

**ASOP CUTS  
2010/2011  
IMPACT ON  
COMMUNITY  
ARTS**

**COMMUNITY  
ARTS  
FORUM**

# 1. ASOP 2009/10 & 2010/11 COMPARISON

A comparison of Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Annual Support for Organisations Programme (ASOP) budgets 2009/10 and 2010/11.

ORGANISATION NAME	2010/11	2009/10	CHANGE
<b>NEWLY FUNDED</b>			
Camerata Ireland	£40,000		
New Lodge Arts	£30,000		
POBAL	£25,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£95,000</b>		
<b>INCREASED FUNDING</b>			
An Gaelaras Ltd	£137,000	£113,500	£23,500
Array Studios	£7,800	£6,400	£1,400
Belfast Music Society	£5,000	£4,000	£1,000
Context Gallery	£48,600	£42,600	£6,000
Crescent Arts Centre	£201,300	£147,000	£54,300
Digital Arts Studios	£40,000	£36,000	£4,000
East Belfast Arts Collective	£30,000	£25,000	£5,000
Kids in Control	£37,140	£30,000	£7,140
Spanner in the Works	£22,000	£14,460	£7,540
The Grand Opera House Trust	£613,000	£583,000	£30,000
The Lyric Theatre (NI)	£800,000	£650,000	£150,000
The Playhouse	£226,170	£160,020	£66,150
Ulster Association of Youth Drama	£44,000	£34,650	£9,350
Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd	£2,196,720	£2,050,113	£146,607
Waterside Theatre	£99,990	£89,600	£10,390
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£517,377</b>		
<b>DECREASED FUNDING</b>			
Community Arts Forum	£110,196	£115,196	- £5,000
Craft Northern Ireland	£125,000	£130,000	- £5,000
Derry Theatre Trust	£100,000	£165,132	- £65,132
Factotum	£3,000	£17,000	- £14,000
Linen Hall Library	£8,750	£35,000	- £26,250
Millennium Court Arts Centre	£40,000	£51,000	- £11,000
Paragon Studios	£20,000	£24,350	- £4,350

Prison Arts Foundation	£50,000	£71,280	- £21,280
Royal Society of Ulster Architects	£35,000	£45,000	- £10,000
The Beat Initiative	£110,000	£120,000	- £10,000
The Nerve Centre	£50,000	£198,911	- £48,911
The Nerve Centre (culture NI)	£100,000	SEE ABOVE	SEE ABOVE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>- £220,923</b>		

#### COMPLETELY CUT

Audiences Northern Ireland		£212,000	- £212,000
Best Cellars Music Collective Ltd		£19,000	- £19,000
Castleward Opera		£174,000	- £174,000
Craft and Design Collective / County Down Crafts		£10,000	- £10,000
Creative Writers Network		£5,000	- £5,000
Eden Place Arts Centre		£30,000	- £30,000
Festival of Fools		£13,600	- £13,600
Fringe Performances Ltd		£30,000	- £30,000
Headliners		£19,400	- £19,400
Music 55-7 / Classical Music Society		£6,000	- £6,000
National Deaf Children's Society		£20,000	- £20,000
Northern Ireland Music Industry Commission		£20,000	- £20,000
Opera Theatre Company		£100,000	- £100,000
Sonorities Festival of Contemporary Music		£20,000	- £20,000
The Contemporary Music Centre Ltd		£20,000	- £20,000
The Jigtime Programme of Irish Music		£25,000	- £25,000
Youth Action Northern Ireland		£25,000	- £25,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>- £749,000</b>		

#### STANDSTILL FUNDING

ADAPT NI	£70,000	£70,000	
Aisling Ghear	£67,320	£67,320	
All Set Cross Cultural Project	£25,000	£25,000	
Alternative Ulster	£29,000	£29,000	

