



# *Strategy for Culture & Arts 2016-2026*

*Improving society and outcomes by promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion.*

*A Consultation seeking your views on how arts and culture can best promote equality and tackle poverty and social exclusion: Making arts and culture available to Everyone*

**Publication Date: 23 November 2015**  
**Closing Date for Responses: 12 February 2016**



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# FOREWORD

## Minister Ní Chuilín MLA

I am delighted to launch this Consultation paper which I hope will lead to a new and forward looking strategy for culture and arts in the north of Ireland from 2016 to 2026. The Strategy will be the first overarching and cross-departmental strategy for culture and arts in the north of Ireland. I am committed to the fundamental right that opportunities to enjoy culture and arts should be available to everyone. I hope that aspiration can be achieved by delivering a successful, engaging consultation that will inform future policy direction. I sincerely believe in the value of culture and arts and all that they can bring to society. I am proud of our rich artistic and cultural heritage and I want to see the potential of that unique cultural capital maximized fully to benefit the social and economic wellbeing of all citizens. I believe too that there is a balance to be struck between access and quality and fundamentally equality should underscore these principles. I also believe that the Irish language forms a part of our rich heritage and that it deserves special recognition.

Since taking up the post of Minister for Culture Arts and Leisure, I have made it a priority that the work across my Department is wedded to the principle of promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion. This principle can readily be fulfilled and realised through culture and arts. Following this consultation, I want to bring forward a strategy that will support individuals and communities who feel marginalised, vulnerable or disconnected. Culture and arts can build on the principles embedded in Delivering Social Change and Together: Building a United Community. Through strong leadership and innovation, they can help to move us from a community emerging from conflict to a community in cohesion. Culture and Arts have contributed to the economy and I want to see how we can contribute to the potential for regeneration through Culture and Arts.

We already know culture and arts provide a platform as an economic driver, creating job opportunities, supporting tourism and promoting the north of Ireland on the international stage as well as bringing communities together. Indeed, these successes were never more evident than during the City of Culture celebrations and the World Police and Fire Games in recent times. Year on year we have benefitted from Culture Night which sees events happening in among other places Belfast, Armagh, Derry, Newry; Belfast Mela, Féile an Phobail and Pride. All the time new artistic and festival events are establishing themselves – Eastside Arts, C.S. Lewis, Stendhal and Beckett festivals to mention but a few examples. The very successful Community Festivals Fund supports over 400

festivals right across all Council areas in the north of Ireland. We also have a wonderful variety of theatres. I want all of these opportunities to be exploited and accessible to all in the community.

Within our community, schools and colleges are the artists and creators of tomorrow. It is our duty to inspire and nurture these future musicians, writers, designers, actors, producers, poets, journalists, architects and creators. I want culture and arts participation to be a serious and important career choice for our children, fully recognised through our education, training and employment systems. For all these reasons I want the value of culture and arts embedded in government spending, which is essential for future Comprehensive Spending Reviews.

The creativity and specialism within the creative industries has long supported the wider economy by supplying other sectors. These industries are well recognised as key drivers of sustainable economic regeneration and job creation. I believe it is vital that the north of Ireland has a robust strategy that supports and strengthens these industries, acknowledging the value of arts and culture as contributors to the skills, education, confidence, health and well being of all citizens. Underpinning these values it is essential there is equal access and participation. People of all ages and backgrounds and abilities should have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy arts and cultural experiences of their choice.

With your support and that of Government, I want to deliver a strategy that underpins all these benefits and supports us all in moving towards a civically engaged, internationalised, vibrant, progressive and cohesive society. I want to deliver a strategy that provides equality for all. The strategic objectives of a robust strategy and consequent areas of action will impact across Government Departments and their Arms Length Bodies, local government and the private sector. It is important that meaningful outcomes benefit all the citizens of the north of Ireland. I have already been assured the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development when making an assessment on whether there may be a differential impact on rural areas.

The Strategy will be driven forward by a Delivery Group whose role and function will be to oversee the implementation of the Strategy, periodically review and monitor its implementation. The Strategy Delivery Group will be chaired by a senior official from the Department and include sectoral representatives as well as Government partners.

