



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Request for use of Bridges Urban Skate Park
Date:	12 March 2015
Reporting Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure
Contact Officer:	Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The department has received a request from Prime Cut Productions to host a theatrical based outreach programme and schedule of performances in Bridges Urban Skate Park. They will be on site from 30 April to 9 May 2015 and the three performances will take place on 6, 7, 8 May 2015.
1.2	Based in Belfast Prime Cut Productions is a theatre company in residence at The MAC, and is one of Ireland's leading independent theatre producers. Established in 1992, the company has produced some of the island's most memorable and thought-provoking theatre. They are committed to providing audiences with challenging and outstanding theatre which reflects and interrogates some of the most pressing issues of our time.
1.3	<p>The project is entitled "the stories of us" and is funded by Belfast City Council, Children in Need and the Lloyds TSB foundation.</p> <p>"The stories of Us" is a youth based project working with young people from the greater Belfast area and will engage over 200 people from 10 different organisations. Groups participating in the project have been identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glen parent and youth centre• Rathbone• Voice of Young People in Care• Rathcoole Community centre• Mountcollyer Youth Club• Let Youth Lead• Inner East Youth• Monkstown Youth Club

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footsteps Womens centre.
1.4	The event organiser has also identified current day to day users of the space as another group to include in the project. Early consultation indicates that these users are keen to get involved.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	The project is funded by the Good Relations unit and the organisers have chosen Bridges as a neutral space that promotes changing attitudes and shared space. This project will compliment and reinforce the hard work that the Parks and Leisure department has delivered to date at the park through the Peace III Urban Bridges project.
2.2	The event organiser has requested free use of the site for the period of the outreach programme and finale performances.
2.3	The event organiser intends to ask for a nominal donation of up to £5.00 from members of the public who attend the theatrical performances. Prime Cut Productions has placed significant importance on this financial donation as it will highlight to the young people involved the importance and value of their hard work.
2.4	The team that will use the space are highly experienced in managing performances in public spaces and will ensure that all health and safety aspects are met to the satisfaction of Council officers.
2.5	An event management plan will be completed along with risk assessments and a copy of employers and public liability insurances will be submitted to the Council in advance of the project commencing.

3.	Resource Implications
	<u>Financial</u> There are no known financial implications associated with this request at this time. <u>Human</u> There are no human resource implications associated with this request. <u>Asset and other implications</u> Positive and diverse use of Bridges Urban Sports Park following the completion of the departmental Peace III funded project.

4.	Equality Implications
	There are no known equality implications associated with this request. Shared identity workshops will give young people the opportunity to work in different parts of the city as well as Bridges and encourage young people to understand and appreciate different religious, ethnic and cultural

	backgrounds.
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5.	Recommendations
	<p>It is recommended that Committee note the request for the use of Bridges Urban Sports park and approve the request for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free use of the space for the theatrical based outreach programme with 3 finale productions; and 2. The nominal fee of up to £5.00 to members of the public who attend the performances.

6.	Decision Tracking
	All decision tracking and actions will be carried out by Paula Irvine, Community Parks Outreach Manager.

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	None

8.	Documents Attached
	None