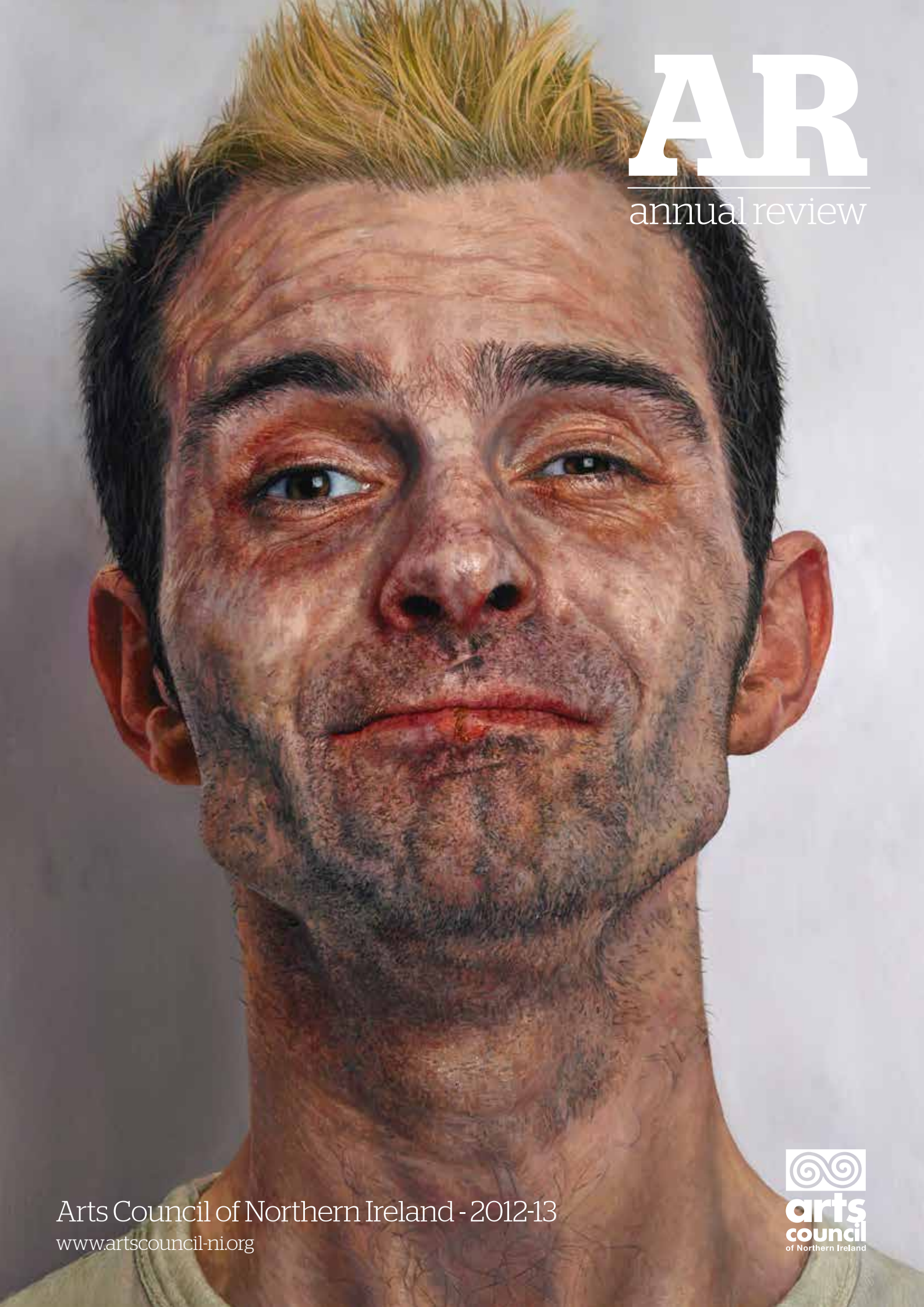




AR

annual review

Arts Council of Northern Ireland - 2012-13
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 2012-13, you will see the progress that has been made in these areas, from the introduction of Northern Ireland's first Intercultural Strategy for the arts to the transformation of Derry~Londonderry through the UK City of Culture 2013 creative programme.

* available at www.artscouncil-ni.org

Contents

Chair's Foreword	6
The Board of the Arts Council	10
Chief Executive's Foreword	14
The Executive of the Arts Council	16
A Year in the Arts	18
Financial summary	40
Frequently asked questions	42

Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2012-2013.

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

The commitment of public money to the arts is a profound statement of their central significance in the life of the community. That such commitment endures in times of economic difficulty is a clear recognition that the arts are an intrinsic and essential part of our lives as individuals. They are not a fair-weather friend. It is right that this should be so. From the dawn of time, self-expression has been a fundamental signature of human existence. And public investment in the arts confirms that this truth is still valid.

The Arts Council is animated by two underlying principles. The first is the primacy and centrality of the artist whose talent, creativity and imagination are the wellsprings of the richness that the arts offer. The second is the fact that the arts are for everybody. All who contribute to the public funding of the arts – and everybody in Northern Ireland does – should be able to have access to the arts. Everybody has a cultural life. One of the challenges for a body such as the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and for those who receive public funding is to make that simple statement of

underlying truth a reality in the lives of people throughout Northern Ireland.

In making funds available to the arts, public policy asserts their relevance and emphasises the need to make them available for all to enjoy. The approach of the Arts Council has always reflected, indeed developed, this thinking.

Northern Ireland's social and economic landscape is changing, as are the characteristics of the people who live here. And the arts community is taking positive steps to respond. This year, for example, the Arts Council introduced a new strategy and investment package to encourage greater engagement with minority ethnic communities living in Northern Ireland. The Intercultural Arts Strategy reinforces the commitment of the arts sector to recognising the richness of the diversity of cultural and artistic traditions that now contribute to the mosaic that is the modern Northern Ireland. It serves, also, to promote interchange and reciprocal appreciation between all who live and engage in the arts here so that each can benefit by

The arts are for everybody. All who contribute to the public funding of the arts should have access to the arts

exposure to the artistic output of the other. This leadership role by the Arts Council helps to discharge our duty in relation to developing good relations, makes a real impact on people's lives and realises government priorities in a tangible way.

