

So hope for a great sea change
On the far side of revenge.
Believe that a farther shore
Is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.

Seamus Heaney

Summary of our Bid



Our Story



Derry~Londonderry is poised for change and designation as UK City of Culture 2013 and everything it brings, would provide a catalytic impact for our people and our economy.

Already our taking part has unleashed a surge of exceptional creativity across the City and region. Our City is now more than ever a place of hope, optimism, determination, inquiry, history and joy.

2013 will be a unique time for Derry~Londonderry in its history. It is the 400th anniversary of the building of our City Walls, an event that shaped our City physically and emotionally. Then from the founding of the first monastery in 546 AD through to the plantation, siege, emigration and immigration, through to the present day.

We have shaped stories across the world where our 9 million Diaspora reside and continue our legacy. Our more recent past offers a beacon of hope to communities globally facing the problems of division.

We face the challenges of economic and social deprivation on our journey of transformation and peace-making. We are determined to address these issues with culturally led regeneration as the key to our step change.

We have engaged creatively with our many stakeholders in developing our proposed programmes and plans. Our aspiration is to reach all our citizens - a claim we do not make lightly!

We are reconnecting people across these two Islands and beyond these shores. We are the most digitally connected historic City in Europe.

We will interweave the best of local and global practice, focusing on what culture is about, its seminal role in regeneration, peace-making, and how digital technologies are altering the way we create and consume our culture.

We will use the experience and excellence of our cultural organisations in a sustainable way that creates a legacy that is truly lasting. This is a once in a lifetime chance to transform our city, creating a safe place for us to explore our past together, developing a new found confidence that will emanate from that exploration.

UK City of Culture will unleash the talent of a City renowned for Nobel Prize winners, poets and playwrights, writers and directors, musicians and singers, actors and artists. Our unique model of cultural engagement connects our emerging talent from neighbourhood level, through our arts organisations, to our cultural champions and the world beyond. This ensures that culture will be accessible to every citizen in 2013 and place us on a world stage.

We will create the perfect bridge between London 2012 and Glasgow 2014. We are uniquely linked to both cities through our shared histories. Linking across the oceans to our Diaspora across the world we will prove that indeed a farther shore is reachable from here. We are a departure point and a landing point for the world to hear of our journey from a disputed past to a shared and respectful future.

“There is nothing to hold us back”; we are determined to succeed. Our transformation and legacy will be a work of art in progress.



Our delivery

We will deliver because we are clear about what we have to do and how we will do it and we have identified the funds and sponsorship to deliver a world class programme of events. We have a powerful partnership with Derry City Council, Ilex, and SIB, working in partnership with our Cultural Partnership Forum, across Government both local and central and utilising our close links to London, Dublin and Washington to name but a few.

Our authentic and compelling story has galvanised an unprecedented groundswell of support and expertise.

Whether or not we are successful in achieving designation of UK City of Culture, our powerful partnership and the groundswell of support we have already achieved will not be stopped and we will continue to deliver a world class cultural programme to celebrate 2013. Indeed we are also bidding to achieve European Capital of Youth in 2013 and status as an European Healthy City.

We have created a committed and professional team who have put their hearts and souls into the challenge of unlocking the creativity and talent of our people through the bid process.

Winning the designation for UK City of Culture will motivate our team to establish a Culture Company to take forward the Cultural Programme in the years leading up to and then during 2013. It will follow best practice, be autonomous, independent and maintain cultural and artistic integrity.

We have already secured a considerable part of the funds and sponsorship to deliver our ambitious cultural programme even in these difficult economic times, achieving designation will allow us attract even more investment. The support from all parts of Government

has been exceptional, as has been the response from the philanthropic and private sectors.

We are determined to be self-sufficient, self-reliant and effective at leveraging resources, growing new audiences and developing new cultural offerings that will create a legacy through the Oakleaf Fund to sustain programmes and organisations beyond 2013.

