

**Press release**

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## **Arts Council of Wales funding strategy fights back against recessionary pressures**

Arts Council of Wales announced today the outcome of a fundamental review of its funding for the arts. Against the backdrop of a fragile UK economy and with unprecedented pressures on public funds, the Arts Council has reorganised its investment to provide more secure funding to key arts organisations in Wales. Over the coming three years the Arts Council will see its Welsh Assembly Government programme funding reduced by 4%, and its running costs reduced by 12%.

Subject to confirmation in February of the Welsh Assembly Government's draft budget, a new portfolio of 71 organisations will share funding of just over £24.25million in 2011/12.

Announcing the new financial strategy, Arts Council of Wales Chair, Dai Smith said:

"No-one thrives in a climate of uncertainty, and the arts are no different. We've had to take our share of public sector cuts. But as a result of the strategy we're announcing today, most organisations will see their funding increase, and in some cases significantly so. To achieve this we've had to make many difficult choices. But through a rigorous process of re-appraisal, we're able to ensure that the best of the arts in Wales can continue to thrive."

Features of the new strategy include:

- **Taking bold decisions now to ensure that the best of the arts in Wales thrives in the future** – rewarding success and providing key arts organisations with the financial stability to grow and develop their businesses
- **Promoting Wales’s international reputation for dynamism, creativity and excellence** – supporting a portfolio of national companies who can represent the best of Wales on the world stage – international exemplars of excellence whose works are rooted in Wales. Along with companies such as Welsh National Opera, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, Council is attaching particular importance to the development needs of two of Wales’s newest national companies, National Theatre Wales and National Dance Company Wales
- **Encouraging more people to develop their own creativity through meaningful engagement with the arts** – the arts in Wales are more popular than ever before. We’re increasing our funding to those community arts organisations whose activity inspires and engages – transformational community regeneration that makes the arts a more important part of people’s everyday lives. A particular priority is our support for community arts organisations working across the South Wales Valleys such as Valleys Kids, RCT Community Arts and Head for Arts
- **Making a once in a generation ‘step change’ in our funding for dance and the visual arts and crafts** - significant additional funding will create more opportunities for community and performing dance artists to develop their work. And our award winning network of visual arts and crafts exhibition spaces such as Mostyn in Llandudno, Ruthin Craft Centre and Oriel Davies

in Newtown will finally have the means of capitalising on potential of these fantastic new spaces, creating new opportunities for artists and audiences

- **Refreshing our RFO portfolio** – for many years, some of our many best project-funded organisations have sought the recognition and stability that revenue funding can provide. Five new organisations – NoFit State, Sinfonia Cymru, Theatr Ffynnon, Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias and Independent Ballet Wales become RFOs for the first time.

Dai Smith continued:

“Quite properly, most of the attention today will be on those organisations whose funding we’re announcing. But our Development and Lottery funding allow the arts to reach further and deeper. I’m heartened by the quality of the organisations that we’re supporting. But I also see localities and communities where access to, and engagement with, the arts is less well developed than I would like. Our future strategy will enable us to tackle these issues.”

Other new investment will include additional development funding for a range of initiatives, from theatre production to national touring, dance production to arts and young people, as well as a programme of major new investment in the country’s best Festivals. Arts Council of Wales will be looking at development opportunities for community and voluntary groups, but will also be backing economic regeneration initiatives that expand professional employment across the creative industries in Wales.

Dai Smith added:

“Our current funding programme of arts spending continues until March 2011. This gives us the time to consult on new funding streams, ensuring that they appropriately meet the needs of our artists, arts organisations and audiences.”

Implementation of the Arts Council's funding strategy will start in the current year with 13 organisations sharing £800,000 of funding designed to launch the new investment programme.

Dai Smith said:

"Through the careful marshalling of our resources we've been able to get ahead of the game and give our new strategy an important kick start. It's important we do this because tough times lie ahead. At a time when public funds are under unprecedented pressure, no-one in the publicly funded arts can take public support for granted. The arts must create its very best work, and reach out as widely as possible to the many diverse communities across Wales."

## **Ends**

For more information, please contact Sian James, Press and Media Officer, Arts Council of Wales on 029 2044 1344 / 07812 801356 or email [sian.james@artswales.org.uk](mailto:sian.james@artswales.org.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

1. Arts Council of Wales's is the country's official body for funding and developing the arts.
2. The 71 organisations in the Arts Council's new programme will see their funding increase from £20.55million to £24.25million next year.
3. Arts Council of Wales also distributes funds from the National Lottery.

