



Exhibitions and Arts Engagement Policy (Revised May 2016)

1. Exhibitions held in Parliament Buildings should be aligned to achieving the purpose, vision, goals, aims and values of the Northern Ireland Assembly, in particular, *Providing effective and high quality support to the Assembly*, as identified in the Corporate Plan.
2. The Northern Ireland Assembly is committed to producing a diverse programme of exhibitions which will:
 - increase understanding of the Assembly and its role
 - Encourage and grow public engagement
 - enhance the quality and variety of the visiting experience
 - provide opportunities for artists and students to exhibit their work in a high profile public space

Categories of Exhibitions:

3. This policy applies only to temporary exhibitions of art work in Parliament Buildings. **Performances are governed by the standard events policy regulations and the associated MLA sponsorship procedures.**
4. Exhibitions fall into two main categories: MLA sponsored exhibitions and Public Exhibitions in the Great Hall sponsored by the Speaker. The former is subject to the standard events policy. This policy refers to public exhibitions only.

Public Exhibitions

5. The Great Hall is the main public space for visitors and therefore particular sensitivity and impartiality must be shown to any exhibitions displayed there.
6. All Public Exhibitions will be sponsored by the Speaker.

7. The Draft Assembly Art Programme aims to create a two-year rolling programme of exhibitions in the Great Hall.
8. Further information on the Draft Assembly Art Programme can be found at **Annex B.**
9. Other requests for exhibitions and locations will occur from time to time and will be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to the criteria below.
10. When developing the programme the Northern Ireland Assembly will strive to ensure under-represented groups will have an equal opportunity to participate.

Exhibitions Criteria:

11. All exhibitions must meet the following criteria.
 - i. Be welcoming, interesting and attractive.
 - ii. Be impartial and non-party political
 - iii. Not aligned to a campaign, cause or lobby interest
 - iv. Be primarily for non-commercial purposes
 - v. Be non-offensive and non-controversial and comply with the Northern Ireland Assembly's equality and good relations obligations
 - vi. Help create understanding and awareness of the Northern Ireland Assembly and/or Northern Ireland
 - vii. Not unduly affect the day-to-day operation of the building, or involve significant risk or damage to the building's infrastructure and/or fabric
 - viii. Broadly be considered to contribute to one or more of the Northern Ireland Assembly's strategic priorities

and

 - ix. Provide the Northern Ireland Assembly with evidence of insurance cover and/or indemnities etc... (where appropriate) prior to the exhibition



DRAFT ASSEMBLY ART PROGRAMME

1. The Draft Assembly Art Programme aims to create access, education and engagement for the public with the Assembly and its work.
2. Through partnership with community and voluntary organisations, academics and artists, the programme will run a series of projects to create pieces of art which will:
 - Provide a unique interpretation of the Assembly and its work
 - Make the work of the Assembly easier to understand and more accessible
 - Encourage a new audience to engage with the Assembly and visit Parliament Buildings
 - Provide participants with an opportunity to profile their work and add to their portfolio
 - Provide a platform to promote up and coming artists
3. It is proposed that the Draft Assembly Art Programme will start in December 2016, with a rolling two-year programme of activities.
4. In general, projects/exhibitions will last for three months, with three projects taking place each year.
5. Each project will be selected from the following:
 - Academic – University of Ulster Annual Art Project, FE Colleges;
 - Community – Community Arts Partnership and ethnic minority arts organisations;
 - Charity – linked to the Assembly Charity of the Year and the Speaker's chosen theme;
 - In residence' project – the Assembly will select an annual artist in residence.
6. When developing the programme the Northern Ireland Assembly will strive to ensure under-represented groups will have an equal opportunity to participate.
7. The Arts Council Collection and Civil Service Collection will also be considered for display.

8. A proposed programme for the first two years can be found at below.
9. Flexible exhibition time will be built into the schedule to give space for ad hoc exhibitions – there is no expectation that these spaces will be used.
10. Each project is subject to the Exhibitions Criteria, will be costed separately and approved by the Speaker.

DRAFT ASSEMBLY ART PROGRAMME – 2 YEAR PLAN

	Launch of Project	Exhibition
2017		
January	Project 1 – UU Ceramics	<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
February		<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
March		Project 1 - UU Ceramics
April		Project 1 - UU Ceramics
May	Project 2 – ‘In Residence’	Project 1 - UU Ceramics
June		<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
July		Project 2 – ‘In Residence’
August		Project 2 – ‘In Residence’
September	Project 3 – Community/Charity	Project 2 – ‘In Residence’
October		<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
November		Project 3 – Community/Charity
December		Project 3 - Community/Charity
January	Project 4 – UU Textiles	Project 3 - Community/Charity
February		<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
March		Project 4 - UU Textiles
April		Project 4 - UU Textiles
May	Project 5 – ‘In Residence’	Project 4 - UU Textiles

June		<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
July		Project 5 – ‘In Residence’
August		Project 5 – ‘In Residence’
September	Project 6 – Community/Charity	Project 5 – ‘In Residence’
October		<i>Flexible Exhibition Space</i>
November		Project 6 – Community/Charity
December		Project 6 – Community/Charity