We will invest more than £200m in our infrastructure. We will create a national cultural treasure at Ebrington, as well as pursue World Heritage status for our City walls.

We will invest in marketing our region using new and innovative social and viral networking methods such as our 11,000 Facebook friends and our iPhone/iPod touch application to reach new global markets.

We have a track record of delivering world class events and have the capacity across the region to showcase and host the major events that come with designation.

We are thinking big!

We are in this for the long haul. We can model, measure and monitor the impact of our actions over the long term on our children and young people and our most disadvantaged communities. We can and will share our learning.

We will Crack the Cultural Code and reveal the irrepressible spirit and energy of our people through our Cultural Champions and the tenacity of our Cultural Investigators.

We will UNLOCK Creativity and CONNECT our communities as Digital Cultural Champion of the UK.

We will create a new and meaningful story on our journey from Plantation to Peace.

It is a story that needs to be told!



Our Cultural Programme



The Cultural Programme will reflect the identity of the City and its people and be characterised both by Joyous Celebration and Purposeful Inquiry. It will enable us to create a new story at a moment when, the time is now right to simultaneously consider both concepts. Our proposed draft Cultural Programme represents only a taster of the groundswell of ideas already generated in the City, all of which suggest fundamental shifts in terms of thinking and doing and in relationships with publics of all kinds as well as refreshed and new connections with the rest of the world. Our concept of Cracking the Cultural Code from which our Cultural Programme is developed, has four key components under which our events are delivered. The examples below illustrate the type of headline events which could be delivered in 2013:

Unlocking Creativity – Building on a decade of work with Sir Ken Robinson we will use the UK City of Culture as a stimulus to create programmes that will provide unique learning experiences, inspire our curriculum and unleash the talents of our local people connecting them to the wider world. Our main programme elements addressing this component are:

Children’s Music Promise - a unique programme of providing access to musical instruments and training to all school children in Derry~Londonderry. This programme is endorsed by Feargal Sharkey as Cultural Champion and Head of UK Music and a considerable discount has been agreed with instrument suppliers.

Cultural Embassies – this is an opportunity to attract artists from across the world to share the best of their practice by living for a year in the City. They will work closely with local communities to stimulate them and unlock their own creativity and showcase it to the world.

Interface Biennale 2013 - The Interface Biennale will be a year-long major international festival of contemporary visual art events that will take place within the City and surrounding areas in new and unusual spaces and establish the reputation of the City in the world of the visual arts.

Digital Dialogue – With increasing confidence and competence we will maximise the creative opportunities provided by the Kelvin transatlantic link and the massive local optical fibre connectivity it provides (in excess of 500 optical fibre, each capable of carrying 100Gbytes of data pass through Derry~Londonderry). This “pipe” links to Europe, the US and beyond via 6 undersea cables making Derry~Londonderry one of the most connected historical Cities in the world. This is a significant opportunity for creative exploration, play and distribution of new ideas.

Creative Access in the Digital Age – This programme will act as a motivator and a focus for the development of additional curriculum activity based on upon on-line learning and the acquisition of new skills in digital creativity. This will reach teachers in every school in NI from Derry~Londonderry.

Disobey Gravity - Counter weight reality through a high profile UK wide campaign celebrating the potential of poetry to redress the challenges of life and promoting participation using Northern Ireland writers to stimulate reaction. There would be a digital aspect to this with an online hub for publishing of entries, voting, commenting and creation of new verse. The final list would be judged and a winner awarded by Seamus Heaney.

Creative Connections – will connect our communities in innovative and ingenious ways giving them voice, often for the first time. This component supports a series of events which showcase our creative talents and those of others. This will be a variety of contemporary music, dance, theatre, arts and performance that will link our diverse and often divergent cultures in programmes of exploration through Celebration and Inquiry. Our main programme elements addressing this component are:

Sons and Daughters 2013 Opening Event – A concert on the parade ground highlighting the world class talent that the City has produced. This will be a live performance mixed with digital visual spectacular showcasing of history of the City of Song. It will also be the launch of our Lighting the City project which is a year long installation of immense impact, animating prestigious buildings, iconic structures and historic monuments. We would be seeking an artist of the calibre of Krzysztof Wodiczko to ensure excellent public participation. In addition the Riverdance Company have agreed to perform in the City during 2013.