Throughout the year we continued to develop the set of programmes that contribute to the goal of ensuring that the arts are available to all and to developing the capacity to enjoy and participate in them. Celebration of Age Week provided a showcase of exhibitions, workshops and performances by participants on the programme, culminating in a stimulating and uplifting conference that included an address by Dame Joan Bakewell, broadcaster, writer and champion of the rights of older people in society.

The unifying factor across these initiatives and every other programme and scheme run by the Arts Council, is the figure of the artist. That presence permeates our thinking and all aspects of our investment; any society which does not invest properly in its artists is impoverished as a result. This year the Arts Council in partnership with the British Council introduced a new grants programme to support early-stage international development opportunities for artists. In providing international opportunities for artists, musicians, performers and writers, the 'International Development Fund for Artists' enhances Northern Ireland's international artistic development, reputation and standing. Another new initiative introduced this year by the Arts Council sets out to raise the public profile of local writers. 'One City One Book 2012' built a programme of library talks, reading groups and workshops around Glenn Patterson's



new novel, *The Mill For Grinding Old People Young*, and encouraged the public to appreciate and applaud local literature. We look forward in 2013 to expanding this successful pilot initiative beyond Belfast.

These are but a few examples of the areas where public funding can make a difference in the arts. In addition, it supports a range of arts organisations whose work touches the lives of people everywhere in Northern Ireland and helps to make those lives more fulfilled, more complete and more enriched. Combining the twin focus of supporting artistic creativity and of reaching out to people and to communities so that the arts can be accessible to all will continue to be our driving force.

With that in mind, and recognising the changing face of Northern Ireland, the new social, cultural and economic challenges, as well as the opportunities ahead, the Arts Council is developing a new strategic plan for the development of the arts over the next five years. This plan, guided by these principles, will shape the course of the arts over the period 2013-18. Widespread consultation is underway and the new plan should be introduced early in the new financial year.

Bob Collins
Chair

82% of adults in Northern
Ireland attended the arts
this year

Land of Giants. Written and directed by Mark Murphy. Produced by Giant Events Company in association with Belfast City Council, the Belfast Community Circus and Walk the Plank. Photo: Carrie Davenport



The Board of the Arts Council

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

Mr Bob Collins was appointed as Chairman of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in December 2011 for a term of four years. The Board is made up of the Chairman plus

13 members, providing a broad cross-section of expertise and including representatives from the arts and culture sector. The current members were appointed in December 2011 for a term of four years, ending November 2015. The following board members were reappointed to serve a second term of office: Damien Coyle, Paul Seawright, Prof Ian Montgomery, Janine Walker, Brian Sore. Eibhlínn Ní Dhochartaigh, Conor Shields and Nisha Tandon joined the board in May 2013 for a term of four years.



Mr David Irvine

David Irvine, one of the Arts Council's most valued and longest-serving board members, died in December 2012, aged 57, following a lengthy illness. David was a keen musician and enjoyed a long association with the arts, notably as Chair of Moving on Music. He was a true friend to the arts and his wisdom, warmth and engagement will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues at the Arts Council.



Mr Bob Collins
Chairman



Mr Damien Coyle,
Vice Chairman



David Alderdice



Anna Carragher



Noelle McAlinden



Katherine McCloskey



Prof Ian Montgomery



Paul Mullan



Eibhlínn Ní Dhochartaigh



Prof Paul Seawright



Conor Shields



Mr Brian Sore



Nisha Tandon



Ms Janine Walker

The Arts Council invested £20.5 million to support the full range of creative activities across Northern Ireland in 2012-13

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

OF WORKS & PART OF HARBOUR.

SCALE - 1" = 400 FEET.

Chief Executive's Foreword

This has been a most remarkable year for the arts. Never have the arts had such a high profile in Northern Ireland, with the culmination of the Legacy Trust and Cultural Olympiad programmes, the London 2012 Festival, the opening of The MAC in Belfast, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Belfast Festival at Queen's, 'Game of Thrones' filming in the Belfast Paint Hall and the start of the year-long celebration of Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013.

The Arts Council, with our partners across the UK, recognised the unique opportunity presented to us by the London 2012 Games. Within Northern Ireland it created an opportunity to offer the public a way of joining in the global celebrations. We were able to engage our diverse communities and young people in the arts, showcase our artists on a world stage and bring some of the world's finest

to local audiences. Over its four-year lifespan, the Cultural Olympiad touched the lives of an unprecedented number of people in Northern Ireland, with 40,000 participating and 850,000 attending the various creative events. The culmination of the Cultural Olympiad, The London 2012 Festival, placed the arts firmly centre stage and brought the London Games to vivid life for audiences across Northern Ireland.

Throughout the year, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, with whom the Arts Council has a Memorandum of Understanding, promoted Northern Ireland internationally through 'Our Time Our Place Time 2012', with arts and culture forming one of the cornerstones of that campaign. The celebrations featured the BBC Proms, MTV European Music Awards, Peace One Day concert at the new event space at the historic Ebrington Square, and Land of Giants, the largest outdoor arts event ever seen in Northern Ireland.

The London 2012 Festival placed the arts centre stage and brought the Games to vivid life

This year also marked the centenary of the Titanic's fateful voyage, and the event was highlighted by a series of major cultural events, including the Titanic Belfast Festival 2012, a commemorative drama to open the new MAC and an epic performance of a new 'Requiem for the Lost Souls of the Titanic'.

Another moment of historic significance was recorded at the new Lyric Theatre, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth met with the First and deputy First Ministers, the President of Ireland and representatives from the arts. The choice of venue acknowledged the importance of the arts, and of arts venues as shared spaces, to the process of peace and reconciliation.

Attention now moves to Derry~Londonderry and the inaugural UK City of Culture 2013. With a high-profile and far-reaching programme of events that includes Fleadh



Cheoil na hÉireann and the Turner Prize, the arts are transforming the perception of the region.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading '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.

Strategic Development



Nick Livingston, Director of Strategic Development

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

Arts Development



Nóirín McKinney,
Director of Arts
Development



Lorraine McDowell,
Director of Operations

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

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

Finance and Corporate Services



Geoffrey Troughton, Director of Finance & Corporate Services

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

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

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

A Year in the Arts 2012-13

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 2012

- The Arts Council awards £13.3 million to 93 core arts organisations to cover their year-round running and programming costs. For the first time, organisations are able to apply in advance for up to three years of funding, a move which strengthens the sector's stability and capacity for forward planning.
- Padraic Fiacc, one of the most distinctive poetic voices of his generation, is honoured at a Lord Mayor's reception at Belfast City Hall, held in recognition of his contribution to NI's literary heritage.
- The Titanic Festival of Creative Arts 2012 commemorates the centenary of the sinking of Belfast's most famous ship with a mini-festival of new art, featuring plays by the Lyric Theatre and Kabosh, plus Philip Hammond's 'Requiem for the Lost Souls of the Titanic', performed by NI's finest choirs and musicians.



