



Arts Council of Northern Ireland

annual review

2008:2009

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 2008-09, 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 the start of Northern Ireland's participation in the 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

Welcome

Welcome to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Review 2008-2009.

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

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Chairman's foreword

Connecting with the Arts



The year 2008-09 began auspiciously, with the Arts Council being able to fulfil its campaign pledge to pass any uplift it received through the Northern Ireland Budget 2008-2011 directly to the sector. With the additional £1.7 million secured from Government, we were able to stabilise our core arts organisations, and 96 organisations benefitted from the increase through this year's round of annual Arts Council grants, totalling £9.6 million. We were also now in a position to safeguard the immediate future of a further 32 major organisations whose future had been at serious risk.

The settlement from Government, however, although welcome, fell short of our assessment of need – an additional £26 million over the three-year funding period – so serious challenges still lie ahead. The situation is not helped by the loss of millions of pounds-worth of National Lottery funding and the fact that the major part of our total Government uplift of £7.55 million is in year three, 2010-2011.

Although the Government is the guarantor of the long-term continuity of our arts and cultural institutions, our artists and arts organisations, there is only so much that public funding can

be expected to achieve in the present economic climate. We need also to look beyond the public purse to greater private investment in our artistic and cultural enterprises.

In this context, I am delighted to note, that in 2008 the Arts Council entered into a closer and more focussed working relationship with Arts and Business, the organisation charged with building mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships between the business and arts communities. By strengthening that relationship we are in a better position to collectively support all those involved in arts activity in Northern Ireland, and the businesses that invest in that work.

Indeed the theme of building relations between the arts and business communities was taken up in April at the Chairs and Chief Executives' Forum. This is the annual gathering of the heads of Northern Ireland's arts organisations, and is a forum created by the Arts Council specifically for discussion of matters of pressing import to the sector.

For the rest of this year 2009/10 it looks like the overriding headline for the arts, as in every other walk of life will be the economic difficulties we are all facing. Audiences Northern

Ireland addressed that theme in its annual conference in February. Appositely titled, 'No Cost, Low Cost', it focused on opportunities for arts organisations to both cut costs and generate income.

During difficult economic times, and facing the kind of gloomy forecasts with which we have become all too familiar of late, there can be a temptation to regard arts as a luxury. It would be a mistake for anyone to ignore the fact that a creative environment attracts creative people, businesses and capital; which correlates directly to increased economic development and competitiveness.

Perhaps more importantly Art is a basic human need. It is one of the ways in which we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds.



Rosemary Kelly, OBE
Chairman



£4,829,111 million of National Lottery money in 2008/09 supported the full range of arts projects

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.

Council Members of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland 2008-09



Ms Rosemary Kelly, Chairman



Damien Coyle, Vice Chairman



Ms Kate Bond



Mr Raymond Fullerton



Mr David Irvine



Mrs Eithne Benson



Ms Sharon O'Connor



Mr Joseph Rice



Mr Anthony Kennedy



Prof Ian Montgomery



Mr William Montgomery



Prof. Paul Seawright



Ms Janine Walker



Mr Peter Spratt



Mr Brian Sore

Chief Executive's Introduction

Arts reaching all Parts



The vision underpinning 'Creative Connections', our five-year plan for developing the arts in Northern Ireland, 2007-2012, is, 'to place the arts at the heart of our social, economic and creative life'. The ambition to engage more fully across all areas of society translates into the funding criteria for our programmes, which encourage organisations to develop their education and outreach services, especially in urban and rural areas of social deprivation.

In December, the Arts Council tested the success of this important aspect of our strategy with the publication of an analysis of our grant distribution over the past five years. The evidence which emerged from the analysis shatters at least two of the most outdated but enduring generalisations about arts funding which have to date proven stubbornly hard to shift.

The main misperception about the arts is that they are essentially a middle-income, middle-class interest. Not so. Our research shows that, of the £56 million awarded by Arts Council over the past five years through our main grant programmes, £31.5 million (56%) has gone directly to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. This figure is even more pronounced in the Derry City area, where 97% of our principal funding was allocated within Londonderry's most deprived areas.

The second major generalisation is that arts funding is centred on Belfast. In fact, every parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland has received grant aid from the Arts Council, and we have introduced initiatives such as the 'STart UP' scheme in 2007 to encourage applications from 'cold spot' areas. The level of funding which goes to Belfast reflects the concentration of national organisations based in the capital city, many of whose services extend to Northern Ireland as a whole.

