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Revenue Funded Organisations Survey 2014/15: Key Findings from 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014.

Introduction

This report summarises the findings for the first half of the 2014/15 Revenue Funded Organisations survey. The RFO survey is a bi-annual survey of all Arts Council of Wales revenue funded clients who are required to complete the survey as part of their funding agreement. There are currently 69 clients in receipt of funding.

The survey primarily collects data on the number of arts events delivered and attendances made to these activities.

Key results for the first half of the 2014/15 year: 1st April to 30th September 2014¹

(Please refer to Table 1, 2,3 & 4 in Annex A)

During the six month period (1st of April to 30th September 2014):

- Revenue Funded Organisations delivered a total of 10,573 arts events during the six month period which generated attendances of 1.74 million.
- The events delivered during this time include 310 exhibitions of visual arts and craft, 7,179 film screenings, 1,131 performances by touring companies and 1,953 performances at presenting venues.
- The highest levels of attendances were made to exhibitions of visual arts and crafts which received 826,493 attendances. Performances at presenting venues attracted 420,643 attendances, 253,480 attendances were made to performances by touring companies and 243,196 were made to film screenings.
- 29,522 participatory arts sessions were delivered, with 503,391 attendances made to these workshops.
- Of the total participatory arts sessions delivered, 19,365 were specifically for children and young people, while 10,157 were delivered as general participatory sessions. Of these 2,826 were delivered specifically targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups.²
- There were 278,400 attendances made by children and young people to these sessions while general participatory activity sessions generated attendances of 224,991.
- Participatory sessions targeted at those in the Protected Characteristics groups resulted in attendances of 61,014.

¹ Please note Employment Data is only collected annually and will therefore only be included in the full year's report in October.

² Protected Characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, include disabled people, people from a BME background, children and young people, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs, transgender people. The groups are not mutually exclusive and therefore people can be included in more than one group.

Comparisons with the same period for 2013/14 (1st April to 30th September 2013)

The following findings compare the data from the latest six month period, against the same period in the previous year (1st April to 30th September 2013). While comparisons have been made between the two datasets, fluctuations in the data would be expected due to changes in organisations' programmes of activity as well as other influencing factors. These are referred to where relevant.

The comparisons between the two datasets show:

- In terms of attendance there has been a 19.4% increase in the number of events compared to the same reporting period for 2013/14, increasing from 8,852 to 10,573. This is primarily due to a significant increase in film screenings, up by 55.2% from the same period in the previous year (4,627 screenings to 7,179 screenings)³.
- However, despite the increase in events, attendances to events have actually decreased by 3.9% compared to the same reporting period in the previous year. The latest survey return shows arts events received attendances of 1.74 million, compared with 1.81 million in the previous year. The decrease is mainly driven by a decline in attendances to performances at presenting venues⁴, down by 21.4% (from 534,954 to 420,643) and attendances to exhibitions⁵, down by 6.4% (from 883,357 to 826,493).
- While, overall attendances to events has fallen when compared to the previous year, attendance per performance by touring companies has increased by over a third (38.2%), from 162 people per performance to 224 people per performance.
- Overall participation in the arts is showing a decreasing trend, with a decrease in both the number of sessions delivered and attendances to these sessions. Participatory activity sessions have decreased by 11.7% from the same reporting period in the previous year, down from 33,429 to 29,522 sessions in the latest survey. In line with this attendances to these workshops have decreased by 9.2% from 554,612 to 503,391.⁶

³ This increase is due in part to the change in methodology in the reporting of data by one RFO. This change has been implemented to increase data accuracy.

⁴ The drop in attendance to performances at presenting venues may be in part due to the decrease in the RFO portfolio from 72 in 2013/14 to 69 in 2014/15. Three venues, St Davids Hall, Venue Cymru and The Grand theatre, Swansea accounted for 186,225 attendances in the same period for 2013/14.

⁵ Exhibition attendance is the most difficult art form to collect accurate figures for as most events are non-ticketed so many organisations estimate footfall.

⁶ Two organisations accounted for 75% of the decrease in attendances to participatory sessions. This is due to two large scale, regionally specific projects run by these organisations in the same period for 2013/14.

