

FOR ARTIST AND AUDIENCE

culture | arts | heritage
alternative budget and related issues 2019



Senator Fintan Warfield
Sinn Féin spokesperson for the Arts



**INCREASE
ARTS COUNCIL
FUNDING BY 8.8%**

€6 MILLION

**A NEW
LOCAL AUTHORITY
ARTS FUND**

€3 MILLION

**INCREASE
CULTURE IRELAND
FUNDING BY 15%**

€600,000

**INCREASE
SCREEN IRELAND
FUNDING BY 14%**

€2 MILLION

**A NEW
ARTISTS' STUDIO
SPACES SCHEME**

€5 MILLION

**RETAIN
SECTION 481**

**NEW R&D FINANCE
FOR EU FUNDING
APPLICATIONS**

€400,000

**INCREASE
HERITAGE COUNCIL
PROJECT FUNDING
BY 37%**

€1 MILLION



Pearse Doherty TD -
Sinn Féin spokesperson for Finance

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Introduction by Senator Fintan Warfield - Sinn Féin spokesperson for Arts

A republic of culture is possible. But in a political environment shaped by spin and marketing we need to be clear what a 'Republic of Culture' means; what it looks like, and how we get there. For too long our artists have been praised for their work, wheeled out for photo opportunities and international promotion while simultaneously proscribed, censored, corralled and asked to work in unsustainable conditions. For too long the breadth and diversity of Ireland's culture has been constrained to fit a vision of 'official Ireland' at the expense of others.

For too long the value created by the work of our artists as they express the many and changing facets of our culture has been ignored and unrewarded. It is not good enough for a country that promotes itself as an imaginative and creative place to build that 'single proposition' on the sacrifice of people who earn less than €12,000 a year.

Republicans understand that culture, heritage and the arts are instrumental for well-being; for community development, education, creativity, healthcare, welfare, and citizenship. Republicans understand that culture and heritage - and their expression through art - are intrinsic to our self identity as a nation, and to our self worth. And republicans understand the real, economic value of that social capital, the real value it creates for tourism, FDI, and local economic activity. It is not a question of how we afford, but of how we allocate, distribute and capture value.

Without painters and dancers, performers and musicians, writers and story-tellers - there is no film industry, no television or radio, nothing on stage or the walls of our galleries, and nothing in print. Without archeologists and scholars, tour guides, environmentalists, conservationists, urbanists and passionate communities there is no heritage, no Ancient East or Atlantic Way. There is no culture without citizens and no art without artists.

Sinn Féin have the passion, the imagination, the proposals and the political will to best support those who devote their lives, or a part of their lives, to creativity, cultural expression and to the protection of our heritage.

Sinn Féin will bring certainty to artists and their spaces and places. We will support and encourage our national museums, cultural institutions and galleries to re-imagine their role and ensure that they are inclusive and diverse in structure, and fit for purpose in the digital age. We will support the development of new places and new sites of engagement and citizenship.

Yes, Sinn Féin will significantly increase funding across the cultural sphere through existing channels, but more than that we will develop new, democratic funding strategies that ensure equality of access, opportunity and reward within the culture industries. And we will ensure that young people are valued as artists in their own right, not only as audiences or future artists.

We invite you to explore our alternative budget 2019 and related issues.

Senator Fintan Warfield.

October 2018

Introduction by Pearse Doherty TD - Sinn Féin spokesperson for Finance

The culture and creative sector – incorporating arts, heritage and audiovisual – is essential for our sense of who we are, for our international reputation, and a lightning rod for our well-being. It is – and should be – rewarding and uncomfortable, entertaining, exciting, comforting, provocative and a constant challenge to our beliefs, behaviours and our politics.

What we must understand is that these socially valuable activities are significant contributors to our economy in terms of GVA (gross value added), job creation and innovation, and that that contribution is not currently reflected in the way we reward such work. We need to understand the nature of the value it creates and we need to face the hard question about what we truly value.

In 2009 the Heritage sector had a GVA of €1.5 billion and created 24,000 direct FTE jobs and a total of 40,000 direct, indirect and induced FTE jobs.¹ In 2010 the wider Arts Sector (excluding film/video) had a total expenditure impact of €1.4 billion and created 10,000 direct FTE jobs and a total of 16,158 direct, indirect and induced FTE jobs.² In 2015 the wider audiovisual sector had a GVA of €1.1 billion, creating 10,000 direct FTE jobs and a total of 16,930 direct, indirect and induced FTE jobs.³

The fact that these figures come from different years is part of the challenge we face in understanding the value of our culture: we don't take it seriously enough to track it on a regular basis. But what these figures suggest is that our culture has an economic value of more than €4 billion and supports 73,088 jobs. And that is just using standard economic modelling that may not grasp the full significance of the real Public Value created by Culture.

Despite the considerable impact of these sectors, the State continues to underinvest in the people and organisations that create this wealth and adheres to a funding model that limits potential by centralising decision making and punishing those who choose to work in culture.

Sinn Féin understand that the culture sector is a multi-layered, interdependent and complex system and that simply adding money through existing channels will not necessarily have the desired impact. Multiple sources of funding and funding strategies that support citizen participation and engagement, and working to remove economic barriers to access are all of equal importance. It is also important that we remove any psychological barriers between business and the wider creative sector.