A more complete reflection of the wide geographic spread of arts funding emerges with other Arts Council funding programmes. Since the advent of the National Lottery, we've allocated £3.7 million through our 'Instruments for Bands' scheme to formally constituted bands from both main communities, 95% of which has been distributed outside of Belfast. The 'Awards for All' programme, helping increase participation in the arts at a community level, presents a similar picture. And, thanks to £30 million invested by the Arts Council in building projects, we have in 2008 essentially achieved one of our long-term ambitions: to provide an arts facility within twenty miles of every person living in Northern Ireland.

In the last five years, 85% (£2.4m) of 'Art of Regeneration' and 58% (£1.4m) of 'Re-imagining Communities' funding

has been allocated outside of Belfast. These special initiative programmes have been targeted directly at specific areas of social need.

The arts are renowned worldwide for the special role they can play in the transformation and regeneration of regions, by helping to build community confidence, social cohesion and renewed civic pride.

The Re-imaging Communities Programme was launched three years ago, as a response to the challenges laid out in Government's Shared Future Agenda to help create the conditions for a healthy civic society to flourish in Northern Ireland. To date, we've funded more than 100 community-based arts projects through this programme, which aims, through an arts-led, joined-up partnership approach, to tackle the visible signs of sectarianism and racism in our society and to kick-start sustainable regeneration in local communities. The year 2008-09 has seen the successful completion of Re-imaging Projects ranging from a new community garden in the Waterside area of Derry City to photographic murals reflecting life in the Markets area of Belfast.

Community-based arts programmes such as these demonstrate the critical role the arts can play in how we, as a society, come to terms with the divisions of the past and build a shared vision for the future.

They show us that our artists have diversified their talents to meet the increasingly wide-ranging demands of a changing society and that they are making a unique contribution to building a better future for all of us. The link has clearly emerged between creativity and positive transformation of individuals and groups in Northern Ireland society today.


This is an area we intend to explore much further at our annual conference in June 2009, when representatives

from a broad cross-section of Northern Ireland society will consider the relationship between 'Art and Conflict'. This will be a timely opportunity to explore, with international speakers and eminent figures from closer to home, the contribution of the arts around the world to the process of healing and supporting societies in transition. Another important focus of the conference will be to examine the ways in which artists have attempted to represent conflict and its legacy.

Such is the significance of the work produced by Northern Ireland's artists representing conflict here, the Arts Council has undertaken to create an online resource commemorating the art of the Troubles. This archival resource gathers together information about relevant art forms, practitioners and their work during this time and features a series of specially commissioned essays on the range of art forms.

The archive acknowledges the unique political context within which the arts have operated in the recent history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland; a journey from the Civil Rights marches of the late 1960s to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. Work on what we trust will be a valuable resource to the wide community of academics, students, researchers, survivors of the conflict and visitors to Northern Ireland is nearing completion in 2008-09. The Troubles archive is due to be launched in June 2009.

Through a combination of carefully managed funding programmes and special initiatives such as the Troubles Archive, the Arts Council ensures that all sections of Northern Ireland continue to share the many benefits of the arts.



Roisín McDonough
Chief Executive

The Executive of the Arts Council

Roisín McDonough, Chief Executive



Corporate Services Department

Paul Burns, Director of
Corporate Services



Edel Bonar, Finance Manager
Ken Bartley, IT Manager

Strategic Development Department

Nick Livingston, Director of Strategic
Development



Katherine Keys, Sector Business
Development Manager
Graeme Stevenson and Amanda Leighton,
Research and Policy Officers
Jacqueline Witherow, Policy Development
Officer

Arts Development Department

Noírín McKinney, Director of Arts Development
Dr Philip Hammond, Director of Arts Support
(retired March 2009)
Lorraine McDowell, Head of Operations



Lorraine Calderwood, Capital Projects Officer
Grainne McCann, Communications Manager
Sarah Coburn, Media Relations Officer
Matthew Hendry, Communications Officer
Fiona MacMillan, Public Affairs Officer
Andrea Rea, 'Troubles' Archivist
Diane Forsythe, Operations Officer

Arts Development Officers

Gilly Campbell, Drama and Dance
Iain Davidson, Visual Arts & Craft
Joan Dempster, Community Arts
Chris Ledger, Arts & Disability, Arts & Health,
Voluntary Arts
Suzanne Lyle, Visual Arts & Collection
Edel Murphy, Small Grants Programme Officer
Gavin O'Connor, Youth Arts
Damian Smyth, Literature & Language Arts
and Music on a temporary basis

Re-imaging Communities Programme

Sara Shields and Ann Ward, Community
Development Officers

Creative Industries Innovation Fund

David McConnell and Greg Marrs, Creative
Industries Innovation Fund Officers

Also based at Arts Council

Creative & Cultural Skills

Sara Graham, Northern Ireland Manager



£12,895,434 million
of Arts Council
Exchequer public
funds in 2008/09
supported
artists and arts
organisations
throughout
Northern Ireland



*Kelsey Long in 'Carnival',
Kabosh Theatre Company*

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 2008

Heads of Northern Ireland's arts organisations gather at the Arts Council's Chairs' and Chief Executives' Forum to consider how to strengthen relations between the arts and business communities and discuss the opportunities created for the arts by association with the 2012 London Olympic Games.



