



Clive Murphy, site-specific installation, Lisbon 2003. Veneer/Folheado exchange
Front cover - Thierry Fischer conducting the Ulster Orchestra

Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

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international arts

funding policy

The arts: inspiring the imagination, building the future

International Arts Funding Policy

Introduction

The Arts Council has a proven system of processes and procedures for the delivery of public funds for the arts. Its strategic aims and objectives are aligned with those of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, as published in 'Face to Face' (2001), and in terms of international work developed through DCAL's Face to Face International Group.

The Council is conscious of the growing international significance and impact of the arts and works with other partners to promote abroad the work of artists from Northern Ireland. It has a wealth of experience in dealing with international affairs and, importantly, is well placed to create and utilise partnerships and associations with other government and non-government agencies, such as the British Council and Visiting Arts.

The Council's strategy devolves from two key elements – 'importation' and 'exportation'. Funding both these elements, a consistency of approach and assurance of quality is ensured, covering the full range of arts disciplines and supporting both individual artists and arts organisations.

Definitions

Each scheme within the International Programme has clearly defined eligibility clauses. The Council prioritises funding for professionally-based projects aimed at certain target countries (e.g. USA, Canada, France, Germany and other European Union states).

Due to restrictions of funding, however, applicants should arrange other partnerships in order to make a project viable. The full costs of presenting work abroad can rarely be met by the Council alone.

The Council has made provision for cross-border touring both in Ireland and the United Kingdom. All UK Arts Councils, co-ordinated by Arts Council England, jointly support cross-border touring for national UK companies within the UK. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland operates a North/South Touring Drama Scheme for the island of Ireland, partnering with the British Council in Dublin.

There is also provision under the International Programme for supporting showcase events and proposals normally organised in co-operation with Visiting Arts and the British Council.

Funding

The International Programme is funded under the Support for the Individual Artist Programme. Its schemes are:

- Arts and Artists Abroad
- Arts and Disability Networking Abroad
- International Artists' Profile
- International residencies (self-arranged and arranged by the Arts Council)
- Travel Awards

Funding Objectives

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

Funding objectives are to:

- support individual artists and arts organisations to present their work abroad (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- support the arts infrastructure in Northern Ireland to provide opportunities for the presentation of international arts (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- ensure that the work of artists from Northern Ireland is showcased both at home and abroad by assisting specialised festivals, summer schools and events (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- encourage artists, arts organisations and arts administrators to network and attain a better profile abroad (1, 2, 3, 5)
- increase opportunities and information available to individual artists and arts organisations by fostering and promoting partnerships involved in arts presentation both at home and abroad (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

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.