

AR

annual review

Arts Council of Northern Ireland - 2013-14

www.artscouncil-ni.org



Public funding brings
great art within the reach
of everyone

Our Vision

Our vision is to 'place the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life'.

In *Ambitions for the Arts**, our new five-year strategic plan for the development of the arts in Northern Ireland, 2013-18, we identify the main themes covering what we believe needs to be done to achieve this vision - championing the arts, promoting access, building a sustainable sector.

In this Annual Review 2013-14, you will see the progress that has been made in these areas, from the transformation of Derry~Londonderry through the UK City of Culture 2013 creative programme to the range of international showcase opportunities now available to our artists and performers.

* available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

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Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2013-2014.

This calendar-style review of our combined Exchequer and National Lottery-funded activities covers many of the artistic highlights of the last (financial) year, expanding in greater detail on several of the most significant events.

A brief summary of our Accounts for the financial year is included at the end of the report. The complete sets of audited accounts for our Exchequer and National Lottery funds are made available on our website, www.artscouncil-ni.org.

What we do

The Arts Council is the development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland, providing the main support for artists and arts organisations throughout the region through a range of funding opportunities.

We distribute public money and National Lottery funds to organisations and people who develop and deliver arts programmes across all of society.

Our Arts Officers offer specialist guidance on funding and project development to artists and organisations working across the spectrum of arts activities in Northern Ireland.

- Architecture
 - Arts and Disability
 - Arts and Health
 - Circus Arts
 - Carnival Arts
 - Community Arts
 - Crafts
 - Dance
 - Drama
- International Arts
 - Language Arts
 - Literature
 - Music
 - Public Art
 - Traditional Arts
 - Visual Arts
 - Voluntary Arts
 - Youth Arts

Chair's Foreword

From city of conflict to city of culture

One event above all others stood out in 2013. Between January 2013 and January 2014, the nation's attention turned to Derry~Londonderry and the UK City of Culture 2013. Its year in the arts and cultural spotlight transformed the profile of the city and its environs, often in profound and enduring ways. Against the backdrop of a famously divided city, people found themselves crossing the Peace Bridge and crossing the city, even heading up to the former army barracks at Ebrington, to see *art*. The conversation turned from conflict and divide to *Turner* and *Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann* and *Lumiere* and *The Return of Colmcille*.

The arts had created a common ground where people, from all backgrounds, could come together to enjoy the spectacle. They connected people across the various barriers that divide us and provided a shared meeting place, not just of bodies but of minds. The positivity of that shared creative experience allowed many people to see that we share more in common than we may first have thought.

There were some remarkable highlights during the Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013: Willie Doherty's retrospective, Echo Echo's *Festival of Dance and Music* and Prime Cut Productions' *The Conquest of Happiness* all offered

a flavour of the wealth of home-grown creative talent. The unprecedented numbers of international visitors, artists and performers, arriving as a consequence of the strength of the cultural programme created significant opportunities for cultural exchange and future artistic collaborations. The local and international artists who showcased their work during the year, as well as the hundreds of thousands of visitors from across these islands and beyond, would join the Arts Council in applauding the management and delivery of the UK City of Culture 2013 programme by the Culture Company in partnership with Derry City Council, Ilex Urban Regeneration Company and the Strategic Investment Board.

The Arts Council's commitment to the year of cultural events began many years previous to 2013, with the investment of significant sums of public money to build and renovate the major venues that helped to establish the infrastructure required for the city to secure the bid to become the first UK City of Culture. During 2013, the Arts Council augmented its regular annual funding of £1.79 million to the city's venues and arts organisations with a further £100,000, this time from its Lottery resource, to create, in partnership with The BIG Lottery Fund, a small grants programme to enable communities across Northern Ireland to participate in the success of Derry~Londonderry's celebrations.

We would hope that all the excitement, energy and positivity surrounding this year will raise public consciousness of art across Northern Ireland



would be one of the Arts Council's strongest hopes that a year of immersion in the arts will leave an enduring mark on everyone; not just on those who you might have expected to attend or participate, but everyone, even those people who may not previously have thought of the arts as being for them. We would hope that all the excitement, energy and positivity surrounding this year will raise public consciousness of art across Northern Ireland and that the appreciation becomes engrained that the arts are indeed for everyone.

Bob Collins
Chair

The year in the cultural spotlight has now drawn to a close, but the Arts Council's commitment to the transformation of the city's cultural life and to the momentum created by the City of Culture celebrations continues. In partnership with Derry City Council we have introduced a Lottery-funded three-year Legacy Fund. One of the goals of the Legacy Fund will be to draw underrepresented groups and communities to the centre of the city's cultural life. There is a generation growing up who, thanks to the Year of Culture and its legacy have access to a range and quality of arts that would have been the envy of any previous generation. Expectations increase. Consequently, the Arts Council is conducting a thorough review of the city's visual arts provision, towards an agreed strategy for the future direction and priorities of the visual arts between 2014-19. With cultural legacy plans of the Arts Council, Derry City Council, DCAL and others, Derry~Londonderry will be able to continue to define itself and provide the inspiration for other cities undergoing arts-led regeneration through its greatest assets – its arts and its culture.

Underlying the significant social and economic benefits that have been attained through Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture, there is another, more incipient but no less important element to this year of arts and culture. It

Chief Executive's Foreword

Small size, big ambitions

This year in the arts has highlighted the strength and diversity of creative activity taking place right across Northern Ireland. Belfast enjoyed its customary share of creative excellence, including the continued success of the established annual multi-arts festivals – Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, Belfast Children's Festival, Belfast Festival at Queen's, Feile An Phobal (which reached the milestone age of 25) and Culture Night, which for a fifth year attracted thousands of people onto the streets of the city to experience a lively night of free arts and culture. We also welcomed some relative newcomers, such as the Outburst Festival, the East Belfast Arts Festival and the Bounce Arts & Disability Festival. Nonetheless, Belfast was far from exclusive in headlining the arts as this year we witnessed a distinct shift of emphasis.

Derry~Londonderry was of course the centre of attention throughout its year celebrated as UK City of Culture, the impact of which continues to be far reaching. Yet, in late August, Enniskillen captured the limelight thanks to the *Enniskillen Happy Days International Samuel Beckett Festival*. Now in its second year, the festival has grown in size, stature

and ambition, to become the world's biggest celebration of Nobel Prize writer Samuel Beckett and becoming, in the process, one of the Arts Council's major annual investments. As with the cultural celebrations in Derry~Londonderry, the *Happy Days festival* is having a transformative effect on Enniskillen and its environs, in terms of the quality of the art – Juliet Stevenson, Diana Quick, Robert Wilson, 17 UK and Irish premieres and 13 world premieres – and the wider social and economic benefits this artistic enterprise has brought to Fermanagh. In addition to the considerable revenue generated by the festival and the business created for hotels and businesses in the area, Enniskillen's creative profile has received a tremendous boost. With the Beckett festival, Fermanagh has established a reputation as a high spot for contemporary arts and culture, complementing its rich and ancient cultural heritage. The arts festival consolidated Fermanagh's elevated cultural status following the visit of the G8 leaders in June and the associated attention of the world's media.

