Democracy Day 2018
Programme

Workshops/Discussions/Talks.
- 8.30-9am The Studio: The People’s Breakfast with a special performance from Stephen Beggs, Beyond Skin. The Studio
- 9am-10.45 The Cube: How will a citizens assembly for Northern Ireland work? Tea Break
- 11am-1pm The Cube: Commoning our Democracy?
- 11am-12pm Workshop 3: The End of Facts? Taking on Fake News
- 12pm-1pm Workshop 4: Community Conversations about education. Lunch break
- 2pm-4.30 The Cube: Participatory Budgeting works
- 4.30-6.30 The Cube: The Good Friday Agreement is it still fit for purpose?
- 7.30-9pm The Cube: Keynote Speaker: Carmen Perez
Participants and Speakers

Paul Braithwaite is Programme Leader with the Building Change Trust in Northern Ireland, leading their work on Social and Democratic Innovation. Since joining the Trust in 2013 Paul has developed and delivered a number of new initiatives for the Trust using research, grant-making, facilitated dialogue and international learning exchanges to stimulate new collaborations and initiatives around the themes of deliberative democracy and social innovation. These have included a Civic Activism Programme, the NI Open Government Network, Social Innovation NI and the Techies in Residence Programme, as well as emerging new initiatives on Participatory Budgeting and Citizens’ Assemblies.

Prior to joining Building Change Trust, Paul’s background was in international development, a subject in which he holds a Masters degree, and he worked for international NGOs for around 10 years including periods based in Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo where he developed and managed programmes with local civil society on themes including civic engagement, participatory governance, gender equality, bonded labour, human rights and disaster preparedness and response.

Tim Hughes is director of Involve – a participation charity working to put people at the heart of decision-making in the UK. He believes that citizens hold the solutions to the challenges that we face. Tim has advised national governments, devolved governments and local authorities in the UK on designing and facilitating effective participatory processes; worked with multilateral organisations - including the OECD, Council of Europe and Open Government Partnership - to improve the practice of participation and open government globally; and researched and written on topics including public participation, open government and democratic reform.

Dr. Roslyn Fuller is a leading expert on applying the original principles of Athenian Democracy to 21st century states and organisations. Her ground-breaking book, *Beasts and Gods: How Democracy Changed Its Meaning and Lost Its Purpose*, has re-defined the modern theory of democracy. It has been praised as ‘a timely and provocative look behind the clichés of Western politics’ (Fintan O’Toole, Irish Times) and ‘the inside story of the slow death of democracy’ (Nick Davies, The Guardian).

Having lectured in International Law in Ireland, Roslyn is now a regular commentator in leading international publications including Salon, The Nation, the LA Review of Books, Alternet and many more. As director of the Solonian Democracy Institute, Roslyn studies how understanding Athenian democratic principles can transform decision-making processes and how this will affect our future society. Her research is regularly presented at leading international conferences.
Allan Leonard is co-founder and editor-in-chief at FactCheckNI. He is a peace journalist and editor-in-chief of Shared Future News, which reports on peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. He served as managing director at the Northern Ireland Foundation, an independent charity established to promote peace and reconciliation, where he also gained international experience supporting programmes in other divided societies.

Enda Young is co-founder of FactCheckNI and is a highly experienced mediator, conflict resolution and negotiation trainer and co-founder of Transformative Connections (TranConn). He has been involved in conflict resolution in Northern Ireland for over fifteen years and currently works at the William J Clinton Leadership Institute at Queen’s University Belfast.

Hala Hennan, Jake Lowry, and Shannon McKeown-Gilmore are students at Methodist College Belfast, which won the 2017 student video competition organised by the Political Studies Association, for their entry on the topic of "Fake News: Is this the End of Facts?".

Robin Wilson is a researcher and journalist. He is author of The Northern Ireland Experience of Conflict and Agreement: A Model for Export? (Manchester University Press, 2010), Peace Monitoring Report Four (Community Relations Council, 2016) and, with Paul Nolan, Beyond Voting (Building Change Trust, 2017). He advises the Council of Europe on intercultural integration, currently working on a model for national integration plans. His Meeting the Challenge of Cultural Diversity in Europe: Moving Beyond the Crisis will be published later in the year by Edward Elgar. During 2013-15 he was lead editor of the openSecurity section of the global online publisher openDemocracy, to which he is a recurrent contributor.

Clare Bailey is the Green Party and MLA for South Belfast. Clare was the driving force behind Green Party NI becoming a pro-choice party. She works for Nexus, the Northern Ireland charity which supports those who have experienced sexual abuse and violence, and volunteers for Marie Stopes. Clare was also part of the first intake of pupils at Lagan College, Northern Ireland’s first integrated school. Like the Green Party, anti-sectarianism is something that Clare takes as a fundamental value. She was behind the decision to re-start the Green Party NI LGB&T group ‘Queer Greens’ in 2014, and actively campaigns on a range of equality issues.
Jez Hall worked on promoting Participatory Budgeting (PB) since August 2000, and within the UK regarding as one of its leading experts. As well as developing some of the first models of PB, he helped establish the UK PB Unit in 2006, and then PB Partners in 2012. He contributed to the UK PB Network’s toolkits and delivers training and masterclasses to community members, front line staff, chief executives and senior politicians. He sits on the advisory board of the North American PB Project, and works internationally on citizen participation speaking at conferences and consultancy for agencies such as the World Bank. Jez has a special interest in how PB can give greater voice and influence to young people. He also coordinates Shared Future CIC, a social enterprise that as well as hosting PB Partners delivers work on citizen juries, social impact and social enterprise.

