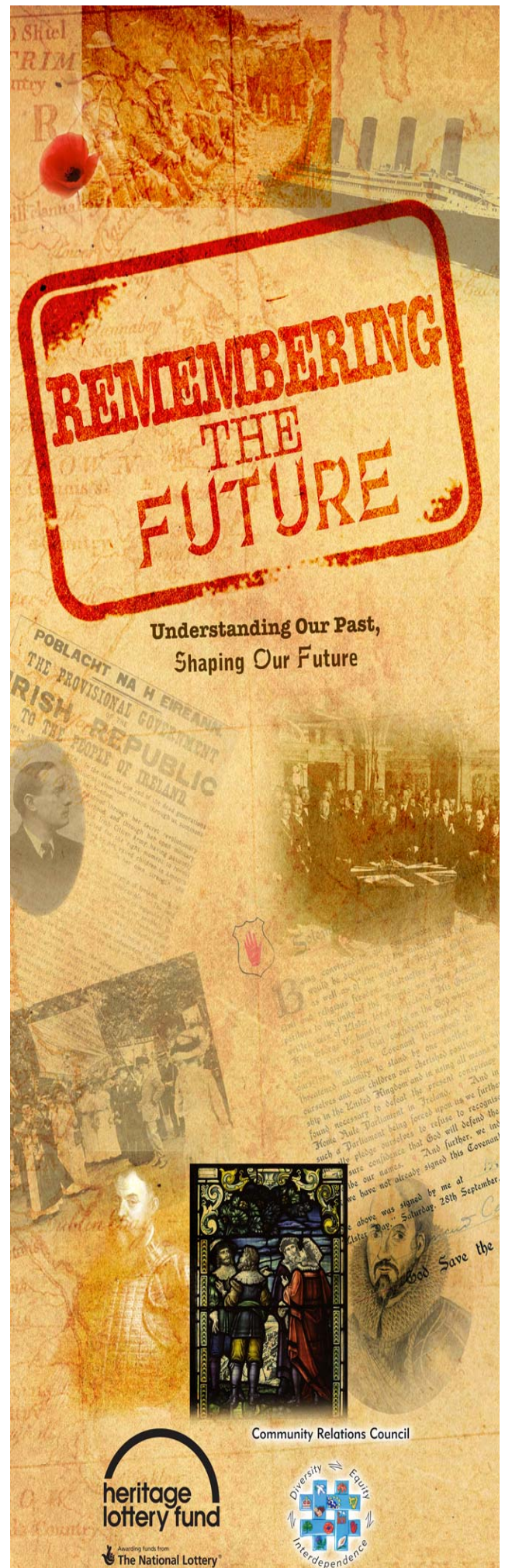


Guidance Notes for Funding Bodies

Funding Scheme on
Marking Anniversaries:
A Decade of Ideas
2012-23

Remembering The Future

October 2011



Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund would like to thank those who commented on earlier drafts.

Background

The period from 2011 -2023 includes a number of potentially sensitive centenary anniversaries which have shaped our sense of British and Irish identity in Northern Ireland in the 20th century. Examples of the centenary anniversaries includes the Ulster Covenant 2012, Titanic 2012, First World War 2014, Somme and Easter Rising 2016, the rise of the Labour Movement, Universal Male and limited Women’s Suffrage 1918, Treaty of Versailles 2019, War of Independence 2019, Partition and Government of Ireland Act 2021. This is not a definitive list.

We acknowledge there is a wide range of anniversaries such as those related to the recent conflict, wider inclusion and further in the past such as the Plantation that will continue to be remembered. How these and others are marked in public as opposed to private space will chart the progress this society is making on its journey out of conflict. These anniversaries need not be mutually exclusive; indeed, if the commemorations are handled sensitively, they will provide an opportunity to underline how much of our history is shared.

We acknowledge the importance of work already being undertaken within communities and we continue to fund certain projects and initiatives which provide opportunities for communities and groups to reflect on and address issues of identity within a safe space, to promote contributions to the public realm, and to explore local heritage.

We do not seek to stop groups and communities remembering in their own way. However, we suggest that there needs to be a contextualisation and discussion about how we remember periods and events and what the historic record tells us. This approach facilitates a variety of interpretations.

