



Regional support for the arts

Westminster Hall debate, Wednesday 15 July 2015. Time: 2:30pm

Debate Initiated by **Robert Jenrick**

This pack provides general background material relating to the subject of the debate.

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A Summary

This debate pack has been compiled ahead of the debate on regional support for the arts to be held on Wednesday 15 July 2015 at 2.30pm in Westminster Hall. The Member in charge of the debate is Robert Jenrick. Debate packs are produced quickly after the announcement of Parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for MPs on request to the Library.

Much of the public money that goes into the arts is channelled through Arts Council England (ACE), which receives a direct grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), as well as distributing Lottery grants. As part of the general squeeze on public finances, the last Parliament saw significant reductions in the funds set aside for the arts. Some people feel that ‘prestige’, London-based organisations – galleries and museums, theatre, opera and ballet companies, orchestras, etc – continue to get preferential treatment from funders.

With the launch of its investment plans for 2015-18 in July 2014, ACE signalled its determination to rectify historic imbalances between London and the rest of England. There were specific initiatives to build capacity outside London, to encourage cultural communities to grow and to encourage touring.

However, ACE’s critics suggest there is still an absence of any strategic support for participation in the arts at local level and the contribution that such work can make to individual and community wellbeing. They point to a loss of numerous smaller companies from ACE’s national portfolio, and allege continuing failure to address cultural diversity across the country and inconsistency in the operation of its grant programmes.

At the same time, local authority budgets have been cut, and local arts projects have been among the casualties. Arts organisations have sought, with varying success, to make up the shortfall from other funding sources – trusts, foundations, corporate sponsorship, and private giving in the form of donations, membership schemes and legacies. With or without public funding, determined work goes on to involve local communities in the arts and to reach out beyond established audiences.

Prior to the Westminster Hall debate, Digital Outreach organised a debate on Twitter. The debate started at 2pm on Tuesday 14 July. The Member in charge of the Westminster Hall debate - Robert Jenrick - and members of the public contributed.

The idea for digital debates linked to debates in Westminster Hall came from the [Speaker’s Commission on Digital Democracy](#), which stated:

“We believe the public want the opportunity to have their say in House of Commons debates; we also believe that this will provide a useful resource for MPs and help to enhance those debates. We therefore recommend a unique experiment: the use of regular digital public discussion forums to inform debates held in Westminster Hall.”

The Twitter debate formally finished at 4pm yesterday but it is likely that people will continue to contribute using the hashtag #artsfunding throughout the Westminster Hall debate today. To keep up with the debate on Twitter please use this link: [twitter arts funding debate](#)

B Newspaper articles

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content

[Culture snub: Regions at risk as London enjoys funding –](#)
The Independent, 13 July 2015

[Arts Council England to increase ratio of funding outside London,](#)
The Guardian, 28 May 2015

[Arts spending should be shifted outside London, say MPs ...](#)
Financial Times, November 5, 2014

[Regional arts funding imbalance will 'worsen significantly', warn arts leaders](#)
The Guardian 10 October 2014

[Arts funding shouldn't be based on geography](#)
The Telegraph 15 June 2014

[Peter Bazalgette on regional arts funding: 'blame lies with council cuts'](#)
The Guardian, 14 June 2014

C PQs

Oral questions on Arts funding to the Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy HC Deb 4 Jun 2015: c 737

Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull North) (Lab): What recent assessment he has made of the regional distribution of arts funding.

The Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy (Mr Edward Vaizey): The Government strongly support the fair distribution of funding for culture and arts across the country. Indeed, last week in Hull the chief executive of the Arts Council announced that the amount of lottery funding to bodies outside London would increase from 70% to 75%.

Diana Johnson: May I first congratulate the Minister on his re-appointment? I want to refer to what Darren Henley said in Hull on 28 May. He said:

“If local authority funding is widely withdrawn, there will be little our limited funds can achieve. And no net gain to our increased investment of Lottery money outside London. It will be in vain.”

As the Minister has mentioned, Hull will be UK city of culture in 2017, but we have already lost a quarter of our council funding. Does he really think that we will see any progress on closing the unfair disparity between the north and London?

Mr Vaizey: The hon. Lady’s point is well made to Labour councils up and down the country, which is that they must maintain their investment in culture instead of withdrawing it. It is a partnership, which is why the Chancellor of the Exchequer was pleased to give the Ferens Art Gallery in Hull £1.5 million to help it host the Turner prize, but that is accompanied by local authority investment of £3 million. The message to all those Labour councils is that they must support their local arts organisations—particularly those of the hon. Member for Rhondda (Chris Bryant).

