



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Request for use of the City Hall Grounds – Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition</b>
<b>Date:</b>	17th February, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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

<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To present a request from Belfast Photo Festival for the use of City Hall grounds from 13th to 30th June 2023 to host a photographic exhibition. This is an annual exhibition which has been held in the grounds in previous years.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to:  i. approve the request for Belfast Photo Festival to use the City Hall grounds from 13th to 30th June 2023 to display a photographic exhibition as part of the Belfast Photo Festival; and  ii. authorise the exhibition in line with similar events previously approved by the Council.

3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that requests for the use of the City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee and the request set out below falls into this category.</p>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	<p>A request has recently received from the organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) to hold a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall from 13th to 30th June, 2023. The BPF is the visual arts festival of Northern Ireland and one of the leading photography festivals in the UK. Launched in 2011, the festival attracts 85,000 visitors across 24 city centre venues and is one of the city's major art events.</p>
3.3	<p>Each year, the City-wide festival includes the grounds of the City Hall as a primary location for both photographic exhibitions and other events. Previous exhibits have included the DeLorean Print Project in 2015 which proved to be very successful and brought a real spectacle to the City Hall lawns. In 2018 the exhibition looked at music and photography, 2020 exhibition theme "The Man Machine" shows 'speculative fictions' where artificial creatures, robots and other avatars interact with man in everyday life scenarios. The 2022 exhibition is 'Lockdown Collages' by Nico Krinjo featuring kitsch household items, ornate furniture, marble sculptures etc have been cut horizontally and later formed into vertical totems and weaved together the mediums of photography.</p>
3.4	<p>The theme for 2023 is 'Journey', focusing on photography's ability to capture and reflect the world around us, from journeys of self-discovery, migration and spiritual journeys. This exhibition focuses on Vasantha Yoganathan most renowned body of work, A Myth of Two Souls, which charts an epic 7-year journey across India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, charting a spiritual and personal journey. It will be its debut in Northern Ireland. There will be 24 images in all in the exhibition.</p>
3.5	<p>The exhibition would be installed on the West and East Lawn of City Hall grounds on 10th June and dismantled on 29th June, 2023. It would be free for members of the public to view daily, in line with the opening times of the grounds.</p>
3.6	<p>The Good Relations and Corporate Communications Units will review the exhibition images included in the proposal but presently no negative good relations implications have been</p>

3.7	<p>identified which should stop the exhibition being hosted at the City Hall. A copy of the exhibition proposal is attached.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request and hosting of the exhibition.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>Good Relations will be consulted on this request and the exhibition content, but do not foresee any negative implications.</p>
4.0	<b>Document attached</b>
	2023 Exhibition Proposal