

AR

annual review



Arts Council of Northern Ireland - 2011-12
www.artscouncil-ni.org



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 2011-12, you will see the progress that has been made in these areas, from the Arts Council's International Programme, which is promoting international recognition for Northern Ireland's arts and artists, to the launch of the Arts and Older People's Programme, using creativity to highlight the social justice issues faced by older people.

* available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

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Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2011-2012.

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

Investing in our future

This is the first time that I write a foreword for an Annual Report of the Arts Council. It is a particular privilege to have been appointed to this position and other opportunities will offer themselves to look to the future for the arts and for the Council. For now, my purpose is to look to the events of the past year and, in so doing, to mark the singular contribution of those who carried responsibility for most of that period.

These are defining and decisive times for the arts in Northern Ireland. While there is inevitable apprehension because of current economic circumstances there is much to be positive about. It is heartening to see how far the arts have come; that they are now firmly embedded in the articulation of public policy and

central in any thinking about the economic and cultural future of Northern Ireland. That is of crucial importance as elected representatives and the broader society turn to reflect on the future and to prepare ourselves in readiness for happier economic times.

The arts are the cornerstone of the 'Our Time, Our Place' 2012 tourism drive, which aims to put Northern Ireland on the world-wide tourist map. Several of their signature events are also closely aligned with the Cultural Olympiad and Legacy Trust, whose 2012 Festival is an integral part of the Games. As the focus turns to Derry~Londonderry in preparation for the City of Culture 2013 celebrations, it is investment in our creative assets that is having a transformative impact on jobs, infrastructure and the profile of that city.

The arts are the cornerstone of the 'Our Time, Our Place' 2012 tourism drive, which aims to put Northern Ireland on the world-wide tourist map

Every citizen of Northern Ireland now has access to an arts venue, practically on their doorstep, thanks to the Arts Council's capital build programme. Beyond serving their community, many of these buildings are first class pieces of architecture – The Strule, Braid, Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin and Crescent Arts Centre, for example. Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich and the Lyric Theatre ("a lesson in how buildings should be built" – the Observer) opened in the year under review. The MAC, which opened to great acclaim in May 2012 is the first arts centre to be built right in the heart of Belfast City Centre. Winston Churchill said that "we shape our buildings, but thereafter they shape us"; what better way to shape the centre of a town or city than a beautifully designed arts venue, opening up new possibilities and building civic pride.

We've also been actively supporting world-class public art in Northern Ireland, culminating in the 37 metre-tall RISE, launched in 2011 in Belfast. This sculpture signposts Northern Ireland as a creative, progressive and international place – the sort of place you might want to visit and do business with.

In the coming year, the Council will finalise its new five-year plan, which will set the strategic direction for the arts from 2013 to 2018. We will continue to develop



priority areas, such as our International Programme, which aims to achieve international recognition for our artists and arts organisations, and we will launch strategies on Intercultural Arts, Music and Youth Arts. One of the major developments of the year under review was the introduction of three-year funding for our regularly funded clients. This initiative introduces greater stability to the sector in uncertain and challenging economic times. Its outworking will be kept under careful review.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Rosemary Kelly OBE, whose commitment and enthusiasm were evident throughout her eight years in office and to the other members of the Council whose terms came to an end. Their work provides strong foundations on which the new and continuing members can build for the future.

Bob Collins
Chair

77% of people living
in the most deprived
areas attended an arts
event this year

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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. His predecessor, Ms Rosemary Kelly OBE, served from 2003-2011. The Board members, including the Vice-Chairman, Damien Coyle, are drawn from a broad cross-section of representatives from the arts and cultural sector.

The Arts Council invested over £21 million to support the full range of creative activities across Northern Ireland in 2011-12



Mr Bob Collins
Chairman



Mr Damien Coyle,
Vice Chairman



David Alderdice



Anna Carragher



Mr David Irvine



Noelle McAlinden



Katherine McCloskey



Prof Ian Montgomery



Paul Mullan



Prof Paul Seawright



Mr Brian Sore



Ms Janine Walker

Completed term of office in November 2011:

Rosemary Kelly OBE, Chairman; Mrs Eithne Benson; Ms Kate Bond; Mr Raymond Fullerton; Mr Anthony Kennedy; Mr William Montgomery; Ms Sharon O'Connor; Mr Joseph Rice; Mr Peter Spratt



The Arts are helping
to strengthen the
voice of older people
in society

Chief Executive's Foreword

Consolidating resources

At a time of economic austerity, the arts, in common with the publically-funded sector as a whole, are feeling the impact of reductions in departmental expenditure across Government. In the context of wider changes in the UK, the Coalition Government plans to alter the balance of state support for the arts, increasing the ratio of National Lottery funding and squeezing more from philanthropy and individual giving.

