

CRC e-News



CORE FUNDING AWARDS 2016

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SET TO BENEFIT FROM NEW ROUND OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS FUNDING

Thirty-three groups tackling sectarianism and promoting understanding across Northern Ireland are sharing over £1.2million in funding distributed by the Community Relations Council on behalf of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister it was announced at a special event in CRC's offices at Equality House, Belfast. The funding is aligned with, and contributes to, the delivery of the NI Executive's Together: Building a United Community strategy.

The funding will support a wide variety of community relations and peace building work, including community relations work with schools involving parents, children and teachers; theatre projects promoting cross-cultural understanding; history projects working across the interfaces in Belfast, cross community sports initiatives; and projects to increase the use of shared space for the arts. All are designed to promote diverse participation, trust and mutual understanding between political, cultural and religious communities across the region whether they live in rural or inner-city communities.

Welcoming the funding, CRC Chief Executive, Jacqueline Irwin said, "This funding is going to support important work across the region to build a more shared and united community using sport, drama, education, training and the arts. It will support activity to build strong bonds of connection and sharing between people of all ages, social and cultural backgrounds in rural areas as well as in our cities. In this way we believe it will also help to build a safer environment for us all. We are pleased to distribute this vital funding on behalf of the Executive Office and we encourage more people to get in touch with us and be involved in building a united community now and for the future."

First Minister, Arlene Foster said: "Northern Ireland is a great place to live and we have come a long way in the last few years. These gains need to be secured and built upon. Our community and voluntary organisations are at the grass roots of our society and are ideally placed to help build good relations. This £1.2million funding will go a long way to help make the aims of the Together: Building a United Community strategy a reality, helping us build a stronger, better Northern Ireland"

The deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness said: "Equality of opportunity, good relations and reconciliation will remain at the forefront of the Executive's work to improve the lives of everyone in the community. We are determined to tackle sectarianism, racism and other forms of intolerance. The Executive cannot achieve our vision for a shared future alone and it is only by working together we can deliver the better tomorrow we all aspire to. Everyone has a role to play and I have no doubt all the groups receiving this funding will make a real difference and help us to create a society free from division, hate and separation."

Issue 74

May 2016



Catherine Creed, CRIS; Peter Osborne, CRC and Charmain Jones, RCN at the launch

CORE FUNDING AWARDS 2016

The funding has been allocated to groups in locations across Northern Ireland including Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Ballymoney, Enniskillen, Armagh, Cookstown, Lurgan, Armagh and Ballycastle.

Organisations/projects receiving funding include:

- Prime Cut Productions *The Girdwood Project* which works with Lower Old Park, Lower Shankill, Cliftonville and New Lodge Communities over a 9 month period, using theatre to promote mutual respect and understanding.
- Ballynafeigh Community Development Association (Belfast): projects include facilitating 7 key faith organisations within the neighbourhood of Ballynafeigh through a series of events and organise Open your Space events to encourage the Orange Order and Apprentice Boys to open their venues to encourage understanding of cultural traditions.
- Corrymeela Community (Ballycastle): Projects include *Inspiring Women Together* and *Facing Our History, Shaping Our Future* project.
- East Belfast Mission: Projects include provision of shared space to deliver nine weekly Irish language classes for local residents.
- The Junction/ Holywell (Derry/ Londonderry): Projects include Pop-up democracy workshops across city venues, a comprehensive training programme dealing with the legacy of the past and working to establish a Troubles Museums within the city.

The Community Relations Council relocated from Murray Street to Equality House in April 2016. The Community Relations Council, which recently marked its 25th year in operation, works with a wide range of community organisations to develop greater understanding and co-operation between political, cultural and religious communities in Northern Ireland. Information about grants and other support is available on the CRC web-site, www.nicrc.org.uk

The groups receiving Core Funding for 2016/2017 are:

174 Trust, An Gaeláras Ltd, Ballymoney CRC, Ballynafeigh Community Development Association, Belfast Interface Project, Charter for Northern Ireland, Community Dialogue, Community Relations Forum, Community Relations in Schools, Corrymeela Community, East Belfast Mission, Falls Community Council, Forthspring Inter-Community Group, Groundwork NI, Intercomm, Irish Council of Churches, Irish School of Ecumenics, Junction/ Holywell, Londonderry YMCA, North West Play Resource Centre, Partisan Productions, Peaceplayers International, Prime Cut Productions, REACT, Rural Community Network, Shankill Parish Caring Association, St Columbs Park House, Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group, Tides Training, Trademark, Women's Information Northern Ireland, Women's Resource and Development Agency and Youthlink Northern Ireland.

