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annual review

Arts Council of Northern Ireland - 2009-10  
[www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)





# Our Vision

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

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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 2009-10, you will see the progress that has been made in these areas, from international profiling of the arts and expansion of arts-led regeneration projects, to strengthening connections with the business sector and Northern Ireland's continuing participation in the 2012 Cultural Olympiad and Legacy Trust.

\* available at [www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

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## Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2009-2010.

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](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

## What we do

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

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

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

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

# Chairman's Foreword

## Building for the future

**In 2009/10 we were able to announce that every person living in Northern Ireland now has access to a dedicated arts facility in their region, thanks to an investment of £33 million made by the Arts Council over the last fifteen years. This funding, channelled into local arts venues, leveraged partner funding that has provided Northern Ireland with modern facilities which will continue to boost and revitalise our towns and cities well into the future; and in this last year the Arts Council has invested some £2.4 million towards the further building and refurbishment of arts venues.**

This investment forms part of a wider government strategy to enhance the local arts infrastructure, bringing venues here up to an international standard.

Better arts facilities, of course, go further than just supporting the local arts, important as that is, they also enable educational programmes and outreach projects to expand, encouraging wider community involvement and increased opportunities for participation. They also provide the facilities required for the best international companies to bring their performances to local audiences.

Currently there is an emphasis on strengthening the infrastructure in Belfast and Londonderry.

Thanks to the Arts Council, DCAL, and our other funding partners, in Belfast, the Ulster Hall and the Grand Opera House have already received extensive facelifts. The Crescent Arts Centre has been restored at a cost of

## £3.8m has helped to create more welcoming environments in local communities through 155 Re-imaging Communities projects

£7.2 million and opened its doors to the public in April 2010; and construction work has begun on the new £18 million Lyric Theatre and on the £17.56 million MAC Centre, both due to open in 2011.

The City of Derry now also boasts striking new buildings such as the £4 million Irish language centre, Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin, which opened in September 2009; and the newly refurbished £1.2 million Waterside theatre, and the £4.6 million Playhouse theatre, which opened in September 2009 and November 2009 respectively.

Much of the building programme in Belfast and Londonderry has been developed in response to the lessons learned from Belfast's highly illuminating, if ultimately unsuccessful, bid for European Capital of Culture 2008; and the enhanced facilities in Londonderry may well have had a decisive role to play in the outcome of its bid to become City of Culture in 2013.

The joint investment by DCAL and the Arts Council in the arts infrastructure has been funded through Exchequer and Lottery funds and, although this phase of major building projects is drawing to a close, it is important to remember that we still have commitments through our Exchequer funds to support a series of small refurbishments around the region in the coming financial year.

The state of the economy has, of course, been preoccupying everyone's mind throughout the year, and it would have been naïve to think that the arts budget could be exempt from the mounting pressure on the Northern Ireland budget. Nevertheless, the



consequences of the proposed reduction of £1.1 million to the Arts Council's indicative budget for the coming year, will be felt deep across the arts sector. Compounded by the additional costs associated with maintaining our new and refurbished venues, the reduced budget for the coming year leaves us having to spread already over stretched resources ever more thinly.

In the international context there is now a sophisticated understanding of how the development of arts and cultural activity can transform the fortunes of a modern society; and the potential rewards there are for economic, social and cultural life where creative and entrepreneurial people are valued and nurtured; not least in the provision of an artistic offering that will attract cultural tourists and boost the creative industries. It is essential that we continue to promote understanding of this to Government and opinion formers.

One of our main tasks in the coming year must be to reinforce the message that a cut to the already relatively tiny arts budget will have a disproportionately damaging impact. It is vital in the difficult times ahead that we strive to maintain the balance of the fragile creative ecosystem, based on interdependence and overlapping of art forms, where even a moderate change to one part may have dramatic consequences for the rest.

*Rosemary Kelly*

Rosemary Kelly, OBE  
Chairman

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Art introduces a reassuring human dimension to health care environments. Artists work with patients, staff and visitors, complementing conventional medical interventions

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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.**

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

**There is overwhelming support in NI for public spending on the arts (72%).**



Ms Rosemary Kelly, OBE, Chairman



Mr Damien Coyle, Vice Chairman



Mrs Eithne Benson



Ms Kate Bond



Mr Raymond Fullerton



Mr David Irvine



Mr Anthony Kennedy



Prof Ian Montgomery



Mr William Montgomery



Ms Sharon O'Connor



Mr Joseph Rice



Prof Paul Seawright



Mr Brian Sore



Mr Peter Spratt



Ms Janine Walker

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Everyone in Northern  
Ireland now has access to  
a dedicated arts facility,  
thanks to £33m Arts  
Council investment

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# Chief Executive's Introduction

## Creating Industry

**One of the most enterprising developments in 2009/10 has been the large-scale investment by the Arts Council and our parent body, DCAL, in our creative industries. In October 2008, DCAL announced an investment over three years, of £5 million in Northern Ireland's creative industries, to be disbursed by the Arts Council. To manage the disbursement of the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, we formed a consortium of partners, comprising DCAL, the Arts Council, Invest NI, DEL and DETI.**

Notwithstanding the excellent work that has been undertaken by Invest NI, the District Councils and umbrella organisations like Arts & Business, there is no dedicated creative industries development agency for

Northern Ireland. We do, however, have very strong sectoral support organisations, such as Craft Northern Ireland, Digital Circle and Northern Ireland Screen. These organisations, alongside local enterprise agencies and our own team at the Arts Council, have been on hand to offer expert support and guidance to creative businesses applying to the fund.

