

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

Courses & Workshops

Explore a hobby, 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.

Working with Young People

We partner in multi-annual, in-depth ways, with a small number of Neighbourhood Schools (Primary and Secondary) to deliver creative activities and pathway opportunities into the sector.

Creative Hub (Professional)

We are a home to professional arts companies and seek to be an affordable place for creative activity – rehearsals, development, meetings. We are a 'go-to' venue for Belfast Festivals and events

Creative Hub (General Public)

The Crescent is a Grade B listed heritage building, proud of its approach to welcoming citizens into our building. This includes Physical Access; Pricing Access (Free/Drop-in/Pay What you decide activities); Reflecting stories of Belfast in our building.

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 Modern Dance 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, with support from a Coordinator and a Customer Services Team.
- **Board:** Please see [website](#) for the biographies of our supportive and engaged Board Members, led by Cormac Maguire.
- **Building:** A Theatre space (The Cube); two dance studios; a music room; two art studios; four workshop spaces; and a café space.

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.
- **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**.