I want to deliver a strategy that will seek to secure the sustainability of our heritage, cultural and artistic resources ensuring a lasting legacy for future generations. I would, therefore, encourage you to respond to this consultation and make your views known, particularly if you have anything to add to the proposals. This is your opportunity to shape a sustainable, innovative, future proofed strategy for culture and arts.

Finally, I am very grateful to the members of the Ministerial Arts Advisory Forum, chaired by Mr Bob Collins, for their dedication and contribution to the development of this Consultation document. I look forward to their ongoing support in the development of the final strategy.

CARÁL NÍ CHUILÍN.

CARÁL NÍ CHUILÍN MLA  
Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure

## **Part 1: Introduction**

- 1.1 The Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure fostered the need to underpin the arts and culture sector with a dedicated strategy. In January 2015, a Ministerial Arts Advisory Forum (MAAF) was set up under the Chairmanship of Mr Bob Collins, Chairman of the Arts Council. The Forum included representatives of a selection of arts and culture organisations that broadly reflected a range of genres including children and young people, people with a disability, community festivals. Those representatives came from the Grand Opera House, the MAC, Lyric and Playhouse theatres, Beat Carnival, Community Arts Partnership, Belfast Film Festival, Féile an Phobail, Arts and Disability Forum, Young at Art, Arts Council, New Lodge Arts, Audiences NI, Crescent Arts Centre and ArtsEkta. There was a representative from academia and the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure. Following a number of meetings, the Forum developed a set of proposed aims and suggested themes for an arts and culture strategy. This Consultation document further develops that input from the MAAF and takes account of its discussions while strengthening and re-focussing the proposals to ensure they prioritise the twin principles of promoting equality and tackling poverty and social exclusion.
  
- 1.2 The Consultation document and questions are framed around a number of proposed strategic themes and key aims. A stakeholder engagement programme will take place over the coming months to complement the consultation. A key focus throughout the consultation will be the benefit of arts and culture to individuals, communities and wider society thus ensuring their future recognition and value by all. Everyone will have the opportunity to contribute to the debate. This is not the final strategy – that will come after we have considered everyone’s views. Those views will help to shape and inform a future looking strategy that takes arts and culture in this part of Ireland well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, re-positioning them as key drivers to deliver equality, a strong economy, a thriving creative sector, a strong tourism sector and improved health and wellbeing for all citizens.

## **Responding to the Consultation**

- 1.3 This Consultation document and response form can be downloaded from the Department's website at [www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation). The document is available in both English and Irish languages.
- 1.4 Consultation will be open for a period of 12 weeks from 23 November 2015 to 12 February 2016. Responses should be made by **17:00 on 12 February 2016**. Responses can be made online, by email or post to the addresses below:

**Online :** [www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/consultation)

**Email:** [Consultations@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:Consultations@dcalni.gov.uk)

**Post:** **Culture and Arts Strategy, Response Co-ordinator**  
**Arts and Creativity Branch**  
**Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**  
**Causeway Exchange**  
**1-7 Bedford Street**  
**Belfast BT2 7EG**

Should you require this document in another accessible format such as Braille, audio-tape or large print you should contact the Response Co-ordinator at the address above. Or by contacting us at

**Telephone: 028 90 515075 or 028 90 515148**

**Text phone: 028 90 527668**

**Fax: 028 90 823351**

- 1.5 When the consultation period ends and the responses are analysed, the Department may decide to contact some of the interested parties for more information. The Department will publish a summary of responses. If you would prefer your response to be treated as confidential, please let us know, stating your reasons clearly. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

- 1.6 If we are asked to disclose responses under Freedom of Information legislation, we will take any requests for confidentiality into account. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. We will handle appropriately any personal data you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the

Information Commissioner's Office at

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland

3rd Floor

14 Cromac Place,

Belfast

BT7 2JB or visit the website at: [www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)



## **Part 2: Context**

- 2.1 Artistic and cultural expression has been embraced by individuals and societies for centuries. Indeed, it would be hard to imagine a society without the influence of the arts. We would have no collective memory in our museums, no literature and learning opportunities in our libraries, no music or festivals in our communities, no performances in our theatres. The list goes on but, in short, we would have no story to tell at home and abroad and a distinct lack of identity. Arts and culture is the cornerstone of any fulfilled society and a strategy that underpins equality for all by aiming to ensure access to and participation in arts and culture for everyone will cement that position.
  
