# AR
## annual review

Arts Council of Northern Ireland - 2010-11

www.artscouncil-ni.org

arts council of Northern Ireland

Front Cover: Maria Jankowska, 'Ukrywac' (To Hide), 2010 Recent Acquisition by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Echo Echo Dance Theater Company, The Chess Piece.
Photo David McClelland Photography

# Our Vision

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

In *Creative Connections**, our five-year development plan for the arts, 2007-2012, we identify four main themes covering what we believe needs to be done to achieve this vision - promoting the value of the arts; strengthening the arts; increasing audiences and improving our organisation's performance.

In this Annual Review 2010-11, you will see the progress that has been made in these areas, from the introduction of a professional development programme for individual artists and continued strengthening of the infrastructure, through to the campaign for a Fair Deal for the Arts and the NI Assembly's Budget 2011-15.

* available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

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# Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2010-2011.

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

# Chairman's Foreword

## Fair Deal for the Arts

**The major achievements of 2010-11 have taken place under the lengthening shadow of the recession. The year started inauspiciously with the Assembly's 'Emergency Budget', which led to the loss of £1.1 million from the Arts Council's budget from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL). This should have been the final year uplift for the arts, indicated in the previous Comprehensive Spending Review of 2008-11, but which failed to materialise; leaving our core revenue-funded clients with a shortfall of £3.32 million between demand and resource available.**

Then in December 2010, the Finance Minister announced the draft Budget 2011-2015, against the backdrop of a requirement to cut public spending by £4 billion over the period, due to the reduction in the Northern Ireland Block Grant. DCAL, one of the smallest departments handling just 1% of total government expenditure, seemed designated to receive the largest proportionate cuts of all the Departments; and it appeared that the Arts Council faced an even more disproportionate reduction of £4.2 million in cash terms over the four-year budget period.

The window to challenge the budget through the public consultation process remained open until mid-February 2011, and the Arts Council, artists and arts organisations rallied under the campaign banner of a 'Fair Deal for the Arts'. We created opportunities to put our case at meetings with the Minister, the Culture Arts and Leisure Committee and with other senior politicians from across





**Arts Council awarded over £4 million through its Lottery Fund in 2010/11 to arts projects throughout Northern Ireland**

the range of parties and departments. At the same time we availed of opportunities to speak out on the subject, and employed new technology to good effect in the use of social networking sites in order to promote and gather public support in making the case for the arts. The response by members of the Assembly, the arts community and the public was heartening. At the close of the consultation, submissions in favour of the arts comprised an overwhelming majority.

The Assembly not only heard the strong clear voice of the people as they supported the 'Fair Deal for the Arts' campaign, but also adjusted its position in response to the strength of the case that was presented. As the Finance Minister acknowledged in his revised budget statement in March, "*There was also substantial lobbying on the arts. During the Budget process, I tried to acquaint myself with the things that we spend money on. I went round schools, arts groups, museums and building projects and talked to people in all kinds of departments. Many people think of the arts as simply a picture hanging on a wall, but it involves a lot of employment potential - especially tourist potential - in Northern Ireland.*"

The threatened cut was reduced from £4.2 million to £1.4 million over the four-year budget period. In addition, a budget of £1.4 million was reinstated for capital projects. This leaves the Arts Council at the close of the financial year 2010/11 in a position to maintain most of our core revenue-funded clients on standstill funding for the coming year. A cut is still a cut, of course, and we do not underestimate the scale of the challenges ahead for the sector, which will be compounded by inflation and other financial pressures. With the Arts Council's budget set to drop in 2012/13, there remains a need for organisations to seek further efficiencies and, for some, to consider greater collaboration and mergers.

The revised Budget 2011-15 considerably improved the situation for the arts; and the NI Assembly's final settlement is welcomed as a reprieve from the potentially devastating cuts initially proposed in the draft Budget. The final budget represents, I believe, an expression of confidence by the Assembly in Northern Ireland's arts and culture, and signifies recognition that the quality of arts - alongside healthcare, justice and education - is one of the measures by which a society is judged.

Rosemary Kelly

Rosemary Kelly, OBE
Chairman

The Tourist Board's rebranding of Belfast as a 'city of music' and Londonderry buoyed by winning the prestigious 'UK City of Culture 2013' shows how the arts are at the heart of creating a positive new international image for Northern Ireland

Mute Meadow public sculpture by Claire Oboussier and Vong Phaophanit, Ebrington, Derry-Londonderry. Photo: Brian Morrison

# 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.**

Ms Rosemary Kelly was appointed Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in 2003. The fourteen Board members, including the Vice-Chairman, Damien Coyle, are drawn from a broad cross-section of representatives from the arts and cultural sector.

