



Subject:	Co-Design Framework for Culture, Arts and Heritage
Date:	12 October 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
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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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Co-Design Framework for Culture, Arts and Heritage
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Note the content of this report and the summary of the co-design framework for culture, arts and heritage and support the roll-out of the framework
3.0	Main report
3.1	Background <p>Belfast's cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i>, was developed from an engagement process which stretched back to our bid to become European Capital of Culture. Themes in <i>A City Imagining</i> emerged from a dynamic process of engagement and they challenge the city to 'do</p>

things differently'. A *City Belonging* cultural strategy theme defines 'belonging' as an individual's feelings in relation to their sense of identity, their relation to other people around them and their sense of place. Arts and creative practices can foster the confidence to imagine diverse senses of belonging in Belfast. Priorities under this theme push towards exploring active citizenship, civic participation in cultural life, and inclusion. The theme supports actions which help citizens to become active agents of change and co-creators of cultural activity. The actions under each priority are designed to create opportunities for participation and engagement in the cultural life of the city.

3.2 **Co-Design Framework**

As part of this work, a co-design framework for culture, arts and heritage has been created to help us to cluster and deliver on a number of strategic priorities. These are listed below;

1. Priority 1	Developing a people focussed approach to cultural development by facilitating citizen and sector participation in setting priorities, decision-making and in the evaluation of cultural policies
1.1	Develop and deliver a co-design model for all cultural programmes
2. Priority 2	Building the creative capacity of our citizens and cultural sector to allow people to express their own cultural identities and respect and learn about other cultures.
2.4	Develop a co-design and civic participation approach to the delivery of City Events
2.7	Develop and support a volunteer programme based on best practice models
4. Priority 4	Enabling a sense of belonging and sense of place through cultural participation to help encourage a strong civic identity that people can share and celebrate
4.3	Deliver a series of design pavilions / creative hubs in the city centre, communities and neighbourhoods in the lead up to Belfast's year of culture 2024

3.3 The co-design framework for culture, arts and heritage is available in Appendix 1. The framework will:

- allow people from all backgrounds the opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the city as both creators and audience members
- create opportunities for people to identify shared values, aspirations and common ground through arts and cultural activities
- strengthen Belfast's cultural infrastructure through developing co-design practice and partnership working

3.4 The specific outcomes that the co-design framework for culture, arts and heritage will help to achieve are that:

- there is increased participation in culture and arts across a range of diverse groups and communities, including marginalised communities
- people from across the city can co-design and participate in the cultural life of Belfast
- more people can express common interests, develop new shared senses of belonging through cultural co-design
- capacity is built between the cultural sector and citizens to confidently engage together in sustainable co-design processes in the lead up to, during and beyond our year of culture 2024

This framework is for anyone working in the cultural sector, whether you are an artist or cultural practitioner, a cultural organisation or a funder or policymaker. The framework is also aimed at communities and community organisations to understand how they can become co-creators of culture and how they should be valued when engaged.

This work is also important to other initiatives across Culture and Tourism, including includes heritage development, our Tourism Strategy - Make Yourself at Home, the development of neighbourhood tourism offerings and of course the collection of Belfast Stories for the forthcoming visitor attraction.

3.5 **Report recommendations**

The report contains a wide range of recommendations for Belfast City Council contained within Appendix 7 of the report (page 145). The report recommends that the framework should be used by Belfast City Council, the cultural sector and individual artists and practitioners to develop their co-design practice. Recommendations are in addition to the framework to help embed co-design in the council itself, as well as the sector and the city, so that it becomes an engine for change and contributes to A City Imagining and Belfast Agenda strategic outcomes. These recommendations state that Belfast City Council should:

- Explore ways to help cultural organisations diversify their leadership and governance and support artists and practitioners from minority communities;
- Work with its staff and the sector to identify what skills and what mindsets could flourish with support.
- Explore how definitions and measures of quality can be co-designed with artists, organisations, audiences and participants
- Create panels around particular projects or activities where there is opportunity to co-design
- Support communities of practice for cultural organisations that share a desire to develop their co-design or engagement practice

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design a grant scheme to support co-design, prioritising the process and learning over outputs and “success” so that working and learning together are the outcomes of the grant • Make funding and guidance available in different languages and formats. • Continue multi-year programme funding and advocate its benefits to other funders and policymakers • Explore best practice in relation to the commissioning and copyright of co-designed intellectual property. • Support cultural organisations in their self-evaluation • Should reflect on and review the co-design framework at least annually with its co-design panel. <p><u>Update on key co-design catalyst projects</u></p> <p>Since 2021 the Culture Unit has delivered a programme of grants, partnership-based actions and mentoring support to Section 75 groups. This broader co-design project will work with a wide range of groups regardless of community or identity and this work will be supported by our newly appointed Partnership Officer and Engagement Officer working within the Culture team. This work and associated budget has been agreed as part of the 2022/23 business plan agreed at City Growth & Regeneration Committee, 9 March 2022</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are currently no financial implications attached to this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></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).</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – A co-design framework for culture, arts and heritage</p>