Newry also emerged as a centre of creative excellence for children's arts when Sticky Fingers hosted hundreds of international delegates representing the arts, children's

It is the Arts Council's job to nurture, protect and support the arts across Northern Ireland

rights and political sectors. The delegates gathered together at the *Small Size Big Festival* of performing arts for children in February to network and strengthen local and international exchange and collaboration, as well as sharing good practice and the new ideas that will shape the future of the arts for early years. The festival marked the culmination of a five-year European project designed to emphasise the importance of children as active citizens in society with a right to a cultural identity and to engage freely in the arts.

It is the Arts Council's job to nurture, protect and support the arts across Northern Ireland, so that every citizen has the opportunity to engage with art and with creative excellence. The fine examples of Derry~Londonderry, Enniskillen and Newry, as well as the many other creative enterprises taking place day-in-day-out across Northern Ireland, show that, wherever you have creative people prepared to take risks and public bodies prepared to invest in risk, remarkable things happen.

It would be deeply remiss not to acknowledge here the death in August of Seamus Heaney, aged 74. With the



death of Seamus Heaney, the world lost one of its most distinguished and best-loved poets. In his lifetime he published 13 collections of poetry and several volumes of essays, in the process winning a Nobel Prize for Literature plus numerous other awards and becoming a staple of the school curriculum. He was in the front rank of poets writing in any language, possibly the greatest in English since the war, and was the towering figure of Northern Ireland arts. As one of the many tributes said, 'a mighty force has passed among us'.

Roisín McDonough

Roisín McDonough
Chief Executive

The number of adults
engaging in the arts has
grown to 79%

Four of Northern Ireland's finest emerging singer-songwriters - Triona Carville, Peter McVeigh, Stephen Macartney and Willie - showcase their talents in Nashville, Tennessee.



A Year in the Arts 2013-14

A flavour of the year's activities by the hundreds of artists, arts organisations and venues that are supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland through our Exchequer and National Lottery funds.

April 2013

• The Australian Children's Laureates make their first visit to the island of Ireland, following the Arts Council's invitation to host workshops in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry. These world leaders in child development share their experience of how reading and storytelling changes young people's lives.



• The Arts Council awards £13.6 million to 109 core arts organisations across Northern Ireland to cover their year-round running and programming costs. 15 new clients receive annual funding, including the Craft and Design Collective and the music festival, Glasgowbury.

• The Metropolitan Arts Centre (The MAC) in Belfast celebrates its first anniversary, announcing that it has smashed its visitor target by over 75%. 300,000 people have visited the MAC in its opening year.

• Belfast-based Moving On Music is selected from over 130 entries as one of the 20 composers and commissioning organisations who will participate in the first ever UK-wide New Music Biennial in 2014.

Culture For All

The Arts Council joins forces with The Big Lottery Fund to create a new small grants scheme called 'Culture for All', to help communities right across Northern Ireland get involved in the Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 celebrations. The funding enabled a wide range of small-scale but meaningful projects to take place, for example: local charity Action Mental Health New Horizons were able to create and exhibit, 'What's Your Story', an art piece in the form of a two-seater sofa made out of donated books; pupils with learning difficulties from Foyle View School had the opportunity to work with Replay Theatre Company to put on the performance of a lifetime; 'Stroke Odysseys' helped stroke patients to form a choir which performed during City of Culture; and people with learning disabilities across Northern Ireland were given the chance to dance, socialise and gain confidence when the Black Box Trust received funding to bring its Black Moon disco on tour.



Mary Lindsay, Big Lottery Fund; Malachi O'Doherty, ambassador for Action Mental Health and Carla Bowyer, Arts Council

May 2013

- The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, one of NI's most progressive multi-arts festivals, returns for its 14th year, headlined by Adam Ant, Dexys and John Grant.
- The One World Creative group showcases Chinese culture and traditions by displaying 50 life-sized replica Terracotta Army warriors in public places in towns and cities across Northern Ireland. Once painted by local youth and community groups, the army congregates in Derry city as part of the UK City of Culture celebrations.



One City One Book 2013

Following last year's successful introduction to Belfast of the Europe-wide One City One Book initiative, Belfast-born writer Lucy Caldwell's latest novel, 'All the Beggars Riding' is selected as the 2013 choice. The idea of the initiative is to encourage as many people as possible to focus on a book by a local author and through that collective activity to promote reading and contemporary writing from Northern Ireland. A programme of readings by the author, themed discussions in libraries across Belfast and satellite events with the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry~Londonderry, supports this community reading initiative throughout the month of May.



June 2013

- Belfast-based The Creative Hub launches 'The Extraodinaires Design Studio', the follow-up to their multi-award winning storytelling game, 'Rory's Story Cubes', which reached sales of 1.5 million worldwide and which was developed with support from the Creative Industries Innovation Fund.



- The Derry Playhouse comes to life to the sound of 75 musicians from Caw Flute Band, Burntollet Sons of Ulster Flute Band and East Bank Protestant Boys Flute Band, plus a quartet of guest jazz musicians, showcasing the musicianship the Londonderry Bands Forum has been developing since 2012 with composers Brian Irvine and Sid Peacock.

- The MAC is recognised for its architectural excellence with a National Award by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

- Dungannon Youth Resource Centre receives funding through the Arts Council's Intercultural Arts Programme to deliver 'Inte-gr8', a project that engages with local young people to explore cultural identity and heritage through a programme of visual arts, dance and music.



- The 2nd Belfast Photo Festival throws open the doors of dozens of galleries, museums and venues and illuminates public spaces right across Belfast city in a celebration of all things photographic.

- Peter Meanley, one of Northern Ireland's foremost ceramicists, exhibits his character jugs representing each of the eight world leaders attending the G8 summit in Fermanagh, including Obama, Merkel and Cameron.



