



# Arts for All Annual report 2013

## ARTS FOR ALL ANNUAL REPORT 2013

### Chair's Report

It has been just over a year since the last AGM and there have been major developments at Arts for All. The organisation received core funding for the first time from two principal funders – the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council. This has made an important contribution to sustainability and the ability to plan ahead. This will allow the organisation to grow and develop and provide arts activities in north Belfast.

The International Fund for Ireland (IFI) grant for the Cross Interface Relations Through Community Art (CIRCA) project ended in December 2012. This meant the end of this three year programme and the organisation had to say goodbye to project worker David Gilliland who moved to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to work on the Reimaging programme. We wish David all the best for his working life in the Arts Council.

The staff team has now reduced by a third – from three to two. The organisation is currently seeking funding for a community arts programmer to assist the co-ordinator and finance manager to deliver programmes and allow the co-ordinator to focus on bigger, more strategic programmes.

To prepare for and meet the challenge of an increasingly challenging funding environment, Arts for All has received funding from ACNI to develop a comprehensive five year strategic plan which will guide the work of the organisation over the coming period, identifying a strategic direction and potential funders to fund the organisation to deliver programmes and activities.

Fundraising will be ongoing and intensive to plug the gap left by IFI.

Arts for All is looking forward to 2014 and to delivering an exciting arts programme in north Belfast, a good relations intercultural training programme with ArtsEkta and further developing existing programmes.

### Co-ordinator's Report

Arts for All has been active throughout the period since the last AGM (September 2012). It continues to be an important source of arts provision within the community in north Belfast. It has consolidated existing and developed innovative new programmes.

Arts for All is located in and delivered artistic programmes in Duncairn1 Super Output Area. This is an area of deprivation, where legacy of the conflict is palpable, sectarian and intracommunity tensions high. In this area, 5.4% of the population is educated to degree level and 80.3% have no/a low level of qualifications. Arts for All's work addresses this educational deficit. Throughout the year, Arts for All worked with disadvantaged and marginalised groups and individuals including older people, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, young people, disabled people and people living in poverty.

Below is a summary of the projects which Arts for All has delivered since September 2012.

## Creative hub

Arts for All has ownership of three floors of the premises at 23 York Road. The first floor provides a gallery which hosted eight exhibitions in 2013 promoting the work of 80 artists. It is also office space for Arts for All staff.

The first floor houses one room for mentees and two rooms which provide much needed artistic space for three artists.

The second floor houses artist Jim Russell who has been using Arts for All as his studio since 2010. He uses it as a base from which he develops and delivers a wide range of community based projects. He is currently working on a mural at the Crusader's football ground, depicting the Battle of Jutland, featuring HMS Caroline.

In February 2012, Arts for All opened up its premises to the public, offering workshops to members from across north Belfast. The building is slowly turning into a recognised arts space within the York Road area. During 2013 it hosted 256 participants and 20 groups. It is hoped this will continue to grow during 2014-2015.

## Exhibitions

With funding from the Ulster Scots Agency, Arts for All launched the **John Luke Gallery** on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013. This was launched by John Luke's nephew Neville McKee.



Neville McKee, Heather Floyd, Ian Crozier, Ulster Scots Agency and writer Seth Linder at the launch of the Gallery

The gallery will honour and celebrate John Luke's life and work and promote a local artist. John Luke was raised in neighbouring Lewis Street and attending Hillman Street National School. He had many exhibitions throughout his life and painted the mural in Belfast City Hall.

Naming the gallery the **John Luke Gallery** locates the Arts for All Cultural Hub and gallery within the context of a high profile, internationally recognised local artist. To mark the launch, Arts for All developed a booklet – Northern Soul – which celebrated John Luke's life. The new gallery includes improved signage. This will be enhanced by new spot and tracked lighting with funding from ACNI in 2014.

During 2013, Arts for All facilitated eight exhibitions. These included work from 81 local artists, two groups and one school. There were 732 visitors to exhibitions in the **John Luke Gallery** in 2013: **80 artists supported**.

### Capacity building arts programme

During 2013, Arts for All ran a vibrant programme of community arts courses in a range of art forms. Several of these workshops took place in the Creative Hub, encouraging groups and residents to use a community based cultural venue. This programme is a core activity for Arts for All and aims to build the capacity of the north Belfast community through the arts. It helps Arts for All achieve its vision to:

develop a more cohesive, confident and creative community in north Belfast

During 2013, this programme delivered a total of 99 artistic workshops and engaged with:

- 15 community groups
- 7 schools
- 361 participants

All groups and schools were located in areas of disadvantage. The programme engaged with older people's groups, youth groups, women's groups, groups working with disabled people and minority ethnic groups and individuals. Art forms were varied and included street art, art and craft, drama, circus skills and dance. Participants ranged in age from three to 96 years of age.

**Total participants: 361 Total artists: 22 artists**

### Mentoring scheme

During 2013, Arts for All further developed the mentoring scheme. This scheme offered invaluable opportunities to 19 mentees to work on a one to one basis with experienced artists. It provided employment for 17 mentoring artists. Over the year, mentees have ranged in age from 16 to over 70.