Philip Hammond, composer

MAC opens in style

Belfast's first dedicated city centre arts centre, the £18m Metropolitan Arts Centre (The MAC) opens in April. The centre piece of the St. Anne's Square development in the creative heart of Belfast's Cathedral Quarter, the MAC houses two theatres, three art galleries, dance studios, rehearsal rooms, offices and a bar restaurant. In its first month alone it welcomes 40,000 visitors, swelling to 300,000 by the end of its first year, and goes on to win a multitude of awards including Best Creative Business at the Belfast Business Awards and is shortlisted for a Royal Institute of British Architects award. With principal funding from the Arts Council, the MAC introduces a world class programme of blockbuster events and exhibitions – notably the major Andy Warhol exhibition, a first for Northern Ireland - challenging, experimental new works and the very best in home-grown arts and culture.

100,000 people visit the Warhol exhibition at The MAC



May 2012

- The purpose-built U3A Active Ageing Centre in the Waterside area of Derry City opens to the public with a mix of sporting and creative facilities. The project is a joint venture by the Arts Council, Sport Northern Ireland and University of the Third Age.
- Fourteen of NI's most promising emerging talents are awarded bursaries of £5,000 plus a package of career development opportunities and partnerships with professional arts organisations, through the Arts Council's annual Artists Career Enhancement Scheme (ACES).
- Emerging writers and musicians in Derry~Londonderry collaborate with local sports groups to create and perform work inspired by the theme of sports commenting, through 'Comment-8', a project organised by the Verbal Arts Centre and funded by the Legacy Trust UK's Connection Programme.
- The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, one of NI's most progressive multi-arts festivals, returns for its 13th year, headlined by John Cale. The Belfast-based festival regularly attracts audiences in excess of 60,000 people.



Successful ACES recipient, novelist Tara West



Undertones perform at the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival. Photo: Bernie McAllister

- NI's leading Arts in Health organisation, Arts Care, celebrates its 21st anniversary with an international conference. 'Sustainable Creativity in Healthcare' welcomes delegates from across the world to discuss arts and healthcare practice.
- The Public Records Office (PRONI), designed by Todd Architects, wins the Arts Council-sponsored RSUA Design Award for the Best Example of Integrating Artworks into a Building Project.

- Northern Ireland becomes the first place in the piping world to develop an Ulster-Scots Foundation Certificate in Highland Bagpiping. The qualification is offered jointly by the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (NI Branch).

One City One Book Belfast 2012

'One City One Book' has been running successfully in cities around the world since 1998 and this year the Arts Council introduces the initiative to Belfast. The idea is to encourage as many people as possible to focus on a book by a local author throughout the month of May, and through that collective activity to promote reading and contemporary writing from Northern Ireland. One of our leading authors, Glenn Patterson - author of eight novels and recipient of a Major Individual Artist Award from the Arts Council in honour of his contribution to literature - is the first One City One Book Belfast choice with his latest novel, 'The Mill for Grinding Old People Young'. The book, set in 1830's Belfast, features many familiar Belfast landscapes and transports the reader back in time to a people and place that would shape modern-day Belfast. A programme of readings and events in Belfast public libraries supports the initiative.



The Mill for Grinding Old People Young, a novel by Glenn Patterson - Belfast choice for One City One Book Belfast 2012

June 2012

- Down Arts Centre reopens following completion of £1.4m restoration, refurbishment and extension works to its prestigious listed home in the heart of Downpatrick, providing new facilities that enhance the quality of arts services offered in the area.



Down Arts Centre



Photo: Paul Faith/Press Association

- The Lyric Theatre in Belfast provides the venue for an historic moment in the process of peace and reconciliation in NI, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth meets with First Minister Peter Robinson, deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness, Irish President, Michael D Higgins, and representatives from the arts.

Public funding brings great art within the reach of everyone



Space Pups by Space Cadets, Nottingham
Belfast Children's Festival, March 2013

June 2012

- The first All-Ireland Arts Conference, organised by Audiences NI, Northern Ireland Theatre Association and Theatre Forum Ireland, enhances networking among artists and arts practitioners across the island.

- Sixty learners from Derry Youth & Community Workshop, Foyle Down Syndrome Trust, Lilliput Theatre Company and Rutledge Recruitment & Training on The Playhouse Theatre's Digital Dialogue Programme present 'Faces of Derry~Londonderry', a Digital Art Installation representing their views about the Places and the Faces of Derry~Londonderry.

- The Lyric Theatre wins 'Outstanding Contribution to Tourism' at the Northern Ireland Tourism Awards and 'Building of the Year' at the Royal Society of Ulster Architects Awards.

- The annual summer Festival of Fools, featuring international street theatre at its best, wins the 2012 NI4Kids 'Family event of the Year' award.



*Festival of Fools. Gail O'Brien from Hoopspin.
Photo Alison Anderson*

Interculturalism - leading by example

Responding to Northern Ireland's changing social and cultural landscape, the Arts Council launches the first Intercultural Arts Strategy for Northern Ireland. The strategy, backed by a three-year £300,000 investment package, promotes cultural diversity through the arts and will help to deliver one of the Government's overarching aims of Building a Better Future for All. The programme is designed to help community and voluntary groups increase access to the arts and strengthen opportunities for ethnic minority artists to develop their professional practice and to engage in collaborative work within and across communities. Helping communities to find their voice through the arts and creating opportunities to engage in a positive and open way, represents a significant step forward in addressing the barriers facing minority ethnic groups in Northern Ireland and is an example where the arts are not only helping to deliver on government priorities around inclusivity, but are leading by example.



Kouslyaa Somasundram from ArtsEktra's South Asian Dance Academy at Belfast Mela. Photo: Ronnie Moore

July 2012

- Thousands of people across the UK joined together to ring in the first day of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as part of a public art piece commissioned from Turner Prize-winning artist and musician, Martin Creed.