We acknowledge these are significant centenaries for all of us in different ways, and also that how we remember and mark them is not only remembering ‘then’, but defining us ‘now’.

Introduction

Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund have been exploring how funding and resources to support activities and project work can be forward looking, collaborative and promote cohesive communities and society. In the likelihood government departments, arms length bodies, councils, the Peace Programme Partnerships and charitable funders are approached by a range of culture, heritage and grassroots communities this note sets out matters you may want to consider. These include principles, themes, questions about applicants, types of projects and activities, project approaches, eligible costs and evaluation. As projects are identified that exemplify these principles these will be included on the web. If you can identify such projects please contact us through the web link and we will be happy to work with you in developing a short case study.

This guidance note should be read in conjunction with *Briefing on Human Rights and the 'Decade of Anniversaries'* (May 2011) Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

<http://www.nihrc.org/index.php?>

[page=subresources&category_id=25&from=20&resources_id=154&search_content=&Itemid=61](http://www.nihrc.org/index.php?page=subresources&category_id=25&from=20&resources_id=154&search_content=&Itemid=61)

Consultation undertaken by CRC and HLF suggests that there are lots of good ideas. However, resources to plan and capacity in relation to culture and heritage could usefully be developed. Therefore groups may need signposting to organisations that can for example help with research, interpretations and support in displaying their work. You may wish to discuss with groups - how they set their plans in the historic record and broader context of the early 20th century; consider how we remember periods and events; and what types of projects and activities may attract invite interest wide in and beyond their communities.

The vision for marking the decade of anniversaries is that it should be exploratory and educational, plural, multi-dimensional, creative and ethical. You may wish to consider using the following principles we have identified to support the development of work programmes and activities. In celebrating such anniversaries, it is suggested that we look at all angles and challenge our own thinking and ideas.

Principles

1. Start from the historical **facts**;
2. Recognise the implications and **consequences** of what happened;
3. Understand that different **perceptions** and interpretations exist; and
4. Show how events and activities can deepen **understanding** of the period.

All to be seen in the context of an 'inclusive and accepting society'

Themes

From the principles two themes have developed. These are:

- Handing Heritage on to Future Generations for the Common Good?
- Decade of Ideas.

Handing Heritage on to Future Generations for the Common Good involves conservation, participation and learning. In marking significant anniversaries groups may organise their own events and funding may be available to support additional activities that outreach beyond their own members or interests in a way that helps people to understand what happened, why and how this is linked to the present.

Groups may aim to tell the stories of people and places, how they are set in the historical context; how these were told at the time and how they can be re-told and what they tell us now. These may help people to learn about their own and other peoples' heritage.

Projects may also do either or both of the following:

- a. Conserve the diverse heritage for present and future generations to experience and enjoy.
- b. Help more people, and a wider range of people, to take an active part in and make decisions about heritage.

Establishing a sustainable legacy means building capacity, pioneering a range of approaches and recording material for future generations.

Decade of Ideas

This involves setting significant anniversaries in the broader historical context. It means establishing the facts, then looking beyond individual past events by asking questions about why it occurred and what the consequences were.

Unravelling the complexities can include exploring:

- a) local and international pressures and trends such as liberty, nation building, empire, revolutionary, constitutional and pacifist movements;
- b) the differences within and between identities in terms of ideas of nationalism, unionism, British, Irish, European etc;
- c) different perspectives such as the rise of the labour movement , women’s suffrage, social and economic life in the times, etc.; and
- d) the active inclusion of different perspectives such as those of minority ethnic and faith communities living in Northern Ireland who can share their own histories of then and now.

Questions of who may apply for Grant Aid

A wide range of culture and heritage groups and grass roots organisations may want to mark anniversaries over the next decade. Therefore you may wish to think about how you promote a collaborative and forward looking approach without being prescriptive. We would encourage collaborations between grassroots organisations (possibly in consortia) and professional historians or organisations with expertise in history, heritage and culture (particularly in the current financial climate). We suggest the following are relevant.

Groups, partnerships and collaborations (new and established) that want to develop their thinking, projects and resources in relation to marking significant events (particularly the centenaries and for example those that occur in this decade).

