



Beat Carnival
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The Mayor, Commune di Verona
Verona, Italy

16 September 2016

Dear Sindaco Flavio Tosi

Re Premises for the work of **Associazione Interzona**

we, at Beat Carnival Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland, are sad to hear about the serious difficulty that the work of Associazione Interzona is facing, with the loss of premises. Beat Carnival is an independent arts and culture organisation working in what we call the voluntary sector in Northern Ireland. We have seen the incredible creative benefits that arts and culture initiatives bring to the city and its communities – and all at low cost / high value for money because of the high level of voluntary resources and personal commitment that is mobilized. We need the infrastructure of a building and its facilities to do this and to ensure that developments make a long-term impact. Beat Carnival Centre is a unique arts/cultural premises in Belfast and the unique work that happens here depends on the support of the City and the government's Arts Council. We are an important resource and have our major focus locally, however we have found that international connections are also vitally important to the growth of many aspects of our local work. We have experience of the energy there is in the Italian cultural scenes because we have worked with artists and volunteers in Italy and we have had companies and individuals over to work with us in Belfast and in our local communities. We have known INTERZONA for many years and have been in other places, from Bologna (for artistic development projects in different years) to the South of Italy.

We know from our experience that this type of high quality voluntary work is extremely important to the life and viability of culture and community in Italy (as it is here also). We think it excellent that the Foundation and the City has provided vital support to Interzona for a substantial period and we know the premises have been available free. We would urge you to make sure that the effects of all the investment in the Interzona association and the local cultural scene is not now dissipated and lost. We hope that a new, suitable building can be identified for the association and we know it is important for that to happen quickly so that the vital relationships and connections with people and organisations that have been built up do not get lost, as well as the loss of the work itself not happening.

Yours sincerely

David Boyd
Director