In light of the financial uncertainty, the Arts Council continues to do everything it can to mitigate the impact of spending reductions on artists and arts organisations. We are, for instance, working closely with organisations such as Arts and Business Northern Ireland to strengthen private sector sponsorship, at the same time encouraging greater awareness of trusts

and foundations and European sources of funding; and through Audiences NI to help arts organisations better engage with their core and potential audiences through key marketing initiatives.

In the context of pressurised funding, we identified a number of priorities for 2011-12 and beyond. These include protecting the substantial capital investment we have made over recent years; preserving frontline services; maintaining key components of each artform; avoiding duplication of service provision; and ensuring a reasonable geographic spread across our funding programmes.

In a year which saw the closure after 13 years of one of Northern Ireland's contemporary art galleries, the Ormeau Baths Gallery, we were glad to welcome the

In light of the financial uncertainty, the Arts Council continues to do everything it can to mitigate the impact of spending reductions on artists and arts organisations

re-opening of the Lyric Theatre, the refurbishment of the Culturlann McAdam O Fiaich and, in April 2012, the opening of MAC. In addition to enhancing theatre provision in Belfast, the MAC provides new levels of gallery provision that meet, for the first time in Northern Ireland, the standards required to host a range of international exhibitions.

Also this year we welcomed the birth of a new flagship arts organisation, the Community Arts Partnership. The result of a successful merger between the New Belfast Community Arts Initiative and the Community Arts Forum, the new organisation, supported with principal funding from the Arts Council, heralds a new era in the development of community arts across Northern Ireland.

The Arts Council has continued to build on the success of the Artists Career Enhancement Scheme, piloted last year, by offering more artists the opportunity to partner with professional arts organisations for mentoring and development support. We also took steps to introduce greater financial stability to our regularly funded arts organisations by adapting and developing our annual funding programme to introduce the option of three-year funding. The first awards through the new Arts Funding Programme were made in April 2012.



If the picture at home is unsettled, it is heartening to note that Northern Ireland's artists and arts organisations continue to achieve significant recognition in Europe. As part of the Arts Council's International Programme, three artists travelled to the outer reaches of Europe to develop significant pieces of collaborative work. The Arts Council's inaugural sponsorship of the Origin First Irish Festival of Theatre 2011 in New York, enabled local playwrights and theatre companies to showcase their work at a festival known to open doors to North America. The excellence of the range of artistic practice from Northern Ireland has also been on prominent display at the Brussels Platform, a new collaboration between the Arts Council and the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels. Local musicians, writers, dancers, theatre practitioners and visual artists have been given the opportunity to showcase their work at a series of monthly cultural events in front of an influential international audience at the NI Executive's prestigious headquarters. The international profile of our arts has never been stronger.

Roisín McDonough

Roisín McDonough
Chief Executive

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



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.

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 2011-12

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 2011

- Verbal Arts Centre opens competition for local school pupils to record the sounds of the city, to be converted into coloured light patterns and incorporated into Northern Ireland's largest artwork, Mute Meadow in Derry~Londonderry.
- Nine composers, artists and arts organisations receive £110,000 from the Beyond Borders scheme to create new musical collaborations across the UK.
- Children's Laureate Siobhan Parkinson launches Poetry Ireland's Writers in Schools Programme, jointly funded by the two arts councils on the island, designed to improve literacy skills at primary and post-primary levels by giving local schools the opportunity to work with some of Ireland's best known writers and storytellers.
- Ulster Orchestra bests W5, Victoria Square and Translink to win the award for Best Marketing Initiative at the Belfast Business Awards.
- Dervock, Co. Antrim, celebrates the replacement of two paramilitary murals through the arts-led Re-imaging Communities regeneration programme, with two new installations by artist Ross Wilson and 12 new artworks by local school children, inspired by local hero and 1912 Olympic gold medalist, Kennedy Kane McArthur.
- In a joint venture for art and sport, Arts Council, Sport Northern Ireland and University of the Third Age (U3A) Foyle begin building work on a £656,000 purpose-built Active Ageing Centre in the Waterside area of Derry City.