## Summary of RFO funding recommendations for 2011/12

RFO	2010/11	2011/12	Cash change
Aberystwyth Arts Centre	513,722	560,000	46,278
Academi	694,894	694,894	0
Arad Goch	360,227	378,250	18,023
Artes Mundi	80,000	147,500	67,500
Arts Care	110,338	132,500	22,162
Arts Connection	49,001	65,000	15,999
BBC NOW	844,525	844,525	0
*Brecon Jazz	124,908	124,908	0
Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias	-	80,000	80,000
Chapter	646,768	686,000	39,232
Clwyd Theatr Cymru	1,544,802	1,645,000	100,198
Clwyd Theatr Cymru Theatre for Young People	221,768	232,850	11,082
Community Music Wales	92,017	105,000	12,983
Cwmni'r Frân Wen	173,399	182,075	8,676
Dawns i Bawb	68,436	85,000	16,564
Dawns TAN TAN Dance	74,568	90,000	15,432
Disability Arts Cymru	80,334	170,000	89,666
Earthfall	198,058	245,000	46,942
Ffotogallery	148,940	205,000	56,060
g39	24,445	70,000	45,555
Galeri	239,996	325,000	85,004
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery	71,135	125,000	53,865
Head for Arts	125,000	150,000	25,000
Hijinx Theatre	234,448	160,000	-74,448
Independent Ballet Wales	-	200,000	200,000
Live Music Now! Wales	29,653	45,000	15,347
Llantarnam Grange	50,932	85,000	34,068
Mid Wales Opera	46,753	104,000	57,247
Mission Gallery	24,445	95,000	70,555
Mostyn	228,689	400,000	171,311
Music Theatre Wales	93,472	225,000	131,528
National Dance Company Wales	731,809	875,000	143,191
National Theatre Wales	1,350,000	1,685,000	335,000
NEW Dance	75,287	75,287	0
NoFit State Community Circus	-	200,000	200,000
Oriel Davies	141,715	230,000	88,285
Oriel Myrddin	7,951	47,000	39,049

Pontardawe Arts Centre	27,018	63,000	35,982
Powys Dance	78,328	112,250	33,922
RCT Community Arts	172,491	205,500	33,009
RCT Theatres	125,000	155,000	30,000
Riverfront	60,000	125,000	65,000
Rubicon Dance	130,286	200,000	69,714
Ruthin Craft Centre	146,604	400,000	253,396
Sherman Cymru	1,097,892	1,175,000	77,108
Sinfonia Cymru	-	115,000	115,000
St. David's Hall	83,456	65,000	-18,456
Swansea Grand Theatre	94,996	73,000	-21,996
SWICA	74,455	90,000	15,545
Taliesin Arts Centre	185,757	226,000	40,243
Theatr Bara Caws	287,556	287,556	0
Theatr Brycheiniog	180,757	230,000	49,243
Theatr Felinfach	49,258	60,000	10,742
Theatr Ffynnon	-	75,000	75,000
Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru	1,052,942	1,052,942	0
Theatr Hafren	106,680	106,680	0
Theatr Iolo	234,496	246,225	11,729
Theatr Mwldan	181,680	245,000	63,320
Theatr na n'Óg	309,374	324,850	15,476
Torch Theatre	406,923	460,000	53,077
Touch Trust	150,000	150,000	0
trac	61,886	80,000	18,114
Tŷ Cerdd	372,880	328,000	-44,880
Tŷ Newydd	97,762	97,762	0
Ucheldre	48,763	75,000	26,237
Valley and Vale	142,420	180,000	37,580
Valleys Kids	71,987	122,000	50,013
Venue Cymru	99,992	78,000	-21,992
Volcano Theatre	181,803	215,000	33,197
Wales Literature Exchange	59,259	59,259	0
Welsh National Opera	4,505,808	4,755,808	250,000
WJEC/NYAW	175,011	250,000	74,989
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,555,955</b>	<b>24,253,621</b>	<b>3,697,666</b>

\*Brecon Jazz is funded through a separate arrangement.

Investment Review 'in year' allocations: 2010/11

RFO	Up to £
Mostyn	205,000
Oriel Davies	90,000
National Dance Company Wales	80,000
Ruthin Craft Centre	60,000
Galeri	60,000
Chapter	65,000
Torch Theatre	55,000
Mid Wales Opera	46,000
Theatr Mwldan	42,000
Disability Arts Cymru	35,000
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery	20,000
Ffotogallery	17,000
Rubicon	25,000