Since its introduction, the response of the creative industries sector to the new fund has been overwhelming. The initial aim of the fund was to deliver support to 140 creative businesses in Northern Ireland - providing seed funding to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, plugging gaps in the skills and knowledge base, helping to develop new markets, and supporting existing and emerging creative enterprises

The benefits of investment in the arts are felt across society, with 56% of ACNI's main grant programmes made within the most deprived areas of NI.

to establish a secure footing in the international marketplace. To date we have received approximately 550 applications and, at the close of this financial year have successfully funded 156 projects to the tune of £3.6 million, with our funds now fully committed until 31st March 2011.

Investment in our creative industries and in the export of the wide range of cultural products – film, video, TV, radio, advertising, publishing, music, design, crafts, art markets, software, fashion, and the many spin-offs in other sectors – holds the potential for high economic returns. This marketplace is now hugely important to us, as our competitive strength and the source of our wealth and job creation is shifting from our declining traditional industries to our burgeoning creative sector.

The high-profile growth of the creative industries is also instilling a greater appreciation amongst private sector companies that strengthening their links with the creative sector will help them to build stronger foundations and position themselves in competitive readiness for more promising economic times ahead. The creative industries clearly demonstrate the mutual benefits of the increasing convergence between the



worlds of art and commerce: their success relies on the acumen of the business world, but it is our artists and artisans who provide its inspiration and lifeblood. Their ideas and skills are the raw materials of the creative industries. There is a growing recognition that art, design and creativity, far from being peripheral to commerce, can make a decisive contribution to economic growth and regeneration.

The ingredients are all here in Northern Ireland to enable us to capitalise on the considerable potential for growth in this sector. With the help of the seed funding available through the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, our talented and enterprising creative companies are now in a stronger position to compete successfully in the creative industries world market.

*Roisín McDonough*

**Roisín McDonough**  
Chief Executive

# The Executive of the Arts Council

## Chief Executive



Roisin McDonough

## Corporate Services Department



Geoffrey Troughton, Director of Finance & Corporate Services (February 2010-)

Paul Burns, Director of Corporate Services (retired Nov 2009)  
Edel Bonar, Finance Manager  
Ken Bartley, IT Manager

## Strategic Development Department



Nick Livingston, Director of Strategic Development

Fionuala Walsh, Head of Community & Participatory Arts  
Katherine Keys, Sector Business Development Manager (to June 2010)  
Graeme Stevenson, Research and Policy Officer  
Amanda Leighton, Research and Policy Officer (to Dec 2009)  
Karen Barklie, Research and Policy Officer (April 2010 -)  
Jacqueline Witherow, Policy Development Officer  
Joan Dempster, Community Arts  
Christabel Williamson, Community Arts (June 2009 -)  
Sonya Whitefield, Development Officer (Nov 2009 -)  
Gavin O'Connor, Youth Arts

Re-imaging Communities Programme  
Sara Shields, Community Development Officer (Maternity leave)  
Ann Ward, Community Development Officer  
Ciara Shaw, Community Development Officer (Jan 2010 -)

## Arts Development Department



Noirín McKinney, Director of Arts Development

Damian Smyth, Head of Drama & Literature  
Rosa Solinas, Head of Music  
Suzanne Lyle, Head of Visual Arts

Lorraine Calderwood, Capital Projects Officer  
Grainne McCann, Communications Manager  
Sarah Coburn, Media Relations Officer  
Jane McKee, Media & Communications Officer  
Matthew Hendry, Communications Officer  
Fiona MacMillan, Public Affairs Officer  
Diane Forsyth, Operations Officer (to Nov 2009)  
Maria Lynch, Operations Officer



Lorraine McDowell, Director of Operations

## Arts Development Officers

Gilly Campbell, Drama and Dance  
Iain Davidson, Visual Arts & Craft (to Oct 2009)  
Deirdre Robb, Visual Arts (Jan 2010 -)  
Joanna Harvey, Visual Arts (July 2009 -)  
Chris Ledger, Arts & Disability, Arts & Health, Voluntary Arts (to Sep 2009)  
Edel Murphy, Small Grants Programme Officer  
Maria McAlister, Traditional Arts (Aug 2009 -)

## Cultural Olympiad

Cian Smyth, Creative Programmer, Cultural Olympiad  
Marian Clark de Monreal, Programme Co-ordinator, Legacy Trust UK

## Creative & Cultural Skills

Sara Graham, Northern Ireland Manager

## Creative Industries Innovation Fund

David McConnell & Greg Marrs, Creative Industries Innovation Fund Officers

Full staff list is available on [www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

The main barrier to attending arts events is cost; reduction of public funding will push ticket prices beyond the reach of many.

# £19.3m of Arts Council Exchequer public funds in 2009/10 supported artists and arts organisations throughout Northern Ireland



Maurice Orr  
Photo: Donal McCann

# A Year in the Arts 2009-10

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 2009

- Arts Council pilots 'Artists for Hire' to promote the services that professional artists and arts organisations can offer to businesses and corporate entertainment events.



