Increasing diversity is a moral imperative, but it is also becoming a powerful business requirement. Organizations equipped with a range of voices and perspectives throughout the ranks are better able to innovate, take risks, solve problems creatively, bounce back from failures, and turn challenges into opportunities.*

Join Arts & Business NI and Ulster University Business School on Wednesday 30th March 2022, as they unpick the topics of equality, diversity and inclusion and examine innovative ways to address these business critical topics.

Be inspired by a range of thought-leaders who are bringing fresh thinking on how to start the conversation around EDI. Seán Fitzsimons, disabled professional, activist and member of the Disability Power 100 will co-host the event.

We will feature speakers from Ulster University Business School, Citi, Tinderbox, Beyond Skin, Outburst Arts and The Black Box.

Attendees will enjoy performances from Black Moon DJ Twister, and guitarist Sara, participant in Musicians Artists at Risk Resettlement Scheme.

Prepare to have your preconceptions challenged, and your minds opened to new ways to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are drivers of your business success story.

*Ref: Boston Consulting Group, The Business Imperative of Diversity, 2019

Email s.mackey@artsandbusinessni.org.uk to book your place and please let us know if you have any access requirements.
CREATIVE APPROACHES TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
30 MARCH 2022
THE BLACK BOX
12-2PM

SPEAKERS

Seán Fitzsimons
Disability Policy
Professional and Activist

As a disabled professional working in Northern Ireland, Seán is intimately aware of the barriers, challenges and social injustices that disabled people face.
An accomplished public speaker and advisor on disability policy, strategy, and rights issues at national and international levels.
Recognised as a highly skilled leader in the field, he is often called upon in sensitive high level engagement and negotiation efforts.
His work was recently recognised when he made the Disability Power 100. He is currently seconded to Government in NI to work as Project Lead for the Harkin Global Disability Employment Summit in Belfast June 7th & 8th 2022.

Prof Gillian Armstrong
Director of Business Engagement
Ulster University
Business School

Gillian Armstrong is a Professor of Business Education and is Ulster University Business School’s first Director of Business Engagement.
With over 25 years’ experience in the Higher Education sector, Gillian is passionate about strengthening the competitiveness of employers and the regional economy. Her work focuses on the creation of innovative educational models that enhance student employability and support employers in securing, upskilling and retraining talent across key sectors of the economy.
Gillian is currently a Board Member of Arts & Business NI and a strong advocate of the role of creativity and innovation within business education.

Dr Kristel Miller
Reader in Innovation and Strategy
Ulster University

Dr Kristel Miller’s research focuses on the areas of innovation management, technology commercialization, business models, and competitiveness. She is the co-editor in chief of the Irish Journal of Management and sits on the editorial board of the International Small Business Journal. She has published in a number of internationally recognised journals including the British Journal of Management. Kristel co-chairs the special interest track on Business Models at the European Academy of Management and is an expert reviewer for the European Commission. She also works with organisations to help them develop their innovation capabilities.
CREATIVE APPROACHES TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
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SPEAKERS

Darren Ferguson
Founder/CEO
Beyond Skin

Since his teens, Darren has been involved in community work and development aid work. He is also a keen musician. In 2004 he founded Beyond Skin, using the Arts as a vehicle to assist the development of a more peaceful, equal and intercultural society free from racism & sectarianism. Beyond Skin has delivered over 4,000 workshops/events including collaborations with 32 countries. In 2021 Darren set up Musicians Artists at Risk Resettlement Scheme in Northern Ireland. He is also a board trustee for International Consortium for Afghan Musicians (ICFAM), Make Music Day UK, Cre8 Theatre Company, Migrant & Minority Ethnic Think Thank and Natali Marquez Foundation.

Ruth McCarthy
Artistic Director/CEO
Outburst Arts

Ruth McCarthy is Artistic Director / CEO of Outburst Arts and the award-winning Outburst Queer Arts Festival in Belfast. She has been an LGBTQ+ activist and curator for over three decades, working primarily in queer arts, film and culture development and showcasing in Belfast. She also works alongside queer arts producers and activists in the Global South, Caribbean, and Arab nations to support the development of queer arts networks and knowledge sharing. She is a member of the British Council’s Arts and Creative Economy Advisory Group and a Director of the Black Box venue in Belfast.

Rachael Campbell-Palmer
Director
The Black Box

Rachael has been with the Black Box for six years. She has a MFA from the Belfast School of Art and is a member of Flax Studios with an active sculpture practice. Central to the Black Box is a firm belief in creating a welcoming and inclusive venue. The venue has created investment in local and international arts and with its non-mainstream ethos becoming a vital alternative shared space and hotbed of innovative arts and cultural practice, much of this coming from those who are under represented and under-resourced in wider arts provision and cultural development. Recently, the Black Box was awarded the Creative Lives Ireland award for the work of its projects during lockdown.
CREATIVE APPROACHES TO EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
30 MARCH 2022
THE BLACK BOX
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SPEAKERS

Patrick J O’Reilly
Artistic Director
Tinderbox Theatre Co

Patrick trained at the Le Coq International school in Paris and is a writer and Artistic Director with Tinderbox theatre company in Belfast. Since his appointment in 2016, he has implemented a unique artistic vision of exploring the methodology of Play resulting in the creation of contemporary performances, specialist training courses for emerging artists. At Tinderbox he has directed a number of critically acclaimed works. He was awarded the Stewart Parker BBC Drama Award for his production The Weein in 2009. The Man Who Fell To Pieces was nominated for a ZeBBie award for best play of 2018 and in 2021 he received a National Lottery nomination for his continuous artistic programmes for artists during the pandemic.

Graeme Craft
Belfast CSC Business Office Manager
Citi

Graeme manages the Belfast Site Business Office for Citi. He has vast managerial experience and currently uses his analytical skills to lead the site and make data driven decisions. His responsibility includes all related business for Belfast which is a Client Support Centre site within the EMEA region for Citi and incorporates senior responsibility for employee engagements, events, client engagements, relationship management, financials, communications and site Senior Leadership Team. Graeme was also a founding member of the Citi Belfast Apprenticeship Program and has been driving this initiative since 2018.

Sara Allen
Belfast CSC Comms Manager
Citi

Sara works closely with Senior Leaders across the Belfast site and London GPA team to manage effective communication messaging for all internal and external Belfast communications channels, including press releases, quotes, speeches and briefing notes for Belfast Site Head in addition to hosting employee and client engagements and events. Sara is passionate about the difference effective communication can bring to any culture or environment and is happiest when sharing the business story and encouraging others to do the same.
PERFORMERS

Mark Patty
DJ Twister

Mark Patty, better known as DJ Twister has been DJing professionally for over six years. With a range of Pop, Dance, Disco and Clubland hits a DJ Twister set is energetic and sure to have you up on your feet!

A regular DJ for the Black Box, DJ Twister has also performed for the University of Atypical and as warmup act for the Fish Police and International performers Drag Syndrome.

When he is not DJing, Mark enjoys going to concerts, and campaigning to improve his local area by leading community alleyway clean-up initiatives.

Artist known as Sara

Sara is a professional musician and guitar teacher from Iran. Currently in asylum seeking status hasn’t stopped Sara utilizing her skills. With support through MARRS (Musicians Artists at Risk Resettlement Scheme) Sara has been collaborating with musicians and has set up guitar clubs for adults and children in asylum seeking and refugee status.

www.beyondskin.net/marrs