



1. Overview of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the lead development agency for the arts in Northern Ireland.

We do this mainly by awarding grants to artists and arts organisations.

We distribute public money and money raised from the National Lottery to organisations and people who develop and deliver high quality arts programmes across all of society. We do this in keeping with Section 75 equality legislation.

Our sponsoring government department is the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

The Arts Council is governed by a 15 member Board appointed by the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure.

The Council's annual budget is approximately £25m from Exchequer Funds plus approximately £5-6m from the National Lottery. There are approximately 56 permanent members of staff, full-time and part-time, plus another 8-10 at any one time in temporary positions funded to deliver specific projects.

The Arts Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and is a recognised Investors in People organisation.

2. Arts Council's Departments *(see attached Organisation Chart)*

Arts Development Department

The Department is led by three Directors: an Arts Development Director; a Director of Arts Support and a Director of Operations. The main activity of the department is the administration of the Council's grant funding schemes for a range of art forms which include: Visual Arts and Crafts; Architecture and Public Art; Community Arts; Literature and Language Arts; Youth Arts; Music; Traditional Arts; Drama and Dance; Voluntary Arts; Disability and Health. Specialist officers and their assistants work closely with clients in developing the above sectors. New temporary posts are created from time to time to deliver on specific arts initiatives.

The Communications team, within this Department, helps promote the activities of the Council and its clients to the wider public. It has full responsibility for all contacts with the media and for the production of the Council's publications. It is assisted in its role of advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the arts by the Director and staff of the Strategic Development Department.

Strategic Development Department

The Department is led by the Director of Strategic Development and has primary responsibility for the development of the Council's 5-year Strategic Plan, the 3-year Corporate Plan and the Annual Business Plan. The Department develops and implements the Council's research and policy development programme, the output of which helps determine future policy and direction for the arts across Northern Ireland. It plays a key role in the lobbying and advocacy work of the Council.

The Department is also responsible for overseeing the Council's compliance with statutory requirements and for promoting inter-agency co-operation across Government departments.

Corporate Services Department

The Department is led by the Director of Corporate Services and provides administrative support across the organisation including finance, personnel and training, IT support and systems development and general office services. The Department is also responsible for servicing the Council and its committees throughout the year.

3. Arts Council of Northern Ireland Council Members

Full biographical details of the Council Members for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland can be found on our website www.artscouncil-ni.org

Ms Rosemary Kelly (Chairman)

Damien Coyle (Vice Chairman)

Mrs Eithne Benson

Ms Kate Bond

Mr Raymond Fullerton

Mr David Irvine

Mr Anthony Kennedy

Professor Ian Montgomery

Mr William Montgomery

Ms Sharon O'Connor

Mr Joseph Rice

Professor Paul Seawright

Mr Brian Sore

Mr Peter Spratt

Ms Janine Walker