



Be part of the 2023 Belfast Festival of Learning

The annual Belfast Festival of Learning is a key part of our plan to build Belfast as a learning city. Belfast joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2018 with a focus on tackling inequalities by removing barriers to learning and making learning accessible and enjoyable for everyone in the city. In 2021 Belfast received the UNESCO Learning City Award which was established to recognise and showcase good practices in promoting quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all at the local level.

The 2023 festival will be held during the week of **20-26 March 2023**. We want to showcase the wonderful range of learning opportunities that already exist in Belfast and encourage participation of people of all ages, all backgrounds across a variety of locations. Events could be already planned, or you could plan one specifically for the festival. We want to create an exciting inclusive programme of events which attracts people into learning.

Once again, we particularly wish to showcase events that encourage the participation of groups and individuals who have experienced barriers in accessing learning opportunities. We want to promote Belfast as a Learning City for all.

Submit an idea for an event!

We want to support groups and organisations to build a rich, diverse and inclusive programme and we invite you to submit your ideas for fun, creative and interactive learning events for people of all ages and backgrounds. We will look at every idea

submitted with a view to endorsing it under the Belfast Festival of Learning, and we will co-ordinate and promote a citywide programme of events for the festival.

All you have to do is complete the Event Submission Form and send us your ideas no later than 5.00pm on Friday 4 November 2022.

What are we looking for?

We want submissions for imaginative and creative events that build a programme that reflects and promotes the many reasons people have for learning, whether it is learning for and in work, learning to understand others and live together, learning through education or improving quality of life. We particularly want to promote the value of learning in tackling inequalities and creating a fairer more equal society for all.

Who can apply?

We welcome ideas from a wide range of contributors including individuals and organisations such as community groups, schools and colleges, arts organisations, businesses, public bodies and cultural groups. Events must reflect the aims of the festival which are:

- To highlight the value of learning in all its forms and promote Belfast as a learning city for all
- To engage learners of all ages in a wide range of settings across the city with a variety of learning opportunities
- To raise awareness of the engaging, fun and surprising ways we can learn.

We have limited funding available but we will consider requests for financial support where no available funding exists to support a proposed event. This will be up to a maximum of £500 per event.

Requests will only be considered for one-off costs including venue hire, transport for learners, promotion of events, hospitality and logistical support for running events.

Please list details of your request for financial support on the Event Submission Form.

Our financial support is very limited and we know it will only cover a small number of events in the programme. We would, therefore, welcome applications from organisations that could plan an event for this week, which ties in with our aims and ethos of making learning accessible and engaging for all, and which do not require financial support. This would help to extend the programme to as many people as possible in the city.

How do you get involved?

Please complete the Event Submission Form and return to us. Your submission will be considered alongside other ideas at festival programming meetings. A panel will meet to finalise the programme and make decisions on funding support for events, and we will notify you of the panel's decision.

Guidelines for festival events

- All events must take place within Belfast during the week of 20-26 March 2023
- Events should be as accessible as possible and every effort should be made to cater for the special needs of attendees
- Events should be as creative and imaginative as possible with an emphasis on interactive learning
- Event organisers must take responsibility for all relevant insurances, licenses and health & safety requirements
- The support of event organisers in publicising and promoting their particular event(s), and the festival as a whole, on any print materials, social media and websites available would be appreciated
- **All events must be free**

More information

If you would like more information on any aspect of the Belfast Festival of Learning, please email Dolores Atkinson at dolores.atkinson@bhdu.org or telephone 028 9050 2073 or mobile 07766 025500.

Please click on the following link to access more information on Belfast Learning City www.makinglifebettertogether.com/lifelong-learning/

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