87% agree that the arts attract visitors to Northern Ireland



Derry City Of Culture

In January Derry~Londonderry began its year as the first UK City of Culture, heralding a momentous programme of arts and cultural events which would capture the hearts of the people and the attention of the world. Highlight followed highlight, with the outdoor spectacular, 'The Return of Colmcille', the 'Walled City Tattoo', 'Lumière' and the world's largest celebration of Irish culture, the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, which attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors from across these islands and beyond. Music highlights included Snow Patrol and the Derry International Choral Event and standout drama and dance offerings included Hofesh Schechter's 'Political Mother' and Prime Cut's 'Conquest of Happiness'. Visual arts also fared particularly well, with Willie Doherty's major retrospective exhibition, 'Unseen', and the Turner Prize, one of the world's most prestigious awards for contemporary art, held for the first time outside of England. By the end of an exceptional year, Derry is a city transformed and redefined by arts and culture.



The Playhouse premieres Gary Mitchell's new play 'Re-energise'

- The second intake of musicians completes the 'Scratch My Progress' six-month development programme at the Oh Yeah music centre in Belfast. The programme hothouses talent, increasing participants' knowledge about the business of music and the trades of performing and writing.

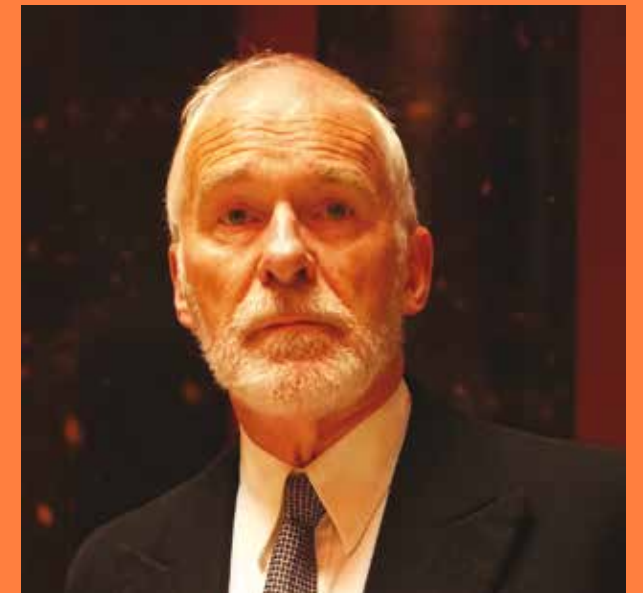
- Acclaimed poet Sinéad Morrissey is announced as Belfast's first Poet Laureate. The role of the Poet Laureate is to engage the people of Belfast in poetry, through a series of events and community outreach to art groups, language organisations and minority groups. Sinéad has also been commissioned to produce a series of poems about Belfast and the year, exploring the theme 'My City / Mo Chathair Féin'.



Brussels Platform

Now in its third year, the Brussels Platform continues to promote the culture and creativity of Northern Ireland. The Arts Council's partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels provides opportunities for Northern Ireland's musicians, writers, dancers, theatre practitioners and visual artists to showcase their work at a series of monthly events at the capital of the European Union.

Highlights in 2013 included Ian McElhinney's one-man performance of 'A Better Boy', a play relating to the Belfast shipyards in the aftermath of the sinking of the Titanic; Bangor-based novelist, children's author and screenwriter Colin Bateman appearing as guest of honour at the Brussels Book Fair; and a showcase exhibition of works by emerging visual artists, selected from the University of Ulster's End of Year Graduate show.



Ian McElhinney is A Better Boy

July 2013

- Derry schoolgirl Rachel Xu gets the chance of a lifetime to perform in NI Opera's production of Benjamin Britten's children's opera 'Noye's Fludde' in Shanghai. The performance in China follows a critically-acclaimed run of eight shows in Belfast Zoo last year as part of the London 2012 Festival.



- The Arts Council launches a new five-year music strategy which addresses challenges such as funding restrictions, economic pressures and globalization as well as highlighting the positive opportunities available to improve and build upon recent and historical success from within this vibrant sector.

- The annual InterAct Youth Arts Festival in Derry~Londonderry celebrates its fifth anniversary with ten days of youth-focussed arts activities, from 'holi' throwing and comic arts drawing to disc-jockeying and yarn-bombing.



- In the run-up to August Craft Month, Craft NI launches an interactive online Craft Map, highlighting designer-makers, studios and craft outlets across Northern Ireland.

70% of people living in the most deprived areas engage in the arts

The Arts make the
world talk about
us for all the right
reasons

August 2013

- Féile an Phobail, Ireland's biggest and most vibrant community festival, celebrates its 25th anniversary with more than 250 events taking place over 11 days, at 50 venues across West Belfast / Gaeltacht Quarter and Belfast city centre.



- 'Diablo', a powerful play by Spanner in the Works Theatre Company about human trafficking in Northern Ireland is showcased at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The play debuted last year at the Lyric Theatre, where it was attended by Justice Minister, David Ford MLA.

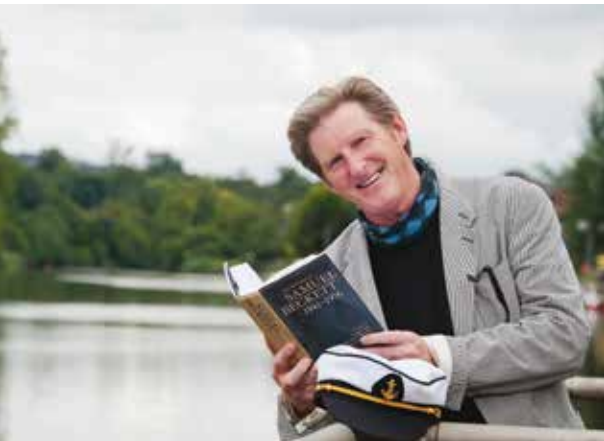


- The Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's appoints the Festival's first ever Artist in Residence, internationally-acclaimed Cuban-American artist Jorge Rodriguez-Gerada, to work alongside volunteers and communities to create a giant land-art portrait that will transform five acres of land in Belfast's Titanic Quarter.
- Thousands flock to the Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela, Northern Ireland's largest festival of ethnic arts, culture and heritage, organised by Artsekta, returning for a seventh year with a vibrant line up of music, dance and arts from across the globe.

- Stage Beyond, a theatre company in Derry~Londonderry for young adults with learning disabilities, showcases their love of Shakespeare with on-street performances throughout the city as part of the City of Culture celebrations.



- The HAPPY DAYS Enniskillen International Beckett Festival, the world's largest annual multi-arts celebration of Irish Nobel Prize writer, Samuel Beckett, returns for a second year. It features events on boats and planes and even an underground event in Fermanagh's iconic Marble Arch Caves in a programme of international theatre, music, dance, art installations, exhibitions and comedy, featuring 17 UK and Irish Premieres and 13 World Premieres.



