

Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Five-Year Strategy 2019-2024

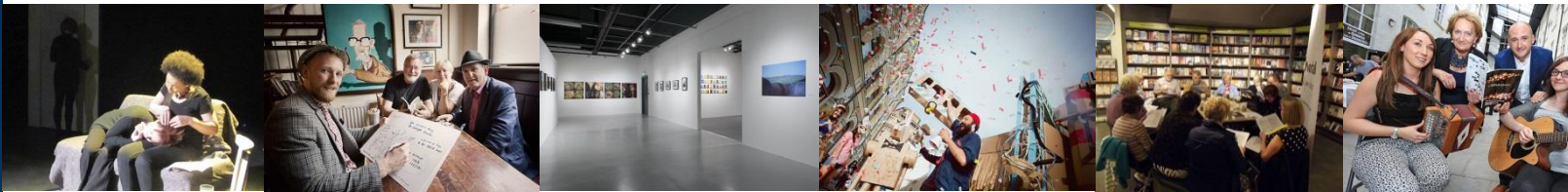
for the development of the Arts



Shaping the Future

The next five years start here ...

- Our strategy, *Ambitions for the Arts* and its three goals, has been our guide over the past five years.
- It formally ended in March 2018.
- We have agreed with DfC that 2018/19 will be a bridging year to develop a new strategy, one that reflects the changed times and changing context.
- It's time to look to the future, and to think how we want to shape the next strategy, running from 2019-2024.



Many questions come to mind:

- *How should our priorities reflect a changing world?*
- *How can we respond to the challenges and opportunities of new technology?*
- *How do we protect creative ambition in times of austerity?*
- *How can we ensure a viable arts sector is maintained?*
- *What can we do to strengthen the impact of our work and reflect outcomes of societal wellbeing stated in the new Programme for Government? How can we capture the work of organisations in the sector in a meaningful way?*
- *What is the sector's role in the Creative Industries?*
- *What will be the impact for the Arts in Northern Ireland of leaving the EU?*
- *What skills and resources do we need to best support the sector?*



Programme for Government (subject to change)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/programme-government-framework-working-draft>

Outcome 5:

We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential

Indicator 27:

% engaging in arts/cultural activities

Outcome 9:

We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity

Outcome 10:

We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest



Your strategy, your views ...

- We want to know what *you* think
- We have planned a programme of workshops / events but are there other ways we can engage with the sector?
- We would like to consult widely and hear perspectives from diverse voices, for example younger audiences
- There will be an online community for all stakeholders and members of the public to participate in



Why is this important?

- Looking to the future is a vital part of the new five-year strategy.
- We want to stimulate and sustain a process of engagement with stakeholders throughout the development stages.
- We will prepare a high level summary document that draws on the best intelligence, data and evidence, as well as insights, critiques and provocations.
- We want the successor plan to be valued and owned – one that the sector can use as part of your development plans.



Timeline

The timeline for the development of our next five-year strategy, running from April 2018-March 2019, has three phases:

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	
Determining the Position	Developing the Strategy	Communicating & Consulting	Publication
June July Aug Sep	Mid Sep Oct Nov Dec	Mid Dec Jan Feb Mar	Early Spring 2019



Phase 1: Determining the Position

June - September

Gather the Evidence (Desk-based Research):

- Analysis / assessment / evaluation of *Ambition for the Arts (2013-2018)*
- Key data sources (GPS; Annual Funding Survey; CHS; Young Person's Wellbeing Survey; ARK surveys etc.)
- Trends relating to core principles e.g. Access, Equality and Excellence
- Programme evaluation studies (AOPP, ARTiculate, Creative Schools, ReImaging, CIIF etc.)
- Economic analysis report: exploring the capacity of arts organisations to deliver change
- Comparative analysis of UK strategies
- Evidence from commissioned reviews



Phase 1: Determining the Position

June - September

Gathering your perspectives

Sector Platform Workshops: Music and Opera; Drama and Festivals; Visual Arts and Literature; Venues and Participatory Arts.

What about the artform policies? Renewed on a rolling basis as part of the implementation of the new five-year strategy.

Thematic Events: led by Resource organisations to explore sector-based needs and priorities with feedback reports submitted by 7th September, 2018.

Provocation Pieces: theme-based discussion documents (commissioned and open) from artists, creators, performers, educators, academics and others.



Phase 1: Determining the Position

June - September

Share the Findings

- We plan to share the findings in a high-level summary report as part of our ongoing commitment to evidence-based policy development.
- This document will help inform the next stage – the development of the first draft.



Phase 2: Developing the Strategy

September - December

- By this stage we will have reviewed the evidence, gathered your perspectives and determined the 'direction of travel' for the new strategy.
- We plan to carryout a further layer of testing / validation through face-to-face meetings
- Structured engagement with statutory bodies, partners and other funders, including a Local Govt. Symposium
- Prepare Draft Strategy: mission, values, vision, long-term goals and objectives
- Develop a performance management framework, associated action plans and KPIs



Phase 3: Communicating & Consulting

December - March

- Equality Impact Assessment (12 weeks).
- Public Consultation (12 weeks): public workshops and on-line survey.
- Refinement period.
- Approval of Final (by Arts Council Board).
- Ministerial / DfC Approval.

We hope to publish the strategy in early Spring, to take effect from April 2019.

But remember ... these are live documents and we will updated as work progresses and our plans develop.



Strategic aims of *Ambitions for the Arts*

Expressed under three key themes:

- Champion the Arts
- Promote Access
- Build a Sustainable Sector



Strategic aims of *Ambitions for the Arts*

In more detail ...

- To make excellent art accessible to all
- To support individual artists create work of excellence
- To core fund arts organisations
- To help arts organisations deliver benefits to our community
- To build partnerships
- To support skills development
- To encourage voluntary activities in the arts



These themes are essentially about:

- Maximising creativity (artists, creators, and performers),
- Inspiring people and society (access & audiences) and
- Building a resilient sector (organisations and partnerships).

- Are these the right themes?
- How might they be achieved?



After today?

- Open invitation to host further sector-led workshops (Resource Organisations, artists' groups, arts officers)
- Share your thoughts - submit a short, high-level (800 words), discussion paper about the future of the arts
- Submit a written consultation response by 7th September

