



# Making Great Art Work

## Investment Plan 2018



# Welcome to the Arts Council's *Making Great Art Work* Investment Plan for 2018.

This document follows up on our commitment to publish an annual investment plan for each year of our three-year plan, which underpins the *Making Great Art Work* ten-year strategy.

In 2017, the first full year of our strategy, we focused our investments mainly in the areas of the individual artist through increased investment in bursaries, and the public through increased investments in festivals. In addition, we significantly increased our investment in work for children and young people, and work for communities for whom access to the arts is difficult, through increases in our Young People, Children and Education and our Arts Participation budgets respectively.

# 2018

For 2018, while maintaining our levels of investment in those areas, our main focus is on our ongoing relationships with professional arts organisations and professional practising artists, through the introduction of our new grant funding programmes, Strategic Funding and Arts Grant Funding.

In addition, we have strengthened our investment in the Abbey Theatre, to ensure the provision of large-scale and ambitious theatre for audiences throughout Ireland, and in the creation of a new national opera company, whose remit will include large-scale classic opera in Dublin, as well as touring mid-scale opera nationwide.

These investments demonstrate our ongoing commitments, as set out in our strategy, to ensure that artists are supported to make excellent work that is enjoyed and valued, and that more people will have access to high quality arts experiences.

## 2. Priority actions for 2018

---

The Arts Council's Ten-Year Strategy, *Making Great Art Work*, plots the coordinates for the development of the arts in the decade 2016–2025. The Three-Year Plan 2017–2019 describes the investment strategies that we will prioritise during 2017–2019.

We have grouped our priorities for 2018 under our strategic goals. These priorities flow from the actions set out in our three-year plan, but have been reviewed and updated according to our corporate plans and the budgetary context in which we are working for the year.

### THE ARTIST

- We will review our **residency programmes** with a view to expanding the nature and type of residencies that artists may be supported to take up.
- We will continue to **advocate** the value of the outputs of individual artists, whose work is at the heart of the development of the arts.
- We will use benchmarking to develop our policies around creating opportunities for artists which better reflect and support the **international** context in which work is made.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- We will continue our work, as part of the **Framework for Collaboration** with local government, advancing children and young people's provision, cultural diversity and arts and disability.

### INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- We will introduce formal agreements with existing and new **strategic partners** that assist in clarifying our shared responsibilities as well as identifying areas for collaboration from 2018.
- We will pilot **funding agreements** with arts organisations to support delivery of the Arts Council's strategic goals under the two headings of the Artist and Public Engagement in 2018.
- Introduce multi-annual funding on a pilot basis to a number of organisations and individual artists from 2018 linked to the measurement framework.

### SPATIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING

- We will introduce a new **investment approach for venues** based on the outcome of the review of venues currently underway.
- In partnership with Local Government, we will begin the development of a **Creative Place Programme** which draws on the work of artists and arts organisations to animate local communities.
- We will develop a shared approach to measuring the impact of public investment at a local level in collaboration with **Local Government**.

### DEVELOPING CAPACITY

- We will develop and pilot a new **measurement framework** in partnership with artists and organisations to understand better and report clearly on the outcomes of our investment.

### 3. Budgetary Approach

---

The Arts Council's grant from government for 2018 is **€68m**, which represents an increase of **4.5%** on the 2017 amount. When savings brought forward and deferred commitments are taken into account, the available budget for 2018 is **€72m**. This increase will enable us to deliver on a number of our strategic priorities, while at the same enhancing our investment relationships with a number of key organisations and partners.

In line with the recovering economy, there has been a gradual improvement in our support from government, and as such there is greater scope for us to think strategically about framing our investment allocations in the coming years.

---

**Based on the funding framework announced in the Summer of 2017, our approach to funding for 2018 will be broken down in the following ways:**

<b>Artists' supports</b>	To support individual artists to develop their ideas and their practice through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• taking time out to concentrate on their artistic practice,</li><li>• travelling to learn or to experience work in other countries, or</li><li>• availing of a residency opportunity with an organisation or institution</li></ul>
<b>Project and programme</b>	To provide funding on a competitive basis to support individuals, entities or organisations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• develop a specific idea, or</li><li>• to deliver more than one idea or activity</li></ul> This will include the Arts Council's new <i>Arts Grant Funding</i> programme
<b>Strategic</b>	To provide funding on a competitive basis to support arts organisations with ambitious and imaginative proposals to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• assist artists in developing their practice and their ideas, and/or</li><li>• deliver excellent arts experiences to the public</li></ul> Strategic Funding also includes our commitment to the Abbey Theatre and to Irish National Opera.
<b>Partnership (including support to Venues)</b>	To provide funding to support local authorities in delivering arts experiences to people across Ireland, and to support the network of arts centres and venues across the country
<b>Development</b>	To support a range of activities designed to assist artists and organisations in undertaking developmental activities that enhance participation and stimulate public interest in the arts. There are two types of development funding programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Programmes in partnership with third-party organisations</li><li>• Programmes managed directly by the Arts Council</li></ul>

**For 2018, based on our grant from government, the total anticipated amount to be spent in each of the areas is as follows:**

**FIGURE 1 – Breakdown of 2018 expenditure**

	€m	Proportion
<b>Strategic Funding</b>	36.9	51.3%
<b>Project &amp; Programme</b>	10.1	14.0%
<b>Partnership Funding</b>	7.9	11.0%
<b>Artists' Supports</b>	5.6	7.8%
<b>Development Funding</b>	4.5	6.2%
<b>Salaries &amp; Admin*</b>	7.0	9.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72.0</b>	

*\*This includes our ongoing increased investment in ICT and information management systems.*

**FIGURE 2 – Proportional breakdown of 2018 expenditure (excluding salaries and admin)**



