Mission

The Flax Trust as a registered charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its Mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes, personal development and dedicated communication projects.

FLAX TRUST EVENTS

- Cross Community Inter-School Choir Gala Awards, FICA, Belfast City Hall – December 15th 2016
- City of Belfast Youth Orchestra on-going series of concerts at Holy Cross, North Belfast including winning choirs and solo/festival recipients

Bursary Awards

- City of Belfast Youth Orchestra, The Ulster Hall, Belfast – May 14th 2016
- Queen’s University Belfast’s School of Creative Arts – June 22nd 2016
- School for Social Enterprises in Ireland SSP and Ulster University Business School, Social Enterprise Awards Waterfront Hall, Belfast – 24th June 2016
- Young Musicians of the Future Concert at Camerata Ireland’s Claddagh Day Festival – August 16th 2016

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Flax Trust is a charitable organisation.
We are very grateful to Mutual of America for this invaluable facility.

Hay Adams, The Rooftop Terrace
Across from The White House
Champagne Reception/Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Business Attire
Enrichment Through Respect for Difference
H.E. Anne Anderson  
*Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America*

Anne Anderson took up duty in Washington DC in August 2013. She is Ireland’s 17th Ambassador to the United States, and the first woman Ambassador.

Ambassador Anderson is a career diplomat, with over forty years experience in the Irish Foreign Service. Following a range of assignments at home and abroad, she took up her first posting as Ambassador in 1995. She has since served as Ireland’s Ambassador (Permanent Representative) to the United Nations in Geneva (1995-2001), to the European Union (2000-2005), to France (2005-2009), and to the United Nations in New York (2009-2013).

During her Washington assignment, the Ambassador is particularly focused on further strengthening Ireland-US economic links; highlighting Ireland’s interests in relation to reform of US immigration legislation; supporting US interest and engagement on key issues still to be fully addressed in Northern Ireland; and further deepening the vibrant cultural connections between the two countries.

The Ambassador has undertaken a wide range of responsibilities in her assignments to date. Highlights of her multilateral work have included chairing the UN Commission on Human Rights (1999) and heading the Irish team in Brussels during Ireland’s EU Presidency in 2004 (she was awarded European Voice “Diplomat of the Year” in recognition of her Presidency role). During her New York assignment, she oversaw a review of the UN Peace-Building machinery and was tasked by the President of the General Assembly with facilitating preparations for the 2013 UN Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals.

Ambassador Anderson graduated from University College Dublin in 1972 with a degree in History and Political Science; she also holds a Diploma in Legal Studies from the Kings Inn, Dublin. She was awarded a Doctor of Laws (Honorary) by the National University of Ireland in December 2011.

The Ambassador was listed among Ireland’s “25 Most Powerful Women” by the Women’s Executive Network in 2015. She has also been honoured with a number of awards during her current assignment in DC.

Katty Kay  
*Lead Anchor BBC World News America*

Katty Kay’s career with the BBC began in Zimbabwe in 1990, from there she covered Zimbabwen Land Reform and the issue of white farmers, the independence of Namibia and the end of apartheid in South Africa. She went on to work as a BBC correspondent in London, and later Tokyo, reporting on stories including the Kobe earthquake, the gas attack on the Tokyo underground and the Japanese economic recession.

Katty settled in Washington in 1996 where she took some time out of broadcast journalism to join The Times Washington bureau before returning to the BBC in 2002. She served as Washington correspondent before taking over as the full time presenter of BBC World News America in 2011. She has covered three presidential elections as well as wars in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

From Washington Katty covers the full gamut of American and Global affairs, reporting on US elections, the White House, Congress, Wall Street, global economies and world trouble spots. She witnessed first-hand the huge change in American policy and psyche brought on by the attacks of September 11. Katty was at the Pentagon just 20 minutes after a hijacked airplane flew into the building – one of her most vivid journalistic memories is of interviewing soldiers still visibly shaken from the attack.

Katty makes regular appearances on Morning Joe and Meet the Press. She is the co-author of the New York Times best seller Womenomics and the Confidence Code. She is a Board member of NWME (International Women’s Media Foundation). Katty studied modern languages at Oxford and is a fluent French and Italian speaker. She and her husband, a consultant, have four children.

**Father Myles Kavanagh C.P., Founder Flax Trust**

*Presentation of the EJDC Lifetime Achievement Award through his work with the Flax Trust, Father Myles Kavanagh C.P. has been a powerful catalyst for change in Northern Ireland. The International Development Council (IDC), the world’s largest professional organization serving economic developers, is proud to present Father Myles with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Fostering Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. A special, one-time honor, this award recognizes his immense contribution to the reconnection of a divided community through economic and social inclusion.*

1. Lisa Keelley, Jeff Field, Professor Pat O'Shea
2. Co-Chairs Mike McCurry, Jim Bidgood
3. Brian & Macon Lundy, Ambassador Andreas Antzouris, Professor Paddy Nairn, Maggie Kelly, Prof. Van Phuoc
4. Mike O'Neill, Susan Heilkemper
5. John & Laura Herkey, Lou Bidgood, Peter Mickle
6. Matthew Stay, Jim Bidgood, Jeff Field, Roger Shay, Allister Stay, John Feehery
7. John & Joyce Hynes
8. Frances Friel, Heather Foxley, Clare Rymaska, Patti Connaughton
9. Simon Carron, Ollwyn O'Sullivan
10. John O'Flynn, St Mary Turkey, Horner Matthew Stay, Vice Chancellor Padraig Nolan
11. Horner Maggie Kelly, Mike McCurry, Jim Bidgood
12. Him, Tim O'Connor, Eddie Friel
12. Mike McCurry, Ambassador Paula Dobriansky

1. Kirk Brugard, Samantha Connelly
2. Steve Croy, Ambassador Andreas Antzouris
3. George Jones & John Cosgrove
4. Tish O'Keeffe & Tim Moran
5. Don McInerney, Prof. Stephen Thomas
6. Frank & Noral D'Ornith, Greg Butters, Nancy Lee Filding
7. Prof. Ross Lawer, Maurine McNeilagh, Roselle Gilly
8. Michael & Kay Hickey, John Cutler, Kate Hoehnthal
9. Sean Jr. & Sean Bidgood Sr., Maggie Kelly
10. Danny Conlan, Hon. James Walsh, Mark Shields
11. Matthew Furhent, Hon Bariste Stevens, Susanna Gatti
12. Stewart Matthews, Kate Nott
13. Nick & Hon Van Stroud
14. Cheryl Murphy, Tracy Kits
15. Jay Hickey, St Mary Turkey, Tony Collin Pucher