Brona Whittaker, Arts & Business and Rosemary Kelly, Chairman Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The BBC Audience Council for Northern Ireland holds a series of meeting across the region to gather the views of the arts community about the quality and profile of the BBC's arts coverage.

Work begins on building a web-based archive and a series of publications showing how the arts have reflected the Northern Ireland Troubles and are contributing to the development of a more tolerant and inclusive society.

The four UK arts councils host a showcase event for MPs and Peers at Westminster to promote the arts from across the UK. Northern Ireland is represented by Ryan O'Neill, a talented student at the new dance degree course at the Foyle Creative Arts Centre, University of Ulster.

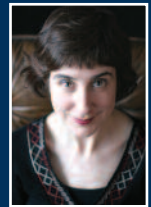


Dr Philip Hammond, Director Arts Support, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Ryan O'Neill, dancer and Foyle MP and Mark Durkan MLA.

Ulster poet, Robert Greacen dies in Dublin at the age of 87. He was one of a remarkable generation which marked the revival of literature from Northern Ireland after the war.

LOCAL POET WINS UK'S BIGGEST POETRY COMPETITION

Portadown-born poet, Sinéad Morrissey, wins the £5,000 National Poetry Competition, the UK's biggest poetry competition, with her poem, 'Through the Square Window'. In November last year, she won the 2007 Lannan Literary Fellowship, worth \$75,000, for "distinctive literary merit and for demonstrating potential for continued outstanding work", a citation endorsed again by her winning this prestigious National Poetry Competition, where the entries are judged without the authors being identified.



Sinéad Morrissey

*In my dream the dead have arrived
to wash the windows of my house.
There are no blinds to shut them out with.
The clouds above the Lough are stacked
like the clouds are stacked above Delft.
They have the gluttoned look of clouds over water.
The heads of the dead are huge. I wonder
if it's my son they're after, his
effortless breath, his ribbon of years
but he sleeps on unregarded in his cot,
inured, it would seem, quite naturally
to the sluicing and battering and pairing back of glass
that delivers this shining exterior ...*

Excerpt from "Through the Square Window"

The Arts Council and DCAL, tasked with developing the Northern Ireland Cultural Olympiad of the London 2012 Olympic Games, begin a Northern Ireland-wide consultation programme to find some of the Big Ideas that will be used to showcase Northern Ireland in the run-up to the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

May 2008

Thousands of young people and their families converge on Belfast for an exceptional programme of international performances from as far afield as Croatia and Egypt during the Young at Art Belfast Children's Festival.

HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall officially open the £16.8m Braid Museum, Arts and Civic Centre in Ballymena.

The Golden Thread Gallery in Belfast shows the Biennale exhibitions by Willie Doherty and Gerard Byrne, the two artists who represented Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland at the world's most important contemporary visual arts showcase, the Venice Biennale.



Joanna Black, Environment & Heritage Service, Gavin O'Connor, Youth Arts Development Officer, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Ali Fitzgibbon, Director, Young at Art and actor Paddy Scully.



New artwork by Diane McCormick at the War Memorial Home Front Exhibition.

Belfast-born artist, Cathy Wilkes, is nominated for the Turner Prize. Her provocative figurative sculptures, using commonplace objects and materials, explore issues of femininity and sexuality.

South Belfast's history is brought to life when Ballynafeigh Community Development Association launch 'Back on the Road', a unique graphic novel illustrating life in the area.



Katie Hanlon, Ballynafeigh Community Development Association and Edel Murphy, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, launch of 'Back on the Road'.



'Ghost Story',
Willie Doherty,
Video Still, 2007

The Lyric Theatre in Belfast is demolished to make way for the building of a brand new £15.23m theatre on the Ridgeway Street site. The new 400-seater venue is due to reopen in 2010.

The first winner of the new Arts Council-sponsored award for Best Example of Integrating Artworks into a Building Project is announced at the Royal Society of Ulster Architects Design Awards. The War Memorial Home Front Exhibition at the Museum at Talbot Street in Belfast picks up the award.

Michael Barnes OBE, Director of the Belfast Festival at Queen's from the early 1970s to 1994, dies in Belfast at the age of 76.

June 2008

The Arts Council commissions research for a new visual arts strategy that will establish a clear vision for the development of the sector with priorities and key actions to be implemented over the next three-year period.

