



# SHARED ROOTS

Uniting Communities Through Heritage



**PEACEPLUS**  
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



Riádas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Northern Ireland  
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www.northernireland.gov.uk



**Belfast**  
City Council



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# Belfast

The Belfast Local Community Action Plan is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

# Shared Roots

Lot 4 Cross Community Culture and Built Heritage Programme  
(Multiculturalism and Interculturalism)

Three year programme promoting peace and reconciliation by exploring shared heritage in Belfast. Project will revitalise underused built heritage spaces and engage diverse communities through co-created cultural experiences that explore the Belfast's unique stories and perspectives.

**Target of 625 direct participants and 1250 wider beneficiaries**



# Project Strands

## STEERING GROUP

**THEATRE  
PROGRAMME**

**EVENTS  
PROGRAMME**

**TOURS PROGRAMME**

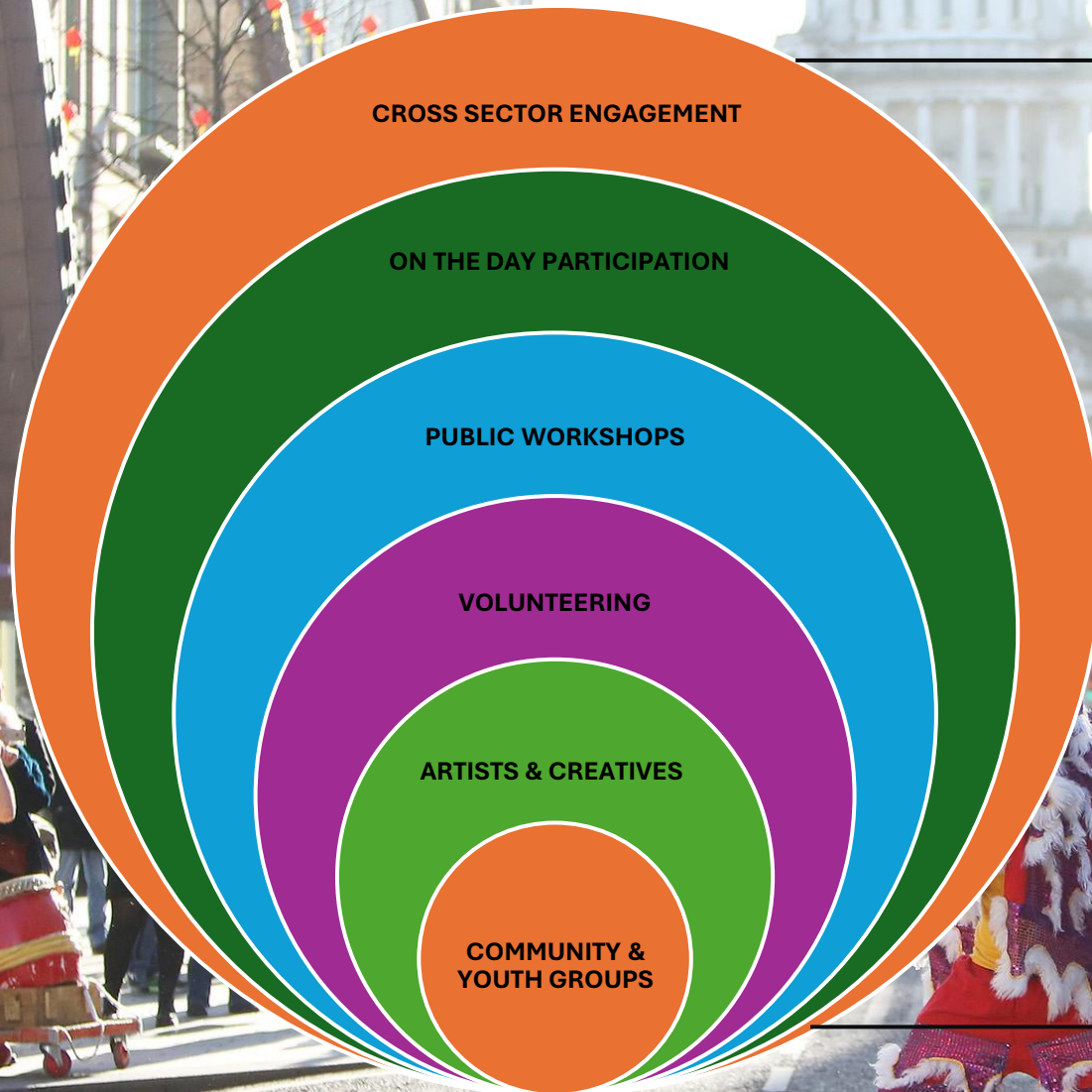
**ACCREDITED TOUR  
GUIDE TRAINING**

**FAITH IN FOCUS  
PROGRAMME**

**BURIAL TRADITIONS  
PROGRAMME**



# CROSS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH



## WHO WILL WE ENGAGE?

- Neighborhoods on a cross city basis
- Global majority communities
- New migrant communities (including asylum seekers and refugees)
- Residents living in areas of deprivation and with limited access to arts and cultural provision
- Residents along interface and contested areas
- Cultural sector
- Third sector
- Public sector
- Private sector

# WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

**142**

Project  
Activities\*

**457**

Registered  
participants

**367**

Achieved  
participants

**833**

Wider  
beneficiaries

**625**

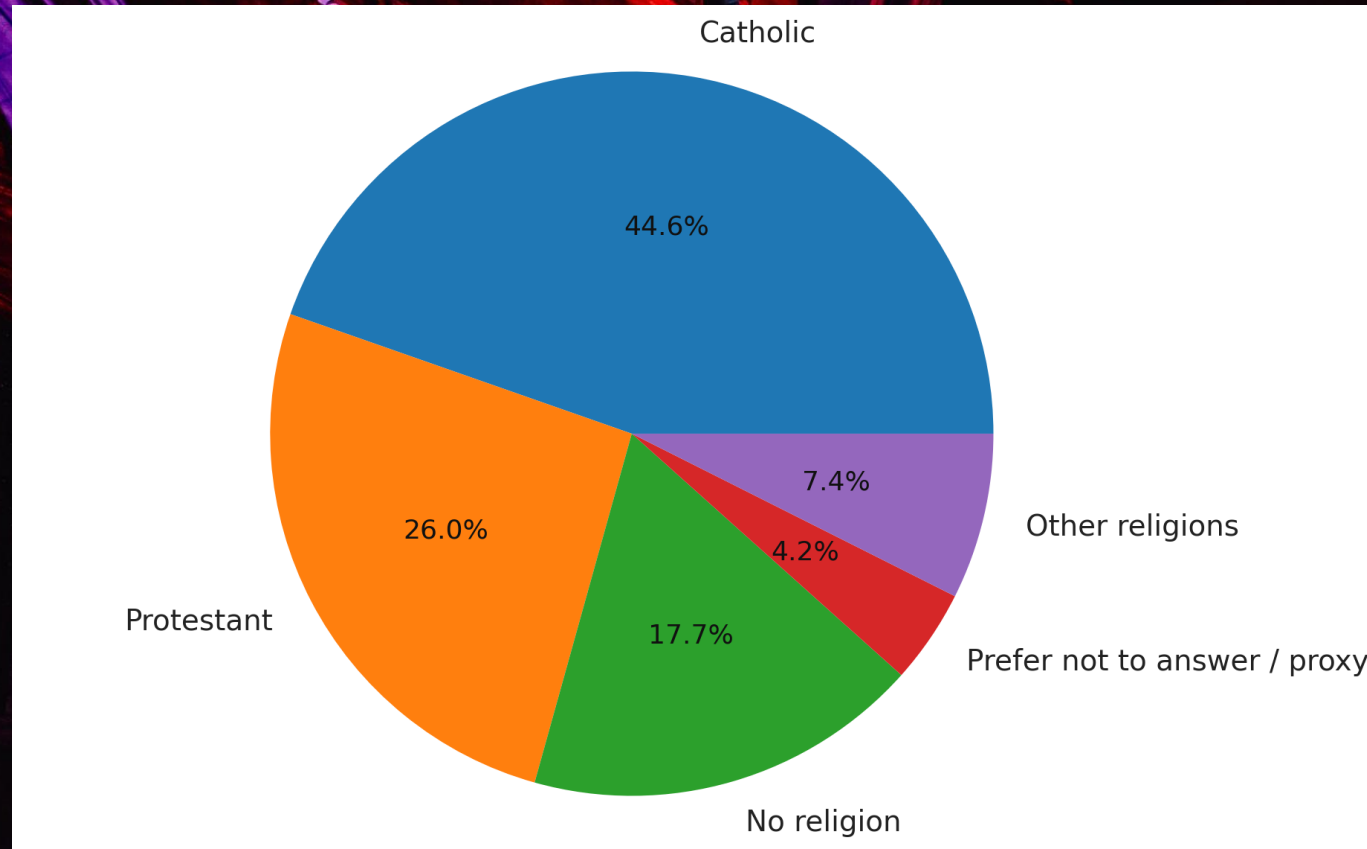