Sam Fitzsimmons, BA Hons, MA, is a graduate of both Queen’s University Belfast and the Open University. Sam is a Head of Communications of the Integrated Education Fund where he is responsible for developing and managing the IEF’s advocacy campaign activity, including public affairs, policy, media relations, digital marketing and internal communications.

Dr Jessica Bates is Research Coordinator for education, she is also Lecturer and Course Director in library and information management. She finished her PhD in 2009, joining the School of Education the same year. Before working at Ulster, she was a College Lecturer in information and library studies at University College Dublin. Dr Bates’ research interests relate to information, education and social inclusion; digital literacy; and improving library and information services.

Dr Una O’Connor Bones is Head of the Research Graduate School and Deputy Director of the UNESCO Centre based in the School of Education. As Director of the Children and Youth Programme (2010-2014), Dr O’Connor Bones developed an inter-disciplinary approach to monitor the rights and well-being of children and young people in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Lorna Ahlquist has worked on community empowerment all her life. For instance, peer delivered advice and information services because...information is power and a key foundation of empowerment work. A project with the Scottish Poverty Alliance focused on a longstay hospital ward to mitigate institutionalisation by putting money back into people’s hands with opportunities and choices to make. As voters within democracies, we are institutionalised, marginalised. Scottish legislation has sought to change that in many ways eg pushed the coproduction of local health and social care service design and delivery. Lorna has supported communities to have a voice. She has also worked on gender: coordinator for the 5050 campaign for gender equality in the first Scottish Parliament; on the National Advisory Group on Women and Regeneration; Development Officer with Engender on the Women Into Public Life Project linking women in Argyll with Rural Northern Ireland and Eire. A fan of gender budgeting, her interest in PB led her to wonder what a participatory gender budget would be like and if a gendered participatory budgeting process would bring benefits. She recently joined a development trust to regenerating her local community according to participatory principles, making decisions together for the benefit of the whole community. Lorna is now a PB Champion and trying to introduce it locally.

Denise joined Triangle as Director of Support Services in 2010 having previous experience working in both the statutory and private sectors. She has over 30 years’ experience in health and social care in various roles including Nurse manager, Regional Quality & Standards manager and Operations manager. Within Triangle she has responsibility for the Association’s supported living, residential, outreach and progression to employment services.

Louise O Kane joined Community Places as a planner in October 2008. Louise has over ten years’ experience of working in the areas of spatial planning, urban regeneration, engagement, community planning and conflict transformation.

Louise works on a range of planning, area regeneration and engagement projects. Most recently, Louise managed a Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Civic Activism Project and an Erasmus+ European Community Participation in Planning Project working with partners in Milan, Aveiro and Belfast. Louise is currently co-ordinating the Participatory Budgeting Works Project www.participatorybudgetingworks.org
Michel Bauwens (born 21 March 1958) is a Belgian Peer to Peer theorist and an active writer, researcher and conference speaker on the subject of technology, culture and business innovation. Michel Bauwens is a theorist in the emerging field of P2P theory and director and founder of the P2P Foundation, a global organization of researchers working in collaboration in the exploration of peer production, governance, and property. He has authored a number of essays, including his seminal thesis The Political Economy of Peer Production.

Lyra McKee is an editor at California-based Mediagazer, a news site covering the US/global media industry. She has written for many newspapers and magazines, including BuzzFeed News, The Atlantic, and The Belfast Telegraph. She is represented by Will Francis at Janklow & Nesbit, a literary agency based in London and New York. In 2016, Forbes Magazine named her one of their 30 under 30 in media in Europe.

Carmen Perez is something of a Renaissance woman in modern-day activism. She has dedicated 20 years to advocating for many of today’s important civil rights issues, including mass incarceration, gender equity, violence prevention, racial healing and community policing. As the Executive Director of The Gathering for Justice, a nonprofit founded by legendary artist and activist Harry Belafonte, Carmen has crossed the globe promoting peace through civil and human rights, building alternatives to incarceration and violence, and providing commentary and guidance for state and federal policy creation. Her work providing cultural, spiritual and educational events as well as individual support to incarcerated youth inside of juvenile detention centers and prisons in California and New York has led Carmen to prisons in El Salvador and Venezuela. Carmen is the co-founder of Justice League NYC and founder of Justice League CA, two state-based task forces for advancing juvenile and criminal justice reform agenda. She has organized numerous national convenings, including Growing Up Locked Down conferences on juvenile justice, and led the March2Justice, a 250 mile march through 5 states from New York City to Washington, DC which drew Congressional attention to key legislative reforms to confront the national crisis in police violence. A respected expert in the field of juvenile and criminal justice and system accountability, Carmen was invited to testify before the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, was a featured speaker and Co-Convener of the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March, Justice Or Else, and have been featured in numerous media and TV outlets. Carmen’s most recent work is her role as the National Co-Chair of the Women’s March on Washington, drew over 5 million people across the globe who marched in resistance of hatred and bigotry, affirming women of all identities’ rights as human beings.
Beyond Skin

The work of Beyond Skin began January 2004 in Northern Ireland responding to the rise in racism & sectarianism influenced by the legacy of conflict. We represent an international team of professional artists, facilitators, educators and technicians passionate about creating positive social change through intercultural music, arts, dance, digital media and sensory engagement.

"If you want a powerful good relations programme in your area and to maximise community engagement, you could do no better than enlist the Beyond Skin team. They are by far the most creative, dedicated and professional delivery agent I have ever worked with" - Good Relations Officer

"With such a diverse team based locally and internationally, we are like a little United Nations but without the guns" - Darren Ferguson (Founder)