



Belfast International Arts Festival

Accessibility Information Guide 2026

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Accessibility Statement:

At Belfast International Arts Festival we believe that access is an essential part of creating a truly inclusive arts festival.

We are committed to creating a welcoming, accessible environment for our D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists, staff, volunteers and audience members. We operate under the social model of disability, and are working to ensure that BIAF is a festival for all.

We welcome feedback from our audiences and commit to continuously improving our practice. For further information, and guidance, please visit [our website](#).

Carer/ Companion Ticket Policy:

If you require assistance to enable your visit to an event, a free ticket for a carer/companion is available.

This can be booked directly from our Box Office at Visit Belfast.

To book your ticket and discuss your needs:

Please telephone **028 9024 6609** or email ticketing@visitbelfast.com

If you are booking through one of our partner venues, please contact their Box Office team directly to arrange a companion ticket.

Accessible Performances:

[Wheelchair Seats:](#)

Many of our festival venues have designated seats available for wheelchair users. Please contact the **venue's Box Office** team directly when booking your ticket to request a wheelchair space.

Some venues have wheelchairs available to borrow onsite. We recommend that you contact the venue in advance to arrange use of a wheelchair.

The following Festival venues provide a wheelchair borrowing service:

- The Lyric Theatre
- The MAC
- Ulster Hall
- Ulster Museum

Wheelchair Accessible Events

- **Darren Jackson's Wedding** | St Bartholomew's Church and The Lyric Theatre | Wednesday 21 Oct to Sunday 1 November (all performances). This is a multi-site performance with a promenade element. Both venues for the show are wheelchair accessible. Please note there is a short distance to move between venues.

BSL Interpreted Events:

BSL interpreted events will feature a live signer positioned beside the stage.

Events with BSL interpretation in the 2026 festival are listed below:

- **Faith Healer** | The Lyric Theatre | Thursday 29 October | 7.30pm
- **God Has Left The Building** | The MAC | Wednesday 14 October | 7.45pm
- **ShedMan** | The MAC | Saturday 24 October | 2.00pm
- **Belonging on Stage** | SARC | Saturday 7 November | 4.00pm

Please contact venue Box Office teams directly for advice on which seats offer the best view of sign-language interpreters.

Audio Described Events:

Audio description is delivered through a personal headset and provides a description of visual aspects of the performance as they occur on-stage.

Audio Described events in the 2026 festival are listed below:

→ **Faith Healer** | The Lyric Theatre | Sunday 8 November | 2.30pm

→ **Nōs** | The MAC | Saturday 7 November

There will be audio description available for the performance of *Nōs* by **Luail** on Saturday 7 November, and a pre-show sensory workshop for people who are visually impaired; or those who would like to engage with the sensory elements of the performance. After booking your ticket online, or by calling the MAC's box office, you can reserve your audio description and workshop space by contacting **Luail** at info@luail.ie or by calling 00 353 1 6599492.

Captioned Events:

A captioned event features a transcript of audio content displayed on a screen behind or beside speakers.

Captioned events in the 2026 festival are listed below:

→ **Sebastian Barry** | The MAC | Sunday 1 November | 4.00pm

→ **Faith Healer** | The Lyric Theatre | Wednesday 11 November

Accessible Guides & Audio Notes:

→ **Parade: The Giant Wheel** | CS Lewis Square | Saturday 17 October |
1pm and 3.30pm

The performance is non-verbal, highly visual and suitable for a wide range of audiences. Easy Read guides and audio notes are available to support audiences before attending and can be accessed from:

<https://amazing.autindt.co.uk/parade/>

Communicating Cancellation of Access Provisions:

In the unlikely event of cancellation of an access provision and with no other options, our team will:

- Update the event page online and post an update on social media platforms about the cancellation.
- Provide signage on site.
- Where relevant, the Box Office team will email any customers who have registered an access need about the change and, where possible, what we are replacing this with.

Other Services and Policies:

Medical and Welfare Services:

We are unfortunately unable to provide medicine storage.

Please contact festival **venues** directly if you have any concerns about taking medicine during an event. Venue contact details are listed later in this guide.

Changing Places Facilities:

The following Festival venues have changing places facilities available:

- Crescent Arts Centre

For other available changing spaces nearby in Belfast, please see the following link: [Find A Changing Places Bathroom](#).

Assistance Dogs:

Many of our venues offer a bowl of water for assistance dogs.

The policy for assistance dogs attending events is at the discretion of each venue. Please contact their **venue team** in advance to arrange bringing your assistance dog to an event.