Children's Laureate Siobhan Parkinson launches Writers in Schools Programme at Strule Arts Centre in Omagh



New centre aids well-being of retired citizens

STart UP

The Arts Council invested £100,000 in a second round of its highly successful STart Up Programme, aimed at strengthening arts activity within the community by seed funding groups which had not previously engaged in arts activities. A total of 19 projects were funded, with grants ranging from £500 to £5,000. In addition to the grant aid, community and voluntary groups were offered specialist advice and support on organising their arts project and accessing arts resources. Carntogher Community Association in Maghera received an award of £5,000 towards their 'Revisiting Lost Stories' project, aimed at retelling old stories that explain how local place names have come about and other stories of interest relating to the Carntogher area. The project sought to educate both young and old about their local heritage and in turn provide them with a new skill - stone carving. The craved stones depicting the stories were erected in the local Drumnaph Woodland as a permanent reminder to local people.



Revisiting Lost Stories

May 2011

- Co. Down author, Sheena Wilkinson, recipient of an Arts Council 'Artists Career Enhancement Scheme' (ACES) award, wins 'Honour Award for Fiction' and 'Children's Choice Award' for her teen novel, 'Taking Flight', at the prestigious Bisto Children's Book of the Year Awards 2011.
- The £7.2m refurbishment at the Crescent Arts Centre in Belfast wins three awards at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors awards Northern Ireland 2011: Community Benefit; Building Conservation; and Project of the Year 2011.



Award-winning local author, Sheena Wilkinson

- Sinn Fein assembly member in North Belfast, Carál Ní Chuilín is appointed new Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure.



Project of the Year, Crescent Arts Centre

- Festival of Fools attracts thousands of visitors to Belfast to enjoy 137 performances over five days during the annual street theatre festival.

LYRIC THEATRE RE-OPENS

The new, fully-modernised £18.1 million Lyric Theatre in Belfast starts the way it means to go on, opening to wide acclaim and going on in the year ahead to welcome 128,000 people through its doors and to win 15 trophies, including Irish Times Theatre Awards for its opening production of *The Crucible*, 'Outstanding Contribution to Tourism' and 'Building of the Year'.

'a lesson in how buildings should be built' – the Observer



June 2011

- Fleet Foxes, Laura Marling and Villagers headline a magical midsummer week of folk and roots music at the 13th Open House Festival in Belfast.

- John Banville, David Peace and Larry Lamb join established and emerging local authors in a showcase of masterclasses, readings and discussions at the annual Belfast Book Festival at the Crescent Arts Centre and other venues.

- Voluntary Arts Ireland and Culture Northern Ireland launch www.arttakepart.org, an arts listings website for the growing community of people in Northern Ireland who are interested in providing arts activities as well as taking part in them.

- Part of the wider redevelopment of Ebrington in Derry~Londonderry, phase one of Mute Meadow, Ireland's largest public artwork project is unveiled, created by Turner Prize nominee Vong Phaophanit and Claire Oboussier and comprising 40 pairs of angled steel columns stretching out across the banks of the River Foyle.

- Irish language centre, *Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin* in Derry~Londonderry wins the Northern Ireland section of the Royal Institute of British Architects Awards (RIBA) 2011.



Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin



Mute Meadow in Derry~Londonderry



Public funding
brings great art
within the reach of
everyone

Artist Simon McWilliams with Anna at opening of Nest

SILVERSMITH'S WORK FOR NO.10

Cara Murphy became the first artist from Northern Ireland to be honoured by a commission from The Silver Trust to create a work for its Downing Street Collection. Cara, a former recipient of a Major Individual Artist Award from the Arts Council, created a desk set – blotter, paper and pen holders, a clock and trays for paper clips, etc – in sterling silver, Wenge wood and enamel. The set, inspired by nature and the Northern Ireland landscape, is a constant reminder to the PM of the quality of craft produced in Northern Ireland.



'Contour' desk set for No.10

July 2011

- The annual Féile an Phobail community festival in West and Greater Belfast, with its trademark diversity of arts, multi-cultural events, sports, youth activities and community programming, continues to attract huge audiences from home and abroad.

- DCAL announces further investment of £4m over the next four years to support the growth of creative businesses in Northern Ireland, through the Creative Industries Innovation Fund administered by the Arts Council in association with NI Screen and Digital Circle.

- Co. Down poet Andrew Jamison wins 2011 Templar Annual Pamphlet & Collection Award for his short poetry collection, 'The Bus from Belfast' in the same year he is selected to represent the UK at the International Young Artists Biennale in Morocco.



Busy year for poet Andrew Jamison

CREATING INDUSTRY

DCAL invests a further £4m over the next four years to support the Creative Industries. This includes grants to creative businesses through the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, which is administered by the Arts Council in association with NI Screen and Digital Circle. With 31,000 people employed in Northern Ireland's creative industries and creative occupations, generating £737m annually for the local economy, this is recognised as a key growth sector for the region with huge potential for job and wealth creation. The inaugural Creative Industries Fund, launched in 2008, supported 133 businesses, such as 'My Tour Talk', which has developed a new audio Titanic Walking Tour app. to bring the Titanic Trail to life for visitors to the city.