- 2.2 This will be the first overarching cross Departmental strategy specific to arts and culture. The strategy will set a blueprint for arts and culture over the next ten years, investing in people and the community, making sure services and benefits are delivered to everyone.
  
- 2.3 Arts and culture have important contributions to make to the achievement of a number of pillars in the current Programme for Government (PfG): Growing a Sustainable Economy and Investing in the Future: Creating Opportunities and Tackling Disadvantage and Improving Health and Wellbeing: Building a Strong and Shared Community. The Strategy will also fit with key Executive overarching commitments under Delivering Social Change (DSC) and Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) as well as the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression
  
- 2.4 The DSC framework to tackle poverty and social exclusion aims to deliver a sustained reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages. DSC aims to improve children and young people’s health, well-being and life opportunities thereby breaking the long term cycle of multi-generational problems. Under TBUC, the Executive is committed to improving community relations and building a united and shared society. Arts and culture play a key leadership role in the collaborative delivery of TBUC’s vision of “ *a united*

*community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation – one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance”.*

- 2.5 The UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression reaffirms the right to promote and protect cultural expression and recognises that the diversity of cultural expression is a “rich asset for individuals and societies”.

## **Part 3: Vision**

3.1 The proposed vision for the strategy is:

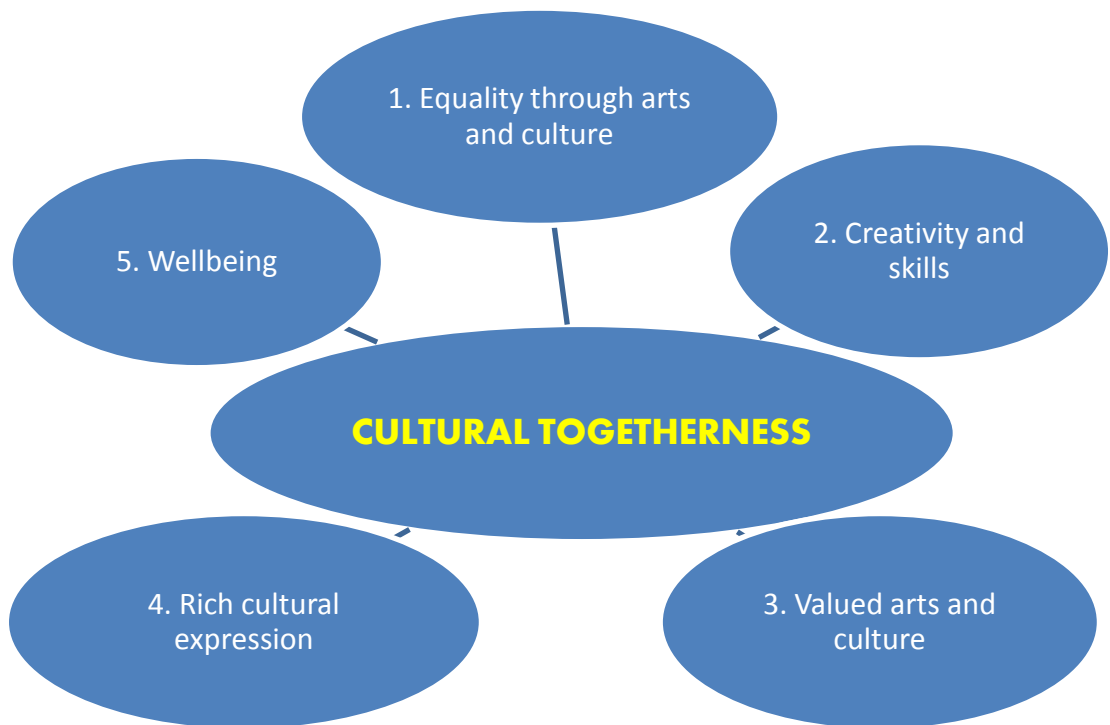
*“To promote, develop and support the crucial role of arts and culture in creating a cohesive community and delivering social change to our society on the basis of equality for everyone.”*



## **Part 4: Themes and Discussion**

- 4.1 The Department is committed to promoting and developing arts and culture, including our museums, libraries and creative sectors, while ensuring equality for everyone. However, the Department cannot create a thriving, accessible and sustainable arts and culture sector working alone. A future looking strategy to bolster arts and culture and help bring about social and economic improvement in wider society will require collaboration and investment.
- 4.2 It is proposed to develop a strategy that will seek to spearhead arts and culture – **Cultural Togetherness** - through the following key themes:

### **THEMES**



The aims of each theme are set out in the next section along with a sample case study of how arts and culture currently deliver services to citizens. We would like to know your views on these broad themes and on arts and culture more generally.