Creativity is acknowledged as an economic driver; an essential input into business, economy and social policy, essential if we are to understand and thrive in a new economy. The list of approaches in the following document address the sector from both supply and demand sides, and work to create a support structure for a complex system. It is possible that an approach to this sector could inform our approach to other sectors of the economy in the future. If we are to be creative in our economic planning then what better place to start than here.

Is mise, le meas,

Pearse Doherty TD.

1. Economic Value of Ireland's Historic Environment 2010, Ecorys/Fitzpatrick

2. Assessment of the Economic Impact of the Arts in Ireland 2011, Indecon

3. Economic Analysis of the Audiovisual Sector in ROI 2018, Olsberg/SPI

01. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local Authorities

Increase funding for Local Authority Arts Programmes by 4.4% or €3 million

Local Authorities have a major responsibility in enabling and empowering work and activity in the culture, arts and heritage spheres. Sinn Féin acknowledge the enormous support and investment into the cultural sector from local authorities, and welcomes the framework agreement between the City and County Managers Association and the Arts Council.

In 2018 the combined local authority arts programme spend was €67.2 million – almost on a par with the Arts Council’s investment. It is important to note that the distribution of this spend varies from Council to Council, from €1.89 per head of population at the low end to €75 per head of population at the high end. While this disparity reflects the resources and priorities of each Local Authority it also represents a potential democratic deficit: the right of access to cultural activities is not equal across the state.

More information is required to establish the extent of this inequality, but in the interim Sinn Féin will allocate €3 million to a Local Authority Arts Programme Fund, distributed by the Department.

Working locally does not mean working peripherally. Cultural engagement begins in the local community, with family, with friends and at school. Consequently, cultural engagement is built on community activity. It follows that a crucial point of state engagement is through Local Authorities across the state.

Sinn Féin believe that commissions by a Local Authority should be artist driven, in dialogue with people and place. Therefore, we support the design of funding processes that prioritise the artist, local actions and local needs.

Sinn Féin will strengthen support for community arts to foster social cohesion, personal development, community empowerment, and health and well-being. Supporting community arts is not a departure from quality. These elements of cultural policy are fundamental to the creation of an equality agenda and an environment that respects cultural diversity.

Sinn Féin will also incentivise and support collaboration at a local and community level. We will put in place structures and incentives for collaboration between arts and heritage; culture and technology; arts and business; amateur, voluntary and professional; academia and community; Local Authorities and centralised agencies; between local, national and international. All such collaborations are built on understanding and trust.

Sinn Féin’s additional allocation in Budget 2019:

2019 €3,000,000

02. BODIES AND AGENCIES

- A. ARTS COUNCIL**
- B. CULTURE IRELAND**
- C. HERITAGE COUNCIL**

A. Arts Council

Increase Arts Council funding by 8.8% or €6 million.

The Arts Council is the Government agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in this state. Sinn Féin's budget proposal would mark the first step in returning Arts Council funding to 2008/2009 levels.

Public investment in the arts is imaginative, directly impacts on employment and ensures a sustainable dividend for the state. The Cultural and Creative Sectors are a significant part of our economy. In 2010, investment of €69 million via the Arts Council resulted in a total expenditure impact of €195 million, supported 2,627 jobs, and returned an estimated €41.1 million to the exchequer via direct and indirect taxes (59% of the original investment).

It is important to bear in mind that the Arts Council funded sector is connected to and supports the wider arts sector, which had a total expenditure impact (excluding the audio-visual sector) of €1,401.4 million - supporting 16,158 jobs and returning €306.8 million to the exchequer in direct and indirect taxation - almost 4.5 times the value of the original exchequer allocation.

Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2019 would bring state funding for the Arts Council to €74 million - an 8.8% increase of €6 million on the Government allocation in 2018.

In addition to increased funding allocations for An Comhairle Ealaíon, Sinn Féin will seek to better engage both Arts Councils on this island through increased North/South co-operation and the co-funding of cross border programmes.

Government support for the Arts Council 2008 - 2018:

2008	€82,000,000
2009	€73,350,000
2010	€69,150,000
2011	€65,200,000
2012	€63,240,000
2013	€59,865,000
2014	€56,700,000
2015	€58,893,000
2016	€60,027,000
2017	€65,100,000
2018	€68,000,000

Sinn Féin's proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

2019	€74,000,000
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B. Culture Ireland

Increase Culture Ireland funding by 15% or €600,000

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

Sinn Féin's Budget Alternative 2019 proposes an increase of €600,000 or 15% and would be the largest investment in the Culture Ireland project since 2008.

It is Sinn Féin's belief that with an estimated diaspora of 70 million people, 40 million of whom live in North America, Ireland has unique challenges and opportunities in supporting the diaspora abroad, and in harnessing the incredible potential they offer us as a nation. The #HomeToVote movement is a reminder of the vital contribution our diaspora has to make.

The experiences, stories, and heritage of our diaspora are a central component of our culture and Sinn Féin believe that the model of Culture Ireland should be developed into a sustainable, two-way global model - rather than the current one-way relationship. We will ensure that a portion of Culture Ireland funds are used to bring Irish artists home - to make and create.

The economic value of Culture Ireland in terms of its contribution to cultural diplomacy, global positioning, FDI, tourism etc. has never been effectively calculated. A key part of this funding increase will be to establish an evaluation framework, so that the real return on this investment can be measured, acknowledged and rewarded.