Latest innovations, My Tour Talk app.

August 2011

- Some of the top names in the Irish music scene, including Donal Lunny and The Gloaming, perform at the fourth annual Feile An Droichead in Belfast.

- Building on the success of last year's pilot scheme, the Arts Council selects another group of local artists, writers and performers for the 'Artists Career Enhancement Scheme', offering funding on top of mentoring and development support to help artists develop their professional careers.



Artist Keith Winter, paired with Golden Thread Gallery

- Belfast Exposed Photography is chosen by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to partner with 11 UK museums and galleries, to lead the way in brokering new cross-sector and inter-arts partnerships

- NI Opera launches its new Young Artists' Programme, to nurture and showcase up-and-coming young talent from across Northern Ireland.

- Young people living in interface communities in the North West get the opportunity to work with some of the world's leading graffiti and mural artists and to explore the use of public art as a tool for positive social change, in a project run by the Playhouse International Culture Arts Network and What IF.

- Craft NI's annual August Craft Month celebrates top local and international craft makers and designers with a series of exhibitions, talks and workshops.

- The Open Arts Community Choir, which shot to fame in 2008 after appearing on the hit BBC TV Show, 'Last Choir Standing', launch their second Album, 'Going Global' and begin preparations to take their message of inclusive choral singing to North America.