- The decrease in participation is driven by both a decrease in Children and Young People Participatory Activity and General Participatory Activity.
- Participatory Sessions targeted for Children and young people fell by 10.1% when compared to the same period last year (from 21,537 to 19,365), attendances to these sessions also experienced a similar decrease of 14.9% (from 327,202 to 278,400).
- General Participatory Sessions not specifically targeted at Children and young people fell by 14.6% when compared to the same period last year (from 11,892 to 10,157), attendances to these sessions experienced a decrease of 1.1% (from 227,410 to 224,991).

Frequency

This survey is conducted every 6 months.

Terms and Definitions

Participation is defined as active involvement in the arts, such as attending workshops, classes or rehearsals.

Attendance is defined as experiencing the arts as an audience member.

The number of **attendances** represents the total number of audience visits or the number of participations. That is they are not unique visits; an individual can attend or participate more than once.

A participatory **session** is defined as a half day or less.

General participatory activity sessions are available to all.

Protected Characteristics include the following groups of people: disabled people, people from a BME background, children and young people, lesbian, gay or bisexual people, pregnant women and new mothers, people with specific religious beliefs, transgender people as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The groups are not mutually exclusive and therefore people can be included in more than one group.

Presenting venues is a term used to include theatres, arts centres, concert halls or other spaces where arts performances are presented.

A **touring company** produces a show (drama, dance, music, etc.) for performance at a venue or a range of venues.

Children and young people are defined as those aged under 26 years.

Annex A

Table 1

Attendance	1 st April to 30 th September 2014	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	310	826,493
Film Screenings	7,179	243,196
Performances by Touring Companies	1,131	253,480
Performances at Presenting Venues	1,953	420,643
Total Attendances	10,573	1,743,812

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations

Base: 69 organisations

Table 2

Participation	1 st April to 30 th September 2014	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	19,365	278,400
General Participatory Activity	10,157	224,991
Total Participation	29,522	503,391

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations

Base: 69 organisations

Table 3

Attendance – Events targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups	1 st April to 30 th September 2014	
	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions	23	1,538
Film Screenings	1,811	66,118
Performances by Touring Companies	154	10,709
Performances at Presenting Venues	381	38,323
Total Attendances	2,369	116,688

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations

Base: 69 organisations

Table 4

Participation – Sessions targeted at people in the Protected Characteristics groups	1 st April to 30 th September 2014	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	989	12,686
General Participatory Activity	1,837	48,328
Total Participation	2,826	61,014

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations
Base: 69 organisations

Table 5

Attendance	1 st April to 30 th September 2013		1 st April to 30 th September 2014		% Change	
	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances	Events	Attendances
Exhibitions ⁷	254	883,357	310	826,493	22.0	-6.4
Film Screenings	4,627	147,805	7,179	243,196	55.2	64.5
Performances by Touring Companies	1,533	248,840	1,131	253,480	-26.2	1.9
Performances at Presenting Venues	2,438	534,954	1,953	420,643	-19.9	-21.4
Total Attendances	8,852	1,814,956	10,573	1,743,812	19.4	-3.9

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations
Base: 72 organisations (2013/14) & 69 organisations (2014/15)

⁷ Part of the reported decline in attendance figures is due to a change in the way arts centres are estimating the number of attendances to their exhibition spaces.

Table 6

Participation	1 st April to 30 th September 2013		1 st April to 30 th September 2014		% Change	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory events
Children & Young People	21,537	327,202	19,365	278,400	-10.1	-14.9
General Participatory Activity	11,892	227,410	10,157	224,991	-14.6	-1.1
Total Participation	33,429	554,612	29,522	503,391	-11.7	-9.2

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations

Base: 72 organisations (2013/14) & 69 organisations (2014/15)

Further Information

If you have any comments or queries on this data release or if you would like to be added to our regular users list then please contact our Research Team research@artscouncilofwales.org.uk or go to our website: www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk

Contact

Sarah Jones
Research Officer
Arts Council of Wales
Bute Place
Cardiff CF10 5AL
Tel: 029 2044 1373
Sarah.Jones@artscouncilofwales.org.uk

Next Update

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