Government support for Culture Ireland 2008 - 2018:

2008	€4,700,000
2009	€4,500,000
2010	€4,000,000
2011	€4,000,000
2012	€3,600,000
2013	€3,200,000
2014	€2,500,000
2015	€2,500,000
2016	€2,500,000
2017	€3,500,000
2018	€4,000,000

Sinn Féin's proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

2019	€4,600,000
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C. Heritage Council

Increase Heritage Council capital funding by 37% or €1 million

The Heritage Council was established under the Heritage Act 1995. Community involvement is at the heart of the Heritage Council's vision for national heritage, and their work with local communities impacts on jobs, education and heritage tourism, delivering a rich tourism experience and excellent practice in the care of our valuable heritage assets.

They provide advice, funding, educational programmes and advocacy and have helped put in place heritage infrastructure and networks to enable and empower communities to participate in and take responsibility for the development and conservation of their local heritage.

Success has been achieved through working in partnership with local authorities and statutory agencies. The Community-Led Village Design Toolkit, the Heritage Officer Programme and other projects under the Heritage Management Grants Scheme are examples of that success.

With Government funding once at €19 million, Sinn Féin believe that now is the time to restore some of the 66% cuts faced by the Heritage Council. Sinn Féin's commitment in Budget 2019 represents an increase of €1 million.

According to an independent economic assesment performed in 2011, the Heritage sector directly supports almost 25,000 FTE jobs. Including indirect and induced effects that number rises to 40,000 FTE jobs. The Heritage sector also contributed approximately €1,500 million annually to the nations GVA, or 1% of total national GVA and 2% of overall employment. (Economic Value of Ireland's Historic Environment, Ecorys, Fitzpatrick Associates 2011). According to the report, the greater share of the economic impacts relate to tourism and construction - each in the order of €700 million annually to GVA and some 17,000 jobs.

Government support for the Heritage Council 2008-2018 (capital):

2008	€7,874,000
2009	€5,000,000
2010	€4,500,000
2011	€3,000,000
2012	€1,969,000
2013	€1,781,000
2014	€1,688,000
2015	€1,688,000
2016	€1,688,000
2017	€2,688,000
2018	€2,688,000

Sinn Féin's proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

2019	€3,688,000
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03. NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL STORAGE



National Cultural Institutions

Increase funding for our National Cultural Institutions by 3.2% or €1.35 million

While Sinn Féin welcomes the capital allocations to the National Cultural Institutions under the Ireland 2040 plan, we also acknowledge that day-to-day operations, opening hours, staffing numbers, programming and audience and community engagement, storage and outreach have all been affected within these Institutions, many of which are amongst the top 10 most visited, free attractions in Ireland.

An example of this has been the 24% reduction in staffing levels at the National Library of Ireland. In comparison to the national libraries of Scotland and Wales, with staffing numbers of 280 and 277 respectively, the National Library of Ireland supports 86 staff members.

Government, through the Department, directly support eight National Cultural Institutions and they are;

- The National Archives of Ireland
- The Irish Museum of Modern Art
- Chester Beatty Library
- The National Concert Hall
- Crawford Art Gallery
- The National Library of Ireland
- The National Gallery of Ireland
- The National Museum of Ireland
 - Archaeology - Kildare Street
 - Decorative Arts and History - Collins Barracks
 - Country Life - Turlough Park, Mayo
 - Natural History - Merrion Square

All figures below represent current spend allocated by Government.

Cultural Institution	2016	2017	2018
National Archives of Ireland	€1,205,000	€1,405,000	€1,265,000
Irish Museum of Modern Art	€4,493,000	€4,823,000	€5,328,000
Chester Beatty Library	€2,229,000	€2,346,000	€2,520,000
National Concert Hall	€2,265,000	€2,449,000	€2,569,000
Crawford Art Gallery	€1,072,000	€1,176,000	€1,236,000
National Museum of Ireland	€11,162,000	€11,812,000	€12,438,000
National Library of Ireland	€6,516,000	€6,816,000	€7,085,000
National Gallery of Ireland	€6,778,000	€6,978,000	€9,144,000
Total	€36,537,000	€38,537,000	€41,585,000

For 2019, Sinn Féin are proposing a 3.2% increase of €1,359,000 in current funding across our National Cultural Institutions, bringing the total allocation to €42,944,000.

National Storage Facility

Develop plans in 2019 for a shared national storage facility to be delivered within the timeframe 2022-2025

The CONUL libraries - the Consortium of National and University Libraries are tasked with storing and preserving aspects of Ireland's cultural and historical memory. They are legally responsible for preserving and guaranteeing access to digital and physical objects for future generations.

These institutions are faced with an unprecedented storage crisis at an individual and national level as collections continue to grow. Without intervention, these collections are at risk of degradation, damage and even permanent loss. The CONUL libraries of which the National Library of Ireland is one, are proposing a collaborative approach to this problem in the form of a state of the art, shared storage facility entitled 'The Memory Store'. It would enable access to the shared collection and act as a flagship for Ireland's cultural heritage through a joint online platform.

The cost of the construction and maintenance of such a facility would be shared between these institutions.

An estimated state investment of €10 - €15 million will be required.

**04. CREATIVE IRELAND
AND CULTURE 2025**

Creative Ireland and Culture 2025

Culture 2025 – the first cultural policy in the history of the state – is a ten year strategy that began with a public consultation and the release of a discussion document in 2015. A Framework Policy to 2025 was later released in July 2016. In July 2017, Sinn Féin representatives on the Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs led the development of an Oireachtas Committee Report on Culture 2025.