TARGET  
PARTICIPANTS

**1250**

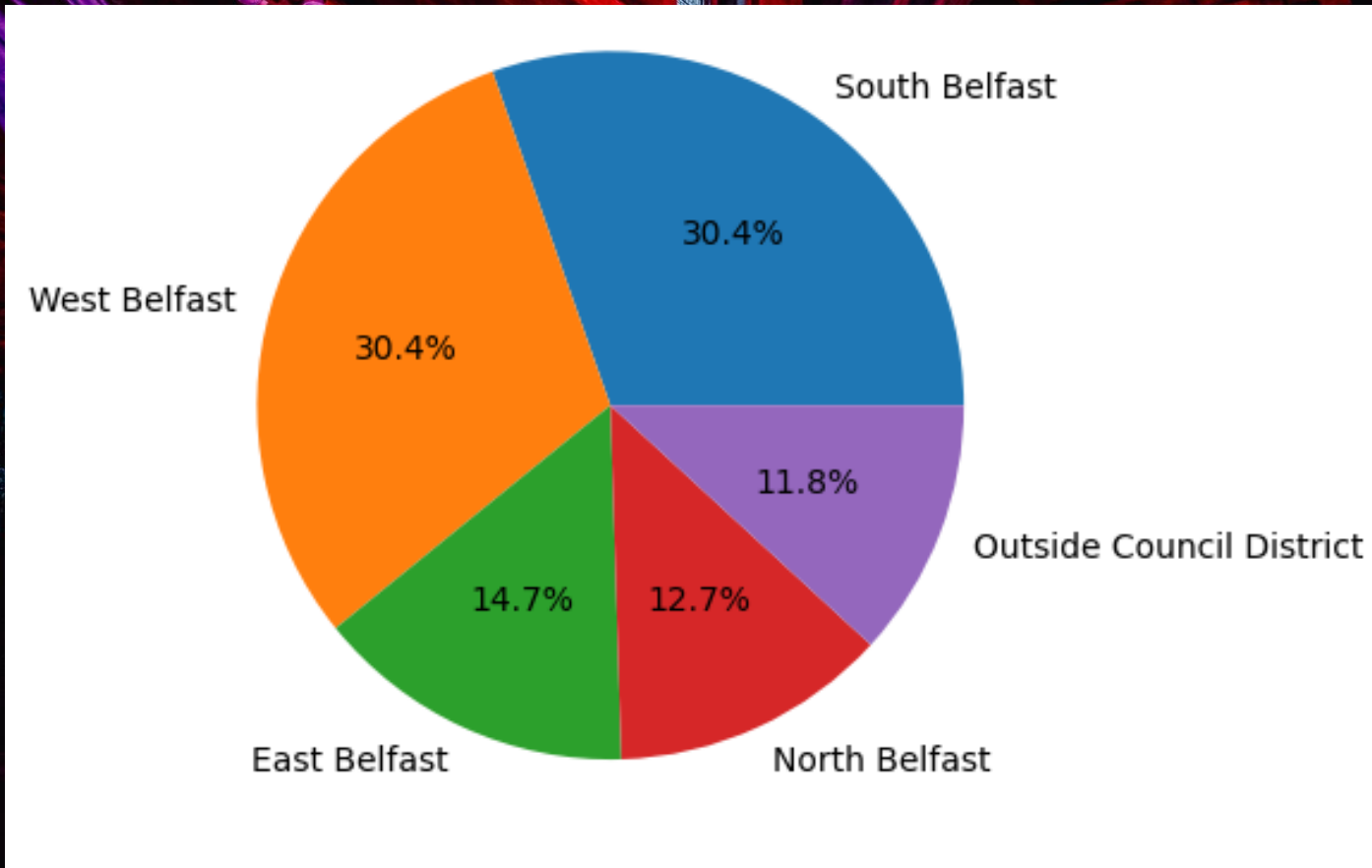
TARGET WIDER  
BENEFICIARIES

\*Project activities relates to any public facing workshops and events completed to date across the strands