- Blackwater Regional Partnership receives funding through the Arts Council's 'Building Peace through the Arts' programme to create three pieces of public artwork that will connect the communities of Caledon, Co. Tyrone; Middleton, Co. Armagh; and Monaghan.

Seamus Heaney

The world of the arts and countless thousands across the island of Ireland and beyond, mourn the death of Seamus Heaney, who dies this month, aged 74. Professor Heaney was internationally recognised as the greatest Irish poet since WB Yeats. Like Yeats, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature and his reputation and influence spread far beyond literary circles. Author of over 20 volumes of poetry and criticism, and editor of several widely used anthologies, he created a bestseller from a translation of Beowulf and sold more books in Britain than any other living poet.

The list of his honours is astonishing: from the Cholmondeley Award for *Death of a Naturalist* onwards, culminating in the Nobel Laureateship, few honours, national or international, passed him by. He was Professor of Poetry at Oxford University, Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard, Emerson Poet in Residence, also at Harvard, Duff Cooper Memorial Award, American-Irish Foundation Award, Member of Aosdana and the Royal Irish Academy.

Joining the tributes from around the world marking Heaney's death on 30th August, Bob Collins, Chair of the Arts Council said, "He had the great gift of being able to explore the common realities of our daily lives and, by elevating them to their proper dignity, to give us deep knowledge of ourselves and of the world around us. Though we mourn today, our lives and the lives of generations to come have been enriched by the wonder of what he accomplished."



Seamus Heaney

The success of our Creative Industries is raising our global profile as a place that's ready to compete and do business

September 2013

- Prime Cut Productions, East West Centre Bosnia-Herzegovina and Mladinsko Theatre Slovenia present 'The Conquest of Happiness', a raw, immersive and multi-sensory night of innovative theatre on an industrial scale at Ebrington Square in Derry~Londonderry. The show then embarks on a tour to Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Belfast.



- To mark European Heritage Open Days, the Arts Council hosts public poetry readings at its premises at MacNeice House, once home to one of Northern Ireland's greatest poets, Louis MacNeice.



- Derry-based media film, Dogears, which is supported by the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, has its new cartoon series, Puffins' Rock, commissioned by Nickelodeon Jr and RTE Jr.
- The Verbal Arts Centre in Derry~Londonderry runs an innovative arts intervention in health and well-being, with 'Reading Rooms', using 'reading aloud' and 'shared reading' sessions for a range of groups, including older people, men's mental health, female mental health and young people.
- The fifth annual Culture Night transforms the streets of Belfast city centre in an evening of family fun, with hundreds of artists and volunteers giving freely of their time to offer the public a flavour of the city's arts.



- Audiences NI's 'Test Drive the Arts' initiative, which has introduced some 18,500 people to the arts through its free ticketing scheme, secures additional funding from DCAL to target specific groups who are less likely to attend the arts, such as the elderly and people from disadvantaged areas across Northern Ireland.

- The Arts Council teams up with Belfast City Council to launch a new funding programme for cultural and community groups. Valued at £900,000 over the next three years, the 'Creative and Cultural Belfast' fund supports projects which reach out to people who are less likely to participate in culture and arts due to social, economic or other barriers.

- The Arts Council launches its new Youth Arts Strategy, providing strategic direction and vision for the youth arts sector for 2013 – 2017. It also announces new programming to help meet young people's development needs, including a Health & Wellbeing Programme and a suite of apprenticeships, internships and mentoring opportunities.

Brendan At The Chelsea

For a third year, the Arts Council maintained a title sponsorship of the Origin First Irish Festival of Theatre, which is considered a gateway to North America for contemporary Irish and Northern Irish playwrights. Following a sell-out run at the Lyric Theatre two years earlier, the Lyric's production of 'Brendan at the Chelsea' embarked in 2013 on a five-week run off-Broadway. Adrian Dunbar reprised his role as Brendan Behan, directing and starring in the play about the legendary Irish writer, written by his niece, Janet Behan. The play proved a tremendous hit in New York, with the New York Times hailing the show 'a must', before returning home for a run at the Lyric and touring to Dublin and Derry~Londonderry.



October 2013

- The 2013 Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's opens with a concert by world-renowned tenor José Carreras. This year's festival highlights include the Irish premiere of Roger Bernat's 'Pending Vote', a new production of Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' and an epic closing concert from the Ulster Orchestra.



Marie Jones joins the cast of Crimea Square

- Glasgowbury, Northern Ireland's largest independent outdoor music festival, is shortlisted for two UK Festival Awards, including Best UK Small Festival. Paddy Glasgow goes on to win Promoter of the Year.

- Four more artists from Northern Ireland travel to San Sebastian in the Basque Country to take part in the Arts Council's ongoing 'Corners' project, where they join artists from around the world to build partnerships and develop proposals for international co-productions for touring in 2014.
- The Banks of the Foyle Halloween Carnival engages hundreds of local children in workshops across the city and attracts thousands of visitors on the night.



Our arts distinguish us
from other places



- Brassneck Theatre Company performs its latest production, 'Man in the Moon', a story dealing with suicide and its aftermath in a west Belfast estate, at An Cultúrlann on World Mental Health Day.

- Open Arts celebrates 21 years of pioneering work with disabled people, encouraging artistic excellence and promoting the rights of disabled people within the arts. Major achievements include the establishing of the Arts and Disability Equality Charter.

- Health Minister Edwin Poots supports the launch of a £1million Arts Council programme that aims to tackle the social exclusion of older people. The Arts & Older People's Programme supports organisations to develop arts initiatives to tackle the issues of isolation, loneliness and poverty affecting many older people across Northern Ireland.

- The Arts Council launches a new Music Touring Programme worth £150,000, to support a more dynamic and cohesive approach to genres such as jazz, world music, chamber and contemporary music.



Creative Industries thrive in NI

The Arts Council hosts THRIVE, a half-day conference celebrating the success of Northern Ireland's Creative Industries and exploring their increasing importance to our economic growth and job creation. The event showcases the work of the creative companies supported by the DCAL/Arts Council Creative Industries Innovation Fund and provides an opportunity for practitioners and companies to network and share best practice. Over 300 people employed in the creative industries come together to network and hear international speakers and recognised leaders in the Creative Industries, including digital media mogul, Eric Huang (pictured).