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

RECONCILIATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY TRAINING (REACT)

Article by Marion Jamison, REACT

Late last year a group of 11 people from Catholic and Protestant communities in the Armagh area undertook an Irish history course which examined some of the most turbulent periods in our history (1916, Catholic emancipation, the period from the Third Home Rule Bill to partition and the establishment of Northern Ireland and the Civil War in the South. The final module is on the Troubles) which still impact on us today.

Various versions of Irish history have been developed that have often distorted or deleted events and are representative of one side or another but often exclusive to a political allegiance. These versions often carry with them a toxic sense of victimhood that can lead to polarisation and often contempt of the 'other'. In our recent past these narratives have kept many people in social networks that exist side by side but rarely integrated.

The Rebels, Radicals, Royalists & Loyalists (RRR&L) course was designed to imbue a shared understanding of the past, an understanding that demonstrates respect, or at least acknowledgement of, events through sharing wider experiential realities.

The course takes an informal and relaxed approach and uses attempts to reach a fuller understanding by way of a sensory experience.

Throughout the module there is auditory and visual presentation of material both by the trainer and through historical film records that have been resourced from within the public domain. During each module participants are encouraged to express their thinking on what they are observing and this interactive element creates a platform for sharing thoughts and feelings.



In combination with the workshop format participants take part in field study days. These study days centre on Belfast and Dublin and take in places that have significant bearing on deepening understanding of a shared history and acknowledging perceived injustices that have been intergenerational. This element of the course involves journeying together to public memorials that represent community narratives.

As has been the case with the previous five groups who completed the course, the autumn 2015 group has a desire to further their knowledge by continuing to explore events that have shaped minds and thus our society.

REACT is a Core Funded community organisation based in Armagh City, covering the Mid Ulster area, with the aim of supporting marginalized groups and individuals through

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STRIVE—A UNITED YOUTH PILOT

Article by Sharon Whittaker, Communications Officer, Include Youth

Young people, their family and friends, elected representatives, programme funders, and staff from five partner organisations packed into Girdwood Community Hub last month to celebrate the achievements of 51 young people who completed Strive, a United Youth Pilot.

Strive, a 'youth-led' programme, was developed and delivered by Include Youth in partnership with Newstart Education Centre, East Belfast Alternatives, Lisburn YMCA and Youth Initiatives Poleglass.

Young people, aged 16 to 24, who were in need of education, training or employment, participated in the eight month pilot programme which was designed by young people for young people and underpinned by a youth work approach. The pilot programme focused on the four main United Youth themes: good relations, citizenship, personal development and employability.

Strive worked from the principle that young people are experts in their own lives – whether personal challenges or successes, their experience of growing up in a particular community or their experiences of education – therefore were best equipped to shape the programme.

Young people who had been on a previous programmes with the partner organisations formed an 'Expert by Experience' (EBE) group to help design and run the programme. They created development plans around the main United Youth themes to equip the youth workers to run the programme in each of the four areas. As the programme progressed they recruited more young people to the EBE group to reflect the views of current participants.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUTEMOS - LOOKING AHEAD TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

Article by Louise O'Neil, DU Dance

It's been a busy five years for Sutemos Youth Dance since their very first performance in 2011 to now two thriving youth dance groups with young people from nine different cultural backgrounds. A DU Dance (NI) youth engagement group Sutemos has grown in strength and confidence performing at international youth dance events in Germany, Dublin and Belfast to guest performances on the BBC National Lottery Show in 2015 and at the recent Northern Ireland Assembly's St Patrick's Concert at Stormont March 2016.

Their light shows no signs of slowing down either as the group celebrated their five year anniversary with a special performance *Twilight* at the brand new **events space on the Hill of the O'Neill, Dungannon, Saturday 9th April**. Bringing together new dance work by Sutemos, choreography from the young dancers themselves and a special debut performance of the newly established Suteminis, a group for 8-11 year olds, the evening presented something new, rich and hugely unique for the people of Dungannon, attended by special guest Deputy Chair, Councillor Kim Ashton, Mid Ulster District Council.

Sheena Kelly, local Choreographer and community dance artist, has supported and facilitated by the group since its inception and said:

"It has been such a pleasure to work in my hometown with Sutemos these last five years and having the opportunity to look back and see all that we have accomplished has made me very proud. I want to thank all the dancers for their talent and hard work and can't wait to see what the next five years will bring".

DU Dance (NI) is funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Gilly Campbell, Drama and Dance Officer applauded the group on its birthday saying:

"Congratulations to DU Dance as they celebrate five years of Sutemos Youth Dance. The arts have a special gift for bringing people and communities together. This impressive inter-cultural dance project inspires the young people involved, teaching them valuable new skills which they will carry with them throughout their lives."