- British Council and Arts Council launch the International Young Curators Programme to help ten aspiring curators from Northern Ireland to gain international curatorial experience at the Venice Biennale of Art.

- £190,000 is committed to commission an artist to deliver a major work as Northern Ireland's contribution to 12 UK-wide 'Artists taking the Lead' London 2012 Cultural Olympiad projects, totalling £5.4 million. 'The Nest' by Brian Irvine and John McIluff goes on in October to win over 67 entries from Northern Ireland.



Brian Irvine and John McIluff collect items for The Nest

- EUCLID CultureEuro Seminar at Arts Council provides arts sector with key information on potential sources of EU funding and cultural co-operation projects in Europe.
- Creative and Cultural Skills NI Leadership Programme begins, enabling participants to build a network with fellow leaders across the creative and cultural sectors and develop leadership skills to drive forward organisational success.



Arts Council CEO Roisin McDonough with the Northern Ireland Manager for Creative & Cultural Skills, Sara Graham

### BOXING WITH BARRY

Two large artworks depicting local boxing heroes are unveiled in Monkstown and Turf Lodge by Irish boxing legend, Barry McGuigan, as part of the Re-imaging Communities Programme undertaken by the Holy Trinity and Monkstown Amateur Boxing clubs. Working with professional artists Blaze FX, the clubs came together to deliver this 'Citizenship through Sport' Re-imaging project. Under the Re-imaging scheme, many conflict-themed murals across Northern Ireland have been replaced by new images reflecting positive themes of local community life.



Barry McGuigan and members of Monkstown and Holy Trinity Amateur Boxing Clubs unveil their joint Re-imaging project 'Citizenship through Sport'. Photo: Robert Spring

### May 2009

- Sticky Fingers holds its second annual festival of international theatre performances specially devised for babies and young children.
- New Cultural Olympiad website ([www.artscouncil-ni.org/olympiad](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/olympiad)) details Northern Ireland's ongoing contribution to the cultural celebration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Fresh from their first place at Bangor International Choral Festival, the Open Arts Community Choir, who famously competed in BBC's 'Last Choir Standing', serenade passengers on the 14:25 train from Belfast to Bangor.
- The twelfth Belfast Children's Festival, run by Young at Art, returns with an international programme of music, theatre, dance, puppetry and art for all the family.



Tiernan Kelly, Belfast Children's Festival paper boy

### June 2009

- An exhibition of Troubles Art opens at the Ormeau Baths Gallery in Belfast, featuring works from the Arts Council's Collection plus other significant works reflecting the visual arts produced during Northern Ireland Troubles.
- A new Audience Audit, published by Audiences Northern Ireland, based on data drawn from 22 Northern Ireland arts organisations, reveals the significant contribution of the arts to the wider economy in 2008, with ticket sales alone generating £13.5 million.
- Legendary South African human rights activist, Justice Albie Sachs, is the keynote speaker at the Arts Council's 2009 conference, 'Art & Conflict'. Sachs is joined by Magnum war photographer, Jenny Matthews, Curator of the Northern Ireland Collection at Wolverhampton Museum, Zoe Lippett, Omagh Memorial sculptor, Sean Hillen and poet Michael Longley in conversation with novelist Glenn Patterson – to debate the contribution of art around the world to the process of healing and supporting societies in transition.



Arts Council Chairman Rosemary Kelly, Human Rights activist Albie Sachs, Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness

- Dance United Northern Ireland holds its conference in Belfast, sharing the findings of a three-year primary schools' dance and creative arts programme delivered by the company.
- Arts Council Chairman, Rosemary Kelly, is honoured with an OBE for Services to the Arts.
- The National Campaign for the Arts launches its Manifesto for the Arts, following UK-wide consultation with the arts sector ([www.artscampaign.org.uk](http://www.artscampaign.org.uk)).

### VENICE BIENNALE 2009

Representing Northern Ireland at the world's most prestigious showcase of visual arts, Susan MacWilliam's exhibition of new and recent video works, 'Remote Viewing', curated by Karen Downey, opens at the Biennale. By the close in November of its six-month run in Venice, 'Remote Viewing' will have attracted 51,500 visitors, consolidating the artist's international career and enhancing Northern Ireland's creative and cultural reputation abroad.



F-L-A-M-M-A-R-I-O-N, 2009, video work by Susan MacWilliam, commissioned for the 2009 Venice Biennale

Arts facilities enhance our cultural tourism offering and act as powerful symbols of regeneration of our towns and cities



Grand Opera House david Bintley's 'Cyrano' for Birmingham Royal Ballet. Elisha Willis and Robert Parker. Photo: Bill Cooper

Arts events are hugely popular - in the last year in NI, 75% of the adult population attended, and 81% of young people actively participated in arts events.

