

Investment Review 2023

What we did, and who we decided to fund

This document was written by the **Arts Council of Wales**. It is an easy read version of 'Arts Council of Wales, Investment Review 2023: Report and Decisions'.

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Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 35**.



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Introduction



We are the **Arts Council of Wales**. Our role is to support the arts in Wales.

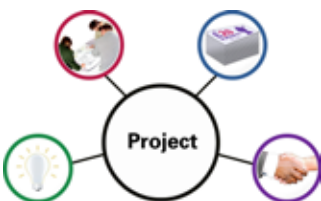


We are responsible for giving funding to arts organisations. This money comes from:

- the Welsh Government
- and the National Lottery.



We fund organisations and individuals so they can help us achieve the aims set out in our **strategic plan**.



We provide funding for projects.



We also fund the main running costs of some organisations through our **Investment Review**.



This means arts organisations in Wales can use **Investment Review** funding to pay for things like:

- staff wages
- heating
- and rent.



They can also use the funding to do their work and deliver arts projects.



The **Investment Review** is the process we go through to decide:

- who should get this funding,
- and how much they should get.



This document is about our **Investment Review** in 2023. This document says:

- What we did.
- What we found out.
- Who we decided to give **Investment Review** funding to.

What we did



We usually do an **Investment Review** every 5 years.



From this, we had a group of arts organisations that we would fund every year. We called this group the **Arts Portfolio Wales**.



Our last **Investment Review** was in 2015.



We were supposed to do an **Investment Review** in 2020. This was delayed because of Covid.



Covid changed a lot of things for all of us. It changed how we thought and worked. We learnt a lot.



We decided to change the way we do **Investment Reviews**.



We want this to be the last time we do a big **Investment Review**.



We want to change so we can be more flexible. This means we will be able to do things like:

- Changing things when they are not working.
- Funding organisations for longer when they are achieving our shared goals.



We will now offer **multi-year funding** more often. This is money given over a number of years.



Organisations will have the chance to apply for funding for 3 years at a time. And will have the chance of another 3 years of funding if they are achieving their goals.

How we have made our decisions



We have used **6 principles** to decide who to give our **Investment Review** funding to.



The 6 principles are areas in the arts that we need to focus on. The 6 principles are:



1. Creativity – We want to work with organisations that work in creative and new ways. We want them to show how they have thought about their audience.



2. Widening engagement – We want to work with arts organisations that work with people who often get left out of the arts.



3. Welsh language – We want the Welsh language to be an important part of the arts in Wales.



4. **Climate justice** – We want to work with arts organisations that talk about **climate justice** and show how important it is.



Climate justice means finding ways to deal with the climate emergency that:

- helps to reduce the damage we do and look after our planet
- and makes the world a fairer place for everyone.



5. **Nurturing talent** – We want to give young people and people from different backgrounds fair chances. We want to give them the support they need to become artists or do other jobs in the arts.



6. **Transformation** – We want to work with organisations who are prepared to work differently to do things better.



We asked organisations to tell us how their work meets all **6 principles**.



We also used **5 balancing factors** to help make our decisions. The **5 balancing factors** are things that meet the needs of Wales as a whole. They are:

- 1. Serving communities across Wales** - We want to reach all communities. Especially communities that do not usually get many chances to take part in the arts.
- 2. Lots of different arts and ways to get involved** - Working in different ways so more people can enjoy more types of arts.
- 3. Making all voices heard** - We want to support organisations working with groups who have had less chance to take part in the arts in the past.
- 4. Value for money** - We have a responsibility to the people of Wales to make sure we fund the organisations that they want. And spend money wisely.
- 5. Size of organisations** - We want to fund organisations of all different sizes. Big and small.

What we found out



We had 139 applications from organisations that were suitable for **Investment Review** funding.



We saw new applications from organisations that we have supported with our project funding.



Organisations that we fund now have shown us their ability to change. They are excellent examples of how organisations can meet the changing needs of people.



We were very impressed by the strength of the arts in Wales.



We do not have enough money to fund everyone. We have had to make some difficult decisions.



We were only able to offer the full amount asked for to 13 organisations. Many organisations will get less than what they asked for.



We are funding new organisations in different parts of Wales.



Most organisations getting a lot of money are based in Cardiff. Many of these organisations serve the whole of Wales.



We will keep working on reaching more communities in Wales.

6 principles

1. Creativity



There were lots of good ideas for creating and presenting arts in different ways.



There will be more opportunities for **freelancers**. A **freelancer** is someone who works for themselves or are hired by organisations for some jobs.



There are lots of good chances for people across Wales to enjoy visual arts – like paintings, sculptures, and film.



There are some exciting things happening in theatre. There are more opportunities:

- for disabled people
- and Welsh language theatre.



A huge decision was to not offer multi-year funding to National Theatre Wales.



We will keep looking into English language theatre in Wales. We will work hard to make sure as many people as possible in Wales can see high standard productions.