Fifteen students are presented with their Certificate in Developing Creativity in the Early Years. The course at Stranmillis University College, Belfast, run in conjunction with the Early Years arts organisation Sticky Fingers and supported by the Arts Council, is offered to Early Years professionals to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the creative needs of very young children.

The Arts Council celebrates the successful conclusion of STart UP, a six-month programme opened in 2007 to support community groups not previously engaged in the arts. £95,500 was awarded to 20 community-based groups across Northern Ireland, helping to build confidence and encourage groups to seek further funding from various sources to continue their engagement in the arts.



Donna Campbell, Comhaltas Coeltoiri Eireann, Pomeroy and Rosemary Kelly, Chairman, Arts Council of Northern Ireland STart UP initiative.

The Play Resource Warehouse celebrates 25 years of dedicated arts development service to the community. The Warehouse promotes creative play and environmental responsibility by collecting non-toxic waste materials from industry and providing them, together with other low cost play and art resources, to groups working with children and young people throughout Northern Ireland.



Susan MacWilliam, 'Dermo Optics' (2006), video still

VENICE BIENNALE OF VISUAL ARTS 2009

The Arts Council, British Council and DCAL select the exhibition team to represent Northern Ireland at the world's most prestigious visual arts showcase exhibition, the 2009 Venice Biennale. Karen Downey will curate a solo exhibition by Susan MacWilliam, one of the leading artists to emerge from Northern Ireland in the last decade and recently nominated as one of Art Review's 'Future Greats'.

The Venice Biennale opens in June 2009 and runs for five months, attracting the world's top artists representing over 75 nations.

The 2007 Venice Biennale attracted 320,000 visitors, with more than 40,000 visitors to Northern Ireland's exhibition by Willie Doherty.

Participation at the Venice Biennale can be a career-defining event for artists and curators. Their success on this international stage, before thousands of visitors, also reflects on the positive international status of Northern Ireland as an ambitious creative and cultural region.

Susan MacWilliam, *Dermo Optics* (2006), video still



John Robb and Gavin O'Connor with staff of Play Resource Warehouse celebrating their 25th birthday.

More than 1,000 participants recreate the story of Gulliver's Travels for the largest and most spectacular annual Belfast City Carnival Parade ever, organised by the Beat Initiative.



A member of 'The Beat' at Belfast City Carnival.

Public art galleries across Belfast start opening late on the first Thursday of every month as part of Belfast City Council's Cultural Tourism Initiative in association with CultureNorthernIreland, to make the arts more accessible to visitors.

July 2008

The local community at Lincoln Gardens in the Waterside area of Derry City opens a new community garden thanks to £14,650 funding from the Re-imagining Communities Programme.

The Open Arts Community Choir makes it through to the last 15 of Last Choir Standing, BBC 1's Saturday night search to find the nation's favourite choir. Open Arts promotes the inclusion of disabled people in arts activities.



Jacqueline Witherow, Community Development Officer, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, with members of Twinbrook community unveiling a new mosaic as part of the 'Cara House Community Smile Project'

A new mosaic wall feature reflecting local community life is unveiled at St. Luke's Family Centre in Twinbrook, Belfast, thanks to £12,900 Re-imagining Communities funds.

WWW.ARTSANDDISABILITY.COM,

the first website to provide information on arts and disability resources in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland is launched. The website, developed by the two arts councils on the island, is a valuable tool for parents, families, advice workers, arts bodies and the wider community.



Chris Ledger, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, at launch of www.artsanddisability.com

www.artsanddisability.com is a one-stop shop for all queries in relation to disability and access, explaining terminology and legislation and offering direction on how to make arts venues and organisations more accessible.

August 2008

David Hammond, film maker, broadcaster and folk singer, dies at the age of 79. His production company, Flying Fox Film, made over 50 films celebrating Northern Ireland's cultural, social and artistic heritage.

The exceptional talent of our young musicians is showcased on an international stage when the Ulster Youth Orchestra is invited to perform alongside the cream of European orchestras at the prestigious Young Euro Classic Festival in Berlin.



Stephen Cullen and James Flanagan, Ulster Youth Orchestra

Craft NI launches August Craft Month 2008, Northern Ireland's annual showcase celebration of contemporary and historical craft by local and international makers. Exhibitions include the Downing Street Silver Collection, on show at Hillsborough Castle.



Sport themed photographic mural The Markets, Belfast

The Markets area of Belfast is Re-imagined with three new photographic murals reflecting local views of sport, industrial heritage and social life in the area.

Music Theatre 4 Youth's 'Musicals in a Weekend' project makes it through to the finals of the annual National Lottery Awards, which celebrate the best Lottery funded projects across the UK.

