

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS :: LOCAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN 2014 KEY FACTS FOR SUPPORTERS / SPOKESPEOPLE

National arts spending

State investment in culture currently stands at €233 million per annum (€233,745,000) ¹

National spend per person per year is €50.78 ²

That's just under €1 per person per week in 2014 (€0.98 to be exact)

Of the €233m Department allocation less than half (€125,379 million) was allocated to arts, culture & film.³

Just €52 million of this was allocated to the Arts Council.

So per capita spend specifically on the arts is well under half the Department's overall budget.

NOTE: Budget 2013 allocation to the Dept of Arts, Heritage & An Gaeltacht for 2014 is less than half of 1%.

The profoundly positive effect of the country's cultural richness and the fact that this enhances perceptions of Ireland amongst our political partners and funders, investors and visitors alike does not seem to be reflected in the nation arts allocations of the last three Budgets. The allocation has stayed below 0.5% of the overall annual Budget and from this already low level, this tiny portion of a percentage has fallen even further in successive Budgets.

Local Authority arts spending

Overall arts spending in 2013 by Local Authorities totaled just under €30million (€29,900,000) ⁴

On average, each Local Authority spent €879,412 on the arts in 2013 ⁵

That's €6.52 per person per year and just €0.13 per person per week in 2013.

But of course averages are not the true story: we understand that ⁶the range of arts spending by Local Authorities is from €1 pppa (per person per year) to €20 pppa. So depending on where in the country you are, the local arts spend ranges from 2 cents to 40 cents pppw (per person per week).

Less than the price of a packet of crisps!

Local Authority arts spending trends: ⁷

2010 - €39.2 million / €0.16 pp per week

2011 - €29.9 million / €0.13 pp per week

2012 - €26 million / €0.11 pp per week

2013 - €29.9 million / €0.13 pp per week

While 2013 shows a slight increase (possibly influenced by once-off investment in Limerick Capital of Culture), the overall percentage decline in Local Authority arts spending since 2010 is 19%.

¹ Source: Budget 2014 - Summary of Gross Expenditure (Capital and Current) by Ministerial Vote Group, Estimates for Public Services.

² Based on Irish population of 4,588,252 in April 2011 (source: *This is Ireland: Highlights from Census 2011 Part 1*, published by the Central Statistics Office)

³ The balance goes to heritage, irish language, gaeltacht, north-south co-operation and departmental administration

⁴ Source: Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

⁵ Based on a total of 34 Local Authorities

⁶ Source: Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

⁷ Source: Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

It should be noted that over this same time (2010-2013), the Arts Council's funding declined by 9.4% - which was itself decried as a disaster by the NCFA and other arts bodies:

2010: €57.5 million

2011: €56.6 million

2012: €50.2 million

2013: €52.1 million

Why should Local Authorities invest in the arts?

- To promote local interest, pride and a sense of place
- To help create diverse, tolerant, healthy, creative communities;
- To ensure citizens – local voters – are not being deprived of the positive impacts of the arts across social cohesion, economic regeneration and tourism development areas.

The impact of the arts on communities is evident around the country.

Some examples below. THERE ARE MANY MORE: find out about programmes in your constituency and tell the canvassers about it.

- The 2013 Spraoi festival in Waterford, featuring street arts events which are mostly free and enjoyed by up to 100,000 people, increased city centre footfall by 65% compared with a normal weekend – with positive benefits for: hotels, bars, cafes, restaurants – not to mention thousands of tax payers and tourists. (Data gathered electronically by Waterford City Council)
- An arts centre located in the heart of Ennis, glór has seen over 600,000 people come through its doors and has contributed upward of €850,000 annually to the local economy since its opening in 2001. It partners with over 11 festivals in the region and provides a stage for up and coming artists, dancers and musicians. The centre has staged **1,100** children's events since 2001, attended by **70,880** children, mostly from schools in Clare and beyond.
- The Mill Theatre was built to bring the arts and entertainment to the local community in Dundrum and its environs. It sold over 35,000 tickets last year. It also serves the local amateur dramatic societies: Glencullen Dundrum Musical Society, Sandyford Little Theatre Co, Balally Players Theatre Co, Taney Dramatic Society and Kilmacud Musical Society as well as housing the Drama League of Ireland Library and Office.
- Tallaght Young Filmmakers (TYF) is an award-winning youth-led filmmaking group that has been in existence since 2008. In 2011, their partnership with South Dublin County Council was acknowledged by the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award for Sustaining the Arts. TYF consists of 18 young people, ages 14 - 18 who have previously participated in school-based film projects as well as other young people interested in film. They work with professional filmmakers to devise their own scripts and shoot their own films. Master classes with professional filmmakers focus on film critique, scriptwriting, sound, acting, directing, editing and more.
- Wexford Arts Centre's The Living Art Project brings visual art to local schools through an artist in residence programme for primary schools in Wexford and a curatorial residency for one transition year group in a local secondary school – bringing arts and education together in Wexford.
- Common Ground is an arts organisation working in the Dublin canal communities of Rialto, Inchicore, Kilmainham and Bluebell. Youth workers in Rialto Youth Project have told them that they are sure that the music programmes that the young people have participated in through Common Ground have been instrumental in keeping those teenagers in school.

Ends