- The Millennium Forum Theatre is recognised as 'Business of the Year' at the 2012 Derry~Londonderry Business Awards, acknowledging the significant impact on local business and the economy of this arts venue, which has welcomed 3.5 million visitors since opening in 2001.

- The Luminous Soul Dance Project, run by the arts and disability company Open Arts, showcases its latest performance in front of an audience of MLAs at Stormont, raising awareness of the group's continuing success at professionalising dance for people with disabilities in Northern Ireland.

- The new Laureate na nÓg / Children's Literature Laureate, illustrator and award-winning writer Niamh Sharkey makes her first official visit to Northern Ireland as part of the annual Belfast Book Festival.



Niamh Sharkey (right) introduces her fans to some of her most famous fictional characters

77% of people living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland attended the arts this year

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



Northern Ireland – A Land of Giants

The four-year Cultural Olympiad reaches its finale with the London 2012 Festival, a twelve-week arts festival which runs in Northern Ireland from June to September 2012. The Cultural Olympiad programme, founded on the values of internationalism, inspiring young people and leaving a legacy for our arts and culture, engaged unprecedented numbers of people in arts activities. The London 2012 Festival programme in Northern Ireland continues the theme, placing the arts centre stage with a series of spectacular events including the Peace One Day concert; NI Opera's production of 'Noye's Fludde' at Belfast Zoo; Northern Ireland's largest public art event, 'Nest'; the Happy Days festival in Enniskillen; Jeremy Deller's life-sized inflatable 'bouncy castle' replica of Stonehenge; and the breath-taking one-off show, 'Land of Giants', the largest outdoor arts event ever seen in Northern Ireland, performed before an audience of 18,000 people. The festival provides an opportunity to engage diverse communities and young people in the arts, experience the work of the world's leading artists, showcase our artists on a world stage, and for everyone to join the global celebrations in the run up to the London Olympic and Paralympic Games.



- The Arts Council and the Big Lottery Fund combine forces with 'Culture For All', a £1.35m small grants programme to enable communities across NI to play a part in the Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 celebrations.



Georgina Kee from Solace Highland Dancing Group at launch of the Culture For All programme.

- Internationally-recognised local pianist Barry Douglas performs with his Camerata Ireland chamber orchestra at the 10th annual Clondeboy Festival, joined by the next generation of young classical musicians who have risen through their annual Young Musicians Programme.



Barry Douglas showcases rising musical talent

August 2012

- The Arts Council opens 'Take it Away', a music-making scheme offering interest-free loans to help members of the public buy the instrument of their choice.



- The Arts & Disability Forum launch NI's first Disability Arts festival with the mini festival, 'Bounce!', showcasing new and challenging new work by international and local disabled artists.
- The annual August Craft Month, run by Craft Northern Ireland, promotes contemporary craft and the material arts in Northern Ireland with a month-long programme of exhibitions, workshops, talks and events.
- Feile an Phobail, Ireland's largest community festival, offers 300 events across 30 venues in Belfast with a line-up including Mary Black, Alabama 3 and Bad Manners.

Happy Days are Here Again

The HAPPY DAYS Enniskillen International Beckett Festival becomes the world's first annual, multi-arts celebration of the great Irish Nobel Prize-winning writer, Samuel Beckett. It is an instant success, generating an estimated £2.5m for Enniskillen, with 70 per cent of visitors coming from outside of Northern Ireland. Among the highlights of the five-day 2012 Festival, celebrating the life and legacy of the Dublin-born writer who once boarded at Portora Royal School in Enniskillen (also attended by Oscar Wilde) are a spellbinding staging of 'Krapp's Last Tape' by the world's foremost vanguard theatre artist, Robert Wilson, and a reading of his three last prose pieces, 'Stirrings Still' (1986-89), by Northern Ireland actor Adrian Dunbar and Australian actor Anna Nygh.



Anthony Gormley's Godot Tree sculpture

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

September 2012

- The fourth annual Culture Night transforms the streets of Belfast city centre in an evening of free carnivalesque fun, with 220 events showcasing the best of the city's arts and attracting 20,000 people.



Matt from the Beat Carnival spreads the word about Culture Night

- Three of NI's leading artists head to London's Southbank Centre in London to exhibit their work in the Unlimited arts festival as part of the London 2012 Festival. The £3m Unlimited programme has supported the work of disabled and deaf artists across the UK on a scale never seen before in the UK.



'Unlimited' artists Maurice Orr, Sinead O'Donnell and Joel Simon

- Eighteen community groups and arts organisations from Belfast, Derry, Fermanagh, Down, Armagh and Tyrone receive funding totalling £250,000 through the Arts Council's Arts & Older People programme, to deliver a wide range of arts activities designed to engage older people in the arts.
- A brand new festival and the first of its kind in the east of the city, the East Belfast Arts Festival showcases emerging and existing local talent and lures Van Morrison back to his old stomping ground.



Stormont Lad by Claire Lau. 26 billboards by Creative Exchange Studios celebrating local people, culture and social aspects of life, go on display for the East Belfast Festival.

Legacy Trust UK - Connecting Arts and Sport

In 2009 the Legacy Trust UK, which was established to provide a cultural legacy from the London 2012 games, challenged six arts organisations in Northern Ireland to develop a series of community projects that would connect culture with sport. The result was the Connections programme. Through this three-year programme, managed by the Arts Council, six lead partners - Donaghmore's Beam Creative Network, Londonderry's Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company and The Verbal Arts Centre, alongside Belfast based Northern Ireland Screen, Open Arts and The Beat Initiative - ran workshops and activities that bridged the gap between sport, learning, arts and culture, and succeeded in engaging the interest of people who had little or no previous involvement in the arts. In September 2012 the participating groups came together at the MAC to celebrate these achievements with a special end of programme public showcase of carnival, film, dance, music and song.



The impact of the £1.78m programme has been felt across Northern Ireland, with some 190 emerging artists and 6,000 children participating in Connections workshops, activities and performances.

October 2012

- In the final project of the Legacy Trust UK Connections Programme, Echo Echo, one of Ireland's leading contemporary dance companies, merges visual arts, music and dance with outdoor pursuits in 'The Cove', a new touring production inspired by the hidden cove of Port-a-Doris on the North Donegal coast, where many years ago sweethearts danced together in secret.
- Inlifesize develops 'Fairy Magic', a new app aimed at the young female social gamer, with investment from the Creative Industries Innovation Fund. Using cutting edge technology and the camera feature on the iPhone, the app allows users to interact with the fairies in their world.