## *What do you think?*

4.3 Information and data available to government at present suggests that significant numbers of citizens are not engaging with arts and culture. The term “arts and culture” can mean many things to many people. Some may think of galleries, museums, theatre or opera; others may think of playing music, reading, debating, creating; some others may think of attending festivals, carnivals, circus or concerts. There is no single definition of arts and culture, and probably cannot be, so we would like you to tell us what you think.

**Q.** What does arts and culture mean to you – either as an individual or organisation?

**Q.** How often do you take part in arts and culture activities?

- a. At least once a month
- b. Three to four times per year
- c. Once or twice a year
- d. Less than once a year
- e. Never

**Please provide comment.**

4.4 In this document we have set out some of the benefits that access to and participation in arts and culture can bring to individuals and communities.

**Q.** Do you agree with the benefits arts and culture can bring?

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

**Q.** Are there others?

**Are there others?**

**Please provide comment.**

4.5 Thinking about the benefits arts and culture bring to the economy and society and the allocation of Government funding.

**Q.** Do you agree that the value of arts and culture should be recognised by government?

**Q.** How could public funding for the arts be balanced by other investment?

**Please provide comment.**

## ***Equality through arts and culture***

4.6 The theme, **Equality through arts and culture**, is about enabling everyone, without exception, to have the opportunity to benefit from engagement and involvement with arts and culture. Enjoying arts and culture should be there for everyone and not be a privilege for those with the material resources, educational advantage or family tradition. Fate, family and fortune are not the tests. Citizenship is the test.

### **Aims**

- a. Understand the nature of barriers to access and participation in arts and culture and find ways to overcome them.*
- b. Ensure disadvantaged communities and vulnerable, hard to reach individuals are not prevented from accessing, enjoying and participating in arts and culture whether due to cost or otherwise.*
- c. Support access to opportunities for artistic enjoyment, participation and learning from arts and cultural activities through education and employment systems.*
- d. Ensure the valuable contribution of voluntary engagement with arts and culture is supported and appreciated.*

### **What will success look like?**

*We will belong to a society that promotes equality for all citizens to enjoy artistic and cultural pathways of choice and where arts and culture have helped to tackle poverty and social disadvantage.*

## HOW ARTS AND CULTURE CAN BE FULLY INCLUSIVE

- 1. The City of Culture year was hailed a great success and emerging benefits are showing that around 20% of attendees at events included in the 2013 Cultural Programme were resident in the top 10% most deprived wards. Survey results demonstrate that local people in Derry have a renewed sense of confidence and pride in their City and its future. During 2013, 535,000 additional visitors travelled to the City. Among the highlights of the cultural programme were the BBC's coverage of the Sons and Daughters Concert, Radio 1's Big Weekend and Academy, the Return of Colmcille, the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the Walled City Tattoo.*
- 2. The 'Glass House' exhibition purposely set out to: bring contemporary visual art to audiences previously perceived to have been excluded from visual arts activities; provide an opportunity to share the pleasure and enjoyment visual art offers; and offer insight / demystify contemporary visual arts practice encompassing a wide range of activities. Audience figures provided by the Library Manager show over 3800 visitors during the duration of the exhibition.*
- 3. The Ulster Orchestra supports Move to the Music enabling people aged over seventy who live alone to travel to and from concerts, free to attend pre-concert talks and regional concerts in Ballymena, Strabane, Bangor and Derry~Londonderry , the Ulster Orchestra has a range of exciting opportunities for all members of the community.*
- 4. ArtsCare operates across all five Health and Social Care Trusts in a range of settings, hospitals, residential care settings for young and older people. Extended community projects include Looked After young people, older people, children, women who have been victims of domestic abuse, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender and Black Minority Ethnic communities.*