75% agree there should be public funding for the arts



November 2013

- Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company hosts Northern Ireland's first dedicated international festival of dance and movement in the city of Derry.
- Belfast Community Circus School becomes the first arts project from Northern Ireland to appear on the National Lottery Live TV show. The project has been running for almost 30 years and has received more than £700,000 of National Lottery funding since 1996 through the Arts Council.
- MindWise, a leading mental health charity which supports those who are at risk of and affected by severe mental illness and mental health problems, receives Small Grants Funding from the Arts Council to develop their 'Unfolding Tales' project, which uses the arts to help participants to develop new skills, improve self-esteem and express their personal stories.
- More than 250 art works by members of the Royal Ulster Academy go on show at the Ulster Museum for the annual RUA exhibition.
- The 7th Annual Outburst Queer Arts Festival celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender creativity in venues across Belfast.
- Carntogher Community Association officially opens its newly refurbished centre at An Carn, Maghera, featuring the new An Coire Arts Centre, conference centre, and self-catering accommodation.

- The Nerve Centre's Resonate Music Video Contest offers local Derry bands and musicians the chance to win an exclusive slot on the Resonate Album of the Year. As well as recording a wide range of musical collaborations and running pop-up studios free of charge to the public, throughout the year the Resonate project has documented many of the major musical happenings of City of Culture year.



- Top of the Hill group in Derry~Londonderry wins the Community Arts Initiative Award at the 11th Annual Co-operation Ireland and IPB Pride of Place Competition - a direct result of their 2009 Re-Imaging Communities project in which the community challenged sectarianism and transformed their estate into a more shared and welcoming space for all.

Intercultural Arts

The Community Arts Partnership, through its PICAS programme (Programme for Intercultural Arts Support), which is supported by the Arts Council's Intercultural Arts Programme, organises a one-day conference in Belfast, designed to help develop indigenous creative intercultural relationships. 'Drawing Together' is directed at indigenous community artists and cultural facilitators, community artists and cultural facilitators from an ethnic minority background and community groups and arts organisations working with an Intercultural approach. Seventy-five representatives from a range of organisations and funders attend.



Charo Lanao-Madden PICAS co-ordinator, Conor Shields Community Arts Partnership, Nick Livingston, Arts Council

Rural engagement now exceeds urban engagement in the arts



December 2013

• Thirteen international curators from countries as far afield as Israel and India visit Northern Ireland at the invitation of the Arts Council and British Council, on a 6 day trip designed to promote the work of artists from Northern Ireland to international audiences and arts influencers.



• North Belfast-based Play Resource, the largest creative resource facility in the UK, celebrates its 30th birthday. In that time its membership has grown from just 50 to 2,500 members from across Northern Ireland.



• Northern Ireland writer Emma Heatherington secures a four-book deal with international publishing house Harper Collins. The first of the two titles, 'Crazy for You' and 'Teen Crush' were supported by funding from the Arts Council and are published in the New Year.

Derry Legacy Fund

The Arts Council and Derry City Council pledge £900,000 to continue the cultural transformation of the city. The Legacy Fund is established to ensure continued investment in the arts and cultural sector in Derry-Londonderry, to build on the achievements of the year as UK City of Culture 2013 and help achieve the long-term targets of Derry's Regeneration Plan: the One Plan ('One City One Plan One Voice'). One of the goals of the new Legacy Fund is to attract under-represented groups and communities to the centre of Derry's cultural life.



52% of disabled people engage in the arts

January 2014

• Maiden Voyage Dance Company join the biggest names in dance to be showcased in Edinburgh and Glasgow when, for the first time in its 20 year history, British Dance Edition features a full production from a company based in Northern Ireland.

• The Ulster Orchestra pulls off a major coup for Northern Ireland by securing the considerable talents of Venezuelan maestro Rafael Payare as their Principal Conductor for 2014. Payare is regarded internationally as one of the most exciting and talented of the new generation of conductors.



• Craft NI, the development agency for craft in Northern Ireland, takes ten outstanding designer-makers to 'Showcase', Ireland's premier design-led trade event, to promote the profile of craft from Northern Ireland.

• The community in Aughnacloy is amongst the first to take part in a creative engagement process funded under the Building Peace through the Arts – Re-Imaging Communities programme. This local consultation is the first step towards developing a piece of public art for the village that reflects Aughnacloy's rich culture and history whilst addressing sectarianism and racism.

• Local musicians and performers Sarah Smith (clarinet), Laura Sheerin (soprano), and Christopher Cull (baritone) receive the Arts Council's Young Musicians' platform award, including a bursary of £5,000 to study abroad under the guidance of a master musician and an opportunity to perform with the Ulster Orchestra.

• Sinéad Morrissey wins the TS Eliot Prize for Poetry for her latest collection 'Parallax' (Carcanet), written as an Arts Council Major Individual Award 2012 recipient.

• The Reduced Shakespeare Company's production of 'The Bible: the complete word of God (abridged)' is controversially cancelled, then re-instated, at The Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey.

• As part of the Building Peace through the Arts programme, secondary school pupils, members of the Irish traveller community and representatives from diverse ethnic communities are among those pooling their shared experiences, past and present, to shape a new piece of public art that will connect the community in Dunclug, Ballymena.



Artistic Aces

Twelve of Northern Ireland's most talented rising stars of the art world are awarded grants through the Arts Council's Artists Career Enhancement Scheme (ACES). These annual awards for professional artists working in music, visual arts, literature and participatory arts are amongst the most prestigious awards bestowed by the Arts Council each year. In addition to receiving a bursary of £5,000 each, each artist is partnered with a professional organisation to provide them with support to take their careers to the next level. The ACES programme has been running successfully now for four years and addresses the need for on-going training and skills development within the sector. And the winners are ... Sid Peacock (composer and music producer), Lesley Cherry (visual artist), Ian Cumberland (visual artist) Alissa Kleist (curator), Pauline Burgess (author), Nathaniel Joseph McAuley (poet), David Quinn (performance artist) Kenneth Gregory (fantasy fiction author), Matt Kirkham (poet), Jan Carson (writer), Kate Guelke (music director and producer) and Anthony Quinn (writer).



12 ACES in this hand

February 2014

- Sean Kelly, Director of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, wins 'Arts Individual of the Year' at the annual Allianz Arts & Business NI awards. The awards recognise successful partnerships between the worlds of art and commerce.



- More than 300 delegates from across Europe, including representatives from the arts, children's rights and political sectors from 12 different countries, arrive in Newry for Sticky Fingers' Small Size Big Festival event and conference.
- The Arts Council and Queen's University run a seminar for arts organisations across Northern Ireland to explain about EU funding opportunities worth €1.5 billion for arts, cultural, heritage and co-operation projects.
- A new annual craft bursary worth £15,000 per year is announced by the Arts Council and the newly formed Rosemary James Trust, thanks to the generosity of a local pioneer and patron of the arts.

- Cuan Mhuire, Ireland's largest voluntary provider of Rehabilitation Treatment for individuals suffering from addiction and other related issues, receives Arts Council funding to provide professionally-led music and ceramics workshops for service users.

