



# A draft five-year plan for the Arts in Northern Ireland 2019-2024

## Young People's Version

Draft for Consultation



**'Placing the arts  
at the heart of our  
social, economic  
and creative life'**





## What's it all about?

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is the main agency that champions Arts.

We support artists and arts organisations who are committed to make exciting arts projects happen for you.

Participation in arts is an excellent way to enjoy and have fun as you create, imagine and express what matters to you.

## What do artists do?


Artists are creative experts like musicians, singers, actors, dancers, acrobats, craft-makers, designers, animators, writers, painters, photographers, film makers...in fact anyone whose work is all about being creative and imaginative.

## What are the Arts?

The arts are all about fun and enjoyment.

They are things like music gigs, DJing, playing an instrument, going to plays or acting in them, making drawings, 3D and 2D designs, paintings and sculptures, or going to see them in an exhibition, reading books or writing stories, dancing, going to see films, taking photos or making your own videos, animation and lots more...

## Lots of exciting things have been happening in the Arts over the past five years.



Derry-Londonderry won the honour of becoming the first UK City of Culture in 2013.

Thousands of volunteers took part in the Belfast Creative and Cultural Programme to create large-scale cross-community arts and heritage events, including the world's first Baby Day.

More young people enjoyed the benefits of the arts through a new programme designed to help improve young people's health and wellbeing called ARTiculate.

A Creative Schools Partnership was developed to inject more creativity into the classroom, in a bid to improve educational results for students and increase their confidence.

A creative employment programme encouraged employers to create paid jobs in the arts for young people through apprenticeships and internships.

Older people were involved in arts activities through an Arts & Older People Programme, helping to prevent loneliness and isolation.

A new Intercultural Arts Programme brought our different communities closer together in positive and inclusive ways.

Communities across Northern Ireland were made more welcoming for everyone thanks to great public art created by people participating in our 'Building Peace/Re-Imaging' communities programme.

Many more artists received international recognition for their work thanks to a big effort to promote arts from Northern Ireland abroad.

## The Arts are about being inspired, connected and guided.

A lively Arts scene helps communities to work together on our problems, creates jobs, inspires people, brings us success on the world stage and changes the image of Northern Ireland.

We will build on our past successes and make sure the Arts are at the heart of life in Northern Ireland.

This is our plan for the next five years – we want to hear what YOU think of it.

You can let us know by contacting [strategy@artscouncil-ni.org](mailto:strategy@artscouncil-ni.org)

If you belong to a group and would like someone from the Arts Council to meet with you, ask your group leader to contact us and we will do our best to arrange a meeting.

**Our consultation on this draft plan ends at 4pm on Friday 22nd March 2019.**



# Our Five Year Plan

There are three main parts to our plan.

## Inspire

Great art inspires us. It helps us to understand who we are and the world around us. It makes our lives more interesting and colourful.

We want to make sure artists and arts organisations have all the support they need to go on making brilliant art and developing their talents.

## Connect

The arts bring people and communities together in a common purpose. They help make the places we live in feel more creative.

We want to make sure that everyone, whatever your background or ability, has lots of opportunities to be involved in the arts.

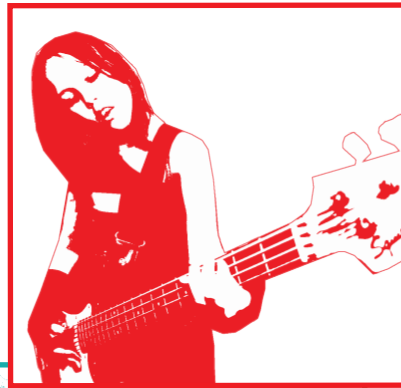
## Lead

We see the Arts Council's role as making sure that the arts have what they need to grow and thrive.

We will make sure that artists and their audiences can enjoy all the benefits of great art.

We will speak up on behalf of the arts and work with government and other agencies so that we can create more opportunities for artists to develop their talents and contribute to making Northern Ireland a better place for everyone.





## Inspire

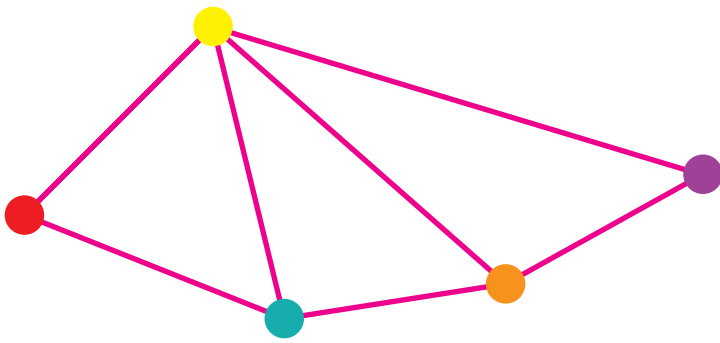
We want more young people to enjoy and work in the arts. We will make sure there is good careers advice in schools about jobs in the arts and we will create new routes into creative careers to make it easier for young people to get started.

We will improve opportunities for young people to have fun with arts and creative activities both in and out of schools - particularly young people who may not have had just the same opportunities as others.

Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the best arts, regardless of where you live, your background or your personal circumstances, so we will work with government agencies and communities to make sure this happens, right across Northern Ireland.

We want artists to have the income and the support that they need to be successful in their careers and be the best creative experts. We will look into how we fund and support artists and come up with better ways to do this.

Artists have to make a living out of what they do and need a wide range of skills and know-how to succeed. We will invest funds in making sure they meet the people and the organisations who can offer them the right training and support.



## Connect

We will work closely with all of the district councils to make sure that everyone has better access to the arts, no matter where in Northern Ireland you live.

It is important that people with a disability do not face barriers to enjoying the arts. We will check that all of our arts venues are doing everything possible to improve access, and we want to introduce new ways to make it easier for people to enjoy and go out to the arts, for example, a Buddy Scheme.

We will bring together a range of organisations working in the arts and the creative industries, to increase research and career opportunities for artists. By doing this, we could also grow our audiences and create exciting experiences for tourists coming to Northern Ireland.

We aim to connect our artists with the rest of the world by making it possible for them to attend international events. Their work abroad will let the rest of the world see how creative and forward-looking we can be in Northern Ireland.

A lot of great art now happens with digital technology, so we will create special grants to support new ways of using digital technology in the arts.







## Lead

The Arts Council will provide leadership and a strong voice for the arts community. This will include coming up with new thinking and innovative solutions to the challenges and opportunities that artists face, and making sure that artists themselves play an active role in the conversation.

We will 'champion the arts' and build political and public support for the arts through all our communications channels. This will include special promotional campaigns and the introduction of a brand new event: a Northern Ireland Arts Week.

Being able to provide good research will play an important role in persuading politicians and the public of the wider value of the arts to people's lives. We will set up a research partnership with the University of Ulster and, over the next five years, we will carry out regular surveys of politicians, public and young people, so that we can follow what they think about the arts.

We will help arts organisations to find new sources of income, by building relations with a wide range of organisations and by helping them to develop their own fundraising skills.

Over the next five years, the Arts Council will pay particular attention to helping emerging artists at the early stages of their careers, and to improving opportunities for disabled and deaf artists.

What do you think of our plans?  
Anything you like / don't like?  
What else could we do?

Let us know what you think.  
You can contact us by  
email, [strategy@artscouncil-ni.org](mailto:strategy@artscouncil-ni.org)  
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