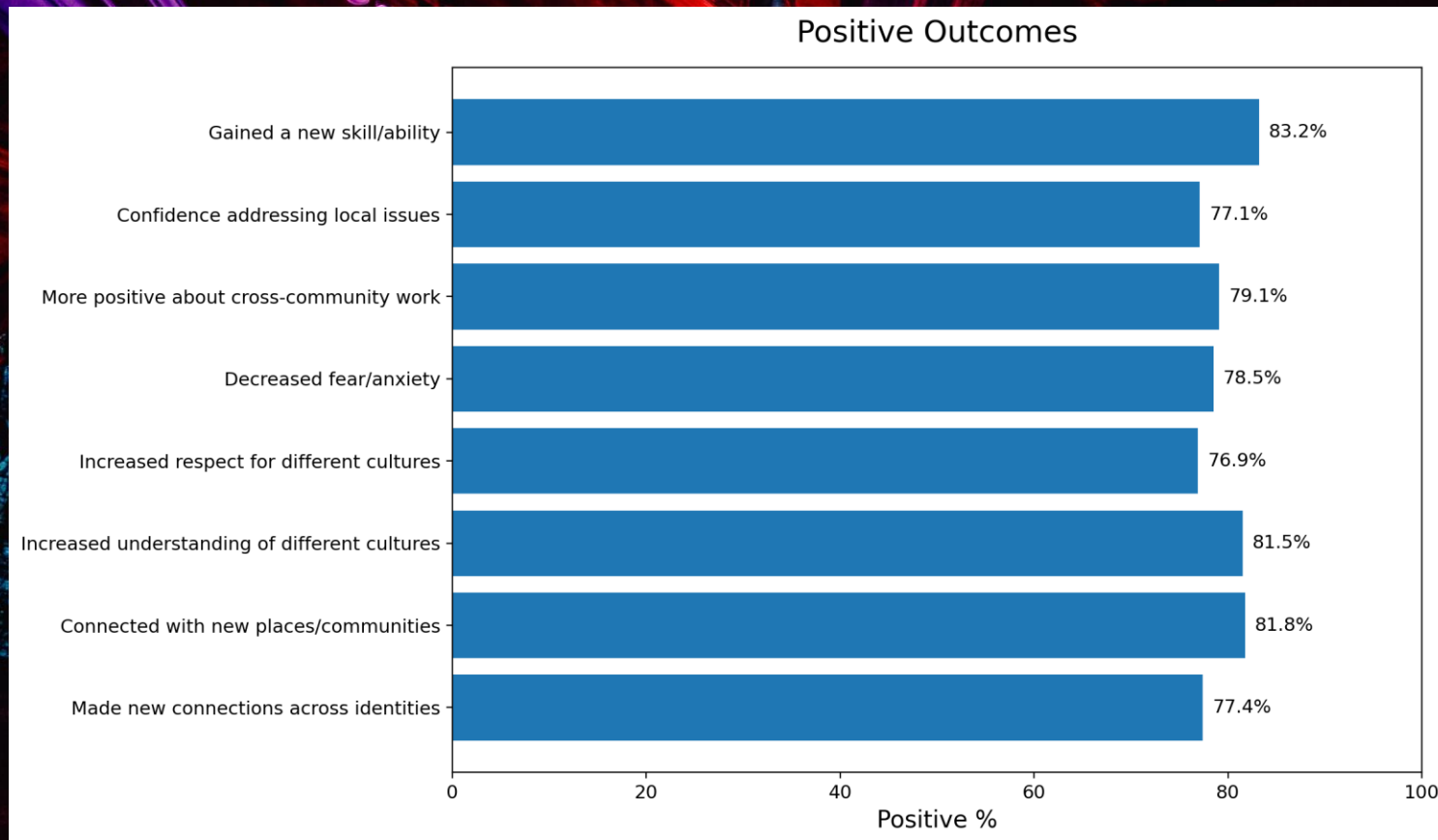
# PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