The project gave 140 young people the chance to train with leading international directors, musicians and choreographers and to stage three popular musicals in Armagh, Belfast and Derry City.

The Omagh Bomb memorial sculpture and 'Garden of Light' by the design team of Sean Hillen and Desmond Fitzgerald are unveiled in a remembrance ceremony broadcast around the world.

September 2008

Visiting Arts launches www.arts-planet.net, a new international networking resource which allows arts professionals from across the globe to collaborate with each other.



Design of An Culturlann, Uíchanáin, Gt. James Street, Derry

Arts Minister announces additional £2m, on top of £2.5m already committed plus Arts Council's £1.45m, to enable the refurbishment of the listed Crescent Arts Centre building in Belfast to get underway.

ARTS COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW ARTS MINISTER

The Arts Council welcomes the new Arts Minister, Gregory Campbell MP MLA, to its headquarters at MacNeice House in Belfast to meet the Council and eminent artists and arts organisations from across Northern Ireland.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said: "The Arts Council has played a key role in developing the arts and I'm looking forward to working with them and the arts sector as we address the challenges that they will face over the coming years ... My vision for Northern Ireland is of a region renowned on the international stage for its creativity, its talent and the variety and quality of its arts offering."



Chairman, Rosemary Kelly and Chief Executive, Roisin McDonough welcome Arts Minister, Gregory Campbell to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

The design for An Culturlann in Derry City, a state-of-the-art Irish language arts, culture and business enterprise centre and the new home of Irish language organisation, An Gaeláras, is short-listed as one of Ireland's entries at the 11th International Architecture Biennale in Venice.

Vernon Handley, one of the most respected British conductors and the Ulster Orchestra's Conductor Laureate dies at the age of 77.

Poetry Ireland celebrates its 30th anniversary with an All-Ireland Poetry Day featuring poetry readings across every county in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The annual Royal Ulster Academy art exhibition relocates to the historic Titanic Drawing Offices of Harland and Wolff Shipyard, allowing public access for the first time to this landmark building in Northern Ireland's industrial heritage.



Stanislav Nikolov 'Boat Village, Vietnam' RUA Annual Exhibition 08.

The Conway Mill refurbishment project in west Belfast gets underway. The Arts Council is funding the development of an arts floor within the facility. Upon completion in 2010, the facility will act as a catalyst for further economic development and employment in the area.



more than half the Arts Council's funding through its main programmes goes directly to the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland

October 2008

Film legend Ennio Morricone with the Roma Sinfonietta Orchestra and Belfast Philharmonic Choir opens the newly-rebranded Ulster Bank Belfast Festival at Queen's.

The Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts (USA) launch two outstanding anthologies of contemporary poetry by a new generation of poets, in New York and Belfast. 'New Voices', features the work of up-and-coming writers in the US and 'The New North', contains work from Northern Ireland.



2007 Pulitzer Prize winning american poet, Natasha Trethewey

The Beat Initiative moves to its new home at the Belfast Carnival Arts Centre, marking a significant step in The Beat's long-term aim to establish a purpose-built Carnival Arts Centre for Ireland, in Belfast.

PROMOTING NORTHERN IRELAND'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



The Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure and the Chief Executive of the Arts Council launch the Creative Industries Innovation Fund. The new £5 million, three-year funding programme is aimed at supporting innovation in creative businesses across Northern Ireland.

Grants ranging from £10,000 up to £75,000 are available for a wide range of creative projects which support such developments as: the creation or development of creative businesses; the introduction of new creative content, products, services or experiences; and the development of linkages and collaboration between creative businesses, nationally and internationally.



Re-imagining Communities Project 'Wonders of Northern Ireland' in association with Shankill Women's Centre.

A new creative play space opens at the Small Wonders Childcare Centre, just off the Shankill Road in Belfast. This £50,000 Re-imagining Communities project reflects the 'Wonders of Northern Ireland' and was created with the involvement of local women and children associated with Shankill Women's Centre.

November 2008

The annual conference of the Forum for Local Government and the Arts brings together elected members, arts officers and activists from Northern Ireland's district council areas to discuss the role of the arts and creative industries in building sustainable, mixed communities across local government areas of the UK.

Belfast's largest piece of public sculpture is commissioned for the Broadway roundabout. 'Rise' will be 37.5 metres high and 30 metres wide. It is a representation of the sun as a beacon of light; white and silver aluminium will gleam against the skyline and be visible from several miles away.



Lord Mayor Councillor Tom Hartley, Ronan Corigan, Department of Social Development, Iain Davidson, Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Wolfgang Buttress, artist of new public art sculpture at Broadway Roundabout.

Arts Council wins Chartered Institute of Public Relations Gold 'PRide Award' for the 'Keep our Arts Alive' campaign, which contributed to the uplift for the arts from the Northern Ireland budget 2008-2011.