## July 2009

- Following a DUP reshuffle, Nelson McCausland MLA is appointed as Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, replacing Gregory Campbell MP MLA.
- Glasgowbury Music annual festival in Draperstown sees a line-up featuring the return of many of the country's finest musicians and acts, such as Fighting With Wire and Henry McCullough, many of whom were given their first break by the Festival.
- Dance Resource Base and the Arts Council hold a Dance Funding Clinic to highlight funding sources for local dancers
- After a successful first year of its Young Professionals programme, Arts & Business re-opens the programme for eight young business professionals to join the boards of arts organisations and share their skills.
- Seventeen arts and sporting events are held across Northern Ireland as part of the Cultural Olympiad's 'London 2012 Open Weekend', to mark 'three years to go' to the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

### CULTURAL OLYMPIAD

The Cultural Olympiad's second annual Open Weekend in July continues the countdown to the opening of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Cultural Olympiad, which showcases the UK's arts and culture, will culminate with a UK-wide festival in 2012. A series of major projects, such as 'Artists taking the Lead' and 'Unlimited', promote artistic and cultural activities that celebrate the values of the Games. More than 100,000 people have so far participated in over 100 events in Northern Ireland's Cultural Olympiad.



NI Open Weekend 2009 participants with Lord Coe

## August 2009

- Craft NI launches August Craft Month 2009, Northern Ireland's annual showcase celebration of contemporary and historical craft by local and international makers.
- An Droichead launches new inter-cultural arts festival of music, song and dance, celebrating the richness and diversity of the cultures and communities in south Belfast.
- InterAct Youth Arts Festival at arts venues throughout Derry City is a new festival created by local youth for local youth, designed to encourage young people from all sections of the community to interact through the arts.
- The Arts Council launches new Drama Bursary for local actors to hone their skills through professional and vocational training.



Arts Council Officer Gilly Campbell and Lyric Theatre Artistic Director Richard Croxford launch new Drama Bursary

**LEGACY TRUST 'CONNECTIONS' PROGRAMME**

Managed by the Arts Council, 'Connections' is a £1.78 million programme which has been funded by Legacy Trust UK, an independent charity set up to build a cultural and sporting legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games. In the lead up to 2012, 'Connections' will be delivered by six project partners combining a variety of sporting activities and artistic practices: Beam Creative Network (children's theatre & sport), Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company (dance & sport), Northern Ireland Screen (film and sport), Open Arts (arts and disability sport), Beat Initiative (carnival arts/physical theatre, circus and gymnastics), Verbal Arts Centre (poetry, prose, music and sport).



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

**September 2009**

- ADAPT delivers training sessions on Disability Awareness and Equality, helping arts organisations to meet their obligations under current legislation.
- 'Let me take you to the Island' residential literary festival on Rathlin Island celebrates its tenth anniversary with a special programme of workshops in poetry, song, film, stage and writing with contributors including Damian Gorman, Ruth Carr and Colum Sands.
- Queen's Film Theatre and Belfast Film Festival organise a weekend of sports-themed films for the launch of Northern Ireland Screen's 'Game On!' project, culminating in a synchronised swimming event, as part of the Legacy Trust UK Connections Programme in Northern Ireland

- New £4 million Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin Irish language and cultural centre opens in Derry City, providing a 200-seat theatre plus cultural, business and educational facilities.
- Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney joins celebrations at the start of construction of the new Lyric Theatre in south Belfast, due for completion in 2011.



*Professional Synchronised swimming team, Aquabatix*



*Lyric Theatre Chairman Mark Carruthers, Arts Council Chairman Rosemary Kelly, Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney*

- Ulster-Scots Community Network launches 'The Ulster-Scot' Lambeeg Drum and accompanying booklet, 'Creating Ulster's unique traditional instrument' as a free educational resource, funded by the Arts Council and Ulster Scots Agency



*Arts Minister Nelson McCausland and Arts Council officer Damian Smyth at launch of 'The Ulster-Scot'*

**CULTURE NIGHT BELFAST**

Belfast hosts its first Culture Night, inspired by the success of the annual Culture Nights established in European capitals such as Reykjavik, Copenhagen and Dublin. Culture Night Belfast sees venues, artists' studios, galleries, historic buildings, churches and cultural organisations based in the Cathedral Quarter of Belfast city centre throw open their doors for a night of free performances, events and tours. The event attracts more than 15,000 visitors to the city.



*Gathering Drum Workshop hosted by Community Arts Forum. Photo: Ryan O'Reilly / CAF*

**October 2009**

- 85 creative businesses in Northern Ireland benefit from £2.4 million investment through the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, the three-year, £5 million seed fund managed by the Arts Council.

- Almost every county across the island participates in poetry readings and events to celebrate the 'All-Ireland Poetry Day', organised by Poetry Ireland with funding from the two Arts Councils on the island.

- Beat Initiative presents an aerial spectacle featuring a giant colourful butterfly and a caterpillar parade to mark the reopening of Belfast City Hall and the launch of the Beat Initiative's 'Liftoff' project for the Legacy Trust UK 'Connections' programme.



*Arts Council Chief Executive Roisin McDonough and Arts Minister Nelson McCausland*



*Beat Initiative 'Liftoff' at Belfast City Hall*

- The 47th Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's celebrates the 70th birthdays of two of Northern Ireland's foremost poets, Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley, with an evening of readings and music performed by the Ulster Orchestra and selected by the poets.



Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley with the Ulster Orchestra

- As part of the Cultural Olympiad, London 2012 and the Arts Council launches 'Unlimited', the largest arts and disability programme ever to be delivered across the UK, with a fund of £3 million across the UK to enable disabled artists to create new work in the lead up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Ballymoney-based visual artist, Maurice Orr is awarded the commission in Northern Ireland in March.