<b>ORGANISATION NAME</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Andersonstown Traditional School	£50,000	£50,000
Arts and Disability Forum	£76,271	£76,271
ArtsCare	£45,292	£45,292
Belfast and District Set Dancing	£20,000	£20,000
Belfast Community Circus School	£147,500	£147,500
Belfast Exposed Photography	£100,000	£100,000
Belfast Festival at Queen's	£100,000	£100,000
Belfast Print Workshop	£89,019	£89,019
Big Telly Theatre Company	£105,000	£105,000
Blackstaff Press Limited	£79,300	£79,300
Bruiser Theatre Company	£45,000	£45,000
Cahoots NI Ltd	£79,450	£79,450
Catalyst Arts	£20,000	£20,000
Circa Art Magazine	£15,000	£15,000
Creative Exchange	£13,100	£13,100
Culturlann McAdam O'Fiaich	£161,290	£161,290
Dance Resource Base (NI) Ltd	£37,000	£37,000
Dance United Northern Ireland	£35,000	£35,000
Down Community Arts Ltd	£30,000	£30,000
Drake Music Project	£42,000	£42,000
Echo Echo Dance Theatre Co	£83,000	£83,000
Feile an Phobail	£123,000	£123,000
Flaxart Studios	£38,680	£38,680
Golden Thread Gallery	£107,000	£107,000
Green Shoot Productions	£20,000	£20,000
Guildhall Press	£35,000	£35,000
Irish Pages Ltd.	£30,000	£30,000
Irish Traditional Music Archive	£20,000	£20,000
Kabosh Theatre Ltd	£81,890	£81,890
Lagan Press Ltd	£49,600	£49,600
Maiden Voyage (NI) Ltd	£32,563	£32,563
Moving on Music Ltd	£114,150	£114,150
New Belfast Comm Arts Initiative	£38,000	£38,000

NI Piping & Drumming School	£56,510	£56,510
Old Museum Arts Centre	£242,650	£242,650
Open Arts	£70,081	£70,081
Open House Festival	£60,000	£60,000
Orchid Studios Association	£14,523	£14,523
Ormeau Avenue Gallery Ltd	£300,000	£300,000
Partisan Productions	£20,000	£20,000
Photo Works North/Source	£24,000	£24,000
Play Resource Warehouse	£64,450	£64,450
Poetry Ireland	£30,000	£30,000
Prime Cut Productions Ltd	£100,950	£100,950
Queen Street Studios	£31,032	£31,032
Ransom Productions Ltd	£20,000	£20,000
Replay Productions Ltd.	£115,635	£115,635
Seacourt Print Workshop	£50,550	£50,550
Sole Purpose Productions	£30,000	£30,000
Sticky Fingers Early Years Arts	£63,487	£63,487
Streetwise Community Circus	£33,531	£33,531
The Armagh Rhymers	£67,000	£67,000
The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival	£100,000	£100,000
The John Hewitt Society	£18,000	£18,000
The Void Art Centre	£100,000	£100,000
Tinderbox Theatre Company	£139,000	£139,000
Tyrone Guthrie Centre	£84,200	£84,200
Ulster Youth Choir	£20,100	£20,100
Ulster Youth Orchestra	£35,000	£35,000
Ulster-Scots Community Network	£25,000	£25,000
Verbal Arts Centre	£175,657	£175,657
Voluntary Arts Network	£60,000	£60,000
Wheelworks	£60,000	£60,000
Young at Art	£85,000	£85,000
<b>TOTAL INCREASES</b>	<b>£612,377</b>	
<b>TOTAL CUTS</b>	<b>- £969, 923</b>	

# 2. COMMUNITY ARTS CUTS IN CONTEXT

## COMPLETELY CUT

### BEST CELLARS

**APPLIED FOR:** £25,000

**RECEIVED:** £0

**CUT:** - £19,000

#### History

Best Cellars had a visit from two Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) officers two months ago. No issues were raised. It was a complete shock to the organisation that Best Cellars was dropped totally from Annual Support for Organisations Programme (ASOP). Best Cellar's average annual turnover is £50-£70k, so the ASOPs grant makes up a large part of the organisation's income. The reason given in the ASOP letter for the cut was that Best Cellars could potentially access funding from other sources. The decision to cut raises concerns that the ACNI no longer endorses either the organisation or community arts in Ballybeen/east Belfast. DSD put £66k into funding equipment last year. Usage will now be severely curtailed as Best Cellars will not have enough funding for the running costs.

#### Impact

One part time member of staff will have to leave. The community arts programme will be cut very quickly as ASOP funding covered this. Ballybeen is the second largest estate in Northern Ireland. The only arts group on the estate has been put at risk by this decision. Best Cellars will now move out of Ballybeen and into the Holywood Hills.

#### Action

Best Cellars will apply for a small grants award and for project funding.

