

Northern Ireland Assembly

Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure

Inquiry into

THE FUNDING OF THE ARTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure will undertake an inquiry into 'The Funding of the Arts in Northern Ireland'.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

- To compare the per capita spend on the arts in Northern Ireland with that of other European countries/regions, and to establish the rationale which other countries/regions have used in order to increase their spend on the arts.
- To explore innovative approaches of sourcing additional funding across the arts sector, including reviewing models of best practice that exist elsewhere.
- To carry out a stock take of the research which has been carried out to date, regarding the measurement of the economic and social benefits of investing in the arts.
- To examine how those organisations which provide public funding to the arts in Northern Ireland allocate their funding across the various art forms, and to consider whether the method of allocation sufficiently takes into account the need to:
 - (a) find a balance between the community and professional arts sectors;
 - (b) target social need;
 - (c) encourage community regeneration; and
 - (d) engage with communities which have historically found it difficult to develop an arts infrastructure and therefore access arts funding.
- To compare those organisations which provide public funding to the arts in Northern Ireland with similar organisations across these islands, in terms of how they allocate funding across the various art forms.
- To consider whether there are any art forms which are currently not receiving adequate funding, given their levels of participation and/or impact with regards to targeting social need and regenerating communities.
- To report to the Assembly making recommendations to the Department and/or others.

Any organisation or individual who may wish to submit to the inquiry is invited to submit written evidence by email to (committee.cal@niassembly.gov.uk) or by post to the address below.

A short guide on submitting written evidence is available from the Committee Clerk at the address below.

The closing date for written submissions is **Friday 27 February 2009**.

Information regarding the inquiry can be obtained from the Assembly's website **www.niassembly.gov.uk**

All enquiries/submissions should be addressed to:

The Committee Clerk, Room 424, Parliament Buildings, Belfast, BT4 3XX Tel:
02890 521841