Cracking the Cultural Code – We will use our Cultural Investigators, a concept identified to encourage young people and adults to become actively engaged in researching and investigating their own communities, towns and cities across the UK, in order to Crack the Cultural Code which are the rules and principles, the methods and equations, the recipes and blueprints - that are capable of unlocking a deep and positive change in our community effectively targeting disadvantage and measure and demonstrate the impact of what we do.

International DJ and Dance Festival - A major contemporary music and dance festival enhancing renowned local festivals in association with the Exit Festival Serbia with a proposition to the BBC to again host The ONE Big Weekend.

Creating a New Story – As a cultural melting pot we recognise that our cultural and political traditions sometimes approach the past from divergent places and that the truth itself is lost in translation. The “sum of unreliable parts” ultimately leaves us

with some prejudicial thinking and we plan to use our Cultural Programme to define a new narrative through purposeful culture led inquiry which will allow for alternative views and ideas to be absorbed and considered.

The Return Of Colmcille “The Peace maker“ – Outdoor water based spectacular Pageant on the River Foyle in the centre of the City based around a greatly enhanced Hallow’een event. From his self exposed exile on the Isle of Iona the 6th century legendary Monk will return to his beloved city on a 21st century Currach granting the re-born city his blessing of a new peace for the new age. As the legacy of this gift of Peace to the City he will give every child between 1 and 13 an oak tree to be planted in their memory and as a mark of time from which the City began a new era. On his departure he will carry the Olympiad Flame passed on from London to Derry~Londonderry and onwards to Glasgow.

Field Day Commission - A new Field Day production would set out to reflect and address the current cultural ‘state we are in’. Field Day originally set out to create the ‘Fifth Province’ which was/is cultural space which transcended the one dimensionality of the stagnant politics of the past. A new challenge in a post-conflict space is to address the future and speculate about present and future viable ‘states’.

Culture at the heart of Regeneration

Over the past 18 months, our City has embarked on a regeneration journey that is unique in several ways:

- we have agreed on a mission which combines a stronger and more vibrant economy; ensuring that opportunities and benefits from regeneration are targeted towards the most deprived groups in our communities;
- we have actively involved over 1,000 citizens in development of this new plan to 2020 and beyond;
- we are focused on two key economic objectives: making our City a leading destination for Tourism, Arts & Culture; and
- building a competitive and connected city



(exploiting the connectivity of Project Kelvin and opportunities for our creative industries).

Regional Impact

Winning UK City of Culture is a fundamental building block to the embedding of peace and the economic, social and cultural renaissance of not just the city but **the region** as a whole.

All eleven Government departments and their ministers have rallied behind this unique opportunity to mark a significant year in the history of the City and to embed and embrace, celebrate and explore our shared histories, and to shape a new future.

We believe that the UK City of Culture lead-in and year of celebration will be a transformational moment for the region. This is the time for Northern Ireland to show the world where it has been and where it is going.

The UK City of Culture designation would **transform** the whole programme. It would help us to attract new investors. Most of all, it would help build the Civic Pride and Confidence necessary for our **plans** to become **reality** and make culture accessible to all in our City.





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Candidate City, UK City of Culture 2013

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become an ambassador
share your cultural idea
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Toilets 



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*Now is our time and we ask
you, the movers and shakers
of today to begin and
continue the momentum, so
we the next generation can
harness the energy of this
historical city and put
despair and unemployment on
the far side of revenge.*

Aoife Monaghan
age 16 years



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Derry City Council, 98 Strand Road, Derry~Londonderry, N. Ireland, BT48 7NN
T: 028 7136 5151 www.derrycity.gov.uk