### FESTIVAL OF FOOLS

**APPLIED FOR:** £33,600

**RECEIVED:** £0

**CUT:** - £13,600

#### History

The Festival of Fools arts officer recommended to the moderation panel an uplift of £10,000 to £23,600 for 2010/11 to offset a cut of £10,000 in lottery funding received for the same financial year. At moderation, standstill funding was initially recommended; however, the final result of moderation was a complete cut in ASOP funding. No information was provided to explain when or how the recommendation changed from an increase in funding to a cut. The director was advised to submit an application for lottery funding, although it was because of the ending of lottery funding that Festival of Fools needed an increase in the first place. It is the view of the organisation that moderation is where decisions are made, yet, no minutes are taken. Because of this, the organisation feels that it has not been properly informed of the decision process and has had to seek a Freedom of Information enquiry.

#### Impact

Festival of Fools will have to operate without the indoor theatre element, which is the revenue generating element of the festival. Walkabouts will be reduced. The only member of staff has had to be released from contract, so it will be harder to get sponsorship - Festival of Fools needs £17-£20k in-kind funding/cash sponsorship.

#### Action

1. Decision is to be reviewed
2. Festival of Fools is seeking alternative ways to challenge this design
3. Festival of Fools will submit a Freedom of Information enquiry to ascertain why the recommendation changed from standstill funding to a complete cut and the reason for this decision
4. Festival of Fools is lobbying politicians to raise concerns about the loss of the grant

### EDEN PLACE ARTS CENTRE

**APPLIED FOR:** £40,000

**RECEIVED:** £0

**CUT:** - £30,000

#### History

A meeting took place in Belfast with ACNI staff two years ago. The Eden Place manager was told that Eden Place was a 'flagship organisation' in Derry. Nothing had happened to indicate that this has changed. The total turnover is £90k - the ACNI grant represented a third of overall income. The initial recommendation from the arts officer was for standstill funding. The decision to cut was taken at moderation level. The reason for the cut was given as Eden Place Arts Centre is an organisation which could identify funding from other sources - i.e. Western Education and Library Board (WELB). Eden Place receives in-kind funding - no cash - from WELB. Eden Place has received £30k for the past three to four years - it received £20k before that. It has been funded by ACNI for at least ten years. The ACNI officer has recommended that Eden Place applies to lottery.

#### Impact

The whole programme will have to be cut - everything is now at a standstill.

### Action

1. Decision is to be reviewed
2. Pat Ramsey is having a question asked at the Assembly
3. Meeting with Martin McGuiness

## THE JIGTIME PROGRAMME OF IRISH MUSIC

**APPLIED FOR:** £28 - 30,000      **RECEIVED:** £0      **CUT:** - £25,000

### History

There was no indication that there would be a cut. The group has received £25,000 for three years and has been on ASOP funding for 3-4 years. Additional funding for traditional arts was reduced this year. This impacted negatively on Jigtime. The arts officer recommended that Jigtime submits a lottery application, with a view to being funded through ASOP again next year.

### Impact

Jigtime will have to submit an application for lottery funding

### Action

Submitting lottery application

## YOUTH ACTION

**APPLIED FOR:** £50,000      **RECEIVED:** £0      **CUT:** - £25,000

### History

Youth Action has been funded for seven years through ASOP. The artistic director had no indication that funding would be cut. Youth Action had received £25,000 for two years and £20,000 before that. The reason ACNI gave Youth Action for the cut is that arts is not the core business of the organisation. Youth arts, however, is a priority of the annual work carried out by Youth Action and it delivers a substantial annual arts programme which includes running the Rainbow Factory, a part time school of performing arts. Youth Action's artistic director feels that this could have consequences for other statutory organisations keen to develop an arts strand to their programmes. It limits the environments in which the arts can take place which is contradictory of ACNI's aim to grow audiences and increase participation. Annual turnover is circa £200,000.

### Impact

The impact on the organisation will be devastating. Youth Action was given just over a month to work out how to absorb this significant loss to its funding. Youth Action is likely to lose at least one staff member because of the cut. This will make it more difficult for the organisation to generate further funding and/or sponsorship.

### Actions

Decision is to be reviewed

## DECREASED FUNDING

**RECEIVED:** £100,000      **CUT:** - £10,000

### THE BEAT INITIATIVE

**APPLIED FOR:** £170,000 (minimum operating costs)

### History

The Beat Initiative received no indication that there would be an 8.3% cut. The reason for the cut was that the Beat would continue to operate, would not close its doors and would not lose any jobs if it received a cut. In fact the cut will directly impact on staff – artists' jobs and a post will be lost. Beat is delivering on Shared Future, TSN and other key policies. There seems to be no policy context or rationale for this decision. The Beat's director was told that the results were not linked to assessment scoring. He was also told that the Beat's business case scored highly.