It was envisaged that a Culture 2025 implementation programme would follow. However, despite the publication of the Joint Oireachtas Committee’s report on the draft Framework Policy, it has never been progressed through to final discussion, drafting and implementation. To counter these delays the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched Creative Ireland 2017-2022, described as “the Government’s Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016”, and as the implementation vehicle for Culture 2025.

Creative Ireland initially brought about a sea-change in the use of the language used by Government, the Department, and its spokespersons, which Sinn Féin believed could mark the beginning of a process that would align the interests of Government with the experience and interests of the arts, culture, heritage and Irish language sectors.

However, as we write this document, Sinn Féin are less confident about the contribution that Creative Ireland is making to the realisation of vision, values and priorities as set out in Culture 2025, and we believe that the strategic significance of Creative Ireland should be immediately reviewed.

Reflection is required by Government if they wish to have the confidence of arts, cultural and heritage communities. Integral to the artistic process and good governance is adherence to the arm’s length principle. This principle must be upheld in all funding allocations by Creative Ireland.

Sinn Féin have also expressed deep dissatisfaction with the levels of public monies used by Creative Ireland on advertorials, after a Freedom of Information request by Sinn Féin showed that 30% of Creative Ireland’s €4.4 million budget was spent on marketing and public relations. All of this is taking place against a backdrop of artists struggling to make ends meet, and funding bodies unable to support the full potential of projects.

Sinn Féin support the five pillars of the Creative Ireland programme. While we expect to see the full implimentation of these five pillars by 2022, we will not commit to the continuance of the programme beyond that time.

Previous Government allocations for the Creative Ireland Programme:

2017 €5,000,000
2018 €8,500,000

Sinn Féin will maintain the current level of funding:

2019 €8,500,000





05. AUDIO-VISUAL PRODUCTION

- A. SCREEN IRELAND / FÍS ÉIREANN**
- B. SECTION 481**
- C. PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING**
- D. COMMUNITY RADIO**

A. Screen Ireland / Fís Éireann (formerly Irish Film Board / Bord Scannán na hÉireann)

Increase Screen Ireland funding by 14% or €2,000,000

Sinn Féin support the transition of the Irish Film Board to Screen Ireland, recognising the increasingly diverse nature of moving image. In order for it to fulfill its new responsibilities, funding should soon be returned to 2008 figures of €20 million. Our alternative budget recognises the need to accelerate funding restoration with a capital allocation representing a 14% increase of €2,000,000 - a proposed return to 2010 figures.

Investment in screen - as in arts and heritage - provides multiple economic and cultural benefits, far beyond the direct employment of on-set cast and crews. The West of Ireland has provided the subject and scene for some of the world's best loved cinema. Tourism Ireland estimate that 35% of people visit a location as a result of its appearance and introduction by way of screen. Galway is a UNESCO City of Film and is the official home of Screen Ireland. Galway's audio-visual sector is comprised of 50 production companies, supported by one national broadcaster, three national funding agencies and two third level institutes offering courses dedicated to A/V production.

Irish film, television and animation has experienced a disproportionate cut in funding when compared to other sectors. Screen Ireland, alongside TG4 and RTÉ can support a rich indigenous film, drama and television sector. Alongside that, Sinn Féin will seek to strengthen the Irish language remit of Screen Ireland.

According to the recent Olsberg Report, the audio-visual content production sector in Ireland, incorporating film, TV, animation and radio production had an estimated GVA of €1,049.9 million in 2016 and created 10,560 direct, FTE jobs (7,070 of which were in Film, TV and Animation), with over 560 SMEs operating in the sector.

Government support for Screen Ireland / Irish Film Board 2008 - 2018:

2008	€20,000,000
2009	€18,817,000
2010	€16,500,000
2011	€16,000,000
2012	€13,150,000
2013	€11,898,000
2014	€11,202,000
2015	€11,702,000
2016	€11,202,000
2017	€12,702,000
2018	€14,202,000

Sinn Féin's proposed capital allocation in Budget 2019:

2019	€16,202,000
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B. Section 481

Retain Section 481 - Ireland's 32% tax credit for film, television and animation

Section 481 is a tax credit, incentivising film and television production in Ireland. It is a key and central component within the Irish film industry. This fact is accepted by the vast majority of the industry's stakeholders.

Section 481 should remain central in the industry into the future.

Section 481 is administered by Revenue and the incentive applies to feature film, television drama, animation and creative documentary.

Projects must either pass the 'Cultural Test' or qualify as an official co-production under one of Ireland's Bilateral Co-Production Treaties or the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production.

Analysis by Revenue shows an estimated expenditure on employment from projects availing of Section 481 in 2015 to be €97 million, supporting 1,200 jobs. A further €70 million was spent on goods and services.

We believe that an international comparative study should be constituted to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the Section 481 tax credit. Sinn Féin are not recommending the abolition of the credit, but its evolution, to ensure that certain foreign investment is not being lost as a result of its current form.

Attention must be focused on how Section 481 can be improved to develop a rich, productive and sustainable indigenous film industry capacity.

C. Public Service Broadcasting

Sinn Féin recognises the challenges that Public Service Broadcasting currently faces. Changes in the media landscape and in how content is consumed has had a drastic impact on the income of RTÉ.

The core issue to be tackled in regards to the funding of Public Service Broadcasting is the collection of licence fees. Before we consider placing additional charges on an already struggling population, it is worth examining the charges that currently exist and how they are operating.