Strobe Lighting

Where possible, we will provide advance warnings that a production will contain flashing/ strobe lighting.

You will find this warning at the bottom of the event page on our website. A warning will also be included on the ticket booking page, and at the end of your 'Event Reminder' email.

Occasionally, we are not made aware of the use of strobe/ flashing lights in advance. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Events in the 2026 festival with strobe or flashing lights warnings are listed below:

- **Swallow** | The MAC | Saturday 17 October | 2.30pm
Contains strobe lighting, strong language, sexual descriptions and references to self-harm.
- **Lost Communications: Underwater** | Studio Ulster |
Thursday 29 & Friday 30 October | 6.30pm
Contains flashing lights and fast-moving visual simulations.
- **Takkukk** | Studio Ulster | Wednesday 28 – Saturday 31 Oct |
Wednesday and Thursday: 5pm, 7pm;
Friday: 3pm, 5pm, 7pm; Saturday: 11am, 1pm, 3pm
Contains strobing sequences.

Other warnings

- **Hello Charlie** | The Lyric | Wednesday 7 - Sunday 18 October | 3.00pm & 8.00pm

Contains reference to rape or sexual violence, scenes of substance abuse and strong language.

- **Swallow** | The MAC | Saturday 17 October | 2.30pm
Contains strobe lighting, strong language, sexual descriptions and references to self-harm.
- **Shedman** | The MAC | Tuesday 22 – Saturday 24 Oct |
7.45pm (Thursday & Friday) & 2.00pm (Saturday)
Contains loud bangs and references to suicide.
- **Nõs** | The MAC | Friday 6 to Saturday 7 November | 7.45pm
May contain haze, loud music and flashing lights.

Accessible Transport and Parking in Belfast:

Many of our festival venues offer specific advice on transport and parking on their websites. Please see the next section for venue contact details.

Public Transport

Translink operates bus, coach and train services across the province. Belfast Metro buses are very regular throughout the day. Please see Translink's Accessibility Guide via this link :

<https://www.translink.co.uk/usingtranslink/accessibility/accessibilityguide>

Get in touch with the Translink Contact Centre:

Monday to Friday - 7am to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday - 8am to 6pm

Telephone: **028 9066 6630**

A Text Relay service is available. If you are using a textphone you should dial **18001** followed by the full phone number.

Parking

Onsite Disabled Parking:

The following festival venues offer onsite disabled parking spaces:

- **Cahoots – Cityside Retail Park** – disabled parking bays for Blue Badge holders only.
- **The Lyric Theatre** - 2 extended bays with dropped curb outside the front door. As space is limited, it is recommended to arrive early to make use of disabled parking spaces.
- **Naughton Gallery at Queens** - Car park located either side of the Lanyon Building. 3 designated Blue Badge parking bays available.
- **St Mark's Church, Dundela** - Limited parking around the church and church hall, plus on the street.
- **Sonic Arts Research Centre (SARC)** - 2 Blue Badge parking bays available in the car park located in front of the building off Cloreen Park.

Public Car Parks:

Guidance on public car parks and on-street parking can be found on the Belfast City Council website, via this link:

<https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/things-to-do/car-parks#419-5>.

The Visit Belfast website provides information on a range of parking options in Belfast. Their parking guides and map of car parks around the city can be found here: <https://visitbelfast.com/plan/car-parking-in-belfast/>.

Festival Venues Access Information:

We partner with a broad range of venues across the city from pubs and churches, to outdoor squares and iconic arts buildings.

As a result, although we aim to use accessible venues, we are unfortunately unable to guarantee that all venues have accessible facilities.

Please see the additional information below for each venue to help you plan your visit to the festival. Information is also available on our website via the **'Festival Venues'** page under the tab **'Plan Your Visit'**.

Quick Guide Table:

Venue:	Step Free Access 	Lift 	Accessible Toilets 	Hearing Loop System 	Disabled Parking 
Visit Belfast Welcome Centre	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
An Culturlann	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Áras Mhic Reachtain	✓ Cafe only	N/A	✓ Cafe only	✗	✗
Belfast Empire Music Hall	✗	✗	✓ Toilets downstairs	✗	✗
Cahoots Cityside	✓	✓	✓		✓
Craft NI Gallery	✓				
Crescent Arts Centre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
C.S. Lewis Square	✓	N/A	✓	✗	✗
Digital Arts Studios	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Foyle Foundation Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Linenhall Library	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Lyric Theatre	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mandela Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓ Request via website	✗
MediaLab (QUB)	✓	✓	✓		
Naughton Gallery (QUB)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Queen Street Studios (QSS)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Venue:	Step Free Access 	Lift 	Accessible Toilets 	Hearing Loop System 	Disabled Parking 
Queen's Film Theatre (QFT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Sonic Arts Research Centre	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Studio Ulster					
St Mark's Church	✓	N/A	✓	✗	✓
The Deer's Head	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
The Harrison					
The Harty Room	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
The John Hewitt	✓	N/A	✓	✗	✗
The MAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Ulster Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Ulster Museum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ulster University	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