There were two runs of the programme in 2013, one running from September 2012-June 2013 which culminated in an exhibition in June 2013 and the current run of the scheme which commenced in October 2013. There are currently two mentees who are developing art forms other than visual arts – writing and music production. This is an exciting development which we hope will be built on in coming years.

There were two off shoots from the main mentoring scheme – a street art mentoring scheme (three participants and two mentoring artists) and a photography mentoring scheme as part of the Edward Carson School outlined below.

Outcomes from the 2011-2012 mentoring scheme have been extremely positive. Two mentees were awarded A at A/S Level and one of them has been employed by Island Arts Centre as a facilitator. One of last year's mentees is now working as a community arts facilitator and one is doing a picture framing apprenticeship in Hollywood.

The scheme was monitored closely and evaluated during 2013 by independent consultants Skyers-Morris Associates Ltd. The consultants identified several areas where the scheme could be built on and these are currently being embedded into the scheme to strengthen it.

Training for both mentors and mentees is now an integral part of the scheme, along with an induction session to learn about the scheme and to develop a mentoring plan between mentors and mentees.

**Total mentees: 22: total artists: 19**

### **1863-2013: the port and docks of Belfast: imagined through textiles**

Working with partners ArtsEkta, Arts for All delivered a major cross community and intercultural project exploring life in the port and docks of Belfast from 1813 to the modern day. The project honoured this rich part of Belfast's heritage, in particular women's contribution.

The project ran between February and December 2013 and included social history sessions; study visits to: Dublin, the port and docks, Belfast Barge; Conway Mill and the Folk Museum; research, drawing sessions and sewing sessions. The group partnered with a group in Dublin who were developing 32 panels telling the story of the Dublin Lockout in 1913. This was an important cross border connection. Women from Belfast sewed on the Lockout tapestry and attended the launch. It is hoped that this partnership can be developed.

During 2013, 48 training days took place and 2500 training hours. There were 21 participants and 36 visitors during the development of the textile. Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds including Japanese, Indian, Polish, German, American, English, Dutch and Colombian. These participants worked alongside women who grew up in or had some connection with the port and docks. A deep level of group bonding took place and many friendships were developed which have been maintained.

Participants developed a high quality, beautiful textiles panel which reflects life in the port and docks circa 1940-1980. Unbleached linen is the base linen which mirrors linen used in local mills and great care was taken in choosing threads and stitches.

High profile launches took place at:

- Stormont, hosted by the Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure and launched by committee chair Michelle McIlveen (50 attendees)
- Arts for All **John Luke Gallery** (30 attendees)
- Belfast City Hall, launched by Lord Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir (50 attendees)

Arts for All has just received funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs to develop a further panel in 2014.

**Total participants: 21: artists: 4**



## Developing Communities

Arts for All delivered a considered, multi layered programme through the Developing Communities project, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The aim of the programme was to use the arts to explore different historical areas with a view to raising awareness about history and cultural traditions.

Developing Communities included history sessions, artistic sessions and study visits. History sessions were rich, interactive, informative and challenging. Participants attended at least two history sessions and then several artistic sessions which told the story of the historical event they had been studying.

Some historical areas covered include the Belfast Blitz, when 67 people were killed on one street and the history of the Shankill over the last 100 years. The Blitz project produced a large mural when participants from Tiger's Bay Historical Society worked with street artist Jonny McKerr and mentee Mark Irvine to develop the mural which was recorded by Bill Roulston from the Transitional Justice Institute at the University of Ulster. The Shankill workshops led to the development of a major community play Crimea Square which was showcased during Belfast Festival at Queen's.



The study visits were an extremely important part of Developing Communities, as were the history sessions. Participants were introduced to many cultural venues including the Lyric Theatre and The MAC. For many of the participants it was their first time in both these venues

28 participants attended a study visit to Dublin. Participants were very impressed with Dublin and the city's unionist history. They began to appreciate the very close links between the two cities - Belfast and Dublin - and the sense of an intertwined and shared history. This helped to address prejudice and misinformation about the Republic of Ireland.

The historical and artistic programme engaged with eight groups and 87 participants. There were eight study visits which 119 people attended. Feedback was extremely positive.

**Total participants: 206: artists: 11**

## Edward Carson Summer School

Between April and September 2013, Arts for All delivered a Summer School exploring the life, impact and legacy of Edward Carson in partnership with the Tiger's Bay Historical Society consisting of:

- A series of history workshops and discussions
- Study visits
- Mentoring sessions
- A walking tour of north Belfast
- Photography workshops
- Creative writing workshops
- The development of a script – ***My Duncairn Diary***
- The development of a rehearsed reading based on ***My Duncairn Diary***
- Four performances of ***My Duncairn Diary*** at:
  - i) Jennymount Methodist Church to a local audience (50 audience)
  - ii) East Belfast Arts Festival (50 audience)
  - iii) Culture Night Belfast (Crumlin Road Gaol) (100 audience)
  - iv) Creative Legacies 11 showcase (100 audience)

To maximise opportunity and further develop local skills, a photography mentoring scheme was delivered. Participants trained in photography techniques enabling them to record the project as it evolved. There was also a mentoring element to the workshops and rehearsals to develop ***My Duncairn Diary*** - a local resident shadowed the director and sound technician, with a view to developing skills in music production.