There is currently a non-payment rate of 18% for TV licenses. Collecting this revenue which is lost to the state would make a significant impact in the funding shortfall that currently exists, allowing Public service broadcasters to continue their valuable work. In order to address this non-payment it is worth examining models that exist in other countries where licence fee compliance is higher. The UK license fee is a similar rate to that of Ireland and yet non-payment is only at 5%. Retailers, television service providers and utility companies would have information on public consumption

that if provided could help address the shortfall.

Increasing license fees before addressing non-payment would simply be punishing those who already pay.

Sinn Féin believes that a substantial proportion of these funds should go towards producing original programming and that public service broadcasting also has a key role to play in the promotion and preservation of the Irish language. This aspect of the public service remit is something that must be protected.

D. Community Radio

Sinn Féin recognises the role that community broadcasting has played in delivering a public service. Dozens of community radio stations are now in operation across the country and offer an outlet for a diverse range of cultural and musical tastes whilst providing news and information that is rooted in local community issues.

Community radio stations operate through a combination of Pobal funding, income from local advertising and direct community fundraising. Many of these stations operate on a shoestring budget. Sinn Féin is open to the possibility of creating a dedicated broadcasting fund for Community radio that would:

- Guarantee an income stream for community stations.
- Establish a clear community service remit.
- Free up advertising revenue for regional commercial radio stations.

SCREEN

CINEMA

06. SUPPORTING ARTISTS

- A. ARTIST STUDIO SPACES SCHEME**
- B. SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ARTISTS**
- C. IN RESIDENCE INITIATIVE**
- D. COPYRIGHT REFORM**

A. Artists Studio Spaces Scheme

Create a capital fund for an artists studio spaces scheme - €5 million

Pillars two and three of the Creative Ireland programme focus on ‘Enabling Creativity in Every Community’ and ‘Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure’. However, both the Creative Ireland programme and ‘Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework’ ignore the need for the provision of living accommodation and working space for artists.

The role of creativity, creative practitioners and artists in the development of local communities and economies, in urban regeneration and in making places to live and work has been well researched and documented. Such change presents its own challenges but the formation of creative communities that drive development is proven; development of community and the physical and economic redevelopment of place, the growth of creative clusters and innovative creative business. What is equally well documented is the phenomenon of creative flight – the departure of artists, actors, writers, dancers and musicians from places because they can no longer afford to live there, because they cannot access investment or space to work, perform or exhibit. Maintaining healthy, thriving communities requires numerous policy inputs – including provision for retaining and attracting artistic and creative talent – and not just to the major urban centres.

The Olsberg report - Economic Analysis of the Audiovisual Sector 2017, states that “companies operating in the creative sectors in Ireland struggle to find affordable or suitable business premises, inhibiting growth and innovation”. This struggle is felt throughout the culture and creative sector.

Sinn Féin believe that designers, musicians, dancers, visual artists, web developers, emerging film makers and performers can and should be offered insulation from the commercial business rental market, and that such security of tenure can be provided through affordable, state owned cultural spaces, rented to creative tenants for short and long term tenancies that ensure fairness in access.

We are proposing a fund of €5 million to support Local Authorities to repurpose and refurbish existing vacant buildings for use as state owned artist studio/business spaces. With a matched funding scheme in conjunction with local authorities, this figure has the potential to increase. The scheme could also allow for the waiving of rent should the artist or organisation be engaged in cultural activity that directly benefits the local community, or is purposefully collaborating with the local community.

Creating affordable and controlled rent spaces within cities, towns and villages for dedicated use by artists, creative practitioners and organisations supports the development of creative clusters, allowing places and neighbourhoods to retain their creative edge and flair, regardless of commercial property pressures. This will make urban centres, towns and villages vibrant, attractive, exciting places to live and do business.

Sinn Féin’s proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

2019 €5,000,00

B. Social Welfare for Artists

Sinn Féin believe that the Artists' Social Welfare pilot launched by Government should be completely redesigned after recent figures showed that only 32 artists and writers have availed of the scheme. While the pilot is very much a welcome initiative, it fails to recognise artists as self-employed and aligns itself closer to a jobseekers' model of social welfare. In reality, there are few jobs for artists. There are none listed in the employment sections of our newspapers or online.

Under the current scheme, writers and visual artists can only receive Jobseekers Allowance for up to a year without being activated. The individual artist or writer therefore has only twelve months to complete their work, until being required to find alternative work. The pilot must also be extended to performing artists. Why performers have been excluded from the scheme is a question for Government to answer.

Through consultation with the cultural sector, and by exploring successful artist welfare schemes in Europe, Sinn Féin will establish best practice and create a scheme that has the confidence of artists, and support those struggling to make ends meet.

C. In Residence Initiative

In Residence initiative - €400,000

Sinn Féin support the ambition to put creativity at the heart of Government and concurs with the stated belief of Government that creativity is an essential input into the emerging economy. With this in mind Sinn Féin will work with individual departments and approach Create Ireland (The National Development Agency for Collaborative Arts) with the intention of designing an artist in residency programme beginning with select departments.

This is the start of a process that would see each Local Authority (31), Government department (13), National Cultural Institution (8), and a selection of library branches across the state appoint an artist in residence, for twelve month periods each year, to work in a collaborative fashion with staff, in developing an active understanding and awareness of creative thinking and processes and to create work based on their observations and experiences within the department.