## Arts Council awarded over £13 million through its Exchequer fund in 2010/11 to support the full range of activities of artists and arts organisations throughout Northern Ireland.

Ms Rosemary Kelly, OBE, Chairman

Mr Damien Coyle, Vice Chairman

Mrs Eithne Benson

Ms Kate Bond

Mr Raymond Fullerton

Mr David Irvine

Mr Anthony Kennedy

Prof Ian Montgomery

Mr William Montgomery

Ms Sharon O'Connor

Mr Joseph Rice

Prof Paul Seawright

Mr Brian Sore

Mr Peter Spratt

Ms Janine Walker

Arts have the popular support of the public, with 75% of adults and 81% of young people attending or participating in arts events the last year

It's official! Derry~Londonderry will be City of Culture 2013 Photo: Derry~City Council

# Chief Executive's Foreword

## Defining times

**Two major pieces of research undertaken this year by the Arts Council highlight a startling disparity between, on the one hand, the contribution that the arts make to Northern Ireland's society and economy and, on the other, the recognition that contribution receives. Both reports are instrumental to the Arts Council's efforts to refocus and develop its strategies and support programmes to meet the needs of the sector.**

The 'Digest of Arts Statistics' provides a reliable, single source of statistical information reflecting current arts-based economic and consumption trends in Northern Ireland. The need for such research is rooted in the fact that government increasingly provides funding for the arts with the expectation that its support will also act to lever broader social and economic benefits. As such, the data provided by the Digest was a determining factor in the strength of the (ultimately successful) evidence-based case for the arts that the Arts Council was able to present to the Comprehensive Spending Review 2011-15. Providing quantitative facts to support qualitative values, the Digest describes how the arts touch just about every facet of our lives, entertaining and informing us, as well as making an increasingly substantial contribution to the nation's education, health and social and economic regeneration.

Belying the positive findings of the Digest, a second publication, produced jointly by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and An Chomhairle Ealaíon, exposes a bleaker than expected picture of the hardships

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**The average professional artist in Northern Ireland earns just £7,500 a year from their work - despite having achieved a higher level of formal education and working longer hours than the wider labour force**

experienced by artists. The report, 'Living and Working Conditions of Artists Living in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland', reveals that the average professional artist living in Northern Ireland can expect to earn just £7,500 a year from their work. This, despite having achieved a higher level of formal education than the wider labour force and despite demonstrating remarkable dedication by working much longer hours than average and often having to hold down extra jobs to support their creative endeavours. In the most comprehensive study of its kind for a generation, the report sheds critical new light on what it means to be an artist, writer, musician or performer in modern day Ireland, north and south. It shows how many artists are currently working on the island, the level of state support provided in other countries, and the range of challenges artists encounter as they pursue their chosen careers.

The findings of this report are already influencing how the Arts Council responds to the identified professional needs of artists in Northern Ireland. This year, for instance, we added a new professional development strand to our 'Support for the Individual Artist' programme. The 'Artists' Career Enhancement Scheme' (ACES) commits £75,000 to artists working in music, visual arts, literature and participatory arts. £5,000 bursaries are available to enable artists to boost their careers by partnering with a professional arts organisation, which will provide specialist mentoring and development support. Fifteen individual artists are benefiting this year from the new scheme, giving them the opportunity to take their careers to the next level.

Beyond the immediate measures the Arts Council is taking to refocus and improve its support programmes, one consolatory message we can take from the 'Living and Working Conditions' report is that, despite all the hardships - the recession, the cut backs and the poor working conditions endured by artists - the overwhelming majority said they would, given the chance, do it all over again. That's a level of commitment you just wouldn't find in many other professions. The question any enlightened society should ask itself, and the question the Arts Council will continue to demand of government, is whether it is reasonable to expect to receive so much from the arts community in return for so very little.

Roisín McDonough

**Roisín McDonough**
Chief Executive

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# 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.

## Arts Development

Noírín 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.

## 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.

## 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
Cultural Olympiad
Legacy Trust UK
Creative and Cultural Skills

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

# A Year in the Arts 2010-11

## 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 2010

- Lincoln Court Estate in Derry~Londonderry is 're-imaged' thanks to a £44,450 project funded through the Arts Council, creating a new shared space for the local community.

*Free runner on top of Lincoln Court public sculpture. Photo: Nerve Centre*

- Northern Ireland's contemporary art is showcased in Taiwan with 'A View from Napoleon's Nose', an exhibition at the Kao Yuan Arts Centre, organised through the Golden Thread Gallery's international touring programme.

