



The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme

The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme was established by the Community Relations Council (CRC), with the support of Government, to help local community/voluntary groups across the region.

This funding support aims to help develop and support their capacity to deliver positive community relations projects in their local communities aimed at tackling sectarianism and racism and promoting cultural diversity.

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Organisation: ArtsEkta
Project Name: Belfast Mela 2021
Council Area: Belfast City Council

Grant Awarded: £5,250
T:BUC Priority: Our Cultural Expression
Delivery Method: Festival and Events

Project Overview:

Northern Ireland's largest cultural diversity festival, the Belfast Mela, returned to Belfast on Monday 23rd August 2021 for a weeklong programme of events. The Belfast Mela is a major citizen-led cultural gathering and celebrate Northern Ireland's diverse communities with a line-up of world music, dance, food, language, and arts events at various indoor and outdoor locations across the city.

Highlights of this year's festival included a spectacular free 'Mini Mela' across the city centre; a line-up of world music, dance and food live from Writers Square; and a spectacular free outdoor cinema showing of Slumdog Millionaire fused together with live Bollywood dance performances in Botanic Gardens.

Project Impact:

- The Belfast Mela delivered programme of over 40 live world music, dance, food, language and arts events.
- Over 14k people participated in the Belfast Mela.
- 316 local artists from different backgrounds participated in the Mela.
- Volunteer Programme engaged 38 participants from communities across Belfast.
- Outreach Programme engaged 106 participants from across Belfast.

"The Belfast Mela is Northern Ireland's biggest celebration of cultural diversity as thousands of visitors enjoyed more than 40 events across the city in a shared celebration of our cultures and communities. I would like to pay tribute to all the artists who were involved in bringing this bold, vibrant, and colourful Mela to life with a weeklong celebration of world music, dance, food, theatre, art and wellbeing events in venues and outdoor spaces across the city."

Nisha Tandon OBE, Founder of Belfast Mela and Director of ArtsEkta.

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For more information on The Community Relations/Cultural Diversity Grant Scheme visit: www.community-relations.org.uk