Maurice Orr, winner of Northern Ireland's Cultural Olympiad 'Unlimited' commission. Photo: Donal McCann

**CREATIVE INDUSTRIES INNOVATION FUND**

Since the introduction last year of the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, the Arts Council has allocated £3.6 million seed funding to 156 projects in Northern Ireland. As the traditional heavy industries decline, the Creative Industries are fast becoming one of Northern Ireland's main sources of competitive strength, wealth and job creation. 33,000 people working in Northern Ireland's creative industries are currently generating £582 million to the local economy.



Filmtrip. 'The Beat Hotel'. Photo: Gavin Sloan



The arts raise Northern Ireland's profile abroad and contribute to the economy through cultural tourism. Cultural tourism represents up to 40% of all tourism worldwide.

## November 2009

- Belfast-based arts and disability company Open Arts launches 'Luminous Soul', a three-year dance development project, funded by the Legacy Trust UK 'Connections' programme, to provide opportunities for disabled people in Northern Ireland to work with professional disabled tutors from across the UK.



Project facilitators Sarah Black and Kimberly Harvey

- The Playhouse Theatre in Derry City receives its official re-opening after a £4.6 million renovation and extension, earning it the BURA award for Best Practice in Regeneration



The Playhouse

- Arts Council in partnership with Arts & Business work with the newly-established Charity Commission for Northern Ireland to roll out a series of information seminars for the cultural sector.
- The 19th annual Coca-Cola Cinemagic International Film Festival for Young People opens with a variety of events tailored for younger audiences, including film previews, industry masterclasses, workshops, and Q&A's.
- The Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee publishes its inquiry into funding for the arts in Northern Ireland. Key recommendations include an inter-departmental approach to funding, as the social and economic benefits of the arts meet the objectives of a range of departments.

The arts touch so many areas of our economic and social lives (economy, health, education, social inclusion). The increasing involvement of government partners testifies that the arts help them to achieve their objectives.

## December 2009

- Arts Care, which works across health and social care trusts in Northern Ireland, bringing art, dance, music and creative writing to people in hospitals and health care settings, is one of 35 UK charities shortlisted for the Guardian Charity Awards 2009, highlighting the achievements of small and medium-sized voluntary groups.

- Creative and Cultural Skills opens a pilot Creative Apprenticeships programme Northern Ireland, providing funding and training support for apprentices to gain essential skills in the Creative Industries.

- New Belfast Community Arts Initiative celebrates its tenth anniversary with the publication of 'Re:New Belfast', an audio poetry anthology written and performed by young poets in Belfast.

- Northern Ireland's National Lottery distributors mark the 15th anniversary of the Lottery with an event at the Ulster Museum, highlighting the 15,000 projects which have benefitted from Lottery funding, as part of an overall UK Lottery investment of £845 million in Good Causes in Northern Ireland.

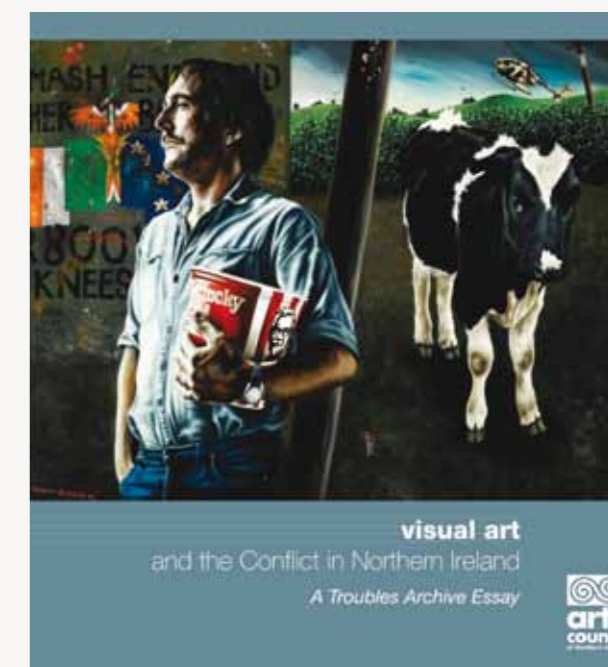


Baroness May Blood MBE and comedian Tim McGarry

- Boyzone's Shane Lynch and X-Factor maestro Louis Walsh hold performance workshops with 40 young people from sports clubs in Donaghmore, as part of the Beam Creative Network's 'ImagineAction' Legacy Trust UK 'Connections' programme.

### TROUBLES ART DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The Arts Council's digital archive of arts of the Northern Ireland Troubles, available to view at the Ulster Museum's Troubles Gallery, is launched at the newly-reopened museum. The archive, which is supported by the publication of thirteen authoritative essays on subjects ranging from Prison Art to Popular Music by writers including Ciaran Carson and Fergal Keane, contains artists' biographies, analyses, poems, film-clips, reproductions and a timeline of key events. The digital archive and published essays reflect the impact of the conflict upon the arts in Northern Ireland and show how artists responded to the times.