We are giving more money to:

- visual arts – like painting, sculpture and film
- venues
- music
- dance.

2. Widening engagement



Lots of organisations took the opportunity to look at this principle in an honest way. They want to do better.



The weakest part of many applications was not doing enough to create more chances for people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.



There were many good applications for improving chances for young people.



We need to do more work to get more young people in leadership and decision-making roles.



More organisations are looking into working with partners to include more people in their work.

3. Welsh language



Many organisations are working hard to follow Welsh language guidance.



There were also more Welsh language led organisations.



We want to support arts organisations to work together. For example, working together to train Welsh speaking staff.



We need to do more to make sure organisations value Welsh.



We need to learn more about how Welsh is being used. And agree on definitions so we measure how well we are doing.



Many organisations are depending too much on partners to help them bring Welsh into their work.

4. Nurturing talent



Many organisations are focusing more on young people.



Many organisations talked about developing skills. For example, in marketing, theatre skills and reaching new communities. We need to work together to support organisations with this.

5. Climate justice



In our guidance for this funding, we said we understood that this would be a new area for most organisations.



Organisations were honest and open about their work towards this.



This is a new area for us too. We can learn a lot from what organisations are doing.



Many organisations already have plans in place to make sure their work is better for the environment.



Lots of organisations are already using the environment as a theme in their work. This helps to raise awareness of the issues.

We need to do more work in this area to:



- Research things like **carbon emissions**.

Carbon emission is when carbon is released, often through human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels like coal or gas. When carbon is released it creates carbon dioxide, which is a gas that causes climate change.

- Understand how we can better support arts organisations.
- Train organisations on the issues.

6. Transformation



Some organisations showed us clearly that they wanted to make this part of their usual way of working.



We felt that some organisations we have funded in the past should be doing more.



Many organisations need new members of staff to help with this area. Many will need support from us too.



Organisations we have chosen to fund have shown us:

- How they have changed.
- How they have dealt with challenges.
- How they learn and keep changing to meet needs.

Balancing factors

Serving communities across Wales



We are funding more work in Cardiff than in other areas. This is mainly because more organisations that are getting a lot of money are based in Cardiff.



We know this affects our work in other communities.



Some communities in countryside areas will receive a good amount of funding. For example, Ceredigion and Gwynedd.



We had to make some difficult decisions. We did not fund some organisations based in areas where we want to do more work. This is because they did not meet the 6 principles as well as others.



We will work with partners across Wales in certain areas where we need to do more work. For example Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Conwy and Denbighshire.

Lots of different arts and ways to get involved



We are seeing exciting things happening in Arts and Health.



There is good work happening in new and mixed artforms. Like film, circus and digital.



We need to look at how we support dance more over the coming years. Especially in community dance and Welsh language dance.



We are giving less money to theatre, but we are supporting more theatre organisations.

Making all voices heard



We have been able to offer multi-year funding to organisations led by people from different backgrounds.



There are more organisations focused on disability. We will learn from them to improve our own work.



There is still a low number of organisations led by Black people. We will keep working on this.



We will support organisations that did not get **Investment Review** funding. They have the ability to do good work in this area.



Many organisations we already fund are working to get people from different backgrounds involved in their work.

Value for money



We must fund organisations that can provide the biggest benefits to the people of Wales.



The cost of living crisis has been hard on the arts. Many organisations get less funding from local authorities now.



Many organisations are now looking for funding to hire staff that can help with fundraising.



We think this is a good idea. However, we have not been able to offer an increase in funding to support this in many cases. We wanted to focus on funding more **diverse** organisations.

Diverse means people are not all the same. For example, people come from different backgrounds, make different choices or are good at different things.

Size of organisations



We are funding 23 new organisations.



We are offering funding to different sized organisations. They can reach different numbers of people.



We are funding organisations that can:

- oversee and plan work
- carry out certain activities.



Some organisations do work across the world.



We are funding some organisations that are growing bigger.

What happens next?



All organisations that applied for funding will get a report. It will explain our decision and next steps.

Successful organisations



Any offer we make depends on organisations agreeing to our terms.



Offers may change. It depends on the funding we get from Welsh Government.



When organisations have thought about our offer, we will talk to them about what they can do.



Many organisations will not get the full amount they asked for. They may need to change their plans.



We will talk about actions we would like to see most. We will talk about checking on progress.



Funding will be agreed by the end of March 2024.
Funding will start being given out in April 2024.

Unsuccessful organisations



Organisations that we do not offer **Investment Review** funding to can still apply to our other funds.



We will work with organisations to support them.



Arts Portfolio Wales organisations that have not been offered **Investment Review** funding, will be able to apply for **Transition Funding**.

Transition Funding is money given to organisations to help them plan for the future.

Appeals



An appeal is asking us to check our decisions. Organisations can appeal if they have proof we have not been fair. For example, because:

- we have not followed our process properly
- we have misunderstood part of their application
- we did not think about important information that we said we would.