Dr and Mrs Naughton are awarded The Prince of Wales Medal for their outstanding philanthropic contribution to the arts in Northern Ireland.

Arts Council publishes Development of a Dance Strategy, a study designed to establish a clear vision for the development of dance within Northern Ireland, with priorities and key actions for the Arts Council to implement over the next four years.

John Hewitt, one of Northern Ireland's best-known actors, dies aged 58.



BELFAST WRITER WINS LANNAN FELLOWSHIP

Glenn Patterson, one of Northern Ireland's leading novelists, is honoured by the Lannan Foundation in the USA with a two-year literary fellowship, worth \$100,000.

The author of seven novels and the recently published memoir, *Once Upon a Hill: Love in Troubled Times*, 47-year-old Patterson is awarded the Lannan Literary Fellowship in recognition of his talent and to support future outstanding work.

Patterson is a former Board Member of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, which, in 2006, honoured him with a Major Individual Artist award in recognition of the special contribution he has made to the arts in Northern Ireland.

Novelist Glenn Patterson, winner of Lannan fellowship



'Make a Wish' sculpture, Omagh, artist Alex Pentek

'Make a Wish', an illuminated dandelion sculpture created by artist Alex Pentek is unveiled at Omagh Community House as a part of the re-development of this area of the town, destroyed by the bombing in 1998.

Three year's of outstanding creativity in the estates of Kilcooley, Bangor and Loughview/Redburn, Holywood are marked at a celebration of North Down Borough Council's Art of Regeneration programme.



Kilcooley Obelisks, artist Lucy Turner

December 2008

The Arts Council launches its Small Grants Programme, offering grants of £500 to £10,000 to voluntary and small professional groups in Northern Ireland for a wide range of community-based arts activities that will increase participation and creativity in the arts at community level.

The indigenous arts and culture of the Traveller Community are explored at the 'Travellers and Working through the Arts' seminar, held at Arts Council.

MAJOR ARTS COUNCIL AWARDS FOR ARTISTS

The Arts Council honours silversmith Cara Murphy, all-Ireland harping champion Patricia Daly and poet Leontia Flynn with £15,000 each through its 'Major Individual Artist Awards'. The annual awards recognise the contribution made by artists, writers and musicians to the arts in Northern Ireland and make it possible for artists to develop new and ambitious work which will make a significant contribution to the development of their careers.

Cara Murphy's award allows her to fulfil the commission she won to make a piece of silver tableware for the Downing Street Silver Collection, used by the Prime Minister for state and private functions.

Silversmith Cara Murphy, winner of a £15,000 Major Individual Artist Award



The Arts Council re-opens the popular arts-led community regeneration programme, Re-imagining Communities, following a brief hiatus during the summer when demand outstripped available funding.



Roisin McDonough, Chief Executive, Arts Council of Northern Ireland demonstrates funding distribution model

A review of the Arts Council's grant distribution from 2003-08 shows that more than half of the funding went directly to Northern Ireland's most deprived areas and that the funding enabled the arts to engage fully across all areas of society, across the whole of the region.



arts activities at the heart of communities can help to rebuild morale and self worth, renew civic pride and lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour

January 2009

NEW MOSSLEY FINDS NEW IMAGE

A range of creative new artworks reflecting local landmarks and history is unveiled in Newtownabbey's New Mossley estate, thanks to £16,590 funding from the arts-led Re-imagining Communities regeneration programme. Replacing an unwanted paramilitary mural, the new mosaic depicts Mossley Mill, 50 years old in 2008; Lillian Bland, the first woman to fly solo (1910); Pattersons Spade Mill; images from World War I and references to local youth groups. The new art work was developed by artist Martin McClure working closely with the local residents' group, young people from the area, football clubs and church groups.



New Mossley before re-imagining



Completed mural New Mossley Re-imagining Project

The Allianz Arts & Business Awards 2009 celebrate the creative ways businesses in Northern Ireland have worked in partnerships with art organisations to deliver real business objectives and contribute to the wider community.

Rosemary Kelly, Chairman of the Arts Council, is honoured in the 2009 New Year honours list with an OBE for Services to the Arts.

Arts & Business publishes 'Philanthropy and the Arts; An Overview of Recent Developments'

The two arts councils on the island of Ireland jointly commission a major study to identify and describe the socio-economic conditions of artists working here.

February 2009

Audiences Northern Ireland annual conference takes 'No Cost, Low Cost' as its theme, looking at the potential of digital marketing tools to cut costs and generate income.

The Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee at Stormont, which scrutinises the work of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure opens an inquiry into funding of the arts in Northern Ireland. Findings will be published in September 2009.