- The annual Belfast Film Festival celebrates its 10th birthday with an extended run of screenings, premieres, discussions and special events, from drive-in movies to the hotly-contested Belfast World Pong Championships.

- Arts Council runs lobbying seminars in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry for arts groups, on effective ways to make the case for the arts during an election period and how to influence party policy and manifestos.

- SixteenSouth, producers of 'Sesame Tree' and 'Big City Park' for BBC's CBeebies channel, win Best Creative Industry category at Belfast Business Awards, sponsored by the Arts Council.



**CRESCENT ARTS CENTRE RENOVATION**

The Crescent Arts Centre in Belfast's Queen's Quarter re-opens following a £7.2m facelift, funded principally by DCAL and the Arts Council. The 18-month refurbishment and restoration preserves the façade of the of the 135 year-old Grade B listed building while modernising its facilities, including performance and workshop spaces, dance studio, galleries and café. For 30 years the former girls' school has played a pivotal role in providing all sections of the community with access to the arts. It rose to national prominence after being defined as 'at risk' by the BBC's 2003 historic building series, `Restoration`.

### May 2010

- Knockbreda Centre in Belfast wins the prestigious RSUA Design Award for the 'Best Example of an Integrated Artwork in a Building Project', sponsored by the Arts Council to acknowledge good collaborative practice resulting in the integration of high quality artwork into new buildings.

- The first ever Belfast Children's Week, celebrating all that Belfast has to offer children and families, is launched as part of the 13th annual Belfast Children's Festival, run by Young at Art.

*Young at Art. The first Belfast Children's Week.*

- Northern Ireland music industry receives £100,000 boost from Invest NI and the Arts Council through FastForward, a new programme of skills development and promotional activities designed to support the set-up and growth of local music businesses.

- The PRS for Music Foundation and partners, including the Arts Council, launch 'New Music 20 x 12', an opportunity for composers, ensembles, festivals and music organisations to place new music from Northern Ireland centre-stage of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

- Belfast multi-platform producer BE Entertainment Ltd develops 'Beat Generation', the UK & Ireland's first online video-blog-based magazine show, targeted at Northern Ireland audiences, with funding from the Arts Council's Creative Industries Innovation Fund. (www.beatgeneration.tv).

**ECHO ECHO WINS INSPIRE MARK**

Echo Echo Dance Theatre's production, *The Chess Piece*, is awarded an Inspire Mark in recognition of exceptional and innovative projects inspired by the London 2012 Games. This spectacular dance theatre production features 32 performers on a giant chessboard. Professional dancers are joined by local children, teenagers and adults of all abilities and backgrounds who have been participating in Echo Echo's development workshops. *The Chess Piece* forms part of 'Into Contact', a three-year programme by Derry-based Echo Echo that receives £125,000 from the Legacy Trust UK's Connections Programme, managed by the Arts Council.

*Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company, 'The Chess Piece'. David McClelland Photography*

## June 2010

- Poet Michael Longley, winner of the 2001 Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and former Ireland Professor of Poetry, is awarded a CBE as part of the 2010 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

*Michael Longley (left) at reception in his honour*

- New life is breathed into Pates Lane in Coleraine, where sectarian slogans and negative graffiti are replaced by artworks in a cross-community re-imaging and regeneration project involving local businesses and residents, including children and young people, working with artist Mark Christie and local historian Dr Bob Curran.

- Arts & Business, in partnership with UK philanthropist Alec Reed and his Big Give website, launches 'The Big Arts Give', a new Challenge Fund to stimulate individual philanthropy for arts and culture, aiming to raise £3m for the arts across the UK.

- Arts Care showcases work from its pioneering Creative Age Festival, which explores the benefits of creative activity for older people in healthcare environments.

**SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS FOR NI ARTIST**

Artist Brendan Jamison wins a major commission to create a two-metre-wide sugar cube sculpture of the iconic Tate Modern building as part of the 2010 London Festival of Architecture, using 71,908 sugar cubes. Jamison, whose career has been supported over the last six years through the Arts Council's 'Support for the Individual Artist Programme', is renowned for his imaginative installations and use of materials. A forthcoming exhibition at the Ormeau Baths Gallery in Belfast will see his most ambitious work to date and the world's largest sugar cube construction: a turret standing five metres high built from 250,000 sugar cubes. Brendan Jamison is represented by the Golden Thread Gallery in Belfast.

*Brendan Jamison with Tate Modern sugar sculpture*

"There is such massive potential in the arts and creative industries that it's something that I think we have recognised and are putting money into ... I'm glad we were able to put some added funding into the arts, but it's still not enough; and as soon as we start getting out of recession and there's a bit more money available, I hope we will be able to direct more to the arts to see things really happening."

