



Arts Council of Northern

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

DANCE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Awarding funds from
 The National Lottery®

www.artscouncil-ni.org

Preamble

The Dance 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 Dance Policy

Despite attempts over past decades to encourage and support it, dance remains an underdeveloped art form in Northern Ireland. The many studies, reviews, initiatives and schemes undertaken illustrate inherent problems facing the sector – problems based on the lack of specific dance spaces and studios, and on a lack of training infrastructure. This situation has steadily improved with significant investment from the Arts Council in the establishment of a third-level undergraduate degree course at the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster.

The Council encourages a diverse range of dance projects, from direct assistance to individual dancers and dance companies, to funding for venue programming of dance events and tours.

The Council assists dancers, choreographers and dance educationalists in various styles and forms of dance, however the Council's interest and ability is greater in certain areas within the dance community than in others, and its support of aspects of the sector is targeted accordingly; for example, contemporary dance. The Council recognises the benefits of social dance-forms and we fund various types of participative dance through the Small Grants Programme.

Dance artists in Northern Ireland are dedicated, professional and committed to building the dance infrastructure, creating and touring dance, and ensuring that dance is made accessible to all. Dance is central to the mainstream of arts activity in Northern Ireland and the Council will continue to recognise its value in society and encourage the realisation of its potential to transform artistic boundaries and inspire audiences and participants.

Funding Objectives

- Ensure greater dissemination of awards information across the dance sector;
- increase touring product throughout Northern Ireland;
- increase the number of applications from individual practitioners;
- promote success internationally by assisting the presentation of Northern Ireland work abroad;
- ensure that the work of local and visiting dance companies and dancers is profiled by encouraging festivals, venue programming and touring of dance;
- establish more effective communication between dance communities north and south of the island.

Additional Information

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

www.artscouncil-ni.org/about-us/strategy

Art Form and Specialist Area Policies, 2013-2018

www.artscouncil-ni.org/the-arts

Acquisitions

Arts & Disability

Arts & Health

Arts & Older People

Architecture

Building Peace through the Arts

Carnival Arts

Circus Arts

Commissioning

Community Arts

Crafts & Applied Arts

Dance

Drama

Film & TV

Intercultural Arts

International

Language Arts

Literature

Music & Opera

Public Art

Traditional Arts

Visual Arts

Voluntary Arts

Youth Arts



**Alternative formats of this publication
may be available on request.**

For further information please contact:

**Arts Council of Northern Ireland,
MacNeice House, 77 Malone Road, Belfast BT9 6AQ.
T. 028 9038 5200 F. 028 9066 1715
E. info@artscouncil-ni.org
W. www.artscouncil-ni.org**