# THE WAY AHEAD

**Q.** Do you agree with this theme and its key aims?

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

Please provide comment

**Q.** How can arts and culture tackle poverty and social disadvantage and ensure everyone has equal access to arts?

**Q.** How can arts and culture tackle poverty and social exclusion and ensure everyone has equal access to arts?

**Q.** What barriers do you think exist that prevent access and participation in arts and culture?

**Q.** How might these barriers be overcome?

**Q.** What barriers do you think exist that prevent equality within the arts and culture sector?

**Q.** How can we best use facilities and infrastructure, including theatres and traditional arts venues, libraries, museums and creative learning centres, to facilitate maximum opportunity to enjoy arts and culture experiences?

Please provide comment.

# ***Creativity and skills***

**4.7** The theme, **Creativity and skills**, is about acknowledging the significant contribution arts and culture make to the economy and recognises the necessity for learning and skills development within our schools, our workplaces and our community. It is about creating the future skills sets required for a modern, digital creative economy and exploiting the powerful combination of arts and technology to unlock the creativity within people of all ages. It is about building for a dynamic creative future, where the generations of digitally literate, can grow to their fullest potential with a clear understanding and grounding in the power of the arts.

## **Aims**

- a. Support creative and lifelong learning from an early age through a range of education, employment and training opportunities.*
- b. Ensure young people who are not in our education and training systems for example, looked after children or those at risk of offending have access to creative and cultural opportunities in the same way as those in mainstream education.*
- c. Promote the arts, culture and creativity sectors as valuable and viable career choices that support the economy.*
- d. Understand and develop the creative skills and talent required to fully participate in the digital age thereby growing the economy.*
- e. Encourage and support our children and older people in their relationship with technology and inclusion in the digital age*

## **What will success look like?**

*We will belong to a confident, articulate, modern, highly skilled society that values arts and culture and its underpinning contribution to a strong creative economy.*

## **HOW ARTS AND CULTURE SUPPORT CREATIVITY AND SKILLS**

- 1. The Community iPad Initiative is a programme for schools and young people in the use of new creative digital technologies and professional development programmes for teachers and youth leaders.*
- 2. The 'Traditional Trades, Creative Futures' Programme was a pilot initiative developed and delivered by Creative & Cultural Skills in conjunction with Belfast Metropolitan College and North West Regional College. Funded by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, the Programme aimed to introduce young people undertaking a Level 1 or 2 qualification in a traditional trade to the potential to use these skills for future employment in the creative and cultural industries.*
- 3. The Creative Skillset Trainee Finder Development Programme was designed to accelerate the recruitment of qualified trainees across film, television, computer games, animation and VFX. This project was designed to develop opportunities for industry to co-invest in skills and training to ensure a continued supply of the next generation of Northern Ireland talent capable of producing world class creative content.*
- 4. The Glasgowbury Festival provides a platform to nurture young creative talent. Participation in bands and musical expression addresses social exclusion, isolation and poverty offering a structure for tuition, and performance opportunities in many areas where there is no other engagement in the arts.*

# THE WAY AHEAD

**Q.** Do you agree with this theme and its key aims?

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

Please provide comment

**Q.** What types of collaboration and partnering across local and regional government and the business sector would maximise the potential of these aims?

**Q.** What are the opportunities for arts and culture in the digital environment?

**Q.** What are the challenges for arts and culture in the digital environment?

**Q.** How can we ensure access and provide equality of access to arts and culture from an early age?

**Q.** How can we ensure access and provide equality of access to arts and culture to young people not in mainstream education and training?

**Q.** How can we ensure our children are included when we promote the digital environment?

**Q.** How can we ensure our older people are included when we promote the digital environment?

**Please provide comment.**

# *Valued arts and culture*

**4.8** The theme, **Valued arts and culture**, is about recognising that arts and culture can be a fulfilling part of the life experience of everyone in society. It is about recognising the huge impact the arts and culture sector and creative industries make across our economy and society, cementing a foundation that creates career opportunities and encourages and sustains community aspirations. It is about building in community cohesion, breaking down barriers and reaching those who are socially and culturally isolated and disadvantaged.