There's fairies at the bottom of the garden

- Culture Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín visits the Lyric Theatre in Belfast to lend her support to the Community Supersaver Scheme, which is helping to make theatre more affordable for all with tickets discounted to just £5 for members of community groups.



- The First Minister and deputy First Minister open Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre in Dungannon, a new facility that includes a multi-functional black box theatre, lecture and conference space, exhibition areas, and a suite of arts studios.

Belfast Festival at Queen's 50th anniversary

The Belfast Festival at Queen's marks its 50th birthday in style with an international line-up that includes Van Morrison, Buena Vista Social Club, Ladysmith and Ray Davies. Starting as a small campus-based event in 1961, the festival has featured names such as Jimmy Hendrix, Michael Palin, Billy Connolly, Dizzie Gillespie, Kylie Minogue and Rowan Atkinson. Today it is the largest and most diverse annual arts festival in Ireland and represents one of the Arts Council's major investments. It has made a massive contribution to the cultural life and reputation of the region and is a magnet for performers and tourists.



- The Arts Council invests £1m in Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013 to support local arts organisations to deliver new projects worthy of international attention.



Colin Bateman, who is developing the script for *Teenage Kicks*, a new punk musical for City of Culture 2013

- Arts practice in NI comes under the spotlight as delegates from as far afield as Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary and Sweden travel to the Belfast for the 6th Intercultural Practice Exchange, co-hosted by the Arts Council and the Platform for Intercultural Europe.



November 2012

- The Theatre Review 2012, commissioned by NITA and produced in partnership with Audiences NI, represents the first in-depth theatre specific report on audience attendance in Northern Ireland and a valuable step in establishing a clear picture of theatre audiences across the country.
- Singled out by the judges for providing young people from all backgrounds with access to top quality musical theatre, training and performance opportunities, Music Theatre 4 Youth collects the prize for Best Youth-led Social Enterprise at the annual UK Social Enterprise Awards in London.
- Minister for Justice, David Ford MLA, attends the stage debut of 'Diablo', the hard-hitting new play by Spanner in the Works Theatre Company about human trafficking in Northern Ireland. The Minister comments: "This important play shines the spotlight on human trafficking and should highlight the plight of victims in a way that will help raise awareness of this evil crime."



Justice Minister attends new play on human trafficking

National Lottery comes of age

The National Lottery celebrates its 18th birthday, but the presents are reserved for the beneficiaries, with £121m invested in art projects in Northern Ireland since the first National Lottery draw 18 years ago. From the large-scale: the construction of iconic venues and landmark public sculpture across the land, key cultural events and festivals – to the small: thousands of small grants to community and voluntary groups working to engage local communities and make the arts accessible to everyone – Lottery funding for the arts has shaped the country's cultural landscape beyond recognition.

75% of the public agree that there should be public funding for arts and culture

December 2012

• Singer Joseph McVeigh from Eglish in County Tyrone and dancer Katy Megahey from Belfast are chosen by Legacy Trust UK to appear in films as exemplars of the inspirational work that has been happening with young people across the UK in the lead up to the London Games.



Joseph McVeigh from Beam Creative Network's Imagine Action project

• The Centre for Contemporary Art in Derry City opens, adding an impressive new gallery space to the list of arts facilities that are transforming access to the range of arts for everyone in the area.

• The Prison Arts Foundation launches its new strategic plan alongside an exhibition at Stormont, marking 15 years of its pioneering work in prisons, transforming lives and changing patterns of behaviour for good.

• Users of the Care For Cancer charity in Omagh participate in a nine-week 'Arts For Leisure' programme, learning the skills of making ceramics, singing and visual arts, and participating in creative and positive sociable activities and skills development for people affected by cancer.

• Play Resource celebrates its 10th anniversary in its purpose-built centre in north Belfast with the opening of a new mezzanine floor. DCAL and Arts Council funding has enabled Play Resource to grow into the largest creative resource facility in the UK, and the only one of its kind in Ireland.

International Ambitions

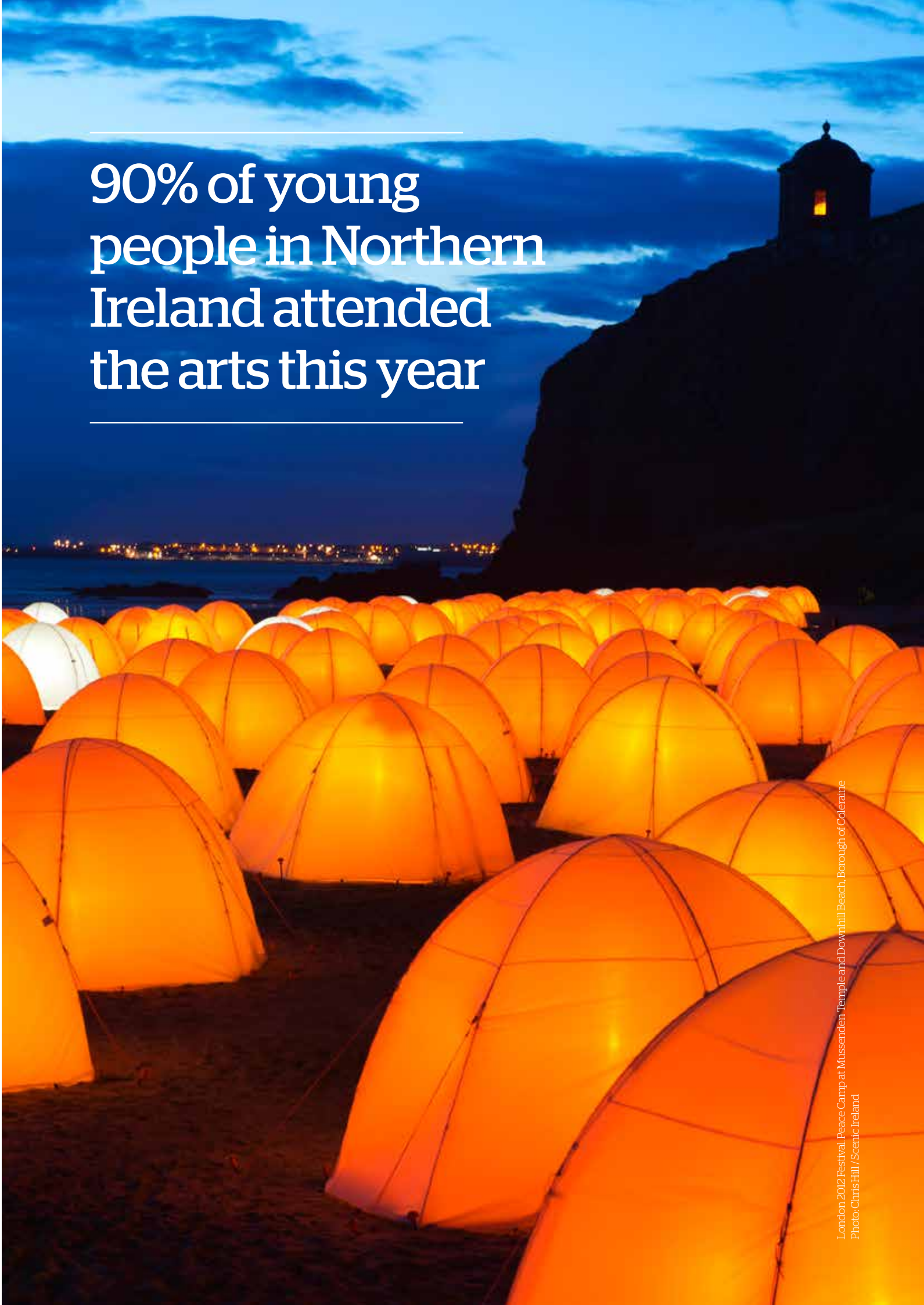
The impact the arts and artists from Northern Ireland have made on the world stage far exceeds what might be expected from a small country with a small population. Northern Ireland continues to produce artists of international standing and the Arts Council continues to create opportunities for artists and arts organisations from Northern Ireland to develop international connections and to showcase their work on the world stage. In addition to travel awards, residencies and the new 'Artist's International Development Fund', developed in partnership with the British Council, the Arts Council organises a number of showcase opportunities for artists and organisations. Artists are developing collaborative work in the remoter regions of Europe through the 'Corners: Research and Development' initiative; theatre companies are performing at the annual Origin First Irish Festival of Theatre, a festival known to open doors to North America; and the excellence of the range of artistic practice from Northern Ireland has been on prominent display at the Brussels Platform, a collaboration between the Arts Council and the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels. Through the Brussels Platform, local musicians, writers, dancers, theatre practitioners and