Peter Robinson, First Minister of Northern Ireland, March 2011



# Public funding brings great art within the reach of everyone

NI Opera Tosca. Photo Lorcan Doherty

## July 2010

- The Arts & Disability Forum holds an exhibition of satirical cartoons by renowned cartoonist Dave Lupton (aka Crippen), lampooning discrimination and prejudice with typically irreverent humour.

*Dave Lupton at the Arts & Disability Forum*

- Arts Council, in partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies, invests £700,000 in a new three year Arts and Older People programme, providing grants of up to £50,000 to arts organisations, community and voluntary groups to develop community-led arts projects that highlight and tackle the social justice issues affecting older people.

*Elderflowers Dance Company*

- Belfast Orangefest promotes Ulster Scots and Orange traditions in a positive and accessible way through a mix of arts, culture and heritage, and contributes to a better understanding of Northern Ireland's cultural diversity.

- LitNet NI, a new literature development organisation, is set up with funding from the Creative Industries Innovation Fund to provide support for writers and literature professionals working in Northern Ireland.

- Belfast wins bid to host the European Pipe Band Championships, bringing 90 top-class bands from across the world in an event that culminates with 'Pipe Up Belfast', a week-long festival of piping, drumming and Ulster Scots folk music.

- Harry Clifton is appointed Ireland Professor of Poetry, a position established in 1998 by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and An Chomhairle Ealaíon, Trinity College, UCD and Queen's University, to celebrate the exceptional contribution of Irish poets to the world of literature.

*Harry Clifton, Ireland Professor of Poetry*

**UK CITY OF CULTURE**

Derry~Londonderry makes history as it sees off Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield to win the bid to become the first UK City of Culture. The success means that Derry plays host in 2013 to a year-long celebration of culture, attracting visitors from across the world, promoting regeneration and boosting the local economy through tourism and the creative industries. Derry-Londonderry has plans to invest more than £200m in its infrastructure to create a national cultural treasure at Ebrington and pursue World Heritage Status for the City Walls. The year of culture will ultimately create over 3,000 jobs, double visitor numbers and reach out to communities across these islands and beyond.





## August 2010

- Féile an Phobail 2010, Ireland's largest community arts festival, attracts over 200,000 visitors in its biggest festival showcase in 22 years with a line-up ranging from Seamus Heaney to Cashier No.9.

- Building on the role the arts can play in tackling inequality and social exclusion, the Arts Council begins work on developing a Minority Ethnic Arts Strategy for Northern Ireland.

- Professional artists are shown to be earning on average just £7,500 a year from their work, despite having a higher level of formal education than the wider labour force, in the most comprehensive survey in a generation of the living and working conditions of artists on the island, commissioned jointly by the two Arts Councils.

- Talented young people from Newry's Newpoint Players Youth Group get an opportunity to take part in a drama summer school thanks to the Arts Council's Small Grants Scheme, which has made 133 awards and distributed over £600,000 to organisations delivering arts projects in communities across Northern Ireland since it launched 18 months ago.

*Young stars from Newpont Players Youth Group. Photo: Donal O'Hanlon*

- Craft NI launches August Craft Month 2010, attracting 31,000 visitors to Northern Ireland's annual showcase of contemporary and historical craft by local and international makers.

- Six months on from the launch of Audiences Northern Ireland's 'Test Drive the Arts' scheme, 1,400 new arts attendees have enjoyed 146 events in 32 venues across Northern Ireland.

**ARTISTIC ACES**

The Arts Council pilots a new professional development strand within its Support for the Individual Artist Programme. The Artists' Career Enhancement Scheme (ACES) offers bursaries of £5,000 to enable artists to access specialist mentoring and development support provided through partnerships with professional arts organisations. Partner organisations include The Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University, The Millennium Court Arts Centre, Moving on Music and the New Belfast Community Arts Initiative.

*Singer-songwriter, Suzanne Savage, ACES award winner*

**Artists are the lifeblood of the creative industries, which are increasingly major employers (33,000 people) and generate £582 million annually to Northern Ireland's economy**

The arts are good value for money, giving back far more than is invested. Government spending on the arts each year equates to less than the cost per person of two cinema tickets

Tinderbox Theatre Company/The Cleanroom by John McCann. Photo Neil Harrison Photography

## September 2010

- Culture Northern Ireland launches new digital skills training programme to help arts and cultural organisations market their events and products.

- 20,000 music lovers from all over the world descend on Belfast's Cathedral Quarter for the Coors Light Open House Festival, celebrating the very best in roots music, from Americana to Irish traditional.