## **Aims**

- a. Understand and appreciate the role arts and culture can play in the personal and social development of every one of all ages and from all backgrounds.*
- b. Support and celebrate our unique artistic and cultural achievements promoting who we are and what we do.*
- c. Making connections between arts and culture and community planning.*
- d. Exemplifying our rich cultural identity affirming the place in which we live and its place in the world.*
- e. Maximizing connections between arts and culture and museums and libraries*

## **What will success look like?**

*We will belong to a society where everyone will respect and acknowledge our rich and diverse arts and culture sectors and where arts and culture will be supported and appreciated by local and central government policy makers and funders.*

## **STORIES OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

1. *“My local Community Arts Group has taught me a lot over the years, helped me grow as a person and gave me strength to achieve my goals. After finishing school, I felt lost but my Community Arts Group has helped me find myself and given advice and support for my future career path. I thank them and can’t wait to see what our future brings.”*
  
2. *The Belfast International Arts Festival’s Embrace programme is aimed at engaging communities and groups. The programme is designed to both enhance audience enjoyment and understanding of the events presented and to encourage active participation in the arts.*
  
3. *Kids In Control, the forerunner in physical theatre for youth in the island of Ireland, consistently manages and produces innovative, unique bespoke and socially relevant programmes in the community for marginalised young people of all abilities. In 2015 / 2016 an estimated 566 from a mix of rural , urban, special needs , able bodied , various religious/ community backgrounds, at risk and looked after youth participated. KIC is the only all ability physical theatre company for youth in Ireland within communities of need and disadvantage.*
  
4. *Draw Down the Walls has been working to connect young people and adults living in interface communities across north Belfast for a number of years. A series of events brought local residents together with an internationally renowned artist to meet, share stories and create an artwork together with the aim of improving community relations.*
  
5. *The Treasure House project run by National Museums addresses issues of social isolation and loneliness engaging older people in creative and cultural activities including art, object handling, local history, dance and drama. Participant “I enjoy the company and the friendship. I am mostly on my own.”*

## **THE WAY AHEAD**

**Q.** *Do you agree with this theme and its key aims?*

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

Please provide comment

**Q.** *Do current structures and funding models adequately meet the needs of organisations within the sector and allow arts and culture to be fully valued?*

**Q.** *What interventions can be made to ensure opportunity to access and participate in arts and culture is available to marginalised and isolated groups in the community?*

**Q.** *How can we maximise and promote our cultural capital so people from all backgrounds and ages, home and abroad, can appreciate and value what we have to offer?*

Please provide comment.

***Rich cultural expression***



4.9 The theme, **Rich cultural expression**, is about recognising that everyone has a right to creative and cultural expression. It is about recognising that it is an inherent part of human nature to want to express and celebrate cultural identity and diversity. It is about respecting and acknowledging identity.

### **Aims**

- a. Create and support opportunities where creative and cultural expression is celebrated and embraced respectfully.*
- b. Support cross community programmes which aim to increase understanding and awareness of different cultures.*
- c. Recognise and value the creative expression and identity of socially disadvantaged or excluded people.*
- d. Recognise and value the linguistic diversity within our community*
- e. Celebrate respectfully and equally the widespread and multi-faceted arts and culture community.*

### **What will success look like?**

*We will be a more inclusive society that embraces and encourages creative and cultural expression throughout the community while caring about our artistic, linguistic, cultural and heritage capital to ensure a lasting legacy for future generations.*

## **INCLUSION AND CROSS COMMUNITY WORKING**

- 1. Belfast Suitcase Stories brought together a group of the city's younger and older citizens to explore and celebrate the great social diversity of the new, multicultural Belfast. Participants included Cara Friend, an organisation dedicated to supporting the LGBT community; An Droichead - a centre of excellence for the development and enhancement of the Irish language, culture and heritage; over 50's Group from the Indian Community; Belfast Islamic Centre operating for the benefit of all Muslims irrespective of their ethnic background, gender, country of origin or age.*
- 2. During the 2013 City of Culture, a unique relationship developed between An Gaeláras, an organisation whose purpose is the promotion of Irish language and culture and the L'derry Bands Forum who are the most visible representatives of the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community locally. The cross community Droichead project began during the 2013 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and has continued using music as the common ground through which to facilitate communication and build relationships.*
- 3. The Belfast Mela is the north of Ireland's largest multi-cultural festival attracting thousands of people and showcases Belfast as a dynamic, cosmopolitan place to live in, visit and work. Through ethnic and community arts there is the opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our society and confront the challenges raised by prejudice.*
- 4. Beechmount Heritage Initiative involves Forbairt Feirste and East Belfast Mission jointly working with groups and schools in East Belfast on artistic projects. A number of Irish language learners from Nationalist and Unionist backgrounds travelled to the inaugural site of the Gaelic Kingdom in Dunadd, Scotland. They also visited the St Colmcille monastic site linking with Scots-Gaelic speakers.*