visual artists are given the opportunity to showcase their work at a series of monthly cultural events in front of an influential international audience. The international profile of the arts from Northern Ireland has never been stronger.



Dan Gordon's play, 'The Boat Factory', showcased at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Brussels.

90% of young people in Northern Ireland attended the arts this year



January 2013



• The Arts Council recognises four eminent artists with its annual Major Individual Artist Awards of £15,000 each, to help each develop a major project: children's writer Sheena Wilkinson, jazz musician Paul McIntyre, ceramicist Derek Wilson and painter Barbara Freeman.

Major Award winner Sheena Wilkinson

• The Ulster Youth Choir teams up with Translink in a partnership that will reach hundreds of young people aged 12-18 in post-primary schools across Northern Ireland. 'Musical Journeys' will involve workshops in post-primary schools and a series of performances by Ulster Youth Choir members on Translink trains, buses and platforms.



Greg Beardsell, Ulster Youth Choir Artistic Director with Catherine Mason, Group Chief Executive, Translink & NITHCO

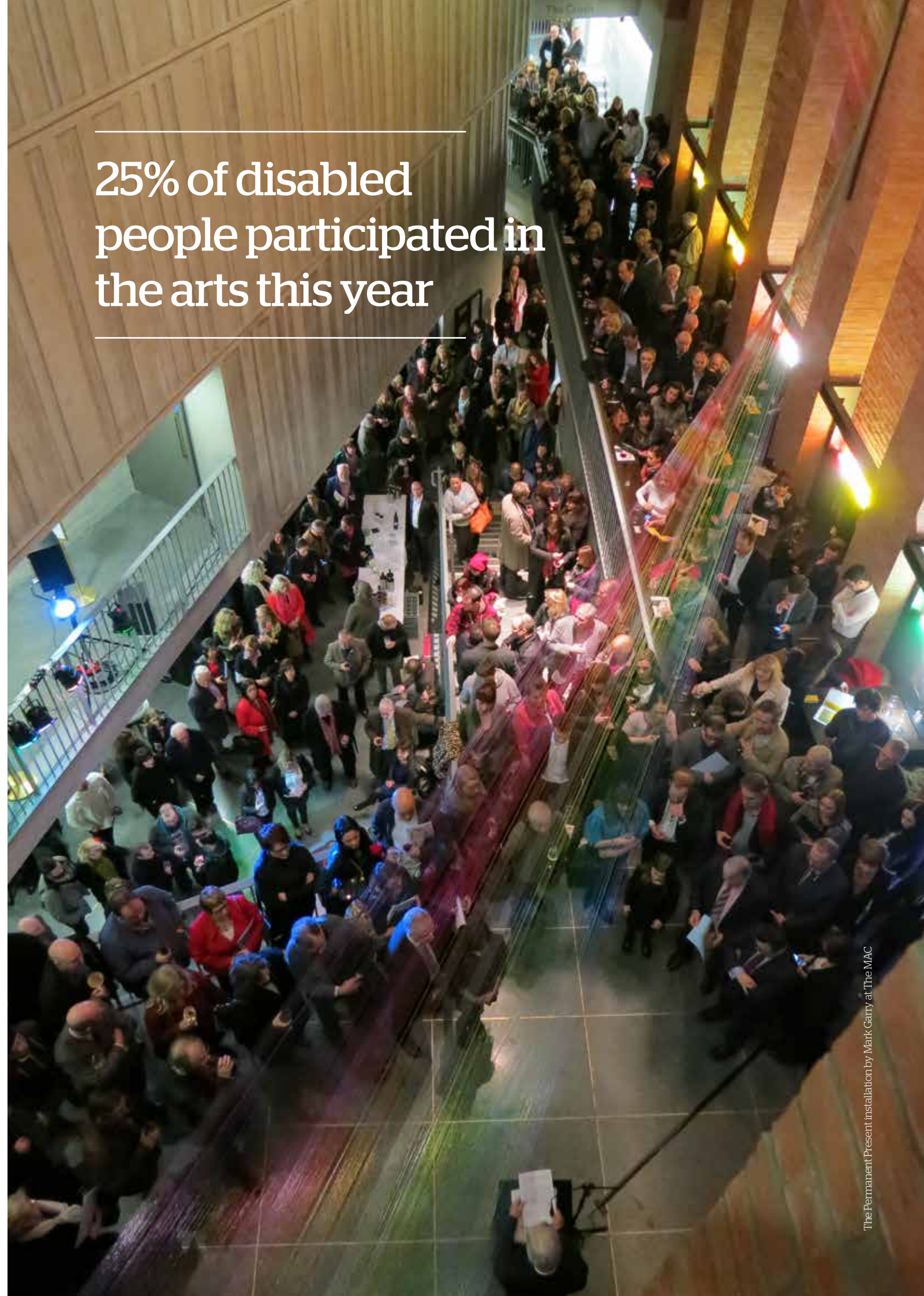
• An audience of Assembly Members and representatives from both Arts Councils on the island enjoy a feast of festive music at a reception at Stormont to celebrate 30 years of education, culture and music at the Northern Ireland Piping and Drumming School.