- The Arts Council partners with Queen's University to add two new courses to the Open Learning Programme: 'The Blackbird Book Club' and 'Celebrating Contemporary Irish Art', both of which are hosted by writers and artists of international calibre.

- The Arts Council hosts a special reception and BBC ArtsExtra live broadcast to mark the annual British and Irish Contemporary Poetry Conference, which takes place at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University Belfast, drawing together poets and academics from across the UK and Ireland.

*Sian Hughes, inaugural winner of the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize for Best First Collection, announced at the Arts Council during the British and Irish Contemporary Poetry Conference*

**CULTURE NIGHT**

Building on the huge success of last year's inaugural event, Culture Night Belfast returns in 2010, once again attracting thousands of visitors to the Cathedral Quarter of the city to celebrate the cultural life of the city. More than 100 venues, galleries, businesses, churches, studios and historic buildings across the city join in the festivities, with free theatre, live music, art exhibitions, events, talks and tours.

*Free arts for everyone to enjoy at Culture Night*





## October 2010

- Creative and Cultural Skills launches the NI Cultural Leadership Programme to provide leaders at all stages of their career with skills they need to succeed and to improve the business impact of cultural creativity.

- Poetry readings take place in every county in Northern Ireland to celebrate National Poetry Day and raise awareness of the richness and diversity of contemporary poetry.

*Grainne Tobin, one of the poets giving a free poetry reading to celebrate National Poetry Day*

- Beam Creative Network launches 'Theatre Champions', the second phase of their ImagineAction programme for the Legacy Trust, bridging the gap between arts and sport by engaging 60 young people from sporting backgrounds as trainees in dance, drama and song.

- The Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's sells 44,500 tickets, with over 60 acts including major productions from the National Theatre of Scotland and the Royal National Theatre with Alan Bennett's *The Habit of Art* and international smash hit, *Black Watch*.

- Big Telly Theatre Company tours *Spring Chickens II - The Shows* during Age Awareness Week, raising awareness about society's perceptions about older people.

**POSTCARDS FROM DUMBWORLD**

Postcards from Dumbworld, the eye-catching chamber opera by Brian Irvine, one of Northern Ireland's most innovative and engaging composers, receives its world premiere at the Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's. With libretto and direction by John McIlduff and music combining jazz, classical, electronica and pop, this is opera, but not quite as we know it. Described by Irvine as a 'kind of Barry's Amusements Peep Hole Theatre', Dumbworld is shortlisted for the 2011 Irish Times Theatre Awards.

*Postcards from Dumbworld*

"It's very, very important that we recognise the massive contribution that the arts make to our society and I'm very pleased that we've been able in the course of the budget to minimise the impact of the recession on what is a very important sector for us."

Martin McGuinness, deputy First Minister, March 2011

## November 2010

- Building starts at An Chultúrlann on the Falls Road in Belfast, to refurbish and extend the Irish language arts and cultural centre, due for completion in July 2011.

- Fifteen participants travel to Finland to learn from Taito, the Finnish National Crafts Organisation, as part of a drive by the Arts Council, working with Craft NI and six other partners, to assist local arts and cultural organisations to benefit from European-funded programmes.

- The Arts Council publishes a 'Digest of Arts Statistics in Northern Ireland, 2010', providing the most comprehensive single-source compendium of data on consumption, employment, public expenditure and income generated by the arts sector.

- Play Resource, which provides free arts materials, training and support services for people working with children, young people and community groups throughout Northern Ireland, celebrates its 25 year partnership with the Arts Council.

- Chairs and Chief Executives of Northern Ireland's arts organisations gather at the Arts Council's biennial forum to consider the management of resources in increasingly challenging economic times.

- At the TMA Theatre Awards 2010, celebrating the best of British theatre from around the United Kingdom, Rachel O'Riordan is nominated for Best Director for the Lyric Theatre's *The Absence of Women*, and Cahoots NI is nominated for Best Children's Show for *The Snail and the Whale*.

- The Conway Mill complex in west Belfast opens after a £5.4m refurbishment, incorporating a suite of artists studios, a workshop and gallery alongside local businesses and community services.

## December 2010

- PublishingNI is established with funding from the Creative Industries Innovation Fund as a network for publishers in Northern Ireland, to help market Northern Ireland books and forge links with other literary publishers in England, Scotland and Wales.

- The Arts Council and members of the arts sector perform an impromptu festive carol service to highlight the campaign for a Fair Deal for the Arts, following the NI Assembly's draft budget announcement of a £4.2m cut for the arts.

- Susan Philipsz, a former student of the University of Ulster and director of Catalyst Arts Gallery, wins the Turner Prize.