Graham Stuart (Beverley and Holderness) (Con): It is indeed good news that the Turner prize will be presented in Hull. It is not always popular on both sides of the House, but what more can the Government do to encourage other such events to support Hull as the city of culture, and to ensure that Hull benefits from that in the long term?

Mr Vaizey: I know that my hon. Friend, who is standing to be the Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, is an aficionado of the Turner prize, as well as many other cultural events. He will know—I do not need to tell him—that Derry/Londonderry benefited from a huge range of events, from the BBC and other cultural organisations, and I expect Hull to benefit in the same way.

Mr Ben Bradshaw (Exeter) (Lab): I am sorry that the Secretary of State is not answering this question, because only a couple of months ago, when he was the Chair of the Select Committee, he authored an excellent report highlighting the scandal of the imbalance in funding for the English regions compared with London. Now that he is in a position to implement it, will he?

Mr Vaizey: I am afraid that this is the second time that Opposition Members have asked for the Secretary of State to respond. Unfortunately, they have to put up with me, and I apologise for that. I am pleased that the chief executive of the Arts Council took note of the

excellent report put forward by the Select Committee. As a member of that Select Committee, the right hon. Gentleman should be aware that civil servants now pore over these reports as though they were sacred texts.

Asked by: Dan Jarvis

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department plans to take to ensure fair and equal distribution of public funding for museums and the arts across the UK.

Answered by: Mr Edward Vaizey | Department: Department for Culture Media and Sport

The Government provides public and Lottery funding to Arts Council England who allocates this to arts organisations and regional museums across England. The Arts Council uses a range of criteria to support a fair distribution of this public funding. The Arts Council are committed to increasing Lottery arts investment outside of London from 70 per cent to 75 per cent by the end of 2018 and recently launched a new £35.2 million fund 'Ambition for Excellence' to support arts production, talent development and leadership outside London.

DCMS encourages partnership working between national and regional museums across England through object loans, touring exhibitions and partnership galleries. In addition, a number of national museums are either based in or have branches across England, such as National Museums Liverpool and the Royal Armouries.

03 Jun 2015 | c520

Asked by: Chris Bryant

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps he is taking to rebalance arts and culture funding between London and the South East and the rest of the country.

Answered by: Mr Edward Vaizey | Department: Department for Culture Media and Sport

An error has been identified in the written answer given on 09 February 2015. The correct answer should have been:

The Government wants everyone to have the opportunity to experience arts and culture wherever they live. By 2015/16, Arts Council will have shifted the balance of funding to the number of national organisations they support so that over half will be located outside of London. This is a move in the right direction but as the Arts Council acknowledged at the announcement of their portfolio there is still more to do and further to go. It will take time for this to happen and the Government will continue to discuss this with the Arts Council and monitor this.

The Government has also supported the growth of arts and culture outside of London and the South East by a number of measures. These include the Theatre Tax Relief which encourages greater touring by theatre companies so that the whole country can share and see different productions from different regions. The Government announced at the Autumn Statement 2014 that a £1m will be provided to support a Great Exhibition in the North celebrating the great art, culture and design of the North across the museums of the North of England, £78m of capital funding will be provided to create a new theatre and exhibition space in Manchester and £3m will be provided to support First World War art projects primarily in Northern cities. On Thursday, my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government will provide £1.5 million towards the refurbishment of the Ferens Gallery in Hull to help support Hull's aspiration to host the Turner prize as part of the UK City of Culture programme in 2017 and in December, he announced

that the Museum of Science and Industry will receive a £3m grant for the building of a new temporary exhibition gallery.

09 Feb 2015 | c 222970

Oral questions on the Creative Industries

HC Deb 15 January 2015 c 989

Mr Graham Allen (Nottingham North) (Lab): What steps he is taking to encourage the development of creative industries to help regenerate outer-city estates.

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Sajid Javid): Economic estimates for the creative industries published this week have shown that the sector plays a leading role in our long-term economic plan. The figures estimated that in 2013 there were 84,000 jobs in the creative industries in the east midlands, and the Government continue to work closely with the sector so that it can produce further jobs and growth across Britain.