Troubles Art essay by Declan Long

£10.3m of National Lottery money in 2009/10 supported the full range of arts projects

## January 2010

- Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's Director, Graeme Farrow, scoops Arts Individual of the Year Award at the Allianz Arts & Business Awards, which celebrate excellent examples of cultural partnerships and sponsorships across Northern Ireland



*Festival Director Graeme Farrow, pictured with Arts Council Vice Chairman, Damien Coyle*

- Helen Lewis MBE, a pioneer of Modern Dance in Northern Ireland, dies aged 93
- Artists in Northern Ireland respond to the Haiti earthquake disaster with a series of fundraising events, including sales of art, special performances and concerts.
- Opera provision in Northern Ireland takes a new direction with the consolidation of the best resources from Castleward Opera and Opera Fringe to form Opera Company NI, a new creative enterprise geared for the future.

- Construction of the new £17.5 million MAC arts centre in Belfast city centre gets underway, with completion date set for November 2011.



*Architect's impression of MAC arts centre*

Most arts centres, venues, festivals, community and disability arts organisations rely on public help (50% subsidy) for survival. For other art forms, including Traditional Arts, the figure is much higher (72%).

## February 2010

- World Community Arts Day is celebrated with an event organised by the Community Arts Forum at the Ulster Hall, showcasing the diversity of projects and helping people to find out more about community arts activities in their areas.

- Arts Council holds stakeholder focus group meetings to evaluate the impact and achievements of its 5-year strategic plan, now mid-way through its effective life.

- Children's author, Declan Carville and traditional musician, Len Graham, are honoured by the Arts Council with the award of Major Individual Artist Awards of £15,000, in recognition of their special contribution to the arts in Northern Ireland.



*Children's author, Declan Carville*

- The new £7.6 million Theatre at the Mill opens, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the arts in Newtownabbey.

- Audiences Northern Ireland launches a new online initiative, 'test drive the arts', to encourage people who rarely or never attend arts events, to go to the theatre, with free tickets to some of the hottest shows.



*Strauss Dancers promote 'Test Drive the Arts'*

- Derry~Londonderry is shortlisted for UK City of Culture 2013, along with Birmingham, Norwich and Sheffield. The bid goes on to win in July 2010, making Derry~Londonderry the UK's first 'City of Culture'.



### SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Launched last year, the Arts Council's Small Grants Programme has so far invested £500,000 in community arts projects right across the region. Some 86 organisations have already benefitted from the scheme, which aims to bring communities together by supporting a wide range of arts activities. Theatre companies, youth groups, disability arts organisations and traditional music projects are just some of those who have benefitted from grants available throughout the year, of between £500 and £10,000.



*Dungannon-based Brantry Bard Sessions Group, recipients of Small Grants funding*

## March 2010

- Ten of Belfast's up-and-coming musicians and ten creative businesses from music, film and digital media are given the opportunity to showcase their work at the premier world industry and media showcase for live music – the South by South West showcase in Austin, Texas. The project, organised by Belfast City Council and NIMIC, received £30,000 funding through the Arts Council's Creative Industries Innovation Fund, which is designed to promote innovation in creative businesses in Northern Ireland.

- Arts Council announces Annual Support for Organisations Programme funding for 2010-11 against backdrop of £1.1 million cut to the indicative arts budget as a consequence of an overall £367 million budget cut across the government departments in Northern Ireland.

- The first annual Northern Ireland Theatre Association conference takes place at the Grand Opera House, offering the local theatre sector a platform to discuss opportunities to build audiences, source funding and tour work.

- The Golden Thread Gallery, with funding from the Creative Industries Innovation Fund, promotes Northern Ireland at Scope New York, one of the world's most prestigious art fairs, with an exhibition of work by four emerging artists – Lisa Byrne, Victoria J Dean, Allan Hughes and Keith Winter.

- South Belfast Irish language centre, An Droichead, wins first place and €50,000 in the 2009 Glór na nGael national awards, made annually to the local voluntary committees that do most to promote the Irish language.

- Poetry Ireland's new Writers in Schools scheme to promote reading and writing, offers schools north and south of the border the opportunity to meet and work with Ireland's best-known writers and storytellers.

- A Who's Who of Northern Ireland's arts gather at the Arts Council to celebrate the 80th birthday of one of Ireland's most influential landscape painters, TP Flanagan.



*Damien Coyle, Seamus Heaney, TP Flanagan*

### ARTS & OLDER PEOPLE

The Arts Council prepares an Arts & Older People strategy to help older people to overcome barriers and to increase access and participation in arts-related projects that address their creative and social needs. The strategy will be published in the autumn. In parallel, the Arts Council develops a pioneering new programme, in partnership with The Atlantic Philanthropies, designed to greatly extend opportunities for older people to engage with the arts and to tackle a range of issues affecting older people in society. The programme, which opens in June 2010, has funding in place for an initial three-year period.



*Elderflowers Dance Company*



*Lauren and Tom McKee launch Poetry Ireland's Border Crossings Project*

The Creative Industries are major employers (33,000 people) and generate £582m annually to the NI economy.