### Impact

As it has been cut from an already low and inadequate level, the Beat will have to cut its programme and a job. Rent to arts organisations housed within the Beat will have to increase. Beat wanted to prioritise marketing and publicity this year to maximise participation and audience and its building awareness among other potential funding sources. These plans will have to be shelved.

### Action

Decision is to be reviewed.

## COMMUNITY ARTS FORUM

**APPLIED FOR:** £259,539

**RECEIVED:** £110,196

**CUT:** - £5,000

### History

There was no indication that there would be a 4% cut. The Community Arts Forum (CAF) received £115,196 for two years and has been an ASOP client for over ten years. The arts officer recommended standstill funding. This became a £5000 cut at moderation panel. Two different reasons were given - that CAF is not a front line service and that CAF would not cease to operate with a cut - i.e. that the organisation could absorb a cut.

### Impact

The director will have to fundraise for the deficit. This will leave less time for project work and programming. It will place the organisation in an increasingly perilous position.

### Action

Decision is to be reviewed.

## NERVE CENTRE

**APPLIED FOR:** £246,000

**RECEIVED:** £50,000

**CUT:** - £48,911

### History

The Nerve Centre has been a long term ASOP client. It was first funded through ASOP in 1988. The Nerve Centre applies to ASOP for annual funding for the organisation's music activity at its base in Magazine Street and its arts web portal CultureNorthernIreland.org. The Nerve Centre submitted two applications and two options appraisals to ACNI - one for the CultureNorthernIreland.org and one for the Nerve Centre. In this ASOP round, ACNI arts officers recommended standstill funding for both Nerve Centre and CultureNorthernIreland.org. However, CultureNorthernIreland.org. received stand still funding while the Nerve Centre application received a cut of £48,911. The Nerve Centre cut took place at moderation panel.

The Nerve Centre has received almost £2 million in capital grants within the last 2 years to secure purchase of the Nerve Centre and an expansion into Magazine Studios - a creative industries support centre. Other recent ACNI capital grant recipients in Derry - The Playhouse, Waterside Theatre and An Gaelaras - have all received increases in this ASOP funding round in line with ACNI policy to support capital projects.

The Nerve Centre believes that funding to Derry city received less ASOP this year - over £60k overall.

### Impact

ACNI funding is central to the Nerve Centre's core funding and employment of its music staff. ASOP funding provides a higher percentage of funding towards these posts. ASOP is compartmentalised funding for music which means the cut has a greater impact. Funding cannot be drawn from other funders for this.

The Nerve Centre manager believes this cut will have a detrimental impact on the core services it provides at the base in Magazine Street and result in both job losses and a reduction in the music programme as the core funding is essential to keep the premises open.

Furthermore, there is a serious issue about how this cut can be absorbed. In previous years £74k was allocated to salaries with £24k to overheads. The £48,911 which was cut covers three salaries including the manager's. He will either have to spend his time looking for his salary instead of artistic work or he will have to raise funds for overheads impacting on the Nerve Centre's music programme and strategic expansion plans.

### Action

1. Meeting with the director of arts development and the arts officer in March 2010
2. Decision is to be reviewed.
3. The Nerve Centre Board will consider further review stages, as necessary

## PRISON ARTS FOUNDATION

**APPLIED FOR:** £100,000

**RECEIVED:** £50,000

**CUT:** - £21,280

### History

There was no indication that there would be such a large cut. The Prison Arts Foundation (PAF) received £71,280 for the past three or four years and has been an ASOP client for five to six years. It was implied that the organisation was being cut as it has significant reserves. This is worrying as groups are being strongly encouraged to build up reserves.

**Impact**

This will have a drastic impact. PAF uses ASOP funding for programming artistic work in prisons. These programmes will be severely affected, with up to 70 prisoners a week losing access to artistic programmes.

**Action**

An application is being made to lottery. PAF felt unable to review the decision as the grounds for submitting a review are based on ACNI's own procedures.



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Community Arts Forum

15 Church Street, Belfast BT1 1PG

**T:** 028 9024 2910 | **E:** [info@caf.ie](mailto:info@caf.ie) | **W:** [www.caf.ie](http://www.caf.ie)