## **THE WAY AHEAD**

**Q.** Do you agree with this theme and its key aims?

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

Please provide comment

**Q.** What barriers do you think exist that prevent intercultural and multicultural expression?

**Q.** What opportunities exist to maximise cultural diversity?

**Q.** What challenges exist to maximising cultural diversity?

**Q.** What interventions can be made to ensure opportunities to enjoy and celebrate cultural identity are available or are provided across the region?

Please provide comment.

***Wellbeing***

**4.10** The theme, **Wellbeing**, is about acknowledging fully the potential of arts and culture to improve people's lives. It is about recognising their value in terms of people's health, education, confidence, learning and skills. It is about making sure wellbeing is central to and encompassed in policy making and funding decisions.

### **Aims**

- a. Communicate and raise awareness of the physical and psychological benefits arts and culture bring to everyday life.*
- b. Recognise and support the social benefits arts and culture can bring through therapeutic intervention.*
- c. Facilitate connections across government to maximise the potential of arts and culture to contribute to improved wellbeing.*
- d. Value the capacity of arts and culture to enhance wellbeing and radically shape the perception of this society, internally and externally.*

### **What will success look like?**

*We will be a healthy and fulfilled society, enjoying a rich quality of life and caring for our collective wellbeing*

## **HOW ARTS AND CULTURE IMPROVE WELLBEING**

1. *“The Magic Menu” aims to provide fun, laughter and happy shared memories for children who are living with cancer and are in treatment at home with their families. The project aims to distract attention from dealing with the illness and gives everyone something to look forward to, to talk and laugh about, and to remember afterwards. The objective is to take a bespoke magic show directly into family homes throughout Northern Ireland and to engage diagnosed children, their parents and siblings in an arts activity in the environment most suited to their circumstances - their own home.*
  
2. *The Sing for Life community choir was established in September 2012 for anyone affected by cancer. The choir provides the opportunity to meet others living with cancer, share time together in a supportive and friendly environment and learn new skills in choral singing.*
  
3. *Changing Minds, Changing Lives is a textiles and painting programme for people who have had experience of domestic abuse in Fermanagh.*
  
4. *Cuan Mhuire Rehabilitation Unit supports people with addictions as part of a programme of rehabilitation through practical ceramic, instruments and tuition for guitar learning and song and performance programme.*
  
5. *Community Dialogue developed a project incorporating photography and facilitation skills working with men from different community backgrounds who were affected by mental health issues and suicide. The men created photographs, testimonies and music which illustrated their vision of life and these were exhibited and toured throughout a number of libraries.*

## **THE WAY AHEAD**

**Q.** Do you agree with this theme and its key aims?

1. Strongly Agree 2. Agree 3. Neither agree nor disagree 4. Disagree 5. Strongly Disagree

**Please provide comment**

- Q.** Who would the Department need to work with to ensure the role of arts and culture in improving health and wellbeing is maximised?
  
- Q.** Are current structures and funding adequate to support the benefits of arts and culture to health and wellbeing?
  
- Q.** What interventions can we make to exploit fully the capacity of arts and culture to improve wellbeing for everyone?

**Please provide comment.**

## **Part 5: Conclusion**

**THANK YOU**

- 5.1 Thank you for taking the time to express your views on the proposals in this consultation. Aside from answers to the specific questions above, comments are welcomed on any aspect of developing our arts and culture strategy and in areas which you feel our questions may not have covered. When all the responses are received they will be analysed and a summary report of the analysis will be published. Individual replies will not be provided.
- 5.2 Regular updates will be placed on our website [www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk) and issued through social media – please join us on Facebook and Twitter at #artsnrculture; @ancconsult.