- The Shankill peace wall is re-imaged, with sixteen feet of graffiti replaced by a sculptural wall panel designed by young people from the area, transforming an iconic landmark of the Troubles into a symbol of positive expression for the residents of the Greater Shankill.

**MAJOR AWARDS FOR ARTISTS**

The Arts Council honours composer, Peter Rosser, writer Ian Sansom, playwright, Dave Duggan and visual artist, Allan Hughes with Major Individual Arts Awards of £15,000 each. The annual awards, the largest of their kind awarded to individual artists by the Arts Council, recognise substantial contribution to the arts in Northern Ireland and make it possible for artists at mid-career point to develop new and ambitious work which will make a significant contribution to the development of their professional careers.

*Ian Sansom, winner of Major Individual Artist Award*



# The arts make the world talk about Northern Ireland for all the right reasons

Koulsiya Sohrsurtaj and Ektas South Asian Dance Academy, Belfast, Gala 2010.
Photo: Ronnie Moore

## January 2011

- Mark Carruthers, Chairman of the Lyric Theatre in Belfast, is honoured in the 2011 New Year honours list with an OBE for his services to drama in Northern Ireland.

- Minister for Finance and Personnel Sammy Wilson MP, MLA joins Arts Council Chief Executive Roisin McDonough at the Oh Yeah Music Centre in Belfast to see Score Draw Music, one of the success stories of the Creative Industries, which is one of the fastest growing sections of the local economy.

*Roisin McDonough, Finance Minister Sammy Wilson MP MLA and Mark Gordon from Score Draw Music at the Oh Yeah Centre.*

- Following the success of last year's pilot, the Arts Council remains a core funding partner in 'Beyond Borders', a £100,000 cross-border scheme promoting new music in the UK through individual grants of £5,000-£15,000.

- With funding from the Arts Council, HLF and NITB, Lagan Legacy transforms the former cargo barge, MV Confiance, into a multi-media arts space in the Laganside area of Belfast city.

- Partnerships between the worlds of commerce and culture are celebrated at the Allianz Arts & Business NI Awards, including the 'Arts Award' for the arts organisation that has consistently demonstrated a progressive and creative approach to business partnerships, which this year went to Cahoots NI.

- The Arts Council opens on-line survey of children and young people to ensure that its forthcoming Youth Arts Strategy reflects the views, needs and opinions of as many children and young people as possible.

- Andrew Jamison, a young poet from Co. Down, supported by the Arts Council and winner of 'UK Young Artist' in 2010, is selected to represent the UK at the International Young Artists Biennale in Morocco in September 2011.

*Rising star, Andrew Jamison*

"There was also substantial lobbying on the arts. During the Budget process, I tried to acquaint myself with the things that we spend money on ... Many people think of the arts as simply a picture hanging on a wall, but it involves a lot of employment potential - especially tourist potential - in Northern Ireland."

Sammy Wilson, Minister for Finance, March 2011





## February 2011

- The Verbal Arts Centre in Derry helps schools and community groups to record a new soundtrack of the city, which will be incorporated into Northern Ireland's largest-ever public art project, Mute Meadows on the banks of the Foyle, scheduled for opening in May 2011.

- West Belfast actor, Martin McCann (28) wins 'Best Actor in a Lead Role' at the 8th Annual Irish Film and Television Awards, for his role in *Swansong: The Story of Occi Byrne*.

- Fermanagh-based Dylan Quinn Dance Theatre, which facilitates youth dance projects with local children and young people, wins the Northern Ireland Social Enterprise Start of the Year Award 2011 at the Social Economy Awards, held in Belfast.

- The 7th annual Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival provides a platform for local singer-songwriters to develop their craft alongside headline acts from Nashville, Tennessee.

- With the backing of the Arts Council, building work begins on the £1.4m refurbishment and extension of Down Arts Centre in Downpatrick, providing a ground floor art gallery, upgraded auditorium, workshop spaces, cafe and bar, retail space and bookzone to showcase local literature; scheduled to re-open in early 2012.

- Northern Ireland performance artist, Sinead O'Donnell receives £70,000 as one of 13 new commissions by 'Unlimited', the ground-breaking programme that celebrates arts and culture by disabled and deaf artists, funded by the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, the UK Arts Councils and British Council.

**NI OPERA**

The new regional opera company for Northern Ireland, NI Opera, stages its inaugural opera, Menotti's *The Medium*. Presented in association with Second Movement and featuring leading Northern Ireland mezzo-soprano, Doreen Curran, *The Medium* offers highly approachable modern opera to audiences in Omagh, Downpatrick, Newtownabbey and Armagh. The follow-up production, *Tosca* performed in March and April across three venues in Derry City, is hailed a triumphant success and one of the most ambitious performance art events ever staged in Derry.