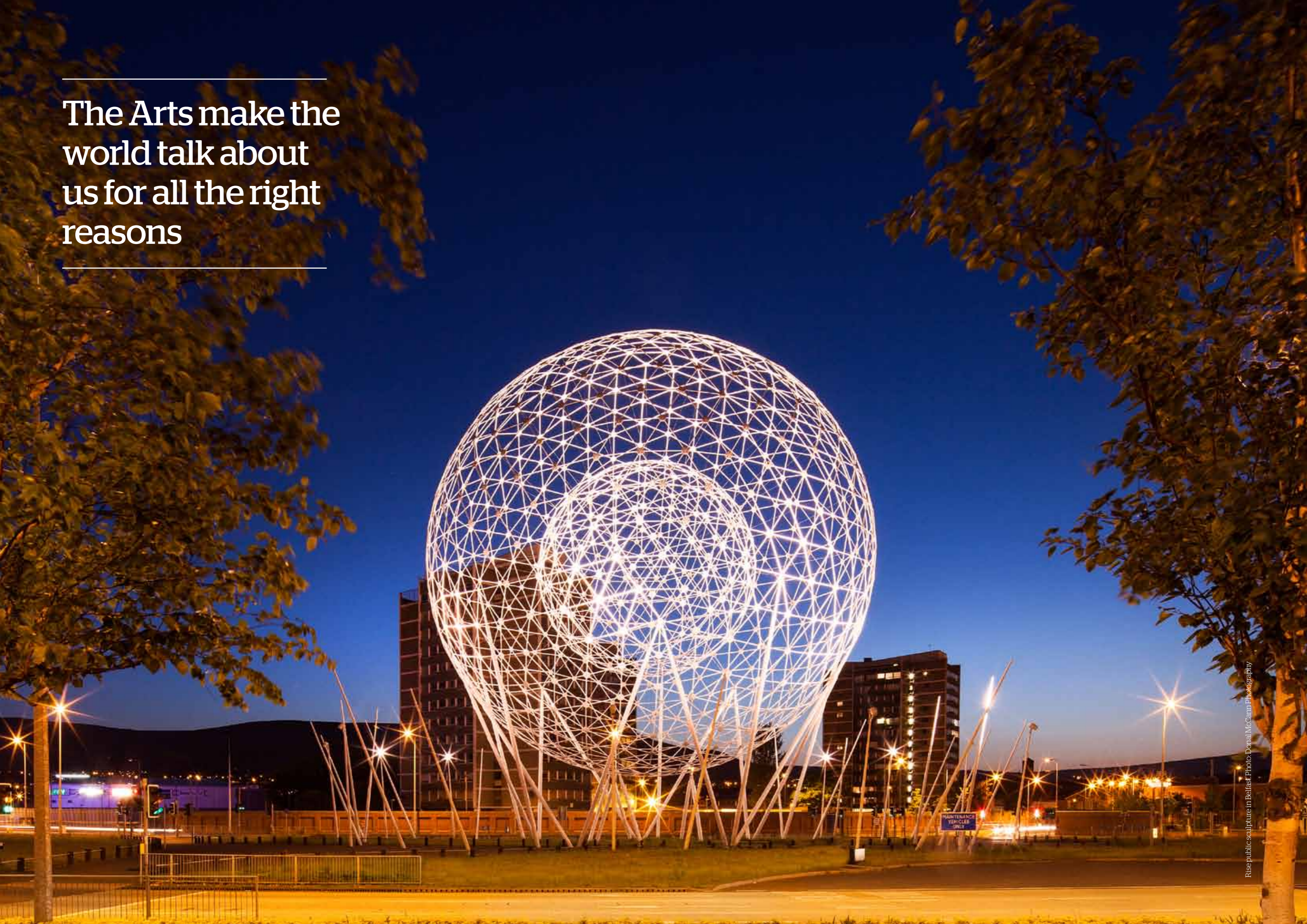


Open Arts Community Choir

- Thousands pack Botanic Gardens at Arts Ekta's Belfast Mela, Northern Ireland's largest annual multi-cultural festival.

The Creative Industries is one of the few sectors that is continuing to grow and expand during the recession

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



NEW YORK NEW WORK

The Arts Council became a title sponsor of the 2011 First Irish Theatre Festival in New York, opening a door for Northern Ireland playwrights. The Festival offers a gateway to North America for contemporary Irish and Northern Irish playwrights and presents an opportunity for theatre practitioners from both sides of the Atlantic to form collaborations for future co-productions. Owen McCafferty, Jennifer Johnson, Lincoln Centre Library for Performing Arts, James Kennedy and Jimmy Kerr presented, with Brassneck Theatre Company winning the Festival's Best New Play award for 'A Night with George'.

Donna O'Connor gets lucky with George



September 2011

• Three artists are selected by the Arts Council and Intercult to represent Northern Ireland in the *Corners: Research and Development* project, taking them on a once-in-a-lifetime creative adventure to remote locations in Europe, where they are paired with international artists and challenged to create new work based on the experience.



Paula McFetridge, Artistic Director of Kabosh Theatre Company, visual artist Philip Hession and playwright Laurence McKeown, embark on creative journey

• Belfast's third annual Culture Night, offering 170 events - gigs, choirs, dance, poetry, exhibitions, theatre, street performers, literary tours and workshops - is formally joined for the first time by other regions in the north, including Strabane and Derry City.



Beat Initiative Parade at Culture Night Belfast

• Northern Ireland's longest established Irish language centre, Cultúrlann McAdam ó Fiaich in Belfast is officially re-opened by President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, following its £1.9m, Stirling Prize-nominated refurbishment and extension.



Irish language centre

• TitanCon, Northern Ireland's first non-profit convention dedicated to science fiction writing, media and gaming runs over three days in Belfast.



Mark Bell and Neill Stringer at TitanCon

RISE

Belfast's biggest public art commission reaches completion, towering 37.5 metres above Broadway Roundabout. RISE, by the Nottingham artist, Wolfgang Buttress, is made up of two globes, one inside the other, cast in silver and white steel, symbolizing the rising of the sun and new hope for Belfast's future. It appears to rest on a bed of reeds - a reference to the natural heritage of the neighbouring Bog Meadows, with lights at the end of each 'reed' reflecting on the two globes. This bold artistic statement about Belfast's growing creative confidence is visible to the 65,000 people who use the M1 and Westlink daily and to the 2.5 million passengers travelling each year in and out of George Best City Airport.



All rise at Broadway

**Our Arts and Culture are our defining assets;
they distinguish us from other places**

October 2011

- Belfast poet, Leontia Flynn, recipient of a Major Individual Artist Award from the Arts Council, is shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize for her latest collection of poems, 'Profit and Loss'.



Leontia Flynn, shortlisted for TS Eliot Award.

- Poetry Ireland's 'All Ireland Poetry Day' showcases the richness and diversity of contemporary poetry with readings by established and emerging poets in counties across the island of Ireland.
- Armagh City welcomes six new pieces of public art, created by artists from Ireland and the UK, installed to complement the extensive city centre regeneration scheme completed the previous year.
- Belfast celebrates NI's thriving music scene with over 170 events during Belfast Music Week, ahead of the MTV European Music Awards in Belfast in November.

- The Pennanular Brooch, a major new piece of public art by Alan Burke, is unveiled at the front of the Saint Patrick Centre as part of the £3.2m Downpatrick Public Realm Project.