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**The Re-imaging  
Communities Programme  
supports the Shared Future  
strategy for improving  
social inclusion and  
community relations  
by delivering over 155  
community-regeneration  
projects tackling  
sectarianism and racism**

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# Financial Summary 2009-10

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](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

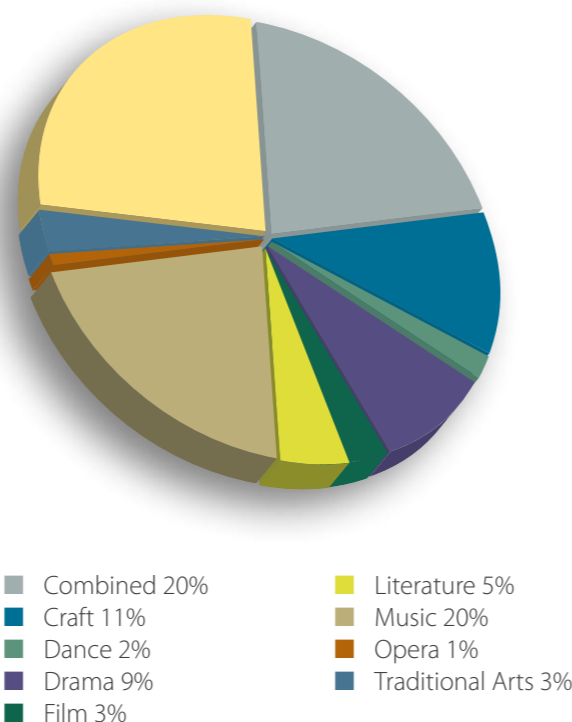
## Arts Council Exchequer funding 2009-10

The Arts Council awarded funding of £19,350,237 through its Exchequer Fund. These funds were awarded through a set of programmes developed to support the full range of activities of artists and art organisations across Northern Ireland, including the following:

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

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	4	736,477.00
ARDS	7	154,793.62
ARMAGH	4	140,010.00
BALLYMENA	2	14,940.00
BALLYMONEY	2	11,056.00
BANBRIDGE	6	70,263.00
BELFAST	211	12,462,399.00
CARRICKFERGUS	1	4,266.00
CASTLEREAGH	12	240,673.00
COLERAINE	8	176,096.00
COOKSTOWN	4	25,147.00
CRAIGAVON	3	78,205.00
DERRY	33	1,902,823.00
DOWN	14	850,025.25
DUNGANNON	1	500,000.00
FERMANAGH	8	50,500.00
LARNE	1	5,402.00
LISBURN	11	306,220.00
MAGHERAFELT	9	121,522.00
MOYLE	3	71,670.00
NEWRY & MOURNE	12	209,568.00
NEWTOWNABBEY	5	502,996.00
NORTH DOWN	15	225,224.00
OMAGH	6	72,795.00
STRABANE	2	35,375.00
OTHER	13	381,792.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>19,350,237.87</b>

### Exchequer awards by Artform



\* Creative Connections and art form policies are available at [www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

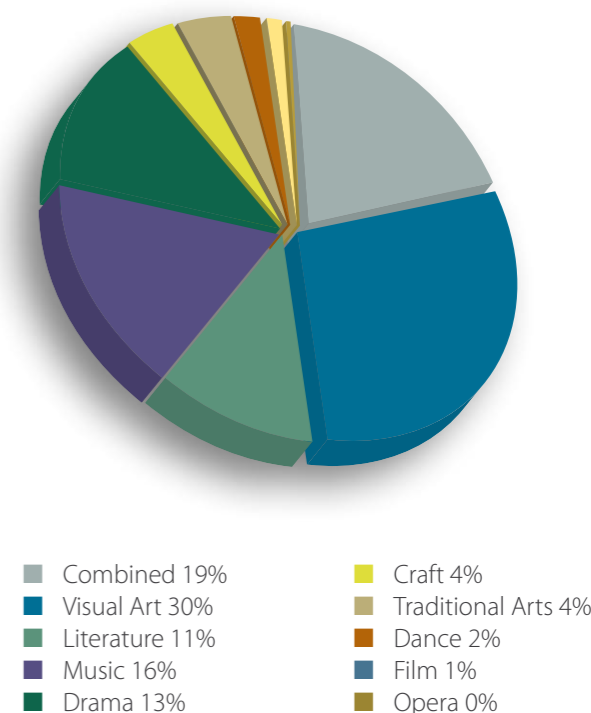
## Arts Council Lottery funding 2009-10

The Arts Council awarded funding of £10,374,041 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 Programme

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	5	44,232.58
ARDS	8	29,399.00
ARMAGH	9	33,398.00
BALLYMENA	5	27,511.00
BALLYMONEY	2	3,820.00
BANBRIDGE	3	9,880.00
BELFAST*	179	8,002,803.98
CARRICKFERGUS	4	45,733.00
CASTLEREAGH	9	31,654.00
COLERAINE	6	86,768.20
COOKSTOWN	5	25,864.00
CRAIGAVON	9	114,180.00
DERRY	51	850,130.92
DOWN	15	90,938.00
DUNGANNON	4	42,068.00
FERMANAGH	13	77,044.00
LARNE	2	20,500.00
LIMAVADY	3	12,550.00
LISBURN	9	55,915.00
MAGHERAFELT	3	38,601.00
MOYLE	6	54,410.00
NEWRY & MOURNE	14	76,644.00
NEWTOWNABBEY	10	39,287.00
NORTH DOWN	19	123,580.00
OMAGH	5	58,730.00
STRABANE	7	89,595.00
OTHER	14	288,805.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>10,374,041.68</b>

### Lottery awards by Artform



\* Includes £5m Capital Build for new MAC arts centre.

