

The Odyssey Trust



The Odyssey complex was conceived as a National Lottery Millennium project. However, it has proved itself since its opening in late 2000 as one of the more successful markers of the beginning of the new millennium.

The complex comprises a 55,000 square metre building which houses an arena, an educational science centre known as W5 and a pavilion entertainment area of several restaurants, bars, a bowling alley and a cinema. Its construction took three years and the efforts of 1200 workers.

Since then the economic and social impact of Odyssey has been immense. Physically the complex has broadened the Belfast City centre base through the provision of leisure and entertainment facilities south of the River Lagan that runs through the middle of Belfast. Over 1.5 million visitors passed through its doors in 2007 and concerts such as Take That in October and Bruce Springsteen in December draw thousands to Belfast.

As the largest indoor entertainment complex in Ireland, Odyssey has attracted local visitors and international guests alike. Some come as journalists and competitors to cover or participate in international sporting events but many hundreds more travel from Britain or come north from the Republic of Ireland to watch the events.

The Northern Ireland marketplace at 1.7 million of a population is small and the appeal of Odyssey could soon be exhausted if it were not for the management of the Odyssey Trust Company (OTC) which moved during 2006 to review the full economic and physical potential of the location of the complex.

Plans by developers and other government bodies are advanced

for substantial development of the Titanic Quarter adjacent to the Odyssey site. These plans include extensive quality residential apartments, a relocated further education college [Belfast Metropolitan College] capable of catering for 12,000 students and various new attractions including the high-tech Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

The Odyssey complex is positioned to be the gateway to the new development. The economic objective is to bring what was formerly a barren industrial wasteland to life. The Board and management of the Odyssey Trust Company will be working to ensure that Odyssey is best placed to be involved in these significant changes to Belfast.

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