Through the Department of Business, Enterprise and Employment and Foreign Affairs and Trade, we will also work with the private sector to develop an artist in residence scheme, the cost of which would be borne by the business sector.

Sinn Féin's proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

2019 €400,000

D. Copyright Reform - A fair income for creators.

The importance of copyright protection for the creative economy cannot be underestimated. This area of law must be updated to address the new and emerging ways creative content is used and shared, and to help millions of creators worldwide to earn a fair income when their works are used by some of the world's largest digital platforms.

Copyright is the principle tool used by the creative sector to generate sustainable income and wealth, and protect their share of the value they create. According to CISAC (The International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers) €9.2 billion in copyright royalties was collected and distributed to artists in 2016 across five global regions from music, audio-visual, literature, dramatic and visual sectors. The British Equity Collection Service (BECS) distributed over £10 million to UK performers for their work in British Film and TV.

The protection that copyright provides is an important way of preventing third parties from unfairly profiting from the labour of creators without paying for the exploitation of that labour. Historically, it is the artists protection against the extraction of value. Writers, directors, designers, visual and plastic artists, songwriters, composers etc. all own the copyright in the work that they make. It is illegal to sell on, or otherwise use or profit from, a text, a performance or an image without the express permission of the creator of that text, performance or image, and without providing mutually agreed, equitable remuneration for that use.

The Copyright and Related Acts (2000)

Creative copyright is protected under national, EU and international law, and is set out domestically in The Copyright and Related Acts (2000). Breach of copyright is a form of double theft. It takes income from the owner of the work and denies the state the opportunity to tax that revenue and add to its ability to build public goods and public value. Advances in digital and communications technology have created a new challenge for individuals and organisations whose income and wealth depend on copyright protections. If we are serious about the potential of our creative industries then it is essential that the national legal framework is updated so that creator rights are fully protected in the digital age.

Intermediaries

Sinn Féin supports a copyright strategy that enables creators to benefit from the sale and use of their work, while ensuring a user's right to access creative content - a balancing of creators and users rights that supports free and fair access and use, and at the same time, values creative work. The way we access creative content is changing rapidly. The days when a few players managed access and choice of creative content will soon be gone, and intermediaries will have to play a different role. Global distributors and distribution platforms, international media production companies, and producers and publishers of the entertainment industry have up until now taken advantage of the mismatch between new ways of consuming content and protections to ensure that this is done fairly. As a consequence, they are extracting the greater part of the value, to the detriment of creators.

Most creators only receive a tiny proportion of the value their work has generated. In order to ensure fair and equitable payment and compensation for creative content, creators must be identified and acknowledged as the primary creators of value within copyright industries.

Users rights

In addition to protecting creators, any new framework must also take into account user rights. Thanks to the internet, a greater proportion of society now more than ever has access to culture and creative content. The digital age facilitates new ways of expression, of communicating and of learning. These freedoms and abilities must be protected. Users accessing legal content should be free to click, listen, view and share, all the while having their right to privacy protected. Users can be both the customers and creators, in turn creating new works from existing ones by remixes and mashups. Their right to access available works must be protected.

The sharing of millions of music files online should not be viewed as a crime, unless a citizen profits privately from such sharing, or has illegally made content available. It is important that we correctly identify perpetrator and victim in our legislation. Sharing an album with a friend is not a crime, but if an individual makes money out of that sharing and fails to share that with the content creator, then a theft has occurred. It is not individual sharing that is denying income to the creator, it is the platforms, such as Spotify and YouTube.

EU Directive

New legislation is being negotiated at EU level to adapt existing rules to the digital age. When passed by the European Parliament, Member States will adapt national laws to reflect the new European legislation. Sinn Féin welcome aspects of the EU directive that hold the potential to force websites such as YouTube to remunerate artists more equitably. Websites like YouTube, where musicians and other artists upload their content, often make huge profits off the backs of their work, with very little going to the creators themselves.

UUC services such as YouTube are now the main source of music consumption; 82% of YouTube's European users avail of the service to access music, and UUC platforms have over one billion music users globally. Platforms such as these can make vast sums of advertising revenue off musicians, but return very little of that to the people creating the content. This directive has the potential to compel sites like YouTube to institute a much fairer deal for artists.

There is no question that both artists and UUC services need each other. A fairer deal for artists is not about punishing the likes of YouTube or restricting access to content for users. A fairer deal for artists means that music industry websites as a whole will benefit. This is not about penalising the end users, this is about huge, profitable, multi-national corporations playing their part in sustaining an industry that they rely on.

07. CULTÚR PUNT

Introduction

In an EU-wide survey, 28% of Irish people identified cost as a barrier for access to cultural heritage sites or activities.¹ This is a reminder that access to paid exhibitions in our national institutions, shows in local arts centres or theatres, and music or dance classes are all subject to economic barriers. On the other side of the relationship many classes, performances and exhibitions have spare capacity – seats and places that have not been sold. Sinn Féin is ambitious about bringing together those who cannot afford to participate, with professionals and organisations that want to engage but cannot discount their costs. We will develop an initiative that seeks to build engagement and also reward and encourage arts professionals who directly facilitate that engagement.

For the purpose of the research and design of such an initiative, Sinn Féin has allocated €200,000 in our pre-budget alternative 2019. For illustrative purposes, we set out just one idea that could be explored when developing such a scheme.

