

arts & disability

funding policy



Maurice Orr - Untitled
Front cover - 'Sky's the Limit', Arts & Disability Forum

Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

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Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council will give a priority to artists, arts organisations, arts initiatives and partnerships which:

- A increase opportunities for creative participation in the arts;
- B develop new audiences for the arts and build on existing ones;
- C extend opportunities for artists to develop their work and practice;
- D strengthen the capacity of arts organisations to deliver quality experiences of the arts.

Strategic Objectives

The Arts Council is committed to:

- 1 increase opportunities for artists working to the highest standards and in innovative ways;
- 2 strengthen the arts infrastructure;
- 3 engage with community arts to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and to expand the range of contexts in which artists work;
- 4 engage with voluntary arts to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and expand the range of contexts in which artists work;
- 5 increase the quality of access for disabled people to the arts;
- 6 enhance children and young people's access to creative expression through the arts, in contexts of their own choosing, and increase opportunities for participation as they grow and develop;
- 7 increase audiences for the arts.

The arts: inspiring the imagination, building the future

Arts & Disability Funding Policy

Introduction

Northern Ireland has a higher percentage of disabled people than anywhere else in the United Kingdom and Ireland – more than one in five of the population. Apart from issues such as social integration and personal development, the sector has clear potential in audience development and job creation. It is a sector which has been marginalised more than any other. This has been recognised by changes in the political environment, particularly in the implementation of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995) and the integration of strategic policy from 'The Programme for Government' to 'Unlocking Creativity' from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

Definitions

The Disability Discrimination Act defines disability as 'a condition caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment, which results in loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the community on an equal level with others, due to physical and social barriers'.

Arts & Disability is a general term relating to a broad range of arts practice embracing artwork by people with disabilities and activities involving disabled people as artists, participants and audience members. The approach is inclusive and aims to involve all sections of the community. 'Disability Arts' is a specific arts practice which involves artists with disabilities creating work which expresses their identity as disabled people. The work of disability arts practitioners contributes to the expression of a disability culture and forms an integral part of disability politics. It is informed by disabled people's experiences, values and beliefs as disabled people.

The Council adheres to the social model of disability. This does not view disability as a medical condition and challenges the notion that it is a medical problem requiring treatment. It understands that disability is a problem of exclusion from ordinary life. This requires a change in society's values and practices, in order to remove the barriers to participation.

Funding

Artists with disability or disability organisations can be funded under all of the Council's programmes, but of particular interest are:

- Arts & Disability Awards Ireland (organised by the Arts & Disability Forum in partnership with the Arts Councils of Ireland).
- Arts & Disability Networking Abroad (these grants are for strategic networking amongst the sector or to enable individual artists and organisations/groups with proven artistic experience to present their work overseas)
- Buildings (Capital)
- Access to the Arts (aimed at addressing the needs of communities in areas of social and economic deprivation or supporting the involvement of children and young people)
- Annual Support for Organisations (for organisations with year-round programmes)
- Support for the Individual Artist (to assist artists in the development of their practice)
- New Work (if it is the creation of innovative original work)
- Awards for All (for projects under £5,000. Applicants should consult www.awardsforall.com. Tel. 0845 600204)
- A premium payment of up to £3,000 each year is available (under the Access Scheme only) for successful applicants who demonstrate that additional costs are associated with the delivery of their project for people with particular needs under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1998). Any premium payment awarded will be on the same percentage basis as the main award.

Funding Objectives

A concerted focus of attention on Arts & Disability enables the Council to realise its four Priorities and meet its seven Strategic Objectives.

Funding objectives are to:

- provide more mainstream venue and exhibition opportunities for disabled artists (1, 2, 5, 7)
- increase the numbers of disabled people as performers and creators of art and as audience participants (1, 5, 7)
- ensure universal accessibility (1, 2, 5, 6, 7)
- promote high standards of accessibility in existing and refurbished venues (1, 2, 5, 7)
- develop Disability Equality Training for key funded organisations (1, 2, 5, 7)
- develop a mentoring process for disabled artists (1, 5)
- train artists in Disability Equality Training and sectoral familiarisation (1, 5, 7)
- support the Arts and Disability Conference, leading to the development of the Arts & Disability Equality Charter (1,2, 5, 7)