The Pennanular Brooch in Downpatrick

- The 49th Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's presents 100 events in over 36 venues, galleries, spaces and places across the city, allowing audiences to see some of the major acts which come on the strength of the Festival's reputation.

ARTS & OLDER PEOPLE'S PROGRAMME

The Arts Council pilots a three-year, £700,000 initiative, developed in partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies, to increase opportunities for older people to engage with the arts. The new programme provides funding for arts-based projects that address related social issues such as poverty, isolation and loneliness, as well as challenging ageism and encouraging lifelong learning and active ageing. Projects such as Carn Media's intergenerational art project, 'Stepping Back in Time' give older residents at Ballinascreen Fold a chance to meet and share the stories of their lives with some of the town's youngest residents and to produce a series of art projects documenting the history, culture and customs of the local area.



Strengthening the voice of older people through the arts

November 2011

- The Arts Council pilots a Northern Ireland version of the successful UK-wide 'Own Art' scheme, offering interest-free loans on the purchase of contemporary arts and crafts, in an effort to support the sale of original art works by local artists.



Interest free loans for art at Gormleys and Emer galleries

- Recognising the achievements of Arts & Business Northern Ireland as it approaches 25 years of creating successful partnerships between commerce and culture, the A&B UK Board sets up A&B Northern Ireland as an independent Northern Ireland charity.
- The Arts Council presents Major Individual Artist Awards of £15,000 each to Arty McGlynn, David Park, Lucy Caldwell and Sinead Morrissey, acknowledging the valuable contribution each has made to the arts in Northern Ireland.

NEW CHAMPION FOR COMMUNITY ARTS

New Belfast Community Arts Initiative and the Community Arts Forum (CAF) successfully merge to create a new flagship arts organisation and herald a new era in the development of community arts in Northern Ireland. The new organisation, Community Arts Partnership, with principal funding from the Arts Council, will build on the strengths of both CAF and New Belfast and will take the lead as advocate and information provider to the community arts sector.



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

December 2011

- The Arts Council is commended for its approach to gathering research for its Youth Arts Strategy at the first Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Participation Awards, which celebrate the work that has been achieved in government and other public sector bodies, involving young people in policy development and decision making.



Youth Action's Rainbow Factory contributes to Youth Arts Strategy

- Mr Bob Collins replaces outgoing chairman Rosemary Kelly OBE as the new Chair of the Arts Council, and is joined by five new board members, appointed on a four-year term.



New board for Arts Council

- The Arts Council showcases art from some of Northern Ireland's finest emerging and established artists at Stormont in an exhibition of work from the Arts Council's collection of Recent Acquisitions.



Jennifer Trouton, 'Harrow(2)'

- A new stainless steel sculpture, 'Remember, Respect, Resolution', by artist Lesley Cherry, marks the second phase of a successful Re-imagining Communities project in the Lower Shankill, which saw the removal of 10 paramilitary murals in 2009.



Landmark sculpture for Shankill

BRUSSELS PLATFORM

The Brussels Platform is the result of a collaboration between the Arts Council and the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels, which offers musicians, writers, dancers, theatre practitioners and visual artists the opportunity to showcase their talents at a series of ten monthly events at the headquarters of MEPs and EU representatives. The Platform also helps to promote Northern Ireland's international reputation through its defining assets - its arts and culture. First out are Ulster-Scots artist Randall Stephen Hall, accompanied by Irish Traditional Music band Craobh Rua, followed by children's writers Sheena Wilkinson and Garrett Carr, poets Miriam Gamble and Ben Maier, writer Glenn

Patterson and acclaimed poet Medbh McGuckian. The Brussels Platform runs until June 2012.



Brussels beckons for poets Miriam Gamble and Ben Maier

January 2012

- Artist Gail Ritchie represents Northern Ireland at a prestigious art showcase exhibition in China focusing on women and conflict.



Beijing bound

- Sculptor Brendan Jamison, known for his unique sugar cube carvings of Bangor Castle Town Hall, Belfast City Hall, Tate Modern and The Reichstag, creates a sugar sculpture of 'Number 10' as Northern Ireland's contribution to an art exhibition inside the Prime Minister's residence.



Success tastes sweet

SMALL GRANTS GO A LONG WAY

The Arts Council's Small Grants programme, launched in 2008, has to date supported 180 organisations with £1.2m funding. The purpose of the programme is to involve people in professionally-led arts projects in local communities, making the arts more accessible and relevant to many more people. North West-based professional theatre company, Sole Purpose Productions, used its Small Grant to develop a one-woman production, raising awareness about relationship abuse amongst teenagers. 'Every Move You Make' toured in March to schools in the North West.