Complementary or community currencies

Complementary or community currencies are exchange systems that function as supplements to ordinary money. They are used across the globe in networks limited by geography, sector or shared values – in our case, cultural participation. It is accepted by the EU that community currencies have the power to counteract austerity and to deal with socio-economic challenges. Many community currencies in use throughout the EU are supported or managed by local authorities. Community Currencies in Action (CCIA) was a project co-financed by the EU Regional Development Fund and ran from 2012-2015, supporting six community currency pilot programmes while developing a series of practical tools for future projects.

Case study: The Brixton Pound

The Brixton Pound was launched in 2009, first paper-based and later as an electronic currency also. Its aim is to build diversity and resilience in the local Brixton economy in light of difficult economic times and chain store power. It is valued equal to Pound Sterling. As an incentive, many businesses offer users special discounts, while the businesses themselves can use the Brixton Pound to pay their council business rates or buy other supplies off the 250 businesses that accept Brixton Pounds, thus sourcing more goods and services locally, reducing carbon footprint.

Cultúr Punt

Rolling out a cultural community currency would require research, design, engagement, education and one or more pilot schemes. For such a project to be a success it would be necessary to engage with best practice in design and use, established by the EU over the last decade. The design suggested overleaf is for illustrative purposes only.

¹ Europeans and Cultural Heritage: Special Eurobarometer 466 (European Commission, December 2017): <http://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2150>

Cultúr Punt [continued]

A central fund would first be established by Government with 1 Cultúr Punt equaling €1. Purchases could be made and accepted through a digital app, a dedicated Cultúr Punt card or even a physical, paper-based currency.

Cultúr Punt allocated to users would devalue over the course of a year and eventually return to the central fund. The intention of this would be to ensure that the currency is used, and to also reduce the need to consistently allocate 'new' money to the central fund. Cultúr Punt could also be transferable between users.

Government could mandate all state funded cultural institutions to participate in the scheme, those funded via state agencies and could also encourage independent dance, music and drama teachers, etc. to participate also. A qualification entry barrier would be required and it would be compulsory to accept Cultúr Punt under the same terms and conditions as Euro.

Cultúr Punt could be offered to all and tied to individual income on a monthly basis. It could be limited to young people or those on lower incomes. Participation must not be perceived as an obligation and stated preference should be respected. Additional Cultúr Punt could also be earned by volunteering at participating institutions or events such as Culture Night.

The scheme would rely on participating organisations and institutions being able to reuse the Cultúr Punt that they receive from individuals. Options include being able to increase organisational revenue by remuneration for Cultúr Punt, or by rewarding volunteerism.

Individual providers (e.g. music, dance, drama, art workshop facilitators) could use the Cultúr Punt that they receive to pay for their own cultural requirements such as tickets or workshops, or as payment to volunteers. Individual providers could also reuse the Cultúr Punt that they receive to increase their own revenue by remuneration for Cultúr Punt.

In conclusion, such a scheme can ensure that people who are excluded from cultural participation for economic reasons would have the means to take part. Arts centres, cultural organisations, and freelance facilitators and teachers can fill their spare capacity. Volunteerism will increase within the sector, and promote social bridging. Frequency of attendance will increase. The increased organisational revenue achieved by the remuneration of Cultúr Punt will increase the capacity of organisations, leading to increased spend in local economies, maximising the value of state funding of these organisations. Organisations will be motivated to engage with economically excluded groups and individual providers will have enhanced access to events, and the ability to enhance their earnings.



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08. FOREIGN ARTISTS' WITHHOLDING TAX

Foreign Artists' Withholding Tax

Ireland is a major concert destination. International artists who include Ireland as part of a tour have a tax liability requiring the filing of a self-assessment return.

Because the artist is not tax resident, Revenue say that there are numerous practical difficulties associated with enforcing such a liability. However, Sinn Féin do not believe it to be fair that domestic artists pay tax on their profits but non-resident artists do not.

With the exception of Denmark and the Netherlands, all EU countries exercise a withholding tax on foreign artists. Concerning the six counties, HMRC impose a 20% withholding tax on foreign performers. It is therefore appropriate to align that rate across this island.

The only foreign artist withholding tax that Ireland has is the film withholding tax - a 20% withholding tax that applies for certain payments to non-resident artists. The film withholding tax only applies to those resident outside the EU/EEA who are engaged by companies qualifying for Section 481.

Sinn Féin understand that there is a concern about an impact on ticket prices. However, this is not a tax on concert promoters. It is a tax on the artist performing. Such artists are liable for tax in whatever jurisdiction they are resident in. Tax collected in Ireland can be declared against their liability in their home jurisdiction. Likewise, the total tax withheld can be offset against the total tax collected on Irish artists / performers in other jurisdictions.

09. COMMENCE GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

- A. A MUSIC STRATEGY**
- B. A YOUTH ARTS STRATEGY**

A. A Music Strategy

In Government, Sinn Féin will commence the development of a music strategy.

Such a strategy will be developed and led by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in consultation with the music industry, other stakeholders and citizens.

A music strategy should be a cross Department initiative that explores access to credit, reform of copyright, creative skills development and education, infrastructure, an Irish music office, and our national orchestras. This proposal, supported by IMRO, would be developed and implemented over the course of a Government term.

A two year programme of consultation, research and planning will shape the strategy and will also determine what budget is required. A three year implementation programme would follow.

2019 No additional cost.

B. 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. Young people must be seen as artists and participants in their own right rather than as audiences or future artists.

Over the course of a Government term, Sinn Féin will develop and deliver a Youth Arts Strategy promoting participation, progression and provision.

