



Eamonn O'Doherty - 'Passage'  
Front cover - Vivien Burnside, 'Dividers' (detail)

#### Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

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PUBLIC ART

## public art

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

## Public Art Funding Policy

### Introduction

Though the public art movement in Northern Ireland has been slow to mature, the advent of National Lottery funding in 1995 accelerated the commissioning of public art. Between 1995 and 2001, the Arts Council allocated some £1.5 million to 45 art projects, ranging from large-scale urban works to smaller-scale community and rural projects.

Besides providing funding for projects, the Council promotes the inclusion of public art in urban and rural regeneration projects, and in new build and refurbishment capital projects. It welcomes and encourages collaboration between architects, advocates the development of public art strategies, and prioritises public art in its capital programme. Importantly, it is making the case for 'Percent for Art' policies to be adopted by government. The Council welcomes the marked increase in public art commissioning by District Councils and development corporations such as Laganside.

### Definitions

The Council embraces a wide range of media and art forms as Public Art – painting, sculpture, photography, installation, video and new media, temporary works, crafts and applied arts.

The Council can advise on all aspects of the commissioning process from planning the commission, developing the brief, selecting artists, and drawing up contracts. When planning a commissioned artwork, the commissioning body should contact the Arts Council before any work is undertaken. Although there are different approaches to commissioning artists – such as limited competitions or direct commissions – it is Council policy to prioritise projects which are decided through an open application process.

### Funding

Public Art can be funded under these Lottery programmes:

- Buildings (if it is a capital project with a Percent for Art built in)
- 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](http://www.awardsforall.com). Tel. 0845 600204).

## Funding Objectives

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

Funding objectives are to:

- give employment opportunities and recognition to artists (1)
- afford training and creative opportunities to artists (1)
- contribute to urban and rural regeneration (2, 7)
- foster and promote our artistic heritage (7)
- encourage community participation and civic pride (2, 3)
- make the arts widely accessible (3, 4, 7)