# PARTICIPANT GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS



# ATTITUDINAL IMPACT



# Theatre Programme

Led by Kabosh Theatre; combines storytelling, theatre, and community dialogue in public space. 5 local groups co-create performances tackling themes like migration, toxic masculinity, social justice, and LGBTQ+ history

**Delivered:**

- **North:** New Lodge Arts and Ardoyne community with showcase at Duncairn Arts Centre
- **East:** Short Strand Women’s Group with showcase at Sanctuary Theatre

**In development:**

- **West:** Black Mountain Shared Space
- **South:** Polish Sisterhood
- **City Centre:** Paperclips

**TARGET**

50 participants  
300 wider beneficiaries

**ACHIEVED**

1 participant  
64 wider beneficiaries



# Events Programme

30 events across 10 heritage-at-risk sites using creative interventions like theatre, music, and visual art to tell the story behind the building.

- 22 events** delivered across sites including
  - Old Museum (City Centre)
  - Falls Road Carnegie Library (West)
  - Riddel’s Warehouse (City Centre)
  - Old Park Carnegie Library (North)
  - Good Shepard Lodge (South)
  - St Joeseph’s Church (East)
  - St Marks Church / Belmont Park (East)
- 8 events** to be delivered in:
  - Floral Hall (North)
  - Carlisle Memorial Church (North)
  - Fernhill House

**TARGET**

215 participants  
85 wider beneficiaries

**ACHIEVED**

124 participants  
584 wider beneficiaries



# Tours Programme

40 cross-city tours delivered through a series of free educational day trips with targeted participants moving across the city to engage with heritage outside of their own community/neighbourhood.

- A curated programme of existing tours in the city that focus on underrepresented histories and built heritage.
- 18 tours delivered to date some of which included Finding Foundries, Sailortown Secrets, The Poor House Tour, Mary Ann McCracken Walking Tour, Crumlin Road Gaol Tour and Templemore Baths & Victorian Workhouse Heritage Tour
- A further 22 tours to be delivered by Autumn 2026

### TARGET

150 participants  
250 wider beneficiaries

### ACHIEVED

158 participants  
131 wider beneficiaries



# Accredited Tour Guide Training

20 trainees earn Level 2 OCN qualification in tour guiding with Belfast Met. Recruits from migrant and multilingual communities for inclusive tourism.

- Tour guiding course delivered in partnership with **Belfast Met**
- 9 participants completed Level 2 qualification between Sep 25 – Jan 26
- 8 participants due complete Level 2 qualification by June 26

**TARGET**

20 participants

**ACHIEVED**

8 participants



# Faith in Focus Programme

Developed with faith groups and youth combining theatre and digital technology led by writer and actor Stephen Beggs. Celebrates Belfast's religious and cultural diversity via storytelling.