The winning proposal for the Foyle Public Art Project is announced. The selected work, 'Mute Meadow' by artists Vong Phaophanit and Claire Oboussier, will be one of the largest and most ambitious public art commissions ever held on the island of Ireland.

The Playhouse Arts Centre buildings in Derry City win the Northern Ireland Sustainable Planning Award.



The Playhouse Arts Centre, Derry

CREATIVE & CULTURAL SKILLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Arts Council joins forces with the Department of Employment and Learning and Arts & Business to promote the innovative Creative & Cultural Skills Leadership Programme. This industry-led, year long programme is designed to develop Northern Ireland's existing creative and cultural leaders and prepare emerging leaders for the future.

Ten large and many small colourful wall panels depicting the history of the Creggan area of Derry City are created thanks to £48,400 from the Re-imagining Communities Programme.



'Eastway Wall Art Project' Creggan, Derry. Re-imagining Communities Programme.



'Basra Boy', a new play by local playwright Rosemary Jenkinson about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and their impact on the streets of Belfast, is finalist in '24 Degrees', a new initiative by the BBC Writersroom and Royal Court supporting talented writers across the UK.

Rosemary Jenkinson, recipient of Individual Writer's Award.

March 2009

The 'Children's Arts – Alive' action group hosts consultation with youth arts sector on the development of a Northern Ireland Manifesto for Children's Arts. The manifesto will be launched at the Sticky Fingers Festival in May 2009.

The Ulster Hall in Belfast reopens its doors to the public following a major refurbishment. The Ulster Hall will be the permanent new home for the Ulster Orchestra.

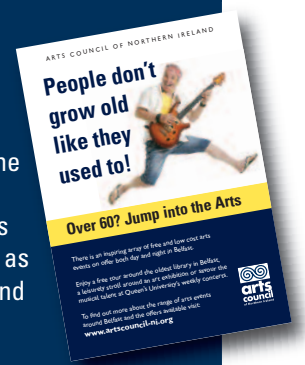
Artists working in all art forms across the UK are invited to produce twelve major works to showcase the UK's creativity as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. The Arts Council commits £190,000 to commission an artist to deliver Northern Ireland's 'Artists taking the Lead' Cultural Olympiad project.



Noirin McKinney, Director Creative Arts, and Damian Gorman, Playwright, and member of Northern Ireland judging panel for 'Artists taking the Lead' Cultural Olympiad Project.

JUMP INTO THE ARTS

The Arts Council encourages older people to get involved in the arts through its 'Jump into the Arts' campaign. This pilot campaign highlights the benefits of participating in arts activities as well as the wide range of free and low cost arts events on offer to older people.



the arts economy is worth almost £30 million to Northern Ireland every year



Financial Summary 2008-09

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

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

Arts Council Exchequer funding 2008-09

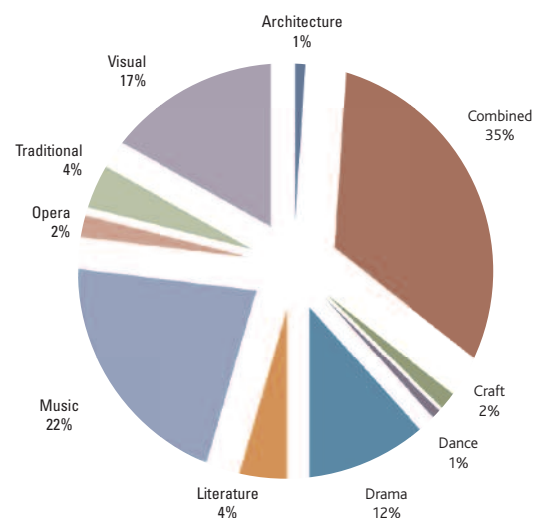
The Arts Council awarded public funding of £12,895,434 million through its Exchequer fund.

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

- Annual Support for Organisations Programme (ASOP)
- Support for the Individual Artist Programme (SIAP)
- Musical Instruments for Bands
- Equipment
- Major Individual Artist Awards
- Travel Awards
- International Residencies

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	10	105,908
ARDS	4	8,380
ARMAGH	3	127,000
BALLYMENA	2	5,500
BALLYMONEY	2	6,400
BANBRIDGE	5	23,150
BELFAST	137	9,090,727.72
CARRICKFERGUS	1	5,690
CASTLEREAGH	9	96,850
COLERAINE	8	134,183
COOKSTOWN	5	22,827
CRAIGAVON	12	296,000
DERRY	24	1,592,974
DOWN	6	66,929
DUNGANNON	8	36,806
FERMANAGH	7	48,459
LARNE	1	300
LISBURN	12	321,438.00
MAGHERAFELT	5	18,685.00
MOYLE	3	46,100
NEWRY & MOURNE	10	144,786
NEWTOWNABBEY	4	41,425
NORTH DOWN	18	199,903
OMAGH	4	69,999
OTHER	13	380,301
STRABANE	1	4,713
Grand Total	314	12,895,434