Mr Allen: Welcome as those figures are, does the Secretary of State agree that there is sometimes an imbalance with the creative industries necessarily being located in the inner cities, city centres and business districts for tourism, heritage and media, and that very few go to the outer-city estates and working-class areas of the sort I represent? I chair the Rebalancing Nottingham North charity. Will he find some time in his busy diary to meet me and discuss how we can balance the expansion of creative industries so that everyone can benefit?

Sajid Javid: The hon. Gentleman is right to highlight that important point, and I commend his excellent work in taking forward the Rebalancing the Outer Estates Foundation. He will know that the Arts Council supports many regions around the country and helps with that rebalancing effort, but there is always more we can do, and I or the Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy would be happy to meet him to take that issue forward.

John Robertson (Glasgow North West) (Lab): The BBC has an excellent building in Glasgow, as does STV, and a lot of money has been put in by these large companies. One thing that has been missed is localism within the creative industries, and although a certain amount of action is supposed to take place outside the M25 corridor, we are not seeing that north of the border.

Sajid Javid: I referred earlier to a report published this week, which shows strong growth in the creative industries throughout the UK in every region, including Scotland. I encourage the hon. Gentleman to take a look at it. If he has any fresh ideas that he thinks we should look at, I would be happy to speak to him.

Asked by: Fiona Bruce

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his department is taking to support theatre and the arts in the provinces.

Answered by: Mr Edward Vaizey | Department: Department for Culture Media and Sport

Funding decisions for the arts are made independently of Ministers by Arts Council England. Earlier this year the Arts Council announced an increase in the proportion of spend on regional arts and major partner museums and the Government is committed to achieving a better balance from public funding and Lottery investment across the country.

16 Oct 2014 | c 905477

Oral questions on Arts Funding outside London
HC Deb 16 Oct 2014 |c 586 c424-6

Diana Johnson (Kingston upon Hull North) (Lab): What recent assessment he has made of the effect of Government funding decisions on the arts and culture outside London.

Mr Ben Bradshaw (Exeter) (Lab): What recent assessment he has made of the balance of funding for arts organisations in the English regions. [905461]

The Minister of State, Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr Edward Vaizey): Funding decisions for the arts are made independently of Ministers by Arts Council England, but I am delighted to say that 53% of the funding that the Arts Council recently allocated to non-profit organisations will go outside London. It is the first time that the majority of that funding will have gone outside London.

Diana Johnson: But public funding for the arts in London is 15 times greater than for outside the capital, and Hull city council has seen a 25% cut to its funding during this Parliament. How does the Minister expect Hull to deliver the national city of culture in 2017 with these unfair funding formulas?

Mr Vaizey: I have to say that the hon. Lady's colleagues in Hull are much more bullish about being the capital of culture and are looking forward to delivering it in 2017. They have received £3 million of funding from the Arts Council. Indeed, the Arts Council has set up a pop-up office in Hull to assist with the capital of culture.

Mr Bradshaw: The Minister has been the only witness to the Select Committee's inquiry into the balance of arts funding in this country not to accept that there is a gross imbalance in funding in favour of London and against regions such as the north-east and the south-west. Even his own chairman of the Arts Council, whom he appointed, accepts that there is a problem. Will he now read the chairman's evidence and the evidence from all the other witnesses who disagree with him, join the consensus and do something about it?

Mr Vaizey: That is as opposed to when the right hon. Gentleman was Secretary of State and did absolutely nothing about it. I look forward to receiving copies of the many speeches he made when he was Secretary of State talking about the imbalance of funding between London and the regions. We are doing something about

it, which is why more funding is now going outside London and why the chairman of the Arts Council said:

"judge us in two years' time".

The council accepts that there is an issue and is going to do something about it.

Steve Baker (Wycombe) (Con): London is notoriously awash with wealthy patrons of the arts. Why not shift on to them the burden of funding the arts in London?

Mr Vaizey: I was recently at an event at Tate where we were praising the Ofer family, who not only have given millions to the National Maritime museum but recently gave £10 million to Tate Modern. There is a great deal of philanthropy in London. I am also pleased that there is a lot outside London—for example, the recent donation by Andrew and Zoë Law of £1 million to the Lowry in Salford.

Mr Philip Hollobone (Kettering) (Con): May I impress upon the Minister the popularity and importance to small local communities of highly localised heritage and arts centres such as those in Desborough, Rothwell and Burton Latimer in the Kettering constituency? For relatively small sums of money, very big things can be done in small local communities, to the immense benefit of large numbers of people.