This was a major programme for a small organisation to deliver. The programme was evaluated by an independent evaluator and produced strong findings which highlighted that the project engendered a strong sense of pride amongst local residents that the Tiger's Bay community had produced this play. Arts for All hopes to build on this work during 2014-2015.



**Total participants: 149: artists: 6**

## Power Puppets

Working in partnership with Northern Visions, Arts for All delivered a project – Power Puppets. A pilot was delivered with Bunscoil Bheann Mhádagain in December 2013 and the full programme will run between January and March 2014. This project involves local children working with puppets to develop a story and accompanying music. The process will be turned into a series of television programmes which will be screened on Northern Visions' new community television channel in 2014. This project engaged Fab Lab based in the New Lodge in the computer design of the puppets and 3D printing and provided an opportunity for a young fashion designer who is starting her working life in the creative industries.

**Total participants: 50: artists: 6**

## Play Resource Warehouse 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

To help this landmark community arts organisation celebrate 30 years of operation, Arts for All and New Lodge Arts worked with local groups to deliver arts workshops celebrating north Belfast. The group Arts for All worked with was Midland Senior's Arts Club, providing an intergenerational mix with the young people from an after schools group in the New Lodge. This project culminated in an exhibition in the Play Resource Warehouse which was launched by Roisin McDonough, chief executive of ACNI.

**Total participants: 20: artists: 1**

**Overall participants: 829: 95 artists**

## Future developments

Arts for All will continue to deliver the mentoring scheme and capacity building arts programme, working with local groups and residents to build the capacity of the local community through the arts.

With renewed funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Arts for All will develop a second textile panel. This will include a range of study visits, research, drawing sessions and sewing sessions. Included within this funding application are costs for the Developing Communities programme, building on the project from last year.

Arts for all will deliver a professional training and awareness programme incorporating good relations, facilitation, intercultural and reflective practice training for artists and cultural workers with partners ArtsEkta. The training is holistic and interdisciplinary. It will be developed with experts from the university and the good relations sector. It will promote and encourage good practice and competencies among practitioners and arts organisations when delivering good relations projects which are using the arts. It will develop a pool of qualified competent organisations and professionals able to deliver innovative and impactful good relations workshops using arts a tool.

Arts for All hopes to deliver a major artistic programme for older people in partnership with The Hubb. This will provide arts projects working with local community based older people's groups. It will also deliver group art therapy and storytelling sessions in different art forms. These will provide space and a process to creatively explore past violence and trauma within the loyalist community which was caused during the conflict and continues to have community impact. Its aim is to create space to unpack and explore the effects on individuals, families and the community in relation to inter-loyalist feuds, disputes, displacements and trauma that happened during three decades of conflict. This will be enhanced by research into intracommunity conflict in north Belfast.



Arts for All is waiting on the outcome of the application to the Social Investment Fund for funds to purchase the building and refurbish the Creative Hub, enhancing the service to local residents. If successful, this will open up the second floor, creating a large workshop space and a space for mentees. It will also improve the artist-in- residence space on the third floor, creating space for further artists to use the space as a residency.

Arts for All will explore working with other organisations to deliver projects in partnership, maximising the impact of all organisations involved. One possibility is an exciting partnership with Belfast Print Workshops delivering a project in print techniques with an exhibition in the **John Luke Gallery** and the Workshops. This project will engage with members of the Indian, Chinese and Muslim communities.

Arts for All has received funding from the Arts Council to develop a comprehensive five year strategic plan. This will hopefully work alongside capital developments and mark a new and exciting phase of development for the organisation.

This is an exciting time for Arts for All, especially if all pending funding applications are successful.

## Funding

For the first time this year, Arts for All received core funding from two key funders – the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council. This has helped greatly with planning and sustainability and shows confidence by these two funders in the organisation.

Arts for All continues to receive support through the Department for Social Development's Neighbourhood Renewal Programme. Lloyds TSB also provided much needed running costs throughout 2011-2012.

Arts for All has just heard that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has agreed to fund the textiles project and the Developing Communities programme. DFA has been a strong supporter of Arts for All over the past ten years.

Arts for All recognises the input of funders without whom any of the work outlined in this report would be possible and looks forward to working in partnership with funders over the coming year.

## Board members

Michelle Millar	Chair
David Gilliland	Secretary
Muriel Bowyer	Treasurer
Jim Crothers	Director
Valerie O'Brien	Director
Liz Bingham	Director
Jennifer Cochrane	Director
Rosie Mulvenna	Director

## Thank you

Arts for All would like to thank the following organisations and people for their continuing support throughout 2011-2012:

- Arts Council of Northern Ireland
- Belfast City Council
- Department of Social Development/BRO North Team
- Lloyds TSB
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Arts for All participants
- The many artists who have worked with Arts for All
- Mentees
- Groups and community workers who have worked with Arts for All
- Elected representatives past and present

Heather Floyd: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013