- Accolade Choir in Newry is one of 14 groups from across Northern Ireland to receive funding from the Arts Council's Intercultural Arts Programme, which supports minority ethnic communities in accessing and participating in arts activities. The choir, which boasts 30 members from seven different nations and cultures, is using the grant to deliver 'Let's Sing Together', a project to increase awareness of diversity and community cohesion through the cross-cultural sharing of music and song.

- The MAC in Belfast launches The MAC International, a major new arts competition and exhibition, with prize money of £20,000, open to every professional contemporary artist throughout the world.

- Following their performances at the 10th Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival, four of Northern Ireland's finest emerging singer-songwriters - Triona Carville, Peter McVeigh, Stephen Macartney and Wilfie - are invited to showcase their talents at the famous Bluebird Café in Nashville Tennessee.

- The Arts Council announces the book choice for One City One Book 2014 is The Poets' Wives by one of Belfast's leading authors, David Park.



96% of young people in Northern Ireland enjoy the arts

Major Arts Awards

Each year the Arts Council presents Major Awards of £15,000 each to a number of Northern Ireland's leading artists, in acknowledgment of their contribution to the arts. The awards, which are equivalent in value to such international awards as the TS Elliot Prize, make it possible for artists to take time out to dedicate to their creative work and produce a substantial and ambitious project that will make a significant contribution to the development of their careers. This year's recipients are: jazz drummer and composer Steven Davis, novelists Colin Bateman and Eoin McNamee, and playwright Abbie Spallen.



- Ten organisations receive funding through a new, joint programme by the two arts councils on the island, to encourage artists and companies to tour their work on both sides of the border.



- James Ellis, one of Northern Ireland's leading actors, dies at the age of 82. Ellis became a household name for his roles in Z-Cars and the 'Billy Plays' and he was one of the first actors to make the Northern Ireland accent acceptable in mainstream British television drama.
- The Arts Council announces its annual funding allocation for organisations for the year ahead, totalling £13.7 million to 112 organisations across Northern Ireland.
- The Northern Ireland Sikh Association receives funding from the Arts Council's Intercultural Arts Programme to stage a three-day festival in May to promote awareness of the Sikh culture.
- The East Belfast Partnership launches a strategy and implementation plan for the development of the arts in east Belfast over the coming three years.

March 2013

- Belfast offers one of the largest programmes of arts and creativity for children in the UK and Ireland with the annual Belfast Children's Festival, a celebration of the very best professional artistic talent and creative experiences for children and young people from around the world.
- Pictiúr, the largest single exhibition of children's book illustrations ever assembled across Ireland, curated by Laureate na nÓg (Irish Children's Laureate), Niamh Sharkey, goes on show at Stormont. Niamh is joined by UK Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman to promote literacy and inspire a new generation of readers.



- International members of the Association of Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) attend the Belfast Children's Festival, where they see the work of local performers and develop future collaborative opportunities.

- The Golden Thread Gallery takes eight of Northern Ireland's best emerging artists to showcase their work at the SCOPE Breeder Programme in New York City, a prestigious art show featuring the best contemporary work from emerging and mid-career artists.

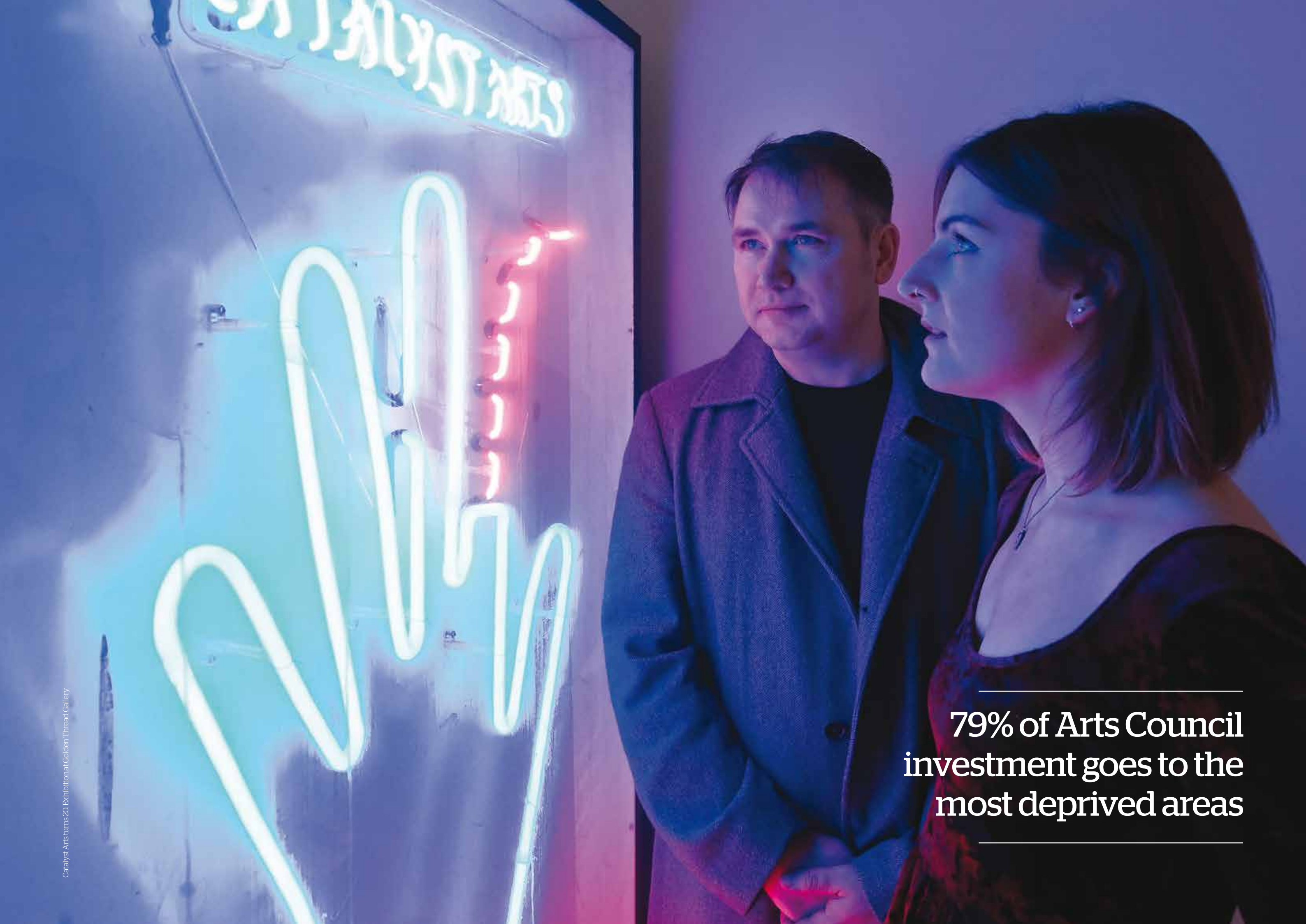


Celebrating Age

Journalist, broadcaster and media personality, Janet Street-Porter, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Older People, Claire Keatinge and expert on arts and cultural practice, Francois Matarasso put their backing behind a major conference organised in Belfast as part of the Arts Council's 'Arts & Older People' programme. The 'Celebration of Age' conference brings together arts and health specialists, age sector organisations and policy makers to look at areas including how to better support older people to become engaged in creative activity; and how participating in arts events can help to overcome the issues often experienced by older people, such as social exclusion and feelings of isolation and loneliness, and give older people a stronger voice in society.



