



Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds for Events - Summer 2023
Date:	26th June, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition 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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider requests from various clients for the use of the City Hall grounds
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: 1. authorise the use of the City Hall grounds on the dates listed below; and 2. authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> Members will be aware that requests for the use of 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 requests set out below falls into this category.

Key Issues

- 3.2 Several requests have been received for events over the summer period and this report provides information on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.

The Proposed events

- 3.3 The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.

- 3.4 The event would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff and first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.

29th July 2023 - Féile Rock's Pride Concert

- 3.4 A request has been received from Feile an Phobail to use the front lawns for the 'City Hall Rocks Back' event feature local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8 am and 7.30 pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1pm and 5pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.

2nd October - 6th November 2023 - Poetry Jukebox

- 3.5 Permission has been sought for the Installation of a temporary poetry jukebox in the grounds of the City Hall to coincide with the Belfast International Festival 2023. The content is 20 poems by internationally recognised poets determined by selection from a global open call for contemporary poetry; curated by Belfast-based poets Nandi Jola and Raquel McKee. The curation would speak to the lived experiences of black people of Caribbean and African communities. it would resonate with the work of Mary Ann McCracken, the anti-slavery movement, Windrush and contemporary issues. No costs incurred for electric or water as

	wind-up/ dynamo model and as the installation is temporary no damage to pathways. <i>(Photo of jukebox attached).</i>
	<u>16th September 2023 - Beat on the Street</u>
3.6	Beat Carnival Centre is a unique resource in NI's arts sector producing spectacular carnival arts in ways that leave a legacy of creative skills, collaboration and celebration in our communities. Beat is funded by Belfast City Council and involved each year in council events including St Patricks Day Parade. Beat Carnival is celebrating its 30 year anniversary and request the use of the grounds to host "Beat on the Street" event - a family fun entertainment event with music stage, activities and performers.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.7	There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided. There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Photo of Poetry Jukebox