Actor Jemma Walker



February 2012

- Northern Ireland's drama is in the limelight, with a clutch of awards for the Lyric Theatre and NI Opera at the Irish Times Theatre Awards in Dublin, and Terry George's film, 'The Shore' winning the Academy Award for best Live Action Short Film.
- Visual artists, Sinead Breathnach-Cashel, Lesley Cherry and Johanna Leech are selected by the Arts Council and Golden Thread Gallery to take part in the ARCH Artist in Residency Programme at Anacostia, Washington DC, where they have the opportunity to collaborate on innovative work with international artists based at two prestigious Washington galleries.
- The 8th Belfast Nashville Singer Songwriters' Festival attracts more than 100 songwriters in 35 concerts, providing a platform for local acts to develop their craft and perform alongside world famous Nashville artists such as Nanci Griffith.
- Brian and Eithne Vallely, renowned traditional musicians, founders of the Armagh Pipers Club and the William Kennedy Piping Festival, are honoured with a TG4 Gradam Ceoil Gradam Aitheantais/Contribution Award.



NI Opera scoops award for their production of Puccini's 'Tosca'

SPORTING CONNECTIONS

The second year of the three-year Legacy Trust 'Connections' programme saw some spectacular highlights. The Beat Initiative presented a pageant of puppets, music, song and aerial dance in the Botanic Gardens, while Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company travelled to the coast for a residential climbing/art/dance project which resulted in public performances. Over five nights in November Beam Creative Network held their final ImagineAction performances to packed audiences and Open Arts provided residential workshops for disabled dancers throughout the country. Northern Ireland Screen and the Nerve Centre provided an intensive course in animation to young people from Derry~Londonderry, who produced a short film that was launched at the Derry Film Festival, and the Verbal Arts Centre worked with writers, composers and sporting groups in the commissioning of new musical compositions. 'Connections' has been funded by Legacy Trust UK, creating a lasting impact from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games by funding ideas and local talent to inspire creativity across the UK. The programme is managed by the Arts Council.



Beam Creative Network, 'ImagineAction' Musical Showcase



90% of young people attended an arts event this year

March 2012

- The Belfast Children's Festival returns with a week-long programme of family-orientated arts events for children aged 0-14 years.



Young at Art's fourteenth Belfast Children's Festival

- The Titanic mini-festival of Creative Arts 2012 celebrates new commissions, including two Titanic-inspired plays, 'Whitestar of the North' at the Lyric Theatre, and 'A Better Boy' by Kabosh, and is crowned by Philip Hammond's large-scale 'Requiem for the Lost Souls of the Titanic', performed by Northern Ireland's finest choirs and musicians at St. Anne's Cathedral on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic.

- Arts Council Chair, Bob Collins, Arts Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín and MAC Chief Executive, Anne McReynolds visit the £18m Metropolitan Arts Centre venue in Belfast prior to its official opening in April.



New £18m MAC puts arts at heart of Belfast city centre

- Audiences NI's flagship audience development project, Test Drive the Arts NI, designed to help organisations increase their audiences by offering the public guest tickets from unsold capacity, reaches its 10,000th successful applicant in Northern Ireland.
- Arts Council awards £13.3 million to 93 core arts organisations to cover their year-round running and programming costs, introducing the option of three-year funding to add greater stability at a time of economic uncertainty.

CULTURAL OLYMPIAD

Preparations got well underway in 2011-12 for the London 2012 Festival, the spectacular finale of the Cultural Olympiad – a four-year programme for the arts inspired by the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Since the handover from Beijing in 2008, over 350,000 people have engaged with more than 300 Cultural Olympiad activities in Northern Ireland. One of the most original and ambitious projects of the London 2012 Festival is 'Nest', the biggest public art initiative ever undertaken in Northern Ireland. The organisers of 'Nest', Brian Irvine and John McIllduff, have been collecting donated personal objects from homes across the country since September. In July 2012 these objects will form the basis of a large-scale visual installation that will host a musical and theatrical performance specially created from the stories collected. Other London 2012 Festival highlights include the NI Opera's 'Noye's Fludde' performed in the unique setting of Belfast Zoo; 'Peace Camp' with Deborah Warner and Fiona Shaw, which presents a series of soundscapes

around the coast, drawing on the love poetry of our islands; and 'Land of Giants', the largest outdoor arts event ever seen in Northern Ireland, with a cast and crew of 500 people.