• A new piece of public art by celebrated artist Maurice Harron, based on the local legend of Finvola O'Cathain, is unveiled outside Dungiven library.

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

25% of disabled people participated in the arts this year



Derry-Londonderry UK City of Culture 2013

Derry~Londonderry made history in July 2010 when the city saw off its shortlist contenders, Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield, to become the UK's first City of Culture. The title is designed to promote regeneration and investment in a city's infrastructure with the promise of a significant return in jobs and the local economy through increased tourism and inward investment. There is no shortage of momentous events in the programme, notably the BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend; Frank Cottrell Boyce's outdoor spectacular, 'The Return of Colmcille'; a new production of Brian Friel's 'Translations'; the biggest celebration of Irish Culture anywhere in the world with the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann; a major retrospective exhibition of Derry-born artist Willie Doherty; Hofesh Shechter's daring contemporary dance performance, 'Political Mother'; the city's own Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney joining uilleann piper Liam O'Flynn for a performance of 'The Poet and the

Piper'; and one of the world's most prestigious awards for contemporary art, the Turner Prize, held for the very first time outside of England at the former army barracks at Ebrington. Thanks to its year in the cultural limelight, the image of Derry is being transformed and it is experiencing an artistic renaissance that is pulling in the visitors, buoying the city and paving the way for a new generation of creative talent.



February 2013

- The 9th annual Belfast Nashville Songwriters Festival and Song Writing Convention returns with 40 events attracting more than 100 songwriters to Belfast from across the world.



- Audiences NI's flagship audience development scheme, 'Test Drive the Arts', celebrates its 3rd birthday, by which time it has introduced 15,745 new attenders to the arts. The initiative increases audiences by offering the public guest tickets from unsold capacity in the expectation that they will want to return as paying customers.



- The Oh Yeah Music Centre in Belfast launches the second year of its talent development programme, 'Scratch My Progress', offering four musical acts the chance to hone their talent and learn about the business and the trades of writing and performing.

- The Arts Council recognises the exceptional musical talent of Katherine Sung, this year's leader of the Ulster Youth Orchestra, by awarding her the loan of its prestigious Milton Violin.



Previous recipient of the Milton Violin, Michael Trainor

- The Arts Council goes out to public consultation on its draft arts plan, 'Ambitions for the Arts: a Five Year Strategic Plan for the Arts in Northern Ireland 2013-2018'.

300 projects are being supported by the Creative Industries Innovation Fund

Building Peace through the Arts

A measure of the success of the three-year pilot Re-imagining Communities programme is that the term 're-imagining' has entered the lexicon of community regeneration in Northern Ireland. Broadening the scope of this original programme and extending the commitment to arts-led social inclusion and community regeneration, the Arts Council launches 'Building Peace Through the Arts – Re-Imaging Communities'. The new £3.1m programme adds a further dimension to the ethos of a shared future for everyone, including rural communities and border counties in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It will enable community groups and local authorities to employ artists to work with local people, to improve community relations and to create vibrant and attractive art in public spaces. With a renewed emphasis on cross- and inter-community work and a focus on young people and ethnic minority communities, 'Building Peace' promises to deliver some ground-breaking work, helping communities to tackle sectarianism and racism. It is led by the Arts Council and

it is scheduled to run until summer 2015. The programme is part-financed by the European Union's Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE III) managed by the Special EU Programmes Body; the Arts Council of Northern Ireland; and the International Fund for Ireland.



- The Playhouse Theatre of Witness project is showcased at a European Peace conference in Brussels where it is heralded as an example of best practice for conflict and post conflict countries throughout the world.
- 'Macropolis', an animated short film by Northern Irish animation studio Flickerpix is named best animation at the 10th Annual Irish Film and Television Awards 2013.



Celebration of Age Week

The initial three-year pilot phase of the 'Arts & Older People Programme' draws to a close with a mini-festival showcasing some of its highlights. March's showcase event, called 'Celebration of Age Week', finishes on a high note with a conference bringing together specialists and professional bodies involved in championing the rights of older people in society. The pioneering £700,000 arts programme, developed by the Arts Council and The Atlantic Philanthropies to help older people, especially those in rural areas, access and participate in the arts, has succeeded in engaging more than 3,500 older people in creative activities. It enabled the development of arts-based projects across Northern Ireland that would address related social issues such as poverty, isolation and loneliness, as well as challenging ageism and encouraging lifelong learning and active ageing. The 'Arts & Older People Programme' is scheduled to re-open in winter 2013.



March 2013

- The International Cultural Arts Network holds a two-day conference at The Playhouse in Derry, bringing together local and international delegates working in the field of community arts to examine how the arts can challenge the people and place of Derry~Londonderry and other conflict/post conflict cities around the world.
- Young at Art's annual international Belfast Children's Festival returns with a great programme of professional local and international arts performances and events for children and their accompanying adults.



Colour Workshop for Babies by the Pori Centre, Finland

- Belfast-born author Lucy Caldwell's latest novel, 'All the Beggars Riding' is selected by the Arts Council as Belfast's next 'One City One Book' read in 2013.



