# Belfast’s Victoria Park transformed into open-air gallery celebrating nature and community



Belfast has recently witnessed a dynamic transformation, with the entrance to Victoria Park being reimagined into an open-air gallery, in a project spearheaded as part of the Festival of Blossom. This initiative, organised by the National Trust, aims to celebrate nature through cultural engagements and nature-friendly events, fostering community connection and a shared appreciation for the environment.

On a vibrant Monday, local artists came together in east Belfast to breathe new life into the tunnel at Victoria Park. The area was temporarily closed to vehicle traffic from 9 am to 7 pm, allowing street artists, including notable contributors like Wee Nuls and Imogen Donegan, to create stunning murals that celebrate themes of blossom, pollinators, and community. According to a spokesperson for the National Trust, “From vibrant colour to powerful storytelling, the art has turned the walls of Belfast into open-air galleries full of life, creativity, and community.”

This latest artistic endeavour is part of a broader movement that has seen Belfast’s urban landscape enriched with colourful street art. The Festival of Blossom aligns with other similar events, such as the ‘Hit the North’ festival, which recently rejuvenated neglected areas of the city centre. Over its decade-long history, the festival has significantly contributed to the revitalisation of urban spaces, promoting local pride and reducing anti-social behaviour. Experts believe that community engagement with art not only beautifies the environment but also enhances the social fabric of the area.

Speaking at the recent ‘Hit the North’ festival, attendees experienced an extraordinary display of creativity with over 60 local and international artists showcasing their talents. The festival highlighted the positive impact of street art on urban areas, both in terms of aesthetic appeal and community cohesion. It included not just murals but also discussions on the future of public art and its ability to transform urban spaces.

The street art scene in Belfast is flourishing, characterised by a series of interconnected events and activities. The upcoming street art bus tour, set for May 2025, represents an opportunity for residents and tourists alike to further explore the city's vibrant art culture. This tour promises to provide an expansive view of the murals that have become integral to Belfast’s identity and urban regeneration.

As the Festival of Blossom and initiatives like ‘Hit the North’ unfold, Belfast continues to emerge as a canvas where art, nature, and community converge, breathing new life into public spaces and inviting everyone to engage in the creative dialogue.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/entrance-to-belfast-park-transformed-into-open-air-gallery-as-part-of-festival-of-blossom-5QIXPNDYHFBW5GQV2ZYU5D27JE/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/life/new-street-art-breathes-life-into-neglected-parts-of-belfast-city-centre-U2L4FI6YYJDTBG4ATGHYJY47AQ/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/entrance-to-belfast-park-transformed-into-open-air-gallery-as-part-of-festival-of-blossom-5QIXPNDYHFBW5GQV2ZYU5D27JE/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/life/new-street-art-breathes-life-into-neglected-parts-of-belfast-city-centre-U2L4FI6YYJDTBG4ATGHYJY47AQ/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.businesseye.co.uk/news/hit-the-north-street-art-festival-back-for-2025/), [[4]](https://visitbelfast.com/event/hit-the-north-2025/), [[5]](https://www.seedheadarts.com/street-art/htn25)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/street-art-bus-tour-tickets-1309997922049), [[6]](https://www.businesseye.co.uk/news/hit-the-north-street-art-festival-back-for-2025/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/entrance-to-belfast-park-transformed-into-open-air-gallery-as-part-of-festival-of-blossom-5QIXPNDYHFBW5GQV2ZYU5D27JE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/life/new-street-art-breathes-life-into-neglected-parts-of-belfast-city-centre-U2L4FI6YYJDTBG4ATGHYJY47AQ/> - This article discusses how the annual 'Hit the North' Street Art Festival has revitalised neglected areas of Belfast city centre. Organisers note that the event has led to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and crime, while boosting local pride and bringing vibrancy to the city through vibrant public art. The festival, established over a decade ago, has been instrumental in transforming parts of Belfast by commissioning street art that engages the community and enhances urban spaces.
3. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/street-art-bus-tour-tickets-1309997922049> - This Eventbrite listing details a special Street Art Bus Tour organised by Seedhead Arts as part of the 'Hit the North' festival. Scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 2 to 5 pm, the tour offers a unique opportunity to explore Belfast's street art scene beyond the usual walking tours. The event is designed to showcase the city's vibrant street art culture, providing attendees with a comprehensive view of the murals and installations that have transformed Belfast's urban landscape.
4. <https://visitbelfast.com/event/hit-the-north-2025/> - This page provides information about the 'Hit the North' Street Art Festival 2025, highlighting the various events taking place across the bank holiday weekend. The festival features a street art market, a conference titled 'The Other Place,' and culminates in a block party on Sunday, May 4, 2025, on Kent Street and Union Street. The block party will showcase over 60 local and international artists, offering urban art demonstrations, food trucks, and live music, celebrating the city's rich street art culture.
5. <https://www.seedheadarts.com/street-art/htn25> - This page from Seedhead Arts outlines the details of the 'Hit the North' Street Art Festival 2025. It includes information on the festival's history, its impact on Belfast's urban landscape, and practical details for visitors, such as accommodation options and transportation. The festival is set to take place in various parts of Belfast City Centre, with the main event, the Block Party on Sunday, May 5, taking place on Kent Street outside and around the Sunflower Public House. The page also provides answers to frequently asked questions about the event.
6. <https://www.businesseye.co.uk/news/hit-the-north-street-art-festival-back-for-2025/> - This article announces the return of the 'Hit the North' Street Art Festival to Belfast in 2025. Organised by Seedhead Arts, the festival is set to feature 60 of the world's finest muralists and will take place from May 2 to 4, 2025. The article highlights the festival's growth over the years and its role in transforming public spaces with contemporary murals. It also notes the festival's move to become independent in 2025, reflecting the grassroots support from local organisations and businesses.
7. <https://cqaf.com/hit-the-north-4/> - This page provides details about the 'Hit the North' Street Art Festival, which took place on Sunday, April 30, 2023, from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Organised by Seedhead Arts and supported by Hennessy, the event featured 50 local, national, and international artists showcasing a variety of styles and techniques. The festival aimed to bring some of the world’s finest artists to Belfast for a unique gathering on Union Street and Kent Street, with free admission and refreshments available from the nearby Sunflower Bar.