This project focuses on inter-cultural work bringing young people together. It engages young people 8-11 years through Suteminis and 12-24 years through Sutemos in weekly dance workshops leading to performances. The groups meet Wednesday evenings at Dungannon Youth Resource Centre. If you are interested in joining contact us on 028 9033 0956 or info@dudancenl.com

DU Dance NI principal funder Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council. Twilight project funded by Mid Ulster District Council.



RESEARCH

Young Life and Times Survey

The results of the [2015 YLT survey](#) are now available.

You can view the results of previous YLT surveys [here](#).

We are now inviting [expressions of interest](#) for the inclusion of questions in the 2016 YLT survey.

See some of our research participants talk about [language learning and international experiences](#)

Latest Research Updates:

[*A question of sport*](#)

[*Young people's rights and their sense of belonging*](#)

[*Young People's Experiences of Integration and Segregation in Northern Ireland*](#)

If you are looking for a more detailed analysis of YLT data, take a look at our books and contact us if you are interested.

[*DirkSchubotz and Paula Devine \(Eds.\) \(2014\). Not so different. Teenage attitudes across a decade of change in Northern Ireland*](#)

[*Dirk Schubotz and Paula Devine \(Eds.\) \(2008\). Young people in post-conflict Northern Ireland. The past cannot be changed, but the future can be developed*](#)

Making Space for Each Other: Civic Place-Making in a Divided Society

This report is about how to use planning in Northern Ireland as a key instrument for the creation of a more shared and reconciled society. But, it argues the need for a global rather than parochial perspective on this difficult challenge. Divisions within and between societies, about sovereignty, identity, and borders, abound in the contemporary world. There is much that Northern Ireland can learn from other examples

The authors of the report are: Frank Gaffikin, Chris Karelse, Mike Morrissey, Clare Mulholland, Ken Sterret

<http://www.community-relations.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Making-Space-for-Each-Other.compressed.pdf>

For further information contact:

School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering
Queen's University Belfast, David Keir Building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast. BT9 5AG,
Northern Ireland, UK.

Website: www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/PlanningforSpatialReconciliation

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EVENTS

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2016

The Community Relations Council is planning to hold Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week this year in September, to follow up on the success of previous years. Project organizers are asked to consider planning an event as part of the programme. Both public and voluntary sector organizations are invited to take part.

A design team involving CRC, the Executive Office, the Department of Communities and the Arts Council NI will be meeting shortly to plan further details including dates, themes and event entry forms. Further announcements will be placed on the CRC website. Event entries will need to be submitted in early July.

Decade of Commemoration Events

1916—Impact and Legacy

Exhibition Programme delivered through the On The Brink: The Politics of Conflict 1914—1916 a 3 year project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and delivered by Mid-Antrim Museums Service with Causeway Museum Service.

This exhibition explores the seismic events of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising. It presents local and national reaction a century ago and, through an international lens of war and revolution, highlights their interconnected nature. It also examines the role of these events and their commemoration have played in the shaping of our identities.

An accompanying programme of exhibition workshops and volunteer led interpretative mini-bus tours will also be available. Places are limited, booking is essential.

Venues:

Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre—1 July—27 August
 Museum at the Mill, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey—3 September—29 October
 Larne Museum—6 December—20 January 2017

For further information contact: maria.cagney@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Coleraine Town Hall—now—6 July
 Ballymoney Town Hall—19 July—17 September
 Roe Valley Arts and Cultural Centre—6 October—26 November

For further information contact: cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk



EVENTS (CONTD)

Belfast City Council

Exploring the key events of 1916

Date: 25 May 2016

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

Venue: Belfast City Hall

This interactive event will include a tour of Belfast City Council's Exhibition – '**Belfast: Reflections on Events in 1916**', facilitated by Eamon Phoenix and Jason Burke. This will be followed by a discussion on the significance of 1916. The event will conclude with a light lunch of sandwiches at 12pm.

Booking is essential, email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or call 028 90270 663 to register.

National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI)

This programme of exhibitions and events is delivered in partnership with the Living Legacies 1914-18 Centre, Creative Centenaries, and the First World War Centenary Partnership led by the Imperial War Museums.

Creative Centenaries

1916 Exhibition

Friday 3 June to Sunday 18 September

Art Galleries 6 & 7, Ulster Museum Major interactive exhibition exploring the impact of 1916 in Ireland at home and at war, including unique archival material from the Imperial War Museums, the Ulster Museum and collections of Northern Ireland's leading heritage organisations. The Creative Centenaries project is led by the Nerve Centre.

