will be aware that In line with the cultural mapping and the work undertaken to date, Committee approved £30k towards a strategic review of artist studios and maker-spaces in Belfast. A tender has been drafted by the Culture Team and an invitation to quote issued. This research to be conducted over the coming months, with a number of long-term recommendations presented to Committee in autumn 2022.</p>
3.34	<p><b>Strand Three – Micro Grants</b> – Members will be aware that consultation and engagement with the sector demonstrated a need for more agile funding schemes that are available year-round and operate at a micro-grant level. Members approved a pilot micro grants scheme in February 2022 to support career development and support for individual artists working within artist-led organisations. Subsequently, the “<i>Micro-Grant Programme for Creative Practitioners</i>” programme was opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 with an information session for the sector the same day.</p>
3.36	<p>A maximum of £1,000 will be awarded to each applicant within one financial year and a total fund of £20,000 has been allocated to this scheme. This scheme will operate on a rolling basis until March 2023 or until the fund is allocated.</p> <p>Applications will be scored against the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan and ambition to develop creative practice or professional development</li> <li>2. Need and potential impact</li> <li>3. Potential impact against aims of the grant</li> <li>4. Potential impact against the aims of Theme Three of the cultural strategy <i>A City Imagining</i></li> <li>5. Potential to develop new innovative or collaborative approaches and benefit the wider sector</li> <li>6. Budget and timeline, value for money</li> </ol> <p>13 applications have been received in this initial round, with scoring panels to assess in week commencing 13th June 2022.</p>
3.37	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>An allocation of £100,000 is recommended to “<i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23</i>”. These activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2022/23 budget for the Culture and Tourism section of the Economic Development division of the Place and Economy Departmental budget in line with existing approvals.</p>

3.38	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i> has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). Specific initiatives as required will be subject to a further equality screening.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: <i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 - Recommended Awards</i></p> <p>Appendix 2: <i>Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23 - Award Descriptions</i></p>