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, working alongside the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Education and Skills will carry out research, planning and consultation 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.

Time to Shine: Scotland's Youth Arts Strategy for ages 0-25 presents a vision to "support all Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity". Our strategy would focus on engagement, developing talent, and putting in place the appropriate infrastructure and support, not only within the confines of traditional education environments but also developing arts habit in the non-formal education environment such as youth services, orchestras and youth theatres.

2019 No additional cost.

10. CREATIVE EUROPE

- A. EIF LOAN GUARANTEE FUND**
- B. CULTURAL AND CREATIVE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
FUND**

A. EIF Loan Guarantee Fund

The Cultural and Creative sector has been constrained in its ambitions and growth potential by the unavailability of debt finance. In Ireland, the sector is almost entirely reliant on state funding for projects of limited scale.

In order to address this the European Commission, through Creative Europe, provided €121 million for a Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Fund. The Fund is managed by the European Investment Fund on behalf of the Commission. It is expected to leverage €600 million in additional lending to the sector, aimed at strengthening the financial capacity and competitiveness of companies in the cultural and creative sphere.

The Fund targets micro-businesses and SMEs by acting as insurance to financial intermediaries (e.g. banks) offering financing to cultural and creative sector initiatives.

The financial intermediaries are also provided with training to better understand the needs of the sector and to adopt a specific credit assessment approach with a view to increasing their engagement with the sector.

A 'financial intermediary' is defined as:

- Financial or credit institutions, leasing companies or loan funds duly authorised to carry out lending or leasing activities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, established and operating in a participating country;
- Guarantee institutions, guarantee schemes or other financial or credit institutions duly authorised, if applicable, to issue guarantees in accordance with the applicable laws and legislations, established and operating in a participating country;

The fund operates by providing:

- Capped first loss portfolio guarantees and counter-guarantees free of charge to enable selected financial intermediaries to provide more loans and leases to entrepreneurs. The guarantee fund will increase both the range and number of SME's receiving debt financing in the cultural and creative sectors.
- Capacity building programme, optional and free of charge, to help financial intermediaries improve their understanding of the specific needs and circumstances of businesses in the cultural and creative sectors. This would give the opportunity to support entrepreneurs that would have not been able to obtain financing otherwise due to risk considerations.

To date, financial intermediaries have been approved in Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Spain, Italy and Romania. In December 2017 the Fund had enabled loans of €130 million across these countries.

Sinn Féin will call on Irish banks, community lenders, and Credit Unions to make expressions of interest to the European Investment Fund as financial intermediaries with the intention of generating access to loans for creative and cultural SMEs in Ireland.

B. Cultural and Creative Research and Development Fund

At a cost of €400,000 - Sinn Féin would pilot a new Cultural and Creative Research and Development Fund in an effort to support domestic artists and organisations who are applying for Creative Europe funding

While 2018 was a good year for Irish partners for cooperation projects, in previous years Ireland has underperformed in accessing Creative Europe funding.

Between 2014 and 2017 Creative Europe made 1,883 awards in Media (Video Games Development, TV Programming, Market Access, Festivals, Capacity Building, Co-production, Film Education, Audience Development, and online Distribution), Culture (Co-operation, Literary Translations, Networks, and Platforms), and Cross Sectoral initiatives (Refugee Integration).

Irish organisations, either individually or in partnership, featured in just over 2%, or 38 of these awards.

One of the principal obstacles facing Ireland's arts and cultural organisations is research and development costs, specifically the networking and travel costs essential to the development of these projects.

In Sinn Féin's pre-budget alternative 2019, we are proposing a pilot Cultural and Creative Research and Development Fund. The Fund will be designed to ensure that greater amounts of European cultural funding are channelled toward Ireland.

Such a dedicated fund would allow Irish based companies, organisations and charities to devise and effectively prepare large-scale projects with European partners that will increase Ireland's ability to access European funding, ensuring that applications meet all of the criteria required by Creative Europe.

Such a fund could be directed through, and managed by the Local Enterprise offices of each Local Authority, leveraging their experience in export and international partnerships.

Sinn Féin's proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

2019 €400,000

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11. MOORE STREET AND CULTÚRLANN ÁTHA CLIATH

Moore Street and Cultúrlann Átha Cliath

Without heritage, culture has no context and no starting point. Without culture we have no art. When we think of Heritage we must appreciate that the National Cultural Institutions are heritage, but so too are the tunnelled buildings on the lanes of Moore Street; the horror of the Magdalene Laundries; the built and the natural; the Giant's Causeway and Brú na Bóinne.

Preserving our heritage and history is vital in contributing to the quality of life and cultural identity of our communities.

Moore Street is one such site which is of tremendous importance in the birth of the Irish State, and which is deserving of sufficient funding to ensure its restoration and further development as a key historical site and prime cultural asset.

Our language is also vital yet there is no Irish language centre in this state.

Sinn Féin are proposing the establishment of a Cultúrlann in Dublin City Centre so as to establish a shared civic space for Irish speakers of all ages. With few opportunities for people to speak Irish when they leave the education system, a dedicated venue, with a café, theatre, and conference room would create a dynamic, central hub in which the Irish language could thrive.

We have proposed that such a centre be located on Moore Street and that this project should be furthered in 2019.

Sinn Féin's proposed allocation in Budget 2019:

Moore Street (*capital*):

2019 €3,500,000

Cultúrlann Átha Cliath (*capital*):

2019 €2,000,000



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