The arts strengthen the voice of minority communities



**79% of Arts Council
investment goes to the
most deprived areas**

The Board of the Arts Council

The Board of the Arts Council provides leadership for the executive body, in particular in defining and developing its strategic direction. It monitors performance in order to ensure that the Arts Council fully meets its aims, objectives and performance targets, and acts in a way that promotes the highest standards of public finance.

Mr Bob Collins was appointed as Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in December 2011 for a term of four years. The Board is made up of the Chairman plus 13 members, providing a broad cross-section of expertise

and including representatives from the arts and culture sector. The current members were appointed in December 2011 for a term of four years, ending November 2015. The following board members were reappointed to serve a second term of office: Damien Coyle, Paul Seawright, Prof Ian Montgomery, Janine Walker, Brian Sore. Eibhlínn Ní Dhochartaigh, Conor Shields and Nisha Tandon joined the board in May 2013 for a term of four years. Ms Janine Walker resigned from the Board in March 2014; the Arts Council thanks her for her seven years of dedicated service.



Mr Bob Collins
Chairman



Mr Damien Coyle,
Vice Chairman



David Alderdice



Anna Carragher



Noelle McAlinden



Katherine McCloskey



Prof Ian Montgomery



Paul Mullan



Eibhlínn Ní Dhochartaigh



Prof Paul Seawright



Conor Shields



Mr Brian Sore



Nisha Tandon



Ms Janine Walker

The Arts Council invested £20.1 million to support the full range of creative activities across Northern Ireland in 2013-14

The Executive of the Arts Council

Chief Executive



Roisín McDonough

The Chief Executive sets the direction and oversees the operations of the Arts Council. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the strategic plans and policies established by the Board.

Strategic Development



Nick Livingston,
Director of Strategic Development

Strategic Development is responsible for developing the Arts Council's strategic, corporate and business plans. It is in charge of research, policy and advocacy; for ensuring the Arts Council's compliance with statutory requirements such as Equality and Freedom of Information; and for inter-agency cooperation with other government departments and local authorities.

Arts Development



Nóirín McKinney,
Director of Arts
Development



Lorraine McDowell,
Director of Operations

Arts Development is the largest department in the Arts Council. It provides funding support to artists and arts organisations through its Exchequer and National Lottery funds. Funding is available through dedicated funding programmes which are linked to the Arts Council's policies and strategies for the development of the arts in Northern Ireland. The Arts Council's art form officers provide specialist expertise and advice.

This department is also responsible for corporate communications, including press and media relations.

Finance and Corporate Services



Geoffrey Troughton,
Director of Finance & Corporate Services

Corporate Services provides the core administration for the Arts Council. Its main areas of responsibility are finance, personnel and training, IT support, Reception, Registry and general office services.

The Arts Council also administers:
Creative Industries Innovation Fund
Building Peace Through the Arts – Re-imaging Communities Programme
Arts & Older People Programme

Full staff list is available on www.artscouncil-ni.org or telephone: 028 9038 5200

81% believe the arts
enrich the quality of
our lives



Financial Summary 2013-14

The Arts Council provides the main support for artists and arts organisations working in Northern Ireland, offering a broad range of funding opportunities through our Exchequer and National Lottery funds. Our funding programmes reflect the aims and objectives of our five-year strategic plan, *Ambitions for the Arts*, as well as our series of art form funding policies.*

The complete sets of audited accounts for our Exchequer and National Lottery funds are made available on the Arts Council's website, www.artscouncil-ni.org

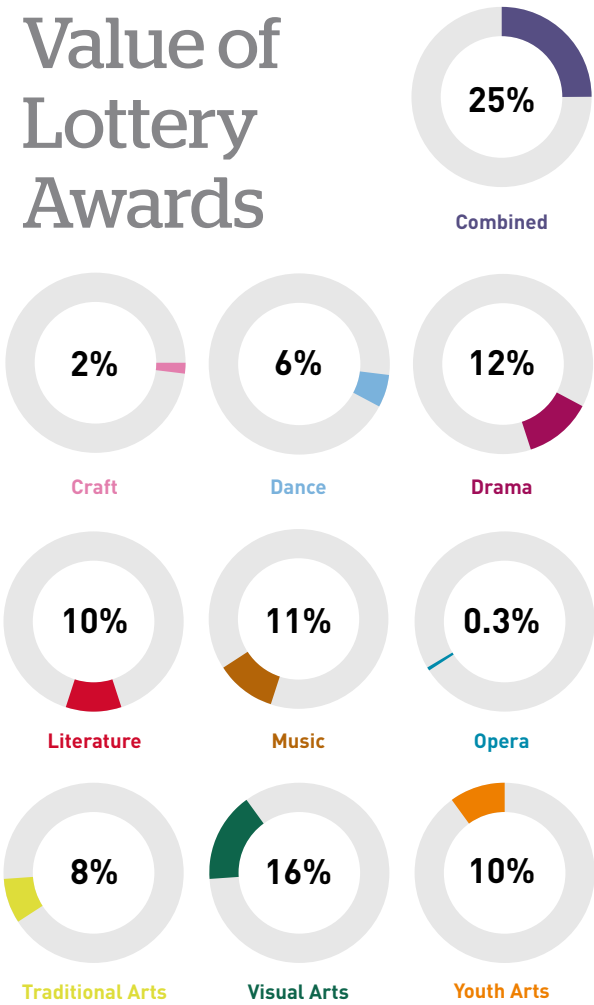
Arts Council Lottery funding 2013-14

The Arts Council awarded funding of £7.3 million through its National Lottery Fund. Lottery funds supported arts projects throughout Northern Ireland. Funding programmes included:

- Annual Funding Programme
 - Project Funding
- Support for the Individual Artist Programme
 - Public Art
 - Culture for All Programme
 - Small Grants
 - Capacity Building
 - Intercultural Arts Programme

