

PRESS RELEASE

UAH Announce Shortlist & Public Vote for the Heritage Angel Awards Northern Ireland 2021

Ulster Architectural Heritage is delighted to announce that voting is now open for this year's Heritage Angel Awards Public Vote, in association with the Irish News! Following a one year break, the Heritage Angel Awards are back to celebrate important and inspiring heritage projects across Northern Ireland. The annual awards aim to celebrate unsung angels of local heritage- individuals or groups, who have rescued an historic building or site, worked as craftspeople or apprentices, or recorded and interpreted a historic place. Now it's the public's opportunity to have their say and vote for their favourite heritage project!

UAH is now calling for members of the public to cast their vote for their choice from the shortlist online. Full details and films on each of the shortlisted nominees can be viewed at www.heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk. This is open until midnight on Sunday 14th November.

This year we have 18 projects across six categories which showcase a hugely diverse range of heritage initiatives across Northern Ireland. The 2021 shortlist includes entries from the Grand Opera House and the auditorium restoration project, the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland as well as community group Friends of Shankill Graveyard and St Macartan's Church, Agher. The diverse nature of the entries demonstrates the importance placed upon the preservation of built heritage within our society, and the focus on restoring buildings going into the future. The awards showcase what is possible when passionate people take action for the care and consideration of our heritage.

The outcome of each category and the public vote will be announced at the Heritage Angel Awards Northern Ireland ceremony on Tuesday 23rd November at Belfast City Hall. This special event will be hosted by Wendy Austin, with a number of special guests, including Joe Mahon, Anne Marie McAleese and Tim McGarry.

This year, UAH has expanded the Heritage Angel Awards Northern Ireland to include the Heritage Arts Challenge, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Over the past few months, workshops have been held to develop the talents of both amateur and professional artists across the province and beyond in five fields: poetry, prose, song-writing, drawing and photography. The winning entries will be showcased on the night, and the awards will also feature performances by project mentor Brigid O'Neill and by Anthony Toner.

Due to Covid-19, the in-person event will this year be limited to invited guests only; however it will also be livestreamed online to allow the public voters to cheer on their entry from home! For further information visit <https://heritageangelawards-ni.org.uk/>

The Heritage Angel Awards Northern Ireland are lead funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, with further support from the Department for Communities, the Construction Industry Training Board NI and Belfast City Council in 2021.

David Johnston, Chair of Ulster Architectural Heritage

"Ulster Architectural Heritage has been truly overwhelmed with the quantity and quality of entries received in this the fourth year of the Heritage Angel Awards in Northern Ireland. From over 80 applications, across more than 60 projects, we can now reveal the 18 shortlisted entries for this year. We are looking forward to celebrating these outstanding

achievements for heritage with the people that make it happen, on the evening of 23^d November in Belfast City Hall. I am also very excited to see and hear the entries from our inaugural Heritage Arts Challenge, which have been developed by the very best local talent and will be performed on the night. All welcome to watch online."

Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber

"Protecting architectural heritage is a vital part of cultural life. Architecture is the most vulnerable art form and one that I have been passionate about all my life. I'm delighted my Foundation can support the Heritage Angel Awards for the fourth time in Northern Ireland and shine a spotlight on those who have made a significant contribution towards protecting the country's heritage. By raising awareness of the impact individuals can have, our aim is to inspire others to get involved and work together to save and protect Northern Ireland's heritage for our future generations."

Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Kate Nicholl

"One of the four key priorities in Belfast City Council's 10-year cultural strategy- A City Imagining is about protecting and promoting cultural heritage in all its dimensions, both tangible and intangible including the plurality of the city's cultural narratives. The Heritage Angel Awards NI are a fantastic example of celebrating the remarkable and passionate people who work tirelessly to protect and preserve our local heritage and culture and I look forward to the award ceremony and extend my best wishes to all the shortlisted nominees."

Anne Sykes, Director, The Irish News

"The Irish News is delighted to once again support and promote the Heritage Angel Awards NI, in particular the Public Vote. The awards celebrate the achievements and determination of individuals and groups who tackle challenging restoration projects to protect local historic buildings and keep our heritage alive. I would encourage everyone to learn about the great work happening in communities all around us and don't forget to vote!"

Notes for editors:

About Ulster Architectural Heritage:

UAHS is a charitable, membership organisation founded in 1967. It exists to promote appreciation, preservation, and conservation of architecture across the nine counties of Ulster. Over the last 50 years the UAH has established itself as a fearless campaigner for buildings of merit, a generous resource of information on local architecture, and a fair and helpful source of advice. Its main activities include campaigning & lobbying, support & advice, publications, and events. The UAH works with the Historic Environment Division, (HED), at the Department for Communities, (DfC), to record and promote the conservation of listed buildings at risk through the Heritage at Risk NI, (HARNI) partnership. www.uahs.org.uk

About the Heritage Angel Awards NI The awards are administered by Ulster Architectural Heritage and are lead funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation with further support from the Department for Communities, the Construction Industry Training Board NI and Belfast City Council in 2021. The awards receive further guidance and support from Construction Industry Training Board (CITBNI); Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF); Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and Heritage Trust Network (HTN).

About The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation:

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew Lloyd Webber in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £22m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £3.5m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund up to 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation is also a founding supporter of the Get Into Theatre careers website www.getintothetheatre.org

www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

For further information on Heritage Angel Awards NI, please contact:

Contact: Maura Ahern, Executive Assistant, UAH
Telephone: 028 90550213
Mobile: 07474306336
Email: events@uahs.org.uk