Mr Vaizey: I completely agree with my hon. Friend, which is why I am so pleased that the majority of arts funding is now going outside London. However, it is also important to stress that many of the organisations that are funded in London—because they have London postcodes—are touring organisations whose work is seen far and wide outside the capital.

Mr Gerry Sutcliffe (Bradford South) (Lab): The Minister will know that there are many national museums outside London which are important to national culture, one being the National Media museum in Bradford. He will be aware that the council recently announced £1 million over three years to invest in this museum. Could he give an update on the Government's thoughts about the future of national museums outside London?

Mr Vaizey: I have been very grateful for the opportunity to work so constructively with the hon. Gentleman on the future of the National Media museum in Bradford, and I was delighted when I heard the news about the council's funding support. We continue to support a lot of national museums outside London. The Science museum is a particularly good example, particularly given its work with the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, where it has made a real difference.

Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield) (Lab/Co-op): In my experience the Minister is quite a nice bloke, but he does not get it. If he was the Member for Huddersfield and a Yorkshire MP, he would see the decimation of the arts and culture coming to our region, which were so successful during the Tour de France. Tourism, the arts and culture are intimately interlinked. We see Opera North, the Festival of Light in Huddersfield and so many other iconic events in danger because of Government cuts.

Mr Vaizey: The hon. Gentleman is a very nice man in my experience; no Division is needed to pass that motion. When it comes to the arts and culture in the north and north-east, the list is endless: Sage Gateshead; the Yorkshire sculpture park, which I think is the national museum of the year; and the flourishing Opera North. My glass is very much half-full when it comes to the fantastic cultural delights to be found all over Yorkshire.

Asked by: Helen Goodman

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the regional distribution is of Arts Council England's Catalyst funds

Answered by: Mr Vaizey | Department: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

The £100 million Catalyst programme is supporting the culture and heritage sector's efforts to strengthen their fundraising expertise and build long-term financial resilience across the country.

Regional breakdown of grants awarded by the Arts Council England:

Catalyst: Building Fundraising Capacity, Catalyst: Capacity Building and Match Funding and Transforming Arts Fundraising. amount committed:

<i>Region</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>%</i>
London	10,199,987	25.7
East Midlands	2,575,072	6.5
West Midlands	3,627,294	9.1
North East	2,367,058	6.0
North West	4,310,188	10.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	6,076,001	15.3
South East	2,935,806	7.4
East of England	2,517,687	6.3

South West 4,941,791 12.4

Wales 156,562 0.4

Grand total 39,707,446

Catalyst: Endowments. Amount awarded at offer stage-distribution of funds depends on fundraising level

<i>Region</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>%</i>
London	18,500,000	60.7
East Midlands	—	0.0
West Midlands	3,000,000	9.8
North East	2,000,000	6.6
North West	2,000,000	6.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,000,000	9.8
South East	1,000,000	3.3
East of England	1,000,000	3.3
South West	-	0.0
Wales	-	0.0
Grand total	30,500,000	

07 Jul 2014 | 584 cc11-2W

Asked by: Mr Nicholas Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the regional variation in arts and culture funding from her Department

Answered by: Mr Vaizey | Department: Culture, Media and Sport

Funding from the Department for the arts and the Renaissance regional museums programme is distributed independently of Government by Arts Council England, which

should ensure equitable access to its funding across the country. DCMS also provides grant-in-aid to 15 sponsored museums and galleries and the British Library, including their regional branches. Decisions on how to invest grant-in-aid are made by those ALUs, independently of Government, however, within their settlements, I expect the national museums to work in partnership with other museums in the UK, through loans, exchanges of expertise, education programmes, conservation and community projects. Since 2002, a joint Fund between DCMS and the Wolfson Foundation has also made £26 million available for capital improvements to museums and galleries in the regions.

In the same way English Heritage distribute grants for heritage. These have an impact throughout the country. In 2012-13, English Heritage distributed nearly £12 million in grants to nine regions in England. Spend was not biased towards any one region but distributed throughout the country; spend in London for example accounted for 12% of the total grant spend. The region with the highest proportion of spend in 2012-13 was the East of England with 15.73% of total spend.

