



Arts Council of Northern

**ART FORM AND SPECIALIST  
AREA POLICY 2013-2018**

**CIRCUS ARTS**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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[www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)

## Preamble

The Circus Arts Policy has been developed in line with *Ambitions for the Arts*, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's five-year Strategic Plan for the Arts, 2013-18. The overarching priorities of the Plan – champion the arts, promote access, build a sustainable sector – are reflected across the set of the Council's Art Form and Specialist Area policies, 2013-18.

## Introduction to Circus Arts Policy

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland recognizes and values the importance of Circus in Northern Ireland and the contribution it makes to our society. We are committed to raising the profile of Circus as an art form in its own right and we include the practice of Street Theatre as part of this policy.

There is a thriving Circus Arts sector in Northern Ireland and its practice is at the cutting edge of Circus Arts development internationally. By the nature of Circus it is an accessible artform that enjoys a specific relationship between participant and audience. There has been a growing demand for Circus Arts throughout Northern Ireland over the past five years and we have enjoyed a significant development in the area of youth circus which supports social inclusion and the celebration of diversity. However, there are a limited number of professionals within the sector and we acknowledge that there is a need for greater professional development and a strengthening of the infrastructure to include the development of universal standards.

The Council is committed to sustaining current excellence, while encouraging growth and helping it develop through both organisational and individual funding streams.

## Funding Objectives

- assist in the fostering of new and inventive relationships between organisations working in the sector and connecting with counterparts in the Republic of Ireland;
- to stabilise key circus organisations through a range of funding schemes;

- to support initiatives geared towards raising the profile of Circus Arts both at home and internationally;
- to provide more opportunities for individual Circus artists and performers to develop their skills and to promote the highest standards of practice within Northern Ireland;
- to encourage further development of Circus Arts outside of Belfast and in particular rural communities;
- to support our major Circus Arts organisations to develop effective business plans and strategies for sustainability and change.

## Additional Information

### **'Ambitions for the Arts' Five Year Arts Strategy, 2013-2018**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/about-us/strategy](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/about-us/strategy)

### **Art Form and Specialist Area Policies, 2013-2018**

[www.artscouncil-ni.org/the-arts](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/the-arts)

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