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Opinions sought on Troubles museum

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IDEAS FACTORY: David Mitchell, good relations officer for Lisburn City Council and Angela Beggs, assistant education officer with the Lisburn Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum with one of the books that are going on display as part of the Good Relations Programme. Lisburn City Council in partnership with Healing Through Remembering will host an exhibition of books that offer ideas for a Living Memorial Museum PICTURE: Declan Roughan

ARTEFACTS from Northern Ireland's troubled past could one day be put on display – in an underwater museum.

Acoustic sculptures, a tent museum and circular monuments are just some of the thousands of ideas which have been submitted as proposals for a proposed Living Memorial Museum gather momentum.

An open call for ideas has resulted in some innovative proposals being submitted to the Healing Through Remembrance (HRT) group, which recommended the creation of a museum back in 2002.

This week, ideas for the project have been put on show at a special exhibition in the Irish Linen Centre in Lisburn and the public is being asked to look at the ideas and tell the HRT what they think.

According to Alan McBride, chair of the Living Memorial Museum sub-group, ideas in all shapes and sizes have been submitted by people from all walks of life.

“All the ideas have been photographed and put into the books,” Mr McBride said.

“All have been given equal worth. The aim of the books is to share the ideas that people have on a museum and to encourage more debate and discussion on how as a society we can best remember and also learn.”

Councillor Ronnie Crawford, Lisburn mayor said: “Such a museum would increase public awareness of the

impact of the conflict, disseminate information and provide educational opportunities ensuring lessons are learned for the future. It is important this initiative has the support of both communities.”

n The exhibition runs until tomorrow at the Irish Linen Centre, which is open from 9.30am until 5pm.

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