

What we do

The Crescent is an Arts Centre, a registered charity, and a company limited by guarantee. Our Mission is to be a vibrant and welcoming hub where everyone can experience the power of the arts and develop their creativity. Our vision is a society which actively values and promotes creativity and the arts for everyone.

Our Activity Strands

Creative Learning

Explore a hobby, earn a qualification, discover your creative talents or try something new. We offer Courses and Workshops across four Terms. Try Burlesque Barre, take an introduction to British Sign Language; practice your creative writing skills; start life drawing.

Crescent Live

This is our Events platform, held mainly in our beautiful space 'The Cube'. We're a hub for Festivals, and a platform for showcasing talent, ideas and conversations.

Belfast Book Festival

Our annual June festival celebrates today's bestselling authors, award-winning poetry and spoken word. We showcase the wealth of local talent that defines our thriving literary community.

Crescent Arts Youth Theatre (CAYT)

Our Education and Talent Development Programme for 14-19 year olds, soon to expand across age groups.

Creative Hub

We are a home to professional arts companies and seek to be an affordable place for creative activity – rehearsals, development, meetings. We are particularly proud of our facilities for dance.

Our Building and History

The Crescent is a Grade II listed building on the corner of University Road and Lower Crescent Park, South Belfast. The Centre was built originally (in 1873) as a school for girls at a time when academic education for young women was not widely available, and we're really proud of all the entrepreneurial, creative and spirited voices that have shaped who we are today.

The blue plaques on the façade celebrate the building's founder Margaret Byers, and dancer, choreographer and Holocaust Survivor Helen Lewis who founded the Belfast ModernDance Group at The Crescent, and after whom our Dance Studio is named.

How we do it

- **Staff:** Chief Executive Sophie Hayles joined in August 2019. The Senior Management Team comprises Finance Manager, Communications Manager, Technical Manager and Customer Services Manager, supported by Part Time Customer Services colleagues.
- **Board:** Please see [website](#) for the biographies of our supportive and engaged Board Members, led by Evelyn Hoy.

As part of being a networked, supportive and inclusive arts centre, staff are expected to actively participate in working groups, activity and thinking that have an impact on everything we do:

- **Environment:** The Crescent is actively committed to reducing environmental impact. All staff are expected to actively engage in, contribute to, and advocate for our environmental policy and procedures.
- **Access & Inclusion:** The Crescent has a detailed Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Policy. There is a dynamic Working Group involving Crescent Staff and Creative Hub Companies.
- **Creative Hub:** The Crescent is proud to be a home to a number of leading arts organisations. We meet regularly, in support of our ambition to be a collaborative, connected and mutually supportive arts centre.

The Crescent receives funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council.

Some things we're looking forward to

- An in-person Belfast Book Festival in June 2022
- Furthering our commitment to Access and Inclusion, including the opening of our new Changing Places Facility
- A number of new initiatives that focus on long-term engagement, sustainable partnerships and talent development
- Enhancing customer experience in the building
- Our lovely building celebrating 150 years in 2023