*NI Opera, Tosca. Photo: Lorcan Doherty*

The benefits of investment in the arts are felt across society, with over half the Arts Council's funding going directly to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland

## March 2011

- Tinderbox Theatre Company's Jimmy McAleavey and David Ireland win the 'New Playwright Bursary' and 'BBC Radio Drama Award' respectively at the Stewart Parker Trust Awards in Dublin, both with productions developed through Arts Council initiatives.

- Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness MP MLA visits the Arts Council to discuss the organisation's work in key areas such as the Creative Industries, Re-imaging Communities and plans for UK City of Culture 2013.

- With the support of the Arts Council, work begins on the £5.5m refurbishment of Ranfurly House in Dungannon to provide an arts centre, interpretative display and public heritage park.

- With just over a month to go until the opening of the new £18m Lyric Theatre in Belfast, first rehearsals take place for the opening production, Arthur Miller's The Crucible.

*Lyric Theatre. Photo: Dennis Gilbert*

- ArtsEkta hosts Festival of Colours (more commonly known as "Holi" the celebration of Spring), a one-day multi-cultural event in Belfast, attracting over 7,000 visitors who enjoyed throwing coloured powder and water at each other whilst sampling music, dance, food and crafts from across the globe.

- First Minister and deputy First Minister mark milestone day for The MAC in Belfast, ceremonially laying the final section of the roof of Belfast's new multi-million pound arts centre, scheduled to open early in 2012.

- Glasgowbury music festival is recognised for the third year running at the Irish Festival Awards, coming away with awards for Best Family Festival in Ireland and Best Service Provider.

- Following the improved settlement for the arts in the revised NI Assembly budget, the Arts Council announces £10.9m annual funding for 99 arts organisations.

**FAIR DEAL FOR THE ARTS**

Responding to the NI Assembly's draft Budget announced in December, the Arts Council launched the Fair Deal for the Arts campaign, arguing for a fair and proportionate settlement for the arts. With strong support from the sector over the coming months - including short campaign films produced by the Nerve Centre and Culture NI, a rally by the Derry Writers, celebrity endorsement by Barry Douglas, Stephen Rea and others, and arts venues and organisations actively encouraging their audiences to respond – the overwhelming majority of submissions received by the government's budget consultation are in support the arts. The success of the campaign is acknowledged by the Finance Minister in his revised budget announcement in March, which heralds a much improved final settlement for the arts.

*Actor Stephen Rea signs up to Fair Deal campaign*

39% of visitors to Northern Ireland engage in cultural activity – that's almost ¼ million people, spending their money in local businesses

Public funding provides the anchor and the quality assurance that enables organisations to lever private sector investment

Cahoots NI, 'Leon and the Place Between'. Photo: Richard Watson

The quality of our arts, alongside healthcare, justice and education, is one of the measures against which Northern Ireland is judged as a society

Cara Murphy Gathered Lava Courtesy of Craft NI Photography - David Pauley the Studio

# Financial Summary 2010-11

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, *Creative Connections*, 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**

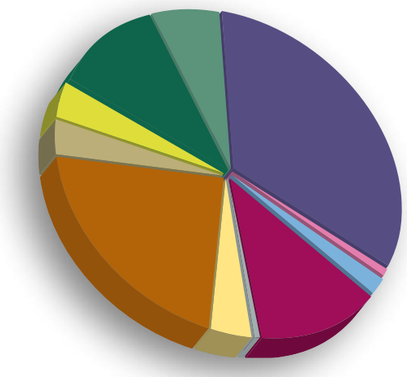
## Arts Council Exchequer funding 2010-11

The Arts Council awarded funding of £13,130,786 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 the following:

- Annual Support for Organisations Programme (ASOP)
- Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP)
- Musical Instruments for Bands
- Equipment
- Travel Awards
- International Residencies
- Arts Development Fund
- Creative Industries Innovation Fund
- Start Up Programme

