



Kevin McAleenan leads Children's Express workshop
Front cover - 'New Surroundings', Blackstaff Press

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

L I T E R A T U R E

literature

funding policy



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

Literature Funding Policy

Introduction

The Arts Council funds a diverse range of literary and publishing activities, from direct assistance to writers and publishers, to funding literary festivals and other projects aimed at increasing readership and stimulating interest in local writing.

Thanks to the work of our finest writers, literature is an art in which Northern Ireland has a well-deserved international reputation for excellence. Through funding, advocacy and promotion of local literary endeavour, the Council aims to strengthen the literary infrastructure, support writers and publishers, increase audiences and readership for home-grown literature, and expand the writing community. Literature helps develop literacy, self-expression, critical perception and independence of thought, and enables expression of, and reflection on, senses of identity and diverse cultural life.

Writers may apply for financial support, assistance with travel and research, and major awards. Funding is available for publishers towards the commissioning, production and marketing of literary publications. Literary magazines are also eligible for funding.

The Council encourages readership and audiences for local writing by assisting literary festivals and readings. It also funds and administers schemes which enable local schools and community groups to receive visits from writers (see Youth Arts Funding Policy). The Council also works with organisations in the Republic of Ireland to ensure opportunities for writers on an island-wide basis.

Definitions

The Council assists writers, readers and publishers across a range of genres – poetry, novels/ novellas, short stories, scriptwriting, non-fiction (including essays and opinion), storytelling, children's books and graphic novels.

The Council's interest and influence is greater in certain areas within the literary spectrum than in others, and its support of aspects of the sector is targeted accordingly. While not underestimating the diligence and creativity which occurs in any aspect of literary endeavour, funding self or 'vanity' publishing, academic research, works on local history or more general studies of local culture is not a Council priority.

Funding

Literature can be funded under a number of programmes:

- Support for the Individual Artist (to assist artists in the development of their practice)
- Annual Support for Organisations (for literary organisations with year-round programmes, including publishers, writers' centres and resource providers)
- 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)
- 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 Literature enables the Council to realise its four Priorities and meet its seven Strategic Objectives.

Funding objectives are to:

- assist writers by investing in their work and work in progress (1)
- support the literary publishing industry in Northern Ireland in order to maintain and increase opportunities for local writers (1, 2, 7)
- support local literary publishing in order to increase the dissemination of, and readership for, local writing (1, 2, 7)
- foster and promote the literary heritage (7)
- ensure that the work of local and visiting writers is showcased by assisting, and promoting, local literary festivals, summer schools and events (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- foster a writing culture in the local community by supporting and encouraging writers and writers' groups throughout Northern Ireland (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
- increase opportunities and information available to local writers and readers by working with literary organisations which operate nationally and internationally (1, 2, 7)