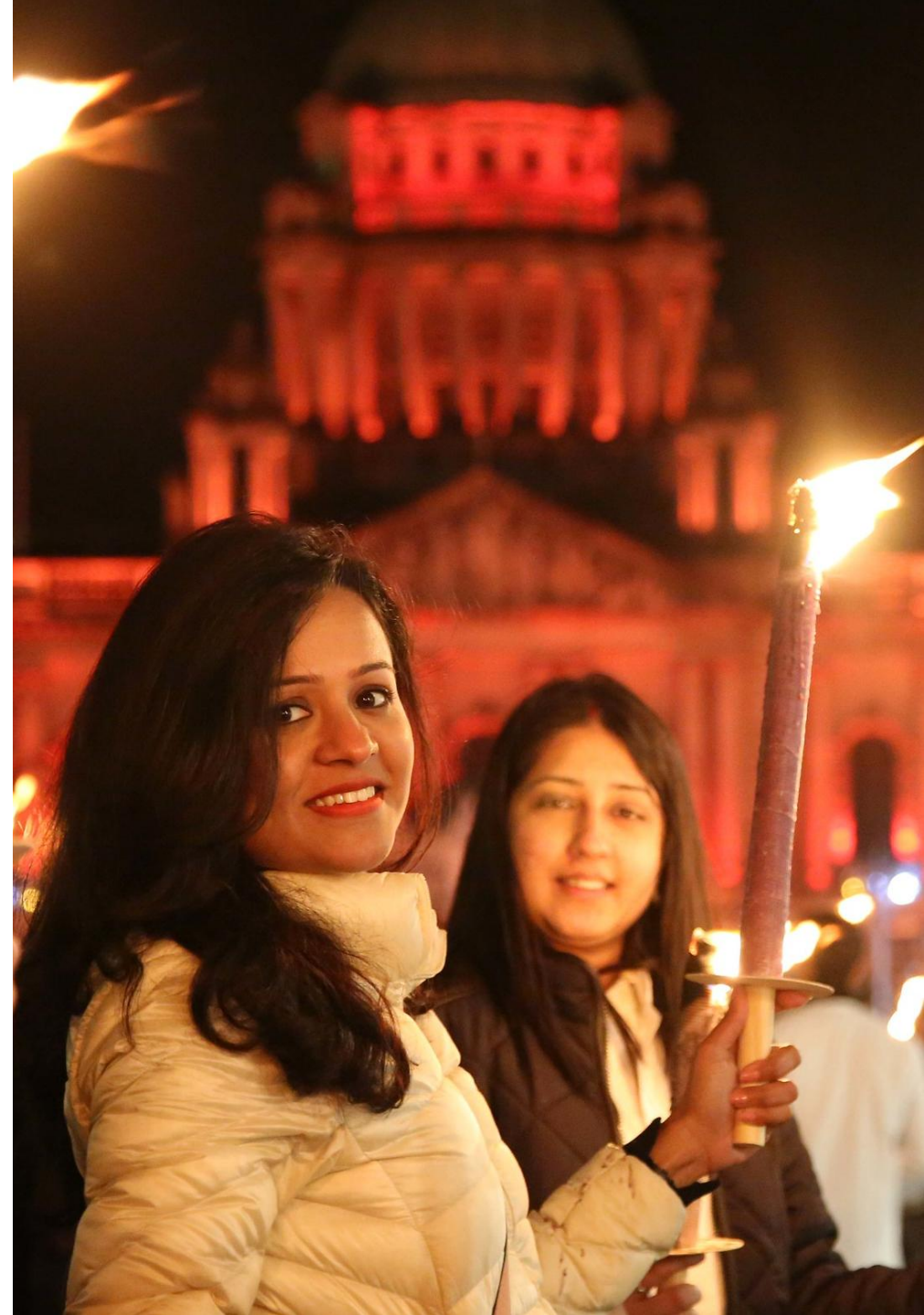
- Development of a new cross city 'Belfast Faith Trail' working with **Clonard Monastery, Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, Hindu Temple at Indian Community Centre, Sikh Gurdwara, Belfast Synagogue and Northern Ireland Family Muslims Association**
- Schools engagement programme with Lagan College and Malone College including facilitated trips to faith centres
- Development of accompanying website as a project legacy for self guided tours
- The trail and website will launch as part of the Belfast Mela 2026

## TARGET

40 participants

## ACHIEVED

0 participants



# Burial Traditions Programme

Led by Cairde na Cille, explores indigenous and intercultural burial customs working across 8 burial sites. Animates ancient graveyards with poetry, music, and ritualistic art.

- 4 workshop programmes and co-designed animation events delivered in **Friar’s Bush Graveyard, St Georges Graveyard, Shankill Graveyard and The Giants’ Ring/Ballynahatty**
- 4 workshops programmes and co-designed animation events to be delivered in, **Breda Graveyard and Motte, McArt’s Fort Cavehill, Shankill Graveyard and The Giants’ Ring/Ballynahatty**

**TARGET**

150 participants  
50 wider beneficiaries

**ACHIEVED**

76 participants  
54 wider beneficiaries



# Future Delivery

Project activity is due to complete by December 2026 with a six-month evaluation period to June 2027.

- 3 co-created theatre showcases
- 8 events in heritage sites
- 22 tours across the city
- Completion of Cohort 2 of accredited tour guide training
- Launch of new Belfast Faith Trail as part of Belfast Mela
- 4 burial traditions animation events



# QUESTIONS?



Belfast  
City Council



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