

Press release – 15 October 2013

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS DISMAYED BY HIGHER THAN ANTICIPATED ARTS CUTS

The National Campaign for the Arts expressed dismay this evening at the higher than anticipated cut to arts funding in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht budget 2014 outlined in the Book of Estimates today. The NCFA Steering Committee and members responded to the sixth successive year of cuts in arts funding, down from €250 million in 2013 to €233 million in 2014, an overall cut of 7% (€16.9million).

While exact details of cuts within the Departmental allocation are yet to be confirmed, the Arts, Culture and Film section is set to receive an 8% cut, significantly more than the expected 5%, with the Arts Council allocation being reduced to under €56 million, a cut of 7%.

The NCFA welcomed the once-off €17million announced - from the National Lottery licence transaction – to support Limerick City of Culture (€6M), the Decade of Centenaries 1912-1922 (€6M) and the Traditional Skills and Buildings at Risk Jobs Leverage Scheme (€5M), but expressed worry at the underlying trajectory of lower core funding and a complete lack of sustained investment in Ireland's culture.

The NCFA are appalled by this substantial, shortsighted cut to the arts, which will further undermine the cultural life of all our citizens. Once again the government has failed to recognize and value the vital role the arts play in helping to create and sustain a fully functioning society, said the NCFA. This sixth annual cut to the allocation to the Arts Council is a reduction of more than a third since 2008. This brings the arts sector ever closer to collapse as artists realise they cannot make a living as an artist anymore, robbing the country of one of its most valuable assets: its creativity.

The NCFA also expressed disappointment at the uneven nature of cuts within the Departmental allocation. Although administration costs are set to be reduced by 5%, once adjusted to remove the once-off administrative costs of last year's EU Presidency programme, it would appear that planned administration cost reductions are **significantly** less than the cuts to arts programme.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE ARTS

EDITORS' NOTES

The National Campaign for the Arts is a volunteer-led, grass-roots movement that makes the case for the arts in Ireland. It seeks to ensure that the arts are on local and national government agendas and are recognised as a vital part of contemporary Irish life. The NCFA was established in September 2009 in response to the Government's review of public service number and expenditure programmes, generally known as the McCarthy Report.

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