Exchequer awards by Artform



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



LOTTERY FUNDED

Arts Council Lottery funding 2008-09

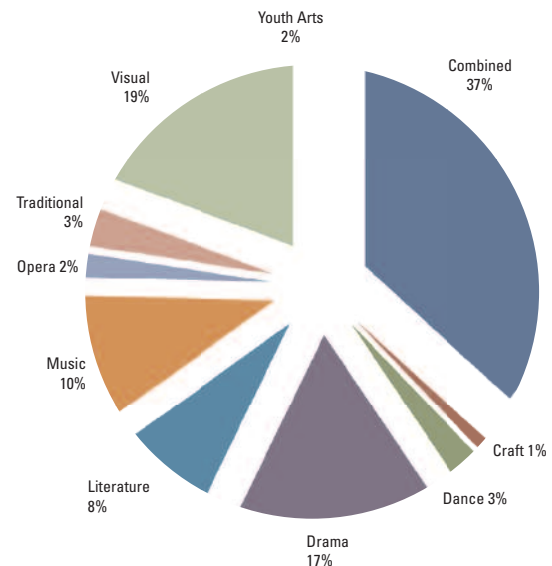
The Arts Council awarded funding of £4,829,111 million through its National Lottery Fund.

Lottery funds supported arts projects throughout Northern Ireland. Funding programmes included:

- Project Funding
- Support for the Individual Artist
- Public Art
- Awards for All

Local Authority Area	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
ANTRIM	5	27,869
ARDS	11	68,391
ARMAGH	8	44,425
BALLYMENA	3	5,889
BALLYMONEY	4	26,391
BANBRIDGE	8	51,449.00
BELFAST	150	2,401,392
CARRICKFERGUS	3	6,190
CASTLEREAGH	5	11,550.00
COLERAINE	5	61,549
COOKSTOWN	1	2,000.00
CRAIGAVON	9	110,813
DERRY	38	777,243
DOWN	14	231,509
DUNGANNON	4	54,075
FERMANAGH	9	63,883
LARNE	2	37,396
LIMAVADY	1	2,000.00
LISBURN	14	79,069
MAGHERAFELT	4	70,732
MOYLE	5	32,363
NEWRY & MOURNE	10	125,284
NEWTOWNABBEY	5	29,041
NORTH DOWN	16	131,848
OMAGH	8	161,000
OTHER	9	161,490
STRABANE	3	54,270
Grand Total	354	4,829,111

Lottery awards by Artform



Note on funding patterns:

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

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply for funding?

The Arts Council offers a range of grant programmes that you can apply to for funding. Some programmes are specifically for organisations and others are for individual artists. For information on all the programmes that we offer, the criteria for each programme and how to apply, see www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/funding.htm

When can I apply?

Most grant programmes take place in funding rounds with specific dates when we will accept applications. Some programmes are open for applications all year round. For information on funding deadlines see www.artscouncil-ni.org/award/deadlines.html

How long will it take to reach a decision?

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

Where can I get help with my application?

The guidance notes for each programme provide information on the assessment criteria, eligibility and application process. The Arts Development Officers at the Arts Council can also offer advice and assistance before you submit an application. Contact details are available at www.artscouncil-ni.org/us/staff.htm or you can contact the switchboard and you will be directed to the most appropriate person, Tel: 028 9038 5200.

Can I apply online?

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

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

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

How can a school or voluntary organisation arrange for an artist to deliver a workshop?

The Creative Youth Partnership Programme offers arts programmes for children and young people throughout Northern Ireland. Contact your local CYP Development Officer for further information www.cypni.org.uk

Does the Arts Council provide artists' contact details?

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

How do I complain to the Arts Council?

The Arts Council has a Service Charter which outlines the standard of service our clients should expect from us. We operate a Service Complaints Procedure to handle general complaints about our service (www.artscouncil-ni.org/other/complaints.htm). In addition, we operate a Funding Review Procedure for those who want to appeal a decision about a grant application (www.artscouncil-ni.org/other/FundingReviewProcedure.htm)

*Alternative formats of this publication may be available on request.
For further information, Tel: 028 9038 5210
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reducing the cost of ticket prices and allowing the broad range of free arts activities to take place throughout Northern Ireland ensures that the arts continue to make a positive and affordable difference to people's lives



*'Antigone', Prime Cut Productions,
Photographer Kieran Bagnall*



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