For a full listing of events and to book tickets please go to <http://nmni.com/1916> events are free unless otherwise stated.

If you would like to comment or submit an article for this bulletin or advertise a community relations event or publication, please contact Ellana etomasso@nicrc.org.uk.

OTHER EVENTS

THE MANY FACES OF NORTH BELFAST—A SERIES OF TALKS ON THURSDAY NIGHTS AT THE DUNCAIRN CENTRE FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

26th May 2016- The Poor Clares are a religious order who played a special role in the life of North Belfast for many years, ever since their arrival on the Cliftonville Road. A presentation on the subject will be led by Father Martin Magill.

2nd June 2016 – John Luke was an accomplished artist with North Belfast origins, some of whose finest work adorns the interior of Belfast City Hall. There will be a talk about Luke by the art historian, Amanda Croft.

9th June 2016 – Amy Carmichael set up the renowned Welcome Mission in the Shankill area and went on to be a dedicated, long-serving missionary in southern India. There will be a presentation by Pastor Jonathan Clarke.

16th June 2016 – Thomas Sinclair was a senior Unionist who composed the Ulster Covenant of 1912. He and his family were deeply connected with the Duncairn Presbyterian Church. There will be a talk on Sinclair by the historian, Gordon Lucy.

ALL TALKS ARE FREE and take place at 7.30pm.

PeacePlayers International

Belfast, June 2016 - PeacePlayers International-Northern Ireland (PPI) is pleased to announce that its annual Super Sports Day will take place on the 1st June at Ballysillan Leisure Centre from 10:00 – 2:00. Over 200 Children from P6 and P7 from over 20 schools all around Belfast are expected to participate in the event!

The participants at super sports day come from the “winning” teams during PeacePlayers (PPI) twinning programme. The PPI twinning programme involves a class from a predominately Protestant (controlled) primary school and one from a predominantly Catholic (maintained) primary school and pairs them together to play basketball and community relations activities over an eight week period.

Super sports day is a reward to those teams who showed the best teamwork, enthusiasm and effort over the course of their twinning programme. PPI will have its annual visitors from the DePauw University Men’s Basketball Programme as well as volunteers from all across Belfast

During the day the participants will take part in PPI’s groundbreaking initiative, the Game of Three Halves. This includes Rugby, Gaelic Football and Football along with the “4th half of community relations activities. For many participants this was the first time they played a sport associated with the other side of the historical political divide. All are welcome to come check us out on the day; it will be loads of fun!!!

The community relation’s activity on the day will be one from PPI’s twinning curriculum that discusses the topics of stereotypes, prejudice and sectarianism. Because the participants have built strong relationships with their teams through the twinning programme.

For more information please contact: Gareth Harper – Managing Director
PeacePlayers International: gharper@peaceplayersintl.org +44 7985574959



EVENTS (CONTD)

The Annual Summer Jam Tournament to take place Saturday 4th June 2016

This event is presented by PeacePlayers International-Northern Ireland, a cross community charity that believes that “children who play together can learn to live together.”

Belfast, June 2016 – PeacePlayers International-Northern Ireland is pleased to announce that its annual Jingle Ball basketball tournament will take place on 6th December at Queens PEC on the Campus of Queens University in Belfast at 1:00 PM. Over 150 Children aged 9-15 are expected to take part in this tournament, which is one of PeacePlayers’ signature cross community events.

“We’re pleased to host this signature event. Jingle Ball is Belfast’s largest cross-community basketball tournament, and each year the children get more and more excited about it,” said Gareth Harper, Managing Director of PeacePlayers. “During this tournament, and indeed during the Belfast Interface League that preceded it, children don’t have to worry about what part of the community they or their teammate belong to. It’s all about enjoying the game of basketball and finding a productive way to deal with the conflict taking place around them.”

The teams that participate in the Jingle Ball basketball tournament come from the Belfast Interface League (BIL). This after school programme is held at hubs located in north, south, west and east Belfast over the course of 12 weeks. Participants learn the skills needed to compete in basketball and participate in community relations activities where they discuss issues related to life in a post-conflict society.

“Most people in Northern Ireland are likely unaware of how popular basketball has become. The basic rules can be learnt in a manner of minutes and the sport can be played by people of nearly any age. Importantly the skills needed to excel at basketball – namely teamwork, determination, commitment and accountability – are also necessary to succeed in life,” added Harper. “While the children who participate in BIL and Jingle Ball have a great time, they also leave better equipped to address the challenges they face on daily basis.”