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	8	45,159
ARDS	10	46,813
ARMAGH	13	130,405
BALLYMENA	3	3,913
BALLYMONEY	1	2,340
BANBRIDGE	4	9,194
BELFAST	225	3,957,483
CARRICKFERGUS	2	1,950
CASTLEREAGH	12	75,151
COLERAINE	4	6,675
COOKSTOWN	3	4,345
CRAIGAVON	14	243,806
DERRY	47	1,036,002
DOWN	13	147,062
DUNGANNON	9	66,084
FERMANAGH	9	174,150
LARNE	4	14,465
LIMAVADY	2	11,265
LISBURN	22	156,206
MAGHERAFELT	5	70,364
MOYLE	1	1,900
NEWRY & MOURNE	13	97,925
NEWTOWNABBEY	12	374,774
NORTH DOWN	23	242,645
OMAGH	6	77,582
STRABANE	2	20,600
Other*	13	302,329
GRAND TOTAL	480	£7,320,587

Value of Lottery Awards



Note on funding patterns:
Funding patterns in Belfast and Derry reflect the high concentrations of artists and arts organisations living and working in these areas, as well as the location of several major 'umbrella' arts organisations whose services extend to Northern Ireland as a whole.

Arts Council Exchequer funding 2013-14

The Arts Council awarded funding of £12.8 million through its Exchequer fund.

These funds were awarded through a set of programmes developed to support the full range of activities of artists and arts organisations across Northern Ireland, including:

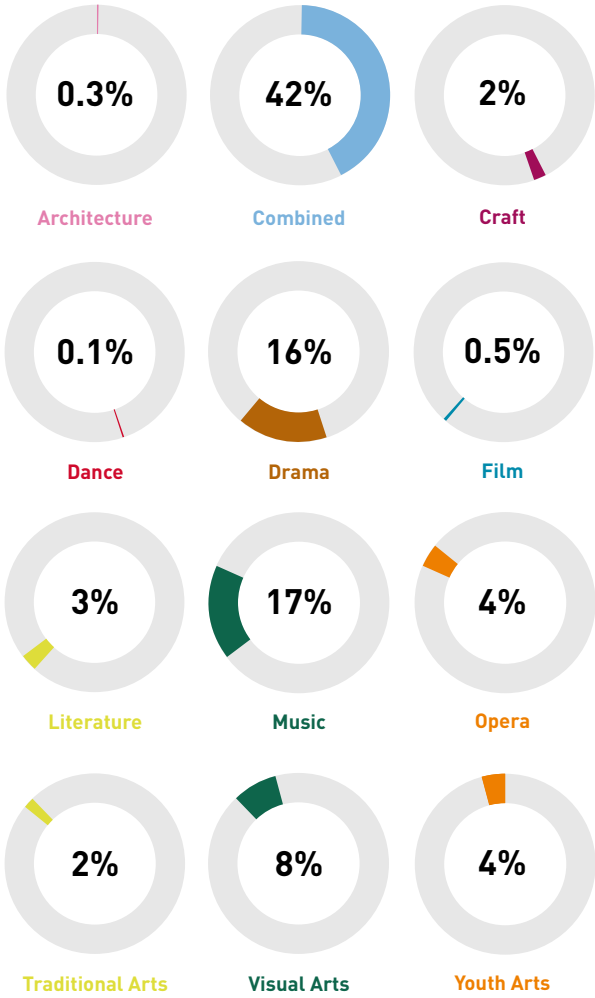
- Annual Funding Programme
 - Support for the Individual Artist Programme
 - Musical Equipment for Bands
- Equipment
 - Travel Awards
 - International Residencies
 - Visual Arts Development Fund
 - Arts Development Fund
 - Creative Industries Innovation Fund
 - Start Up Programme
 - Arts & Older People Programme
 - Artists International Development Fund

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	4	8,138
ARDS	6	34,194
ARMAGH	5	46,212
BALLYMENA	6	35,178
BALLYMONEY	1	5,000
BANBRIDGE	2	5,100
BELFAST	175	10,286,991
CARRICKFERGUS	4	21,150
CASTLEREAGH	5	18,331
COLERAINE	8	238,476
COOKSTOWN	3	22,200
CRAIGAVON	8	37,658
DERRY	29	1,419,297
DOWN	8	51,922
DUNGANNON	5	39,062
FERMANAGH	8	88,340
LARNE	3	20,000
LIMAVADY	3	24,800
LISBURN	14	66,243
MAGHERAFELT	5	35,800
MOYLE	1	650
NEWRY & MOURNE	9	44,960
NEWTOWNABBEY	9	40,800
NORTH DOWN	17	108,042
OMAGH	6	23,700
STRABANE	2	24,141
OTHER	6	49,187
GRAND TOTAL	352	£12,795,572

* Ambitions for the Arts and art form policies are available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

£20.1m
funding in total

Value of Exchequer Awards



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for funding?

The Arts Council offers a range of grant programmes that you can apply to for funding. Some programmes are specifically for organisations and others are for individual artists. For Information on all the programmes that we offer, the criteria for each programme and how to apply, visit the Funding pages of our website.

When can I apply?

Most grant programmes take place in funding rounds with specific dates when we will accept applications. Some programmes are open for applications all year round. For information on funding deadlines, visit the Funding pages of our website.

How long will it take to reach a decision?

This may vary with each programme, although we would generally aim to make a decision on applications from individuals and organisations within three months.

Where can I get help with my application?

The guidance notes for each programme provide information on the assessment criteria, eligibility and application process. Our Arts Development Officers can also offer advice and assistance before you submit an application. Contact details are available in the About Us section of our website, or you can contact the switchboard and you will be directed to the most appropriate person, Tel: 028 9038 5200.

Can I apply online?

You can submit an application online through links on our website, www.artscouncil-ni.org.

What art classes are available for me to attend in my local area?

We would recommend that you contact the Arts Officer in your local Council or contact your local Arts Centre to get further information on the arts activities available in your area.

Does the Arts Council provide artists' contact details?

The provisions of the Data Protection Act prohibit us from releasing Third Party information. However, information on artists can often be obtained through a simple web search.

How do I complain to the Arts Council?

The Arts Council has a Service Charter which outlines the standard of service our clients should expect from us. We operate a Service Complaints Procedure to handle general complaints about our service. In addition, we operate a Funding Review Procedure for those who want to appeal a decision about a grant application. These documents are available on the website.

Alternative formats of this publication may be available on request.

**For further information, Tel: 028 9038 5210
Email: mhendry@artscouncil-ni.org**



The Arts build a stronger society by bringing people and communities together



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