



Subject:	Presentation by The MAC
Date:	13 January 2016
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director Development
Contact Officer:	Eimear Henry, Assistant Tourism, Culture and Arts Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9 December 2015 it was agreed to receive a presentation from The MAC at a future meeting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Note the presentation from Anne McReynolds, Chief Executive, The MAC
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The MAC is a core multi-annual funded client of Belfast City Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts unit. Three year funding commenced in April 2013 and will run until 31 March 2016. The MAC receives £75,000 a year through this programme.
3.2	In 2014/15 The MAC had a total expenditure of 2.26m. Therefore the Belfast City Council grant represents approximately 3% of overall costs. The average contribution by Belfast City Council's Core Multi-annual Funding Programme for arts organisations is 4% of turnover. Variance is for a number of reasons in line with the criteria for funding however

	organisations with a higher turnover receive slightly lower than the average percentage.
3.3	The MAC has submitted an application for the new Core Multi-annual Funding Programme for arts and heritage organisations that will operate between 1st April 2016 and 31 st March 2020. They have requested £250,000 a year for 4 years. They have requested this uplift due to a significant shortfall in the funding needed to run the venue in an effective way. The Council is only one of the funding organisations for the MAC with the Arts Council providing the highest level of funding (albeit now at a reduced level).
3.4	Given the overall available budget organisations were advised that any uplift in funding is unlikely and that any such request must demonstrate significant change from the position and levels of activity previously presented.
3.5	Recommendations for the Core Multi-annual Funding Programme will be considered by Members at the January meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and decisions are due to be published in early February following Council ratification.
3.6	The MAC opened in April 2012 following an £18m capital development. The MAC provides local and international art, theatre, dance and music along with bars and a restaurant, all under one roof in the Cathedral Quarter. It has received support from both public and private sector bodies including Belfast City Council.
3.7	The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) is one of Belfast's flagship venues and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2 Theatres (a 350-seater and 120-seater) – 3 Art galleries – 1 Rehearsal space – 1 Dance studio – 3 Education and workshop rooms – 4 Offices for resident art groups – 1 Café and bar – 1 Artist-in-residence studio – 1 Permanent artwork
3.8	At the end of year monitoring return for the period 14/15 the MAC reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Total audience: 134,092 – Number of individual participants: 24,988

<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of volunteer hours: 3433 - Number of artist/practitioner contracts: 1397 - Number of full time equivalent non-artistic staff: 31 <p>The MAC's senior management team have met with Council officers to discuss their work and role as a flagship city centre venue. They have also indicated an ongoing shortfall in their annual operating budgets.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Recommendations for Core Multi-annual Funding will be considered by Members at a meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 13 January 2016.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None.</p>