

Appendix 1: Additional information on Wheelworks

Current funding received by Wheelworks from Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit

Wheelworks currently receives £10,000 of core funding towards an overall annual budget of £175,000. Over 65% of work takes place in Belfast and in 2013-14 this funding helped to support activities that reached 2911 participants and 9006 audiences members as well as creating 153 artist contracts.

Their multi-strand programme engages with marginalised young people from communities across Belfast in arts activity. This includes the ArtCart, a purpose-built mobile arts hub, the award-winning issue-based Multiple Realities programme and training for arts and youth workers.

Wheelworks' programme of activities

WheelWorks works with 2,000 – 3,000 young people aged 4 – 25 every year, on a range of taster/ short term and sustained artistic activity. All activity is delivered directly in young people's communities and is designed to appeal particularly to participants who may otherwise feel disaffected or excluded from mainstream youth/ arts activity, such as young men, disabled young people and/ or communities with limited access to service provision.

Programme strands:

- ArtCart Outreach Programme
- ArtCart Festivals Programme
- Multiple Realities
- Community/Training Programme

This year, Wheelworks is on track to exceed their targets including:

- 82 employment opportunities for artists
- 2.5 full-time equivalent staff employed
- 2,075 participants engaged
- 4,200 audience members

Successes this year to date include:

- *Being yourself*, a film created by young people from the Frank Gillen Centre, picked up a MAC MADE Festival award and was Highly Commended in the Under 15 category at Cinemagic Festival.

- The Multiple Realities programme was featured in BBC Children in Need programme.
- Wheelworks continues to attract funding from a wide range of funders including the Youth Council for Northern Ireland, BBC Children in Need and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. They are the only arts organisation to have received capital funding under OFMDFM's Together: Building United Communities (TBUC) strategy, which is an offer of £200,000 via the Arts Council of Northern Ireland towards their new ArtCart.

ArtCart

ArtCart workshops allow WheelWorks to form new partnerships and develop community engagement, with taster sessions acting as a way of initiating working relationships with community groups and inspiring young people who may previously be unaware of the innovative art forms, fusions and approaches on offer. For example, many young people perceive themselves to have no talent in music or art following their experiences at school, and are then amazed at their achievements in digital music/ art, guided by professional artist using a creative approach: One young person said, 'I didn't know I had so much talent until I did that.' Youth Leader, Families Beyond Conflict Digital Music ArtCart Workshop.

Once a partnership has been established via ArtCart taster activity, community groups are then targeted to take part in longer term, issue based activity, including accredited projects. In this way, community partnerships are nurtured and developed over years, such as the Frank Gillen Centre in west Belfast which was targeted through ArtCart activity in 2012 and since then has seen 2 of its youth groups participate in 3 long term projects and 4 short term workshop series, resulting in accreditation for its 9 – 12 age group and an award-winning short film.

The broad approach to engaging with new community groups is:

- **Initial research, targeting and consultation** with community group, including barriers to participation experienced, access requirements and interests/ background of participants
- **Delivery of taster ArtCart workshop(s)** in art form of young people's choice – e.g.: animation/ digital music/ digital photography/ graphic design. The ArtCart delivers directly in young people's community (or sometimes in a neutral location nearby, as is the case in intervention and/ or interface work).

- **Collection of feedback and recommendations from young people**, youth leaders and artists from initial workshop and lead in work to design and support future sustained activity, if requested (approx. 95% of ArtCart groups request future activity)
- **Sourcing of project support and consultation with young people** and community leaders ahead of sustained (possibly accredited) project. Confirmation of young people's goals, fears, expectations and desired art forms and output.
- **Delivery of long term activity** under the Multiple Realities, ArtCart or Community programme strands.
- **Collection of feedback and recommendations from young people**, youth leaders and artists which are integrated into future activity.

Activity to be supported by additional funding

The funding from Together: Building United Communities has been awarded to support continuation of the ArtCart's unique portability and year round work in frontline communities, interface areas and with cross community groups. As such, the provision of a new ArtCart will not so much provide additional activity as ensure that existing participation and community engagement is not lost. Currently, approximately 2,075 participants engage with the ArtCart each year in a range of art forms and projects from graphic design to comic performance. Through the outreach taster programme, Wheelworks is starting to explore and build new relationships with a diverse range of community groups and we would see the launch of the new vehicle as an exciting opportunity to revisit previous partnerships and establish new ones targeting areas that have not previously accessed activities. We are open to engaging with all communities.

An ArtCart consultation project in early 2014 sought feedback and ideas from a range of young people, youth leaders, artists and funders, and so the new vehicle will incorporate some of these recommendations. The new vehicle will provide young people with:

- Improved access to new inspiration and programmes, through on board wifi
- A more exciting, appealing exterior to the vehicle, with designs created by young people (TBC – Crowdfunding campaign in progress to support this)
- Improved comfort in bad weather, thanks to new, weatherproof stage insulation
- More space for workshops and other, non-digital art forms (eg: drama, visual art) through use of foldaway furniture
- Built in surround sound system.