



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE MEIER
@HIDDENDAVE // @PICOGRAPHY



THE ARTS - IMAGINATIVE INVESTMENT | ÉIRE NÍOS FEARR ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2017

A WORLD CLASS INDUSTRY, FROM THE GROUND UP.

Sinn Féin is committed to developing a world-class creative industry from the ground up.

Since 2011, Fine Gael have been reckless in their governance of cultural policy. The launch of a ten year cultural policy 'Culture 2025' is welcome, but leadership in the Department has given little confidence to cultural stakeholders.

Sinn Féin's 2017 alternative budget submission represents the beginning of a process focussed on repairing Ireland's cultural landscape, including our national cultural institutions, film industry, the Arts Council and Culture Ireland, as well as plans and a longer-term financial commitment toward the development of a national youth arts strategy.

THE ARTS COUNCIL. AN CHOMHAIRLE EALAÍON.

Increase investment in the Arts Council by 16.5% - Cost €10 million.

In recent years, The Arts Council has been affected by cuts of over €23,000,000. The arts support almost 21,000 jobs and are a significant part of our economy. Despite the effects of austerity, 3,500 artists continue to seek support from the Arts Council to promote and foster creativity in literature, visual arts, film, dance, traditional arts, opera, music, circus, architecture, outreach and education, community arts and arts festivals.

Public investment in the arts is imaginative, directly impacts on employment and ensures a sustainable dividend for the state. Sinn Féin also proposes to better engage both Arts Councils on this island through increased north/south touring schemes and the co-funding of cross border organisations.

CULTURE IRELAND. CULTÚR ÉIREANN.

Increase investment in Culture Ireland - Cost €500,000.

Culture Ireland promotes Irish arts across the globe. It financially support Irish artists and organisations presenting works at venues and festivals abroad including the Edinburgh festivals and Venice Biennales. These projects also make contributions to developing and promoting our cultural tourism offering, benefiting the domestic and foreign tourist.

Sinn Féin's commitment for 2017 is an increase of €0.5m and a return to 2006 funding figures.

IRISH FILM BOARD BORD SCANNÁN NA hÉIREANN.

Allocation increase for the Irish Film Board - €3.75 million, increasing state support support by more than one third.

Investment in the Irish film and television industry provides multiple economic and cultural benefits, far beyond the direct employment of on-set cast and crews. Ireland has provided the subject and scene for some of the world's best loved cinema, and Tourism Ireland estimate that 35% of people visit a location as a result of its appearance and introduction by way of screen.

Irish Film has taken a disproportionate cut in funding when compared to other sectors. Bord Scannán na hÉireann, alongside TG4 and RTÉ can support a rich indigenous film, drama and television sector and alongside that, Sinn Féin will seek to strengthen the Irish language remit of the IFB.

The audio-visual content production sector in Ireland itself is estimated to be worth over €550 million and employs over 6,000 individuals, with over 560 small and medium enterprises operating in the sector as well as the added value that the industry can bring to tourism.

Given the level of cutbacks endured by the Irish Film industry, and the chronically low base of ongoing funding, Sinn Féin's commitment represents an increase of €3.75 million, raising support levels by more than one third.

NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS. INSTITIÚID CULTÚRTHA NÁISIÚNTA.

**Funding increase for investment programmes - Cost €2 million.
Increase funding for national cultural institutions by 13.6% - Cost €5 million.**

Government and the Department directly support a number of national institutions. They are; the National Archives, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Chester Beatty Library, the National Concert Hall, Crawford Art Gallery, the National Library, the National Gallery and the National Museum (including Archaeology - Kildare Street, Decorative Arts and History - Collins Barracks, Country Life - Turlough Park, Mayo, Natural History - Merrion Square). These institutions have received cuts in excess of 40% and are struggling under funding circumstances that create a cultural atmosphere that is inert rather than dynamic.

Day to day operations, opening hours, staffing numbers, programming, and perhaps most importantly outreach have all been affected within these institutions, many of which are amongst the top 10 most visited attractions in Ireland.

YOUTH ARTS STRATEGY STRAITÉIS EALAÍONA DON ÓIGE.

Commence development of a Youth Arts Strategy.

Sinn Féin takes pride in Ireland's vibrant artistic history - across myriad art forms – and will campaign to ensure that such a record is upheld and added to into the future. We will safeguard the right of every young person to explore their artistic and creative potential.

Over the course of a Government term, Sinn Féin will develop and deliver a National Youth Arts Strategy promoting participation, progression and provision. The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, working alongside both the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Education and Skills will carry out research, planning and consultation of a National Youth Arts Strategy over a period of 24 months at no additional cost to the exchequer.

A three year implementation programme at a cost of €5 million will follow the initial two year research, planning and consultation phase.

Young people must be seen as young artists and participants in their own right, rather than as audiences or future artists. It is therefore essential for the state to develop a strategy for youth arts. The strategy would be focused on engagement, developing talent, and putting in place the appropriate infrastructure and support, not only within the confines of traditional education environments but developing arts habit in the non-formal education environment such as youth services, orchestras, youth theatres, etc.

HERITAGE DIVISION, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL MONUMENT MOORE STREET.

Increase investment for Heritage by 16.5% - Cost €5 million.

Given its role in preserving heritage sites such as Moore Street, and promoting heritage and activity tourism, the Heritage division capital budget is a key element of investment strategy.

GAELTACHT DIVISION.

Increase investment to Gaeltacht Division - Cost €5 million.

Údarás na Gaeltachta plays a crucial role in providing stimulus through job creation in rural areas of acute disadvantage. Udarás funding was slashed by Fianna Fáil from €26 million to €6 million, and the Fine Gael - Labour Government reduced it further. Sinn Féin would increase funding by €5 million from its current low base.