Organisations have 21 days from getting our decision to appeal.



Someone from outside of the Arts Council of Wales will check the appeal. They will decide if the appeal will be heard.



If it is heard, there will be a meeting within 28 days. We will be told their decision within 7 days after the meeting.

What we will do next



We are going to use what we learnt during this **Investment Review** to help write our **strategic plan**.



Our **strategic plan** is our plan for our work over the next 10 years. We will publish it in 2024.

Based on what we learnt during this **Investment Review**, we will:



1. Look into supporting visual arts in 2025 to 2026.



2. Look into English language theatre in Wales.



3. Keep working with partners to support music and creators that do not get much funding.



4. Check what support we offer traditional music. Think about what money will be needed in the future.



5. Check dance in Wales. Especially community dance.



6. Check how we could support outdoor arts in 2025 to 2026.



7. Create networks to help artists to support each other and share how best to reach more communities.



8. Support RAMPS Cymru. They work to include disabled people in theatre.



9. Build on the work done by our Welsh Language Enabler.



10. Work with partners like Creative Wales to offer training to arts organisations.



11. Work with Welsh Government and other partners to pay for research on **climate justice** issues.



12. Put money into training and developing skills, that will help organisations meet their **climate justice** goals.



13. Develop business support resources and training for organisations. To support them to keep changing all the time.



14. Work with local authorities to see how we can work together. This will help us bring the arts to everyone.

Our decisions

We are going to offer funding to the organisations listed below.

Aberystwyth Arts Centre	£544,628
Arad Goch	£352,048
Artes Mundi	£150,164
Artis Community Cymuned	£202,935
Arts Care	£134,893
Arts Connection	£66,174
Awen Cultural Trust	£250,000
Ballet Cymru	£750,000
BBC National Orchestra of Wales	£817,111
Blackwood Miners Institute	£131,300
Canolfan a Menter Gymraeg Merthyr Tudful (Soar)	£100,000
Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias	£81,445
Chapter Arts	£400,000
Citrus Arts	£100,000
Common Wealth	£200,000
Community Music Wales	£100,000
Creu Cymru	£75,000
Cwmni'r Fran Wen	£350,000
Dawns i Bawb	£100,000
Disability Arts Cymru	£200,000
Elysium Gallery	£120,000
Ffilm Cymru	£1,436,630
Ffotogallery	£202,439
Fio	£20,000

Focus Wales	£100,000
g39	£140,000
Galeri Caernarfon	£320,942
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery	£127,257
Hijinx	£400,000
It's My Shout	£80,000
Jukebox Collective	£280,000
Literature Wales	£753,306
Live Music Now Wales	£45,812
Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre	£86,535
Mission Gallery9	£6,715
Mostyn	£395,005
Music Theatre Wales	£222,191
Mwldan	£271,865
National Dance Company Wales	£846,596
National Youth Arts Wales	£450,000
NoFit State Circus	£197,503
Operasonic	£81,000
Oriel Davies	£227,128
Oriel Myrddin	£47,849
Oriel Plas Glyn Y Weddw	£75,000
Peak	£78,780
People Speak Up	£75,000
Pontardawe Arts Centre	£64,137
Pontio	£284,285
PYST	£60,000
RCT Theatres	£153,065
Re-Live	£80,000
Riverfront Theatre	£75,000

Ruthin Craft Centre	£395,005
Sherman Theatre	£1,142,749
Sinfonia Cymru	£221,065
Small World Theatre	£60,000
Span Arts	£100,000
Tabernacl (Neuadd Ogwen)	£125,000
Taking Flight Theatre	£295,000
Tanio	£177,753
Theatr Bara Caws	£310,503
Theatr Brycheiniog	£197,503
Theatr Clwyd	£1,829,792
Theatr Felinfach	£61,084
Theatr Genedlaethol	£1,044,883
Theatr Iolo	£260,569
Theatr na nÓg	£320,795
Theatrau Sir Gar	£50,000
Torch Theatre	£650,000
Ty Cerdd	£300,000
Ty Pawb	£200,000
Ucheldre	£76,355
Urban Circle	£275,000
Valleys Kids	£200,000
Volcano Theatre	£212,317
Wales Arts, Health & Wellbeing Network	£100,000
Wales Millennium Centre	£3,590,552
Welsh National Opera	£4,100,000
Wyeside Arts Centre	£30,000
Ystradgynlais, The Welfare	£95,000

Hard words

Climate justice

Climate justice means finding ways to deal with the climate emergency that:

- helps to reduce the damage we do and look after our planet
- and also makes the world a fairer place for everyone.

Carbon emission

Carbon emission is when carbon is released, often through human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels such as coal or gas. When carbon is released it creates carbon dioxide, which is a gas that causes climate change.

Diversity

Diversity means people are not all the same. For example, people come from different backgrounds, make different choices or are good at different things.

Transition Funding

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