

Election Manifesto

Funding of the arts falls short of the EU average, despite increased Government investment in recent years. The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon was granted €140m in Budget 2025 and while this is the highest amount to date, the demand is such that there is an unprecedented level of unmet need.

Pressure points can be seen both in demand for funding and in gaps in facilities for the arts sector.

Without further focused investment in both on-going funding and capital supports, valuable opportunities for artists and audiences nationwide will be missed.

Key focus areas for the arts in 34th Dáil Éireann:



1. Funding for the arts



2. Arts infrastructure and planning



3. Equal access



4. Young people and children



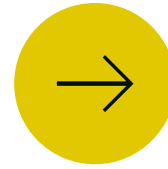
Funding for the arts

Challenge

Arts funding is not in pace with inflationary growth, is below the EU average and artists still suffer higher deprivation levels than average.

Action

- Increase funding support for the Arts Council (and for the arts in line with EU averages).
- Provide a multi-annual funding commitment to the Arts Council to ensure security and stability for the arts sector.
- Commit to continuing the Basic Income for the Arts scheme beyond its pilot phase.



Arts infrastructure and planning

Challenge

There are urgent gaps in facilities for the arts sector.

Action

- Partner with the Arts Council to develop a national arts infrastructure strategy.
- Provide significant capital funding to the Artist Campus at Dublin Port.
- Develop creative hubs for artists within the five cities to link with Dublin Port Artist Campus, in line with ambitions in Project Ireland 2040.
- Strengthen the Arts Council's role under planning and development legislation.
- Expand the 5% for community/cultural use that is in the Dublin City Development Plan to other city development plans.



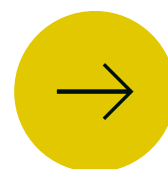
Equal access

Challenge

The right of people to engage in cultural production and participation is limited.

Action

- Establish a capital fund to support venue upgrades and adaptation across the range of accessibility and Universal Design requirements to ensure right of access.
- Collaborate with the Arts Council to develop and implement a clear policy to ensure the rights of artists with disabilities to access funding are upheld.
- Fund the Arts Council to support inclusion for all in the arts.



Young people and children

Challenge

The rights of children and young people to participate and express themselves through the arts and have their say in development is not always upheld.

Action

- Continue to expand Creative Schools to reach every school in Ireland by 2027 to ensure that every child's right to tuition and participation in art, music and drama is met.
- Fund the Arts Council to support artists and organisations who make work for, by and with children and young people.