PeacePlayers chairman Trevor Ringland said, “This tournament is just one example of how sport can bridge divides. Each year PeacePlayers BIL has grown, from just 40 participants in one area in 2012, to over 150 participants from all sides of the city in 2016.

About PeacePlayers International-Northern Ireland

PeacePlayers International-Northern Ireland is a charity founded in 2001 that operates year-round and with over 2400 children annually. Our sport-based cross community programmes are based on the belief that “children who play together can learn to live together.”

Contacts:

Joe Smith
kmitchell@peaceplayersintl.org
+44 7939007323

Gareth Harper
gharper@peaceplayersintl.org
+44 7985574959

EVENTS (CONTD)

Corrymeela Community

Building on the Past for a Better Future

3rd – 5th June 2016

Major Conference at Corrymeela Ballycastle

In the year when we are looking back to the Easter Rising and the Battle of the Somme we also want to look beyond 2016. This is a conference for people who respect the past but are not bound by it, and want to look at the big questions facing civic society North and South. In partnership with **The Irish Association** the three day event will be a mix of keynote speakers, facilitated discussion and networking.

Conference highlights include:

Keynote speakers: President Michael D Higgins, Lord Paul Bew

- Presentation of findings from an all Ireland Review of Cultural, Social and Economic Relations 2016 specifically commissioned for the event and carried out by the [Institute for Conflict Research](#).
- Political Panel
- Brexit discussion
- Cultivating Wellbeing and a Politics of Emergence: Relating Differently to Past, Present and Future'. – a conversation facilitated by Corrymeela, Queens University and the Carnegie Trust.

Costs:

Conference/Full Board Single Accommodation £200

Conference/Full Board Twin Accommodation £150

Conference Only £75

Saturday Only (Without President's Dinner) £30

Saturday Only (Including Dinner) £40

Transport to Corrymeela is not included in the quoted prices.

For details of how to book click [here](#), or call our Belfast Office 028 9050 8080



EVENTS (CONTD)

The Clinton International Summer School - 2016

They believe at INCORE that to build peace we need to make a real difference in society and individual lives. In 2016, the Summer School programme - now the Clinton International Summer School - will therefore focus directly on how peacebuilding can be enhanced by economic development.

The Clinton International Summer School at INCORE running from 17-24 June 2016 will provide a structured learning opportunity to analyze the dynamic and constantly changing field of conflict transformation and peacebuilding. Focusing on the latest research and concepts in peace and conflict studies and practice, participants are invited to compare, contrast and learn from different perspectives. Specifically, the School will seek in 2016 to advance peacebuilding through positive change and economic development.

The programme will focus on building a new generation of global peacebuilders who can not only use the lessons from Northern Ireland peace process in their own contexts, but couple this with leadership, entrepreneurship and economic development. The Summer School will draw on a unique partnership of INCORE's conflict transformation skills and facilitators from Ulster Business School.

This module will provide the participants with a unique opportunity to experience first-hand Northern Ireland's historical conflict and that region's continuing road to reconciliation, peace and prosperity. The students will be required to identify in advance a project that would improve the economic and social conditions in their home region. Our team will then work with you to develop your idea over the course of the week enhancing it and helping put social change into practice. For details see [the website](#).

Additional Activities

Alongside the course there will be opportunity for participants to network with others, gaining a deeper insight into the causes and consequences of the conflict in Northern Ireland. The full package includes a weekend course learning about Northern Ireland including field visits, tours of the Derry City Walls and the Giant's Causeway, as well as a Game of Thrones tour. The school also includes all meals, an opening buffet and a formal closing dinner on the Friday with Special Guest Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, John Hume. For details on the package see [the website](#).

Applications and Bursaries

We have a range of full bursaries available including flights, food, accommodation and the course fee, as well as competitive rates for the course which are all inclusive for those not eligible for the bursary. To make your application or to find out more on [the website](#).



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EVENTS CONTD

Belfast City Council

Small Worlds – Exploring the experience of people who have sought or are currently seeking sanctuary in Belfast

Date: 22 Jun 2016

Time: 10am – 12noon

As part of our DiverseCity programme and to mark Refugee Awareness Week, we are hosting a Small Worlds event exploring the stories of people who have sought or are currently seeking sanctuary in Belfast.

People from a variety of different countries, who have sought sanctuary in Belfast, will host a table each at which a small group are seated for 15–20 minutes.

The event introduces a taste of the diversity that exists in Belfast and provides an opportunity for participants to chat with people, to hear their stories and ask questions.

The event is free, but booking is essential. Please phone 028 9027 0663 or email goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk to register.

Small Worlds is facilitated by the South Belfast Roundtable and Belfast Friendship Club.

Details on the venue will be provided following your registration.

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