[Venue Contact Details and Information](#)

Festival Box Office- Visit Belfast Welcome Centre

9 Donegall Square, Belfast, BT1 5GB

Telephone: **028 9024 6609**

Email: ticketing@visitbelfast.com

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/visit-belfast-welcome-centre>

Áras Mhic Reachtain

287 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2GZ

Telephone: **028 9074 9688**

Email: eolas@mhicreachtain.com

The building has ramped access and wide doors to accommodate wheelchairs. The second floor concert hall has **no lift access**. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Belfast Empire Music Hall

42 Botanic Avenue, Belfast, BT7 1JQ

Telephone: **028 9024 9276**

Email: info@thebelfastempire.com

Access to The Empire Music Hall is via approximately 12 stone steps with rails left and right. Two further sets of 2/3 steps into the foyer and main room. Unfortunately there is **no lift access**. An accessible toilet is available downstairs in the basement. No car parking is available, on street parking is free after 5pm.

Cahoots, Cityside Retail Park

100-150 York Street, Belfast BT15 1WA

Telephone: **07434 661671**

Email: info@cahootsni.com

Full accessibility information is available via the link below:

<https://cahootsni.com/our-venue-2/>

Craft NI Gallery

115-119 Royal Avenue, Belfast BT1 1FF

Telephone: 028 9032 9342

Email: gallery@craftni.org

The Craft NI Gallery space is accessible from street level. No carparking is available, there are several paid parking bays and car parks nearby.

Crescent Arts Centre

2 University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NH

Telephone: **028 9024 2338**

Email: Hello@CrescentArts.org

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://crescentarts.org/about/plan-visit/accessible-facilities>

AccessAble Guide:

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/crescent-arts-centre>

C.S. Lewis Square

402 Newtownards Road, BT4 1HU

Telephone: **028 9045 8114**

Email: visitorcentre@eastsidepartnership.com

Both standard and disabled toilets are located at:

Westminster Avenue [behind Holywood Arches Library] (Mon–Sat, 9am–4.30pm)

EastSide Visitor Centre (Mon – Sun, 10am – 4pm).

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://visitbelfast.com/partners/cs-lewis-square/>

Digital Arts Studios

1 Exchange Place, Belfast, BT1 2NA

Telephone: **028 9031 2900**

Email: hello@digitalartsstudios.com

The studio space is located on the first floor with no lift available.

Foyle Foundation Hall (Ulster Orchestra at Townsend)

32 Townsend Street, Belfast, BT13 2ES

Telephone: **028 9023 9955**

Email: info@ulsterorchestra.com

Lyric Theatre

55 Ridgeway Street, Belfast, BT9 5FB

Telephone: **028 9038 1081**

Email: boxoffice@lyrictheatre.co.uk

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://lyrictheatre.co.uk/your-visit/accessibility>

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/lyric-theatre>

Mandela Hall

77 University Rd, Belfast, BT7 1NF

Email: <https://www.mandelahall.com/contact>

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://www.mandelahall.com/accessibility>

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/queen-s-university-belfast/access-guides/one-elmwood-students-centre#92bd3072-93cf-dc41-b1c0-4a793f5c3643>

MediaLab, QUB

28 University Square, Belfast, BT7 1PA

Telephone: **TBC**

Email: medialab@qub.ac.uk

Naughton Gallery, QUB

Lanyon Building, Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN

Telephone: **028 9097 3580**

Email: art@qub.ac.uk

The Naughton Gallery is located on the first floor of the Lanyon Building. Wheelchair access is available via lift from the Welcome Centre.

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/queen-s-university-belfast/access-guides/lanyon-building-naughton-gallery>

Queen Street Studios (QSS)

QSS, The Arches Centre, 11-13 Bloomfield Avenue, Belfast BT5 5AA

Telephone: **07 495 013 947**

Email: gallery@queenstreetstudios.net

The front door is operated by a buzzer release system. You have to pull the doors towards you to enter once you have been buzzed in. Unfortunately, the doors are not automatic.