Lord Mayor Gavin Robinson (right) with Damian Smyth Head of Literature and Drama at the Arts Council launching One City One Book Belfast

The arts are helping to strengthen the voice of older people in society. 6,000 older people participated in arts activities through the Arts & Older People Programme

Financial Summary 2012-13

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.*

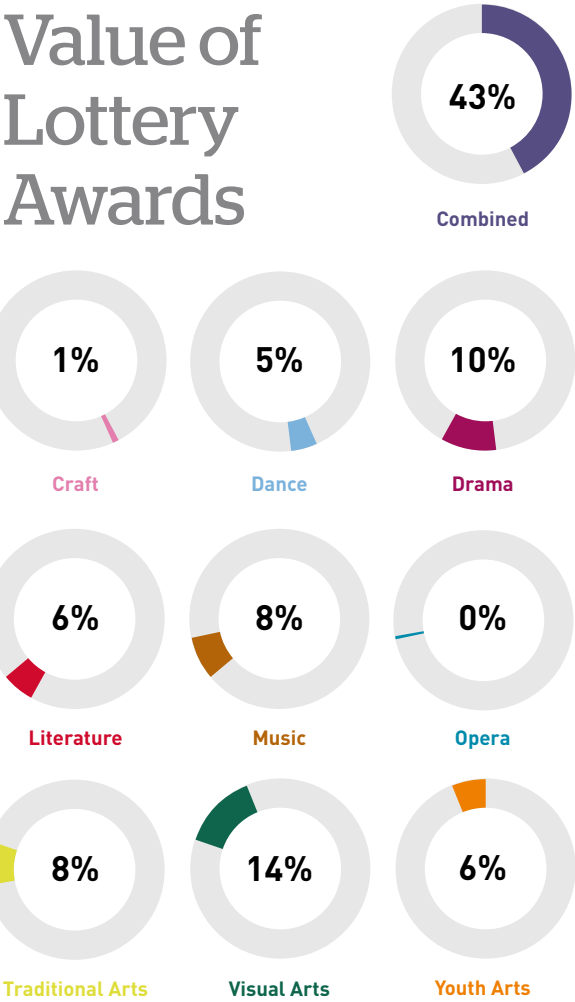
The complete sets of audited accounts for our Exchequer and National Lottery funds are made available on the Arts Council's website, www.artscouncil-ni.org

Arts Council Lottery funding 2012-13

The Arts Council awarded funding of £7.7 million through its National Lottery Fund. Lottery funds supported arts projects throughout Northern Ireland. Funding programmes included:

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

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	6	45,070
ARDS	7	26,377
ARMAGH	11	116,290
BALLYMENA	3	8,317
BALLYMONEY	1	1,328
BANBRIDGE	4	13,194
BELFAST	182	3,959,008
CARRICKFERGUS	1	1,200
CASTLEREAGH	11	40,930
COLERAINE	4	17,180
COOKSTOWN	4	17,974
CRAIGAVON	14	232,711
DERRY	36	1,781,961
DOWN	10	153,292
DUNGANNON	5	51,499
FERMANAGH	9	109,844
LARNE	2	11,312
LIMAVADY	3	14,625
LISBURN	13	131,366
MAGHERAFELT	4	113,937
MOYLE	1	2,000
NEWRY & MOURNE	13	196,705
NEWTOWNABBEY	4	24,079
NORTH DOWN	13	195,513
OMAGH	6	81,815
STRABANE	3	43,750
Other*	11	319,598
GRAND TOTAL	381	£7,710,875



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

Arts Council Exchequer funding 2012-13

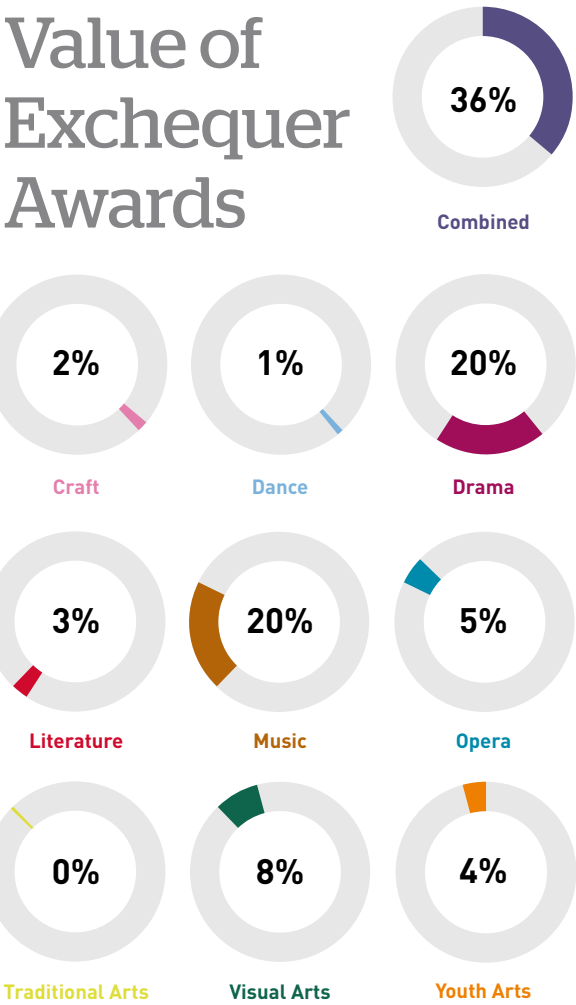
The Arts Council awarded funding of £12.8 million through its Exchequer fund.

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

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

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	3	5,113
ARDS	11	38,284
ARMAGH	3	14,818
BALLYMENA	1	5,000
BALLYMONEY	3	9,090
BANBRIDGE	4	10,543
BELFAST	147	9,936,833
CARRICKFERGUS	4	16,247
CASTLEREAGH	3	12,400
COLERAINE	4	186,954
COOKSTOWN	3	16,412
CRAIGAVON	3	19,370
DERRY	33	1,801,427
DOWN	11	117,642
DUNGANNON	6	41,782
FERMANAGH	11	134,232
LARNE	2	7,799
LIMAVADY	6	33,770
LISBURN	6	42,727
MAGHERAFELT	9	67,412
MOYLE	1	5,000
NEWRY & MOURNE	12	35,364
NEWTOWNABBEY	2	6,100
NORTH DOWN	9	71,906
OMAGH	3	12,722
STRABANE	5	24,333
Other	7	137,300
GRAND TOTAL	312	£12,810,580

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



£20.5m
funding in total

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

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

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

Alternative formats of this publication may be available on request.

**For further information, Tel: 028 9038 5210
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The Arts build a stronger society by bringing people and communities together



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