

crafts, applied arts and design

funding policy



Mike McCrory - Cake Lifter
Front cover - Janet Ledsham, Fan

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

Crafts, Applied Arts & Design Funding Policy

Introduction

The Arts Council wishes to see Northern Ireland become established as an area of excellence in the design, production and exhibition of crafts and applied arts and that crafts, applied arts & design become recognised as an essential element within the cultural, social and economic landscape. It will promote, encourage and advance the creation of high quality and innovative work raising the public awareness, profile and understanding of the practice.

Definitions

The crafts, applied arts and design sector lacks a commonly accepted definition and parameters. But the Council considers a range of related elements to be essential. They are crafts businesses, including designer/makers, retailers and 'giftware' manufacturers; applied artists and craftspeople working for commission or exhibition; contemporary work within museums, collections and galleries; heritage, indigenous and traditional crafts; work within education (formal and non-formal) and training; and crafts and applied arts as contributors to public art and the built environment

The Council's interest and influence is greater in certain areas within the crafts and design spectrum and its response to the needs and opportunities present in the sector must be specific and targeted. The Council has an interest in contemporary works of applied arts and designed crafts that show a high degree of creativity, innovation, skilled workmanship and originality. This interest naturally extends into the

support and enhancement of an environment where such work is valued and encouraged.

It must be stressed that while the Council has both remit for and interest in crafts, given the diverse nature and wide range of elements within this sector, any support and focus must segue with that of other development agencies. Only an inter-agency approach can maximise positive long-term and structural change. The Council is therefore committed to working in co-operation with other relevant agencies and bodies towards co-ordinated and appropriate support for crafts development in Northern Ireland.

Lottery Special Initiative

A fund of £500k has been allocated from National Lottery resources to pump-prime the sector. This is distributed through four initiatives that reflect the Council's area of interest and strategic objectives. They are: Start-Up and Residency; Exhibition; Infrastructure and Networks; and Skills Development. The initiative complements existing funding structures and can be mainstreamed into existing Lottery schemes.

Funding

Crafts, Applied Arts and Design is funded under a number of other programmes:

- Support for the Individual Artist (to assist artists in the development of their practice)
- New Work (support towards the commissioning and presentation of new work)

- Access to the Arts (aimed at addressing the needs of communities in areas of social and economic deprivation or support the involvement of children and young people)
- Access, New Work and Buildings (support public art commissions involving crafts and applied arts)
- 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 this sector enables the Council to realise its four Priorities and meet its seven Strategic Objectives

- promote the work of designer/makers working in Northern Ireland to a wide audience, both at home and abroad (7)
- encourage designer/makers in Northern Ireland to be innovative and creative and to develop their technical skills (1)
- assist new designer/makers to establish in Northern Ireland (1,2)
- develop and enhance the opportunities for audiences in Northern Ireland to experience and view high quality crafts, applied arts & design (3,4,7)
- develop and strengthen the infrastructure of groups and networks that support and promote crafts, applied arts and design (2,5,6)