



Arts Council of Northern Ireland

ART FORM AND SPECIALIST AREA POLICY 2007-2012

CIRCUS ARTS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Awarding funds from
 The National Lottery®

www.artscouncil-ni.org

Introduction

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 our province 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 new 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

'Creative Connections' Five Year Arts Strategy, 2007-2012

www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/strategy.htm

Corporate Plan, 2007-2010

www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/strategy.htm

Art Form and Specialist Area Policies, 2007-2012

www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/aboutthearts.htm

Acquisitions

Arts & Disability

Arts & Health

Architecture

Carnival Arts

Circus Arts

Commissioning

Community Arts

Crafts & Applied Arts

Dance

Drama

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.

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CARNIVAL ARTS



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Introduction

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland recognises and values the importance of Carnival Arts and the contribution it makes to our civic society. In Northern Ireland we enjoy a unique mixture of community-based and professional carnival arts practice that works in partnership to provide a platform for celebrating our culture, identity and creativity.

In Northern Ireland most towns and cities host at least one carnival procession per year. These are usually civic celebrations such as Lord Mayor's shows or seasonal events such as Halloween, Christmas or May Day. Many festivals now include Carnival as part of their programming; this includes community-based festivals and therefore reaffirms carnival as being one of the most accessible artforms both for participant and audience member. Carnival Arts supports tourism and has an important economic contribution to make; it is used as an effective tool for community cohesion, social inclusion and the celebration of diversity within our society.

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland supports our major Carnival Arts provider to produce creative carnival-based programmes through artistic excellence, community training, cultural collaboration and civic celebration. Innovation is key to Carnival Arts development and allows for a new sense of identity and expression. We acknowledge that the skills pool in Northern Ireland is weak and that support for all-Ireland initiatives is essential for sustaining professional development.

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

Funding Objectives

- to assist new and inventive relationships between organisations working in Carnival Arts;
- to stabilise key Carnival Arts organisations through a range of funding schemes;
- to support initiatives geared towards raising the standard of Carnival Arts practice;
- to provide opportunities for individual Carnival artists to develop their skills and to raise the standard of Carnival Arts practice within Northern Ireland;

- to encourage the development of Carnival Arts outside of Belfast;
- to support our major Carnival Arts organisations to develop effective business plans and strategies for sustainability and change;
- to encourage projects which demonstrate a sharing of resources and which promote best value practices within the sector;
- to support creative exchange, shared planning and smarter ways of working to strengthen the Carnival Arts sector.

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