| Local Authority Area | Number of Awards | Value of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 4 | £64,468.00 |
| Ards | 7 | £21,142.10 |
| Armagh | 10 | £126,058.00 |
| Ballymena | 4 | £19,667.00 |
| Banbridge | 3 | £9,385.00 |
| Belfast | 161 | £10,118,024.53 |
| Carrickfergus | 1 | £4,462.00 |
| Castlereagh | 1 | £4,253.00 |
| Coleraine | 7 | £203,366.66 |
| Cookstown | 4 | £34,612.00 |
| Craigavon | 8 | £160,258.00 |
| Derry | 25 | £1,380,418.00 |
| Down | 13 | £158,340.00 |
| Dungannon | 10 | £39,430.00 |
| Fermanagh | 14 | £88,958.00 |
| Larne | 2 | £6,226.00 |
| Limavady | 3 | £22,316.00 |
| Lisburn | 4 | £45,190.00 |
| Magherafelt | 4 | £18,450.00 |
| Moyle | 1 | £500.00 |
| Newry and Mourne | 14 | £173,451.00 |
| North Down | 11 | £244,226.00 |
| Omagh | 3 | £13,585.00 |
| Other | 6 | £161,000.00 |
| Strabane | 1 | £13,000.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 321 | £13,130,786.29 |

### Exchequer awards by Artform



- Combined 33%
- Craft 1%
- Dance 2%
- Drama 13%
- Film 0.5%
- Literature 4%
- Music 22%
- Opera 3.5%
- Traditional Arts 4%
- Visual Arts 12%
- Youth Arts 6.5%

* Creative Connections and art form policies are available at www.artscouncil-ni.org





## Arts Council Lottery funding 2010-11

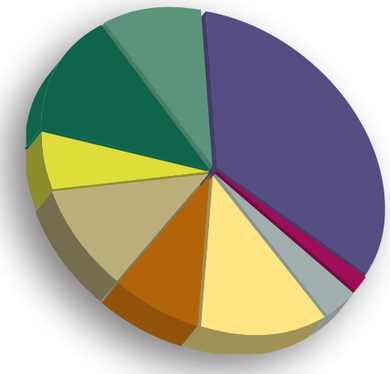
The Arts Council awarded funding of £4,179,799 through its National Lottery Fund. Lottery funds support Arts projects throughout Northern Ireland. Funding programmes included the following:

- Project Funding
- Support for the Individual Artist
- Building Programme
- Arts and Older People
- Re-imaging Communities
- Small Grants Programme

| Local Authority Area | Number of Awards | Value of Awards |
|---|---|---|
| Antrim | 7 | £50,473 |
| Ards | 5 | £21,100 |
| Armagh | 10 | £71,156 |
| Ballymena | 4 | £8,757 |
| Ballymoney | 0 | £0 |
| Banbridge | 4 | £7,697 |
| Belfast | 175 | £2,283,809 |
| Carrickfergus | 1 | £2,000 |
| Castlereagh | 8 | £70,269 |
| Coleraine | 4 | £70,000 |
| Cookstown | 3 | £8,810 |
| Craigavon | 6 | £78,200 |
| Derry | 41 | £600,523 |
| Down | 21 | £139,146 |
| Dungannon | 7 | £56,654 |
| Fermanagh | 6 | £95,437 |
| Larne | 2 | £5,040 |
| Limavady | 1 | £5,000 |
| Lisburn | 11 | £69,733 |
| Magherafelt | 1 | £2,000 |
| Moyle | 1 | £1,851 |
| Newry and Mourne | 13 | £112,174 |
| Newtownabbey | 4 | £14,756 |
| North Down | 13 | £92,533 |
| Omagh | 8 | £101,746 |
| Strabane | 2 | £37,470 |
| Other | 10 | £173,464 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 368 | £4,179,799 |

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.

### Lottery awards by Artform



- Combined 34%
- Craft 2%
- Dance 4%
- Drama 13%
- Literature 8%
- Music 10%
- Traditional Arts 6%
- Visual Arts 14%
- Youth Arts 10%

# 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, see www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/funding.htm

## 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 see www.artscouncil-ni.org/award/deadlines.html

## How long will it take to reach a decision?

We aim to make a decision on applications from individuals within two months, and applications from organisations within three months. The assessment process is explained in the programme guidance notes.

## Where can I get help with my application?

The guidance notes for each programme provide information on the assessment criteria, eligibility and application process. The Arts Development Officers at the Arts Council can also offer advice and assistance before you submit an application. Contact details are available at www.artscouncil-ni.org/us/staff.htm 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. For information on events for young people by specific organisations follow the web links at www.artscouncil-ni.org/useful/youtharts.htm

## 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 (www.artscouncil-ni.org/other/complaints.htm). In addition, we operate a Funding Review Procedure for those who want to appeal a decision about a grant application (www.artscouncil-ni.org/other/FundingReviewProcedure.htm)

**Alternative formats of this publication may be available on request.**

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

Arts and culture are our defining assets; they distinguish us from other places

A Valentine's Day message for the Arts Minister during the Arts Council's Fair Deal for the Arts campaign
Photo: Brian Morrison

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