- By exploring our identity and culture and promoting inclusive discussion and debate, building relationships of trust and understanding, and co-operation.
- Linking cultural and heritage organisations with communities and individuals in order to explore significant anniversaries.
- Collaborations on a geographical or thematic basis including those within one identity.

Question of Types of Activities and Projects

Funding may be available to meet costs for projects and programmes that are exploratory and educational, plural, multi-dimensional, creative and ethical. Here are some of the methods that may be helpful in handing on the legacy in good heart and encouraging people to think about what the centenaries mean now.

- a. Partnership work such as between arts, archaeology, public records and libraries, museum and heritage services, education, broadcasting **and** at a local level;
- b. Outreach Programmes inviting individuals and communities to participate;
- c. Projects that facilitate intercultural dialogue and a spirit of tolerance by fostering knowledge of culture, heritage and history.
- d. Projects with an evident commitment to shared the learning and experience through contact and dialogue or joint activities and/or where there is evidence of the active involvement of local people in developing and participating in the project.
- e. Projects that take account of the importance of the process including the creation of safe and open places for interaction and debate, not hardening of boundaries between groups, including others, not belittling or demonising others nor justifying or collaborating in the domination of others.
- f. Projects that create a legacy through recording the process or the final product.

Questions of Project Approaches

Approaches that may assist in the development of projects are:

- Building capacity through feasibility work, raising awareness of existing records, archives and artefacts, exploration of partnerships with cultural and heritage organisations, planning participation and outreach processes inviting individuals and groups to participate.

The approaches that could then be developed may be:

- focused on local interpretations based on people and places using artistic interpretations, drama, cultural tourism, outreach programmes, travelling exhibitions, etc;
- creating resources by researching local history of places and people, oral history projects, digital media, social networking and web based resources, and preservation of family and community artefacts;
- lectures, dialogue, discussions and debates and story-telling; and
Approaches such as “Who Do We Think We Are?” about for example a town, village or family based on the popular BBC programmes “Who Do I think I am?”

Creating a Legacy – planning in advance to record processes and projects to leave a lasting legacy of marking significant anniversaries:

This could include digitalising or recording events, producing a publication, DVD etc. Committing to facilitate access to the widest possible audience and beyond the major cities and towns by for example recording or creating travelling exhibitions.

Questions of Eligible Costs

Funding may be available to meet some or all the costs involved in developing projects and activities, these may include:

- Facilitation costs, awareness raising, capacity building workshops
- Undertaking research, developmental sessions and project planning
- Guest speakers and events
- Preserving and creating materials for exhibitions, artistic and multi disciplinary projects
- Promotional costs
- Visual and Audio and digital recording, publications and information brochures
- Administrative, travel and transport costs, venues and limited hospitality.

Questions of Ineligible Costs

Funding is less likely to be available for salaries and capital build costs. However, they should be discussed with the funder in advance of an application being made.

Evaluation

Project and programme funded activities marking centenaries may be evaluated in keeping with the vision, principles outputs and outcomes.

Evaluation of Outputs in terms of:

- Themes, applicants, types of activities, projects and approaches and costs;
- High grade programming and challenging perspectives; and
- Resources have been made available for participative, outreach and partnership approaches processes of marking anniversaries.
- Level of engagement in planned programmes; and
- Creation of legacy on records of processes, activities and projects etc.

Evaluation of Outcomes in terms of:

- Principles
- A greater number of areas will be regarded as “shared history” and “shared loss”.
- Respect, tolerance and accommodation for events and projects seen as being owned by the “other”
- Attitudinal change
- Increased awareness of centenaries among all sections of the community;
- Increased footfall in heritage buildings
- Developed capacity to commemorate/ celebrate in way that heals not hurts
- Development of active participation and engagement outreach approaches
- Change at the political level to the issue of commemoration
- Changes in the level of wider public opinion.

For further information contact:

Deirdre Mac Bride

Programme Director – Cultural Diversity

Community Relations Council

6 Murray Street

Belfast BT1 6DN

Tel: 028 90 227500

Fax: 028 90 227551

email: dmacbride@nicrc.org.uk

Stella McDermott

Heritage Lottery Fund

3rd Floor, 51 – 53 Adelaide Street

Belfast BT2 8FE

Tel: 028 9031 0120

email: stellam@hlf.org.uk

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/inyourarea/NorthernIreland/>