

arts & healthcare

funding policy



Bruce Williams and Avril Wilson, 'Lifespan Railings' - Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Front cover - John Kindness, Royal Victoria Children's Hospital, Belfast

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 & Healthcare Funding Policy

Introduction

The Arts & Healthcare sector provides new access and participation opportunities involving not only clients/patients but also large numbers of staff and visitors.

Arts & Healthcare in Northern Ireland was initially developed at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast and artists have been working in hospitals for the past 20 years. Originally, this meant putting art in hospital wards to improve the look and feel of the environment. As relationships and confidence grew, the benefits and possibilities of creative intervention between artists, patients and staff became clear. The Department of Health created the arts & healthcare trust, 'ArtsCare', which currently involves 22 local committees in hospitals and trusts and employs 14 artists in residence working in visual art, dance and music. Many of these artists have developed sustainable long term relations within the hospitals and other healthcare venues.

Another significant development has been the use of Lottery funding to support the development of integrated artwork in new hospitals. These projects involve artists working closely with architects and building project teams at the earliest stages of development before construction. This frequently involves the wider hospital staff and the local communities. The focus of these activities not only provides creative opportunities for patients, many of them with disabilities, but also for the substantial number of staff and visitors. Access to and provision of the best art and performance has enhanced the healthcare environment and provided many opportunities for new audience development.

Definitions

Arts & Healthcare refers principally to those arts activities which occur within the healthcare environment but also includes the wellbeing of the individual and groups in society and the Council is working with key partners to develop a number of new areas of work.

Evidence-based research provides a clearer picture of the actual benefits of the work and acts as an advocacy document for funders, both current and potential. A number of organisations are working with the Council to develop this area through action research projects.

Le Rire Médecin oversees a programme of specially trained clowns who work on an individual basis with sick children in Parisian hospitals. The Council is keen to develop the concept of 'clown doctors' in hospitals.

Funding

Artists or arts organisations working in healthcare contexts can be funded under all of the Council's programmes, but of particular interest are:

- Access (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).

Funding Objectives

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

Funding objectives are to:

- Provide opportunities for artists to work in non mainstream venues (1, 2, 5, 7)
- Provide opportunities for beneficial interaction between artists, patients, staff and users of healthcare facilities (5, 6, 7)
- Provide access to high quality art in different environments (2, 3, 4, 7)
- Promote the wellbeing of individuals and groups (5, 6)
- Provide creative opportunities for patients and users of healthcare facilities (3, 4, 5, 6)