



'The Crucible', 2003. The Drama Studio, Lyric Theatre
Front cover - Belfast Operatic Company, 'Annie Get Your Gun'

Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

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voluntary arts

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

Voluntary Arts Policy

Introduction

The Arts Council has traditionally supported Voluntary Arts through various umbrella organisations. However it became clear that the relationship needed a new focus and relevance. The Council recognised the need to increase opportunities for the community and for artists and to support the strategic intentions of the sector to operate effectively. Council funding for the voluntary arts sector is geared to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and expand the range of contexts in which artists work.

Definition

The voluntary arts are those arts and crafts that people undertake for self-improvement, social networking and leisure, but not primarily for payment. The range of art forms is wide and includes folk, dance, drama, literature, media, music, visual arts, crafts and applied arts, and arts festivals. More than half the UK adult population is involved in the voluntary arts and crafts. They play a vital role in promoting

community cohesion and through their activities contribute an estimated £50 million to the economy each year.

Funding

Voluntary Arts can be funded under all of the Council's programmes, but of particular interest are:

- Annual Support for Organisations (for organisations with year-round programmes)
- Support for the Individual Artist (to assist artists in the development of their practice)
- 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 Voluntary Arts enables the Council to realise its four Priorities and meet its seven Strategic Objectives.

Funding objectives are to:

- support volunteer-led arts and crafts organisations through appropriate resource organisations (2)
- increase opportunities for volunteer-led arts groups to employ professional artists (1, 2)
- provide more opportunities for voluntary and professional artists to work at community level and in communities of interest (3, 5, 6)
- increase the quality of experience of participants (4)
- anchor the work of local voluntary arts groups in the context of local integrated cultural development plans (2)
- contribute to good community relations (2)