A staff member can go to the main entrance to assist with the doors if needed.

Queen's Film Theatre (QFT)

20 University Square, Belfast, BT7 1PA

Telephone: **028 9097 1369**

Email: qftmanager@qub.ac.uk

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://queensfilmtheatre.com/Access>

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/queen-s-university-belfast/access-guides/queen-s-film-theatre>

Sonic Arts Research Centre (SARC)

4 Cloreen Park, Belfast, BT9 5HN

Telephone: **028 9097 4867**

Email: sarc@qub.ac.uk

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/queen-s-university-belfast/access-guides/sonic-arts-research-centre#723d2d34-dacd-8244-8653-818b54a590de>

St Bartholomew's Church

183 Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5DS

Telephone: **028 9066 9995**

Email: stbartholomew@connor.anglican.org

St Mark's Church, Dundela

2A Sydenham Ave, Belfast BT4 2DR

Telephone: **028 9074 9688**

Email: office.dundela@down.anglican.org

Wheelchair accessible, disabled toilet, and two designated wheelchair seats that would accommodate four wheelchairs.

Parking: Limited parking around the church and church hall, plus on the street.

Studio Ulster

9 Gulliver's Drive, Belfast, BT3 9HW

Telephone:

Email: info@studioulster.com

Parking: Parking in facility car park.

The Black Box

18-22 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA

Telephone: **028 9024 4400**

Email: admin@blackboxbelfast.com

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/black-box>

The Deer's Head

1-3 Lower Garfield Street, Belfast, BT1 1FP

Telephone: **028 9043 4655**

Email: <https://www.thedeersheadbelfast.com/contact-us/>

No lift access to live rooms on the first floor. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

The Golden Thread Gallery

23-29 Queen Street, Belfast, BT1 6EA

Telephone: **028 9033 0920**

Email: info@gtgallery.co.uk

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/golden-thread-gallery-belfast>

The Harrison Chambers of Distinction

45-51 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6RX

Telephone: 028 9460 0123

Email: info@theharrisonbelfast.co.uk

The Harty Room, QUB

Music Building, University Square, Belfast, BT7 1NN

Telephone: **028 9097 5227**

AccessAble Guide Harty Room: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/queen-s-university-belfast/access-guides/music-building-harty-room>

AccessAble Guide Music Building: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/queen-s-university-belfast/access-guides/music-building>

The John Hewitt Bar

51 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2FH

Telephone: **028 9023 3768**

Email: johnhewitt@boundarybrewing.coop

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/the-john-hewitt>

The Limelight

1 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HD

Tel: **028 9032 7007**

Email: info@limelightbelfast.com

Patrons with specific access requirements, companion ticket inquiries, or needing entry assistance are advised to contact the venue directly in

advance via phone or at info@limelightbelfast.com to coordinate arrival accommodations with their security and access team.

The MAC

10 Exchange Street West, Belfast BT1 2NJ

Telephone: **02890 327007**

Email: tickets@themaclive.com

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://themaclive.com/accessibility>

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/the-mac>

Ulster Hall

34 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FF

Telephone: **028 9033 4400**

Email: boxoffice@waterfront.co.uk

Venue Accessibility Page: <https://www.ulsterhall.co.uk/visit/accessibility-at-the-ulster-hall/>

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/ulster-hall>

Ulster Museum

Stranmillis Road, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, BT9 5AB

Telephone: **0845 608 0000**

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/ulster-museum>

Ulster University

York Street, Belfast, BT15 1ED

Telephone: **028 7012 3456**

AccessAble Guide: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/belfast-city-council/access-guides/ulster-university-belfast-campus>

Venue Access Page: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/yourbelfastcampus/maps-and-facilities/accessibility>

Contact:

For access enquiries relating to ticket booking and specific events, please contact our Box Office at Visit Belfast:

Telephone: **028 9024 6609**

Email: ticketing@visitbelfast.com

General Access Enquiries:

Telephone (Tues - Thurs): **028 9521 9740**

Email (Mon - Fri): enquiries@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com

We will aim to respond to any access related enquiries within 3 working days.

As our team is very busy leading up to and during the festival period, responses may be delayed during this time.

Feedback:

We invite customers to offer feedback in a variety of ways:

- Via e-mail: enquiries@belfastinternationalartsfestival.com
- Via phone: **028 9033 2261**
- Via our post-event survey which is emailed to bookers after the festival.

Your feedback is valued, and is used to support future planning of events and to further increase accessibility.