# 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](http://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](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/award/deadlines.html)

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

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

## Where can I get help with my application?

The guidance notes for each programme provide information on the assessment criteria, eligibility and application process. The Arts Development Officers at the Arts Council can also offer advice and assistance before you submit an application. Contact details are available at [www.artscouncil-ni.org/us/staff.htm](http://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](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org).

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

We would recommend that you contact the Arts Officer in your local Council or contact your local Arts Centre to get further information on the arts activities available in your area. For information on events for young people by specific organisations follow the web links at [www.artscouncil-ni.org/useful/youtharts.htm](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/useful/youtharts.htm)

## Does the Arts Council provide artists' contact details?

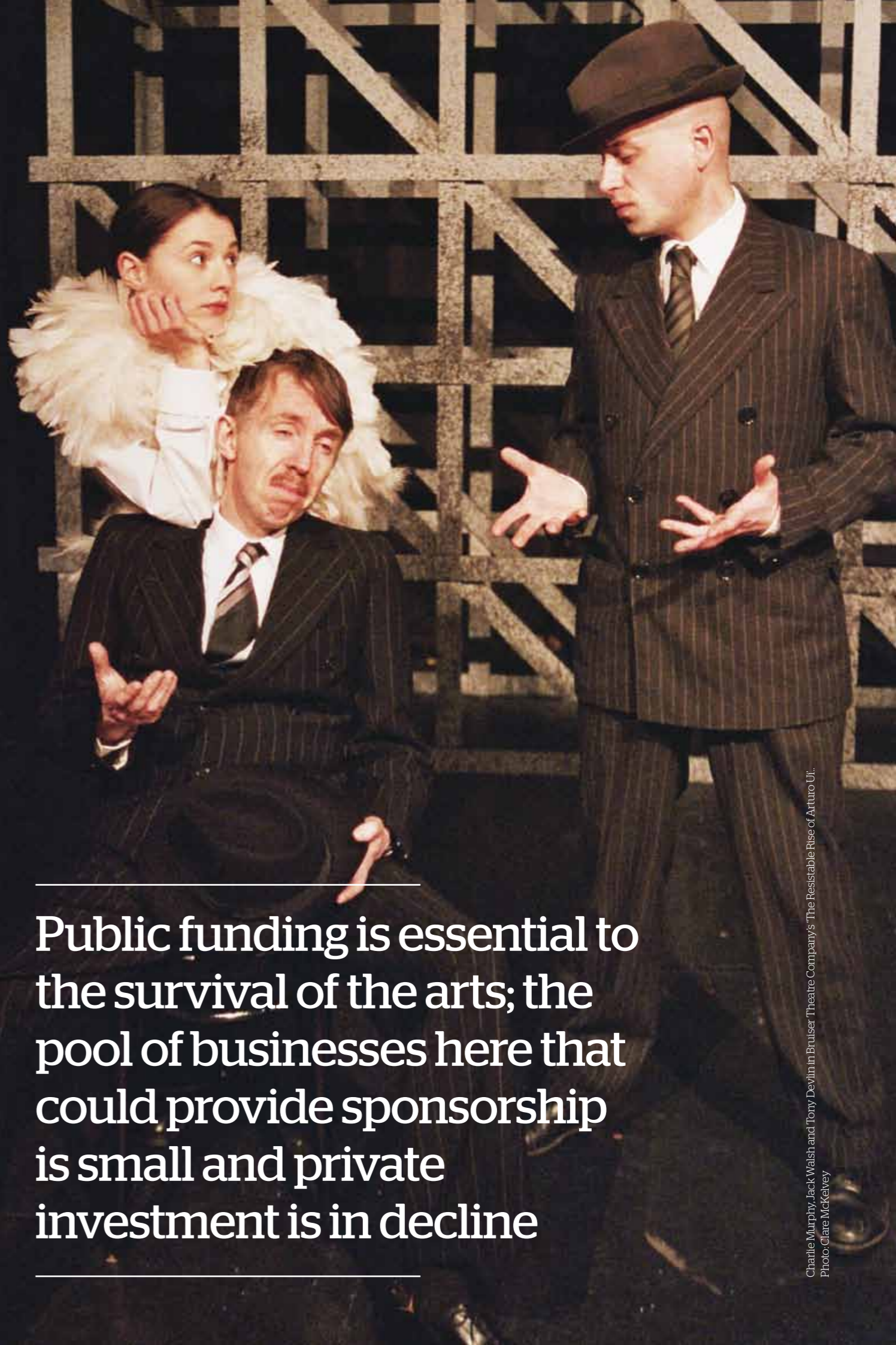
The provisions of the Data Protection Act prohibit us from releasing Third Party information. However, information on artists can often be obtained through a simple web search.

## How do I complain to the Arts Council?

The Arts Council has a Service Charter which outlines the standard of service our clients should expect from us. We operate a Service Complaints Procedure to handle general complaints about our service ([www.artscouncil-ni.org/other/complaints.htm](http://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](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/other/FundingReviewProcedure.htm))

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

**For further information, Tel: 028 9038 5210  
Email: [mhendry@artscouncil-ni.org](mailto:mhendry@artscouncil-ni.org)**



**Public funding is essential to the survival of the arts; the pool of businesses here that could provide sponsorship is small and private investment is in decline**



For further information please contact:

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MacNeice House  
77 Malone Road  
Belfast BT9 6AQ

**T: (028) 9038 5200**  
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