The Nest

Everyone in Northern Ireland now has access to a dedicated arts facility thanks to Arts Council investment



Lyric Theatre, Belfast - a lesson in how buildings should be built - Photo: Dennis Gilbert

Financial Summary 2011-12

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 2011-12

The Arts Council awarded funding of £13.387 million through its Exchequer fund.

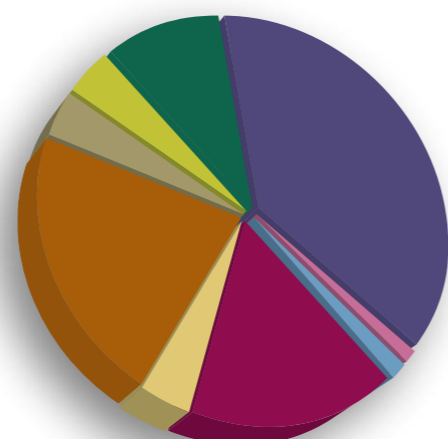
These funds were awarded through a set of programmes developed to support the full range of activities of artists and arts organisations across Northern Ireland, including:

- Annual Support for Organisations Programme (ASOP)
- Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP)

- Musical Equipment for Bands
- Equipment
- Travel Awards
- International Residencies
- Arts Development Fund
- Building Programme
- Creative Industries Innovation Fund
- Arts and Older People Programme
- Start Up Programme

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	5	15,003
ARDS	7	41,950
ARMAGH	5	39,938
BALLYMENA	7	29,573
BALLYMONEY	2	9,890
BANBRIDGE	5	15,790
BELFAST	183	10,634,726
CARRICKFERGUS	1	5,000
CASTLEREAGH	10	42,155
COLERAINE	4	129,743
COOKSTOWN	3	9,676
CRAIGAVON	7	173,300
DERRY	34	1,393,404
DOWN	9	48,570
DUNGANNON	5	17,993
FERMANAGH	9	60,879
LARNE	2	5,056
LIMAVADY	1	4,048
LISBURN	8	74,100
MAGHERAFELT	5	44,964
MOYLE	2	9,500
NEWRY & MOURNE	13	146,294
NEWTOWNABBEY	3	13,145
NORTH DOWN	6	134,250
OMAGH	2	5,220
STRABANE	1	5,000
Other	16	277,774
GRAND TOTAL	355	13,386,941

Value of Exchequer Awards



- Combined 38%
- Craft 1%
- Dance 1%
- Drama 17%
- Literature 4%
- Music 21%
- Opera 4%
- Traditional Arts 4%
- Visual Arts 10%

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

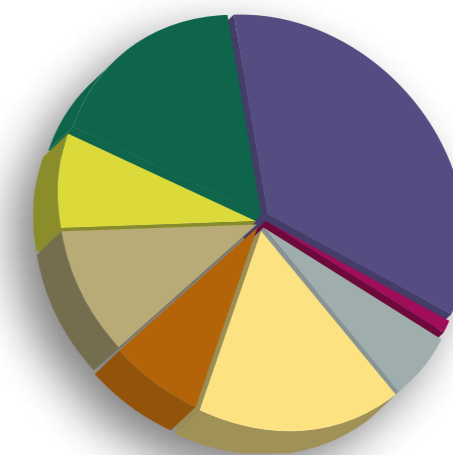
Arts Council Lottery funding 2011-12

The Arts Council awarded funding of £8.089 million through its National Lottery Fund. Lottery funds supported arts projects throughout Northern Ireland. Funding programmes included:

- Project Funding
- Support for the Individual Artist
- Public Art
- Building Programme
- Re-imaging Communities
- Small Grants

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
Antrim	7	32,488
Ards	6	20,379
Armagh	7	143,746
Ballymena	2	4,890
Ballymoney	1	1,500
Banbridge	5	7,559
Belfast	202	5,037,214
Carrickfergus	0	0
Castlereagh	14	86,849
Coleraine	3	34,864
Cookstown	3	9,300
Craigavon	7	126,295
Derry	46	1,039,231
Down	13	228,706
Dungannon	6	85,028
Fermanagh	15	74,093
Larne	2	10,425
Limavady	5	47,350
Lisburn	17	146,655
Magherafelt	2	4,146
Moyle	1	1,500
Newry and Mourne	16	257,106
Newtownabbey	7	36,648
North Down	20	302,171
Omagh	6	91,773
Strabane	1	1,500
Other*	9	258,042
GRAND TOTAL	423	£8,089,458

Value of Lottery Awards



- Combined 34%
- Craft 1%
- Dance 6%
- Drama 17%
- Literature 7%
- Music 10%
- Traditional Arts 8%
- Visual Arts 17%

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.

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 and 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.

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.

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



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