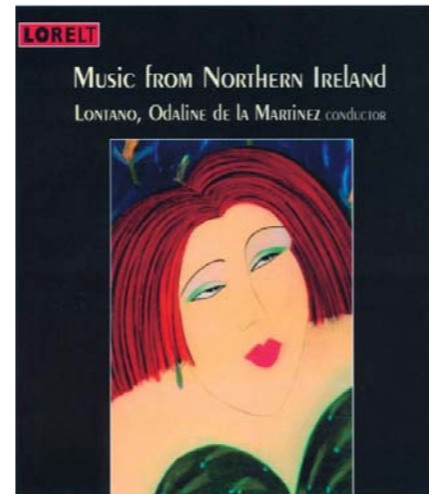


# commissioning

funding policy



Front cover - Louise Walsh, 'Monument to the Unknown Worker'

### Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

arts council of northern ireland macneice house 77 malone road belfast bt9 6aq t:028 9038 5200 f:028 9066 1715 www.artscouncil-ni.org



## 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

## Commissioning Funding Policy

### Introduction

The Arts Council funds arts organisations across all disciplines to commission new work from creative artists. It respects the diverse methodologies governing commissioning in each art form and does not seek to homogenise the processes but respond to and facilitate them.

### Definitions

The Council does not fund self-commissioning. Constituted organisations can commission individual artists through application to the New Work scheme. This is designed to take new work to people throughout Northern Ireland and can include the commissioning and production of original fiction, poetry, plays, dance, visual art including public art, craft, music, opera and new field work in the traditional arts. Priority is given to innovative, original work by artists living and working in Northern Ireland.

All choreographers and dance practitioners, composers, visual artists and craftspeople, writers and playwrights of proven experience and of recognised artistic achievement or potential can be commissioned by eligible organisations.

The Council recognises the fee structures advocated by the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters, the Sculptors' Society of Ireland, the Crafts Council of Ireland and Equity in determining appropriate levels of recompense in disciplines under their remit.

Visual artists and crafts people can be commissioned for the purposes of exhibition programming and cataloguing. Due to the proliferation of visual arts practitioners and the Council's priority to fund artists living and working in Northern Ireland, commissioning Public Art is approached through open competition.

Playwrights or writers can be commissioned for the purposes of writing new plays and developing new scripts for future theatrical production. In new text-based drama, the Council encourages a developmental process before stage production. The Council acknowledges that levels of recompense should also be based on experience of the playwright/writer.

Writers and poets can be commissioned through established publishers. Normally this process would be funded through the Annual Support for Organisations Programme, but exceptional, one-off, projects involving publication can be considered under New Work. There is no recognised fee structure and commissioning fees/advances are negotiated between the writer/poet and the publisher. The Council will, however, follow custom and practice in the relative amounts already established under its funding programmes.

Choreographers and dance practitioners can be commissioned to develop new dance work. The Council acknowledges that levels of recompense should also be based on experience of the choreographer or dance practitioner.

In Traditional Arts, the priority of New Work is for the documentation and dissemination of regional styles and repertoires, and prominent individuals and their work, which are not widely available to the community of traditional musicians and the wider public. Writers, researchers and artists can be commissioned to carry out this sort of work through established publishing houses or recognised Traditional Arts organisations or groups. There is no recognised fee structure and commissioning fees/advances are negotiated between the writer/researcher/artist and the commissioner.

### Funding

New Work is the main vehicle for the support of commissioning. Awards for All (for commissions and associated costs under £5,000. Applicants should consult [www.awardsforall.com](http://www.awardsforall.com). Tel. 0845 600204).

## Funding Objectives

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

Funding objectives are to:

- confer endorsement and contribute to the conditions in society by which artists are valued (1, 2, 7)
- assist innovation and creativity by investing in the work of creative artists (1, 3, 4)
- support arts organisations to commission and produce new work (2, 7)
- increase awareness amongst the general public of innovative artistic creativity (6, 7)
- increase employment opportunities and potential earnings for artists (1, 2)
- provide platforms for artists to showcase their work (1, 2)