24 Feb 2014 | 576 cc144-5W

D Other parliamentary material

[Westminster Hall debate on Regional Arts and Culture](#)

HC Deb 4 Feb 2014 :c30-55WH

[Commons Chamber opposition day debate on Arts and Creative Industries](#)

HC Deb 19 Jun 2013 | 564 cc942-1021

EDM

EDM 191

IMPORTANCE OF ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

That this House notes the importance of arts and creative industries, with art and culture being at the heart of communities, central to the lives of individuals across the country and internationally renowned; further notes that Britain's creative industries are worth more than £36 billion a year to the economy, employ 1.5 million people in the UK and are crucial to jobs and growth now and in the future; further notes the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and the cuts that have already been made to the arts; and calls on the Government, working through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and other departments, particularly the Treasury, Education, Business, Innovation and Skills and Communities and Local Government, to take forward a strategy for the arts and creative industries that includes putting art and creativity at the heart of the curriculum, ensuring the creative industries have access to finance, including opening up innovative new funding models such as crowdfunding, protecting intellectual property, balanced with the needs of consumers supporting the arts and creative industries in all regions of the country, not just London, and monitoring the local impact of government cuts on culture, attracting inward investment and providing support for exports and ensuring equality of access to and equality of opportunity for all in the arts.

05 Jun 2013 | 191 (session 2013-14) | 191A1

Primary sponsor: Joan Ruddock

Amended by: Robert Halfon

E Press releases

Arts Council England (ACE)

Press release 28 May 2015

New Arts Council Chief Executive calls on government to back culture while promising a funding shift outside of London

Darren Henley will today, 28 May 2015, make his first speech as Chief Executive of Arts Council England in Hull, as part of a day of events celebrating Hull as City of Culture 2017.

Building on previous measures, in a move to increase artistic production, ambition and growth outside of London, Darren will announce a “significant shift” in the distribution of Arts Council National Lottery funding of 5 percentage points – so that by the end of 2018 at least 75% of Lottery revenue will be invested outside of London. This will help to support “more of a two-way street” of “interchange between our great capital city and other parts of England”; he will go on to say that a “flourishing London is essential” to the success of the national arts and culture ecology.

As the Arts Council looks forward to the Spending Review later this year he will also highlight that the arts are “in the business of providing opportunity to individuals and communities everywhere- educationally, socially and economically” but all “this progress is only sustainable with the long-term commitment of Grant in Aid.” We therefore ask that no further cuts are made to arts funding; in keeping with the recommendation of the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee from last year- “While it is essential to acknowledge the prevailing financial climate, we would be disappointed if the Arts Council saw any further fall in its grant in aid.”

Since joining the Arts Council, Darren has travelled the length and breadth of the country, visiting over 60 places and meeting more than 250 arts and culture leaders. He will say that he has “seen the quality of our artistic work in England; the richness of our museums and collections and the imaginative use of our libraries.” He has seen first-hand “how the arts in England make up an extraordinary, interconnected creative ecology” reinforcing his “absolute commitment to public investment in the arts, in museums and in libraries.”

He will announce the opening of a £35m fund, Ambition for excellence, up to £31.7m of which will be invested outside London. Ambition for excellence will develop talent and leadership in all regions, help build cultural capacity and support work of increased ambition.

This will see production boosted and a different experience for artists living outside of London so that “artists of all disciplines can live and work in their communities, producing original work that will enrich our national culture.”

As well as announcing the plans around distribution; Darren will state that alongside these plans he wants to “build a brand new twenty-five year vision for developing creative talent

across our country. It's ambitious. It will require us to build lots of bridges – and to blow up lots of barriers.” “Cultural Education should be a right, not a privilege” as “creative talent is everywhere. But opportunity is not.”

His speech will end on a promise to support diversity, artistic ambition and excellence and reach as the best possible argument for public funding of the arts; “I want the arts to speak to more people, but I want our voices to continue to be distinct, as they have always been. To be voices of ambition, daring and innovation, that challenge preconceptions, that think differently and freely and create great art in ways that have never been done before – art that changes people’s lives.”

A full copy of the embargoed speech will be available from the Arts Council England press office.

Notes to editors

More information on strategic funds being announced today, including Ambition for excellence can be found here: <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/apply-for-funding/ambition-excellence/>

Arts Council England (ACE)

Press release 1 July 2014

Arts Council England announces funding decisions in south west for new National portfolio of organisations 2015/18

Additional £3.8million boost to south west budget
9 capital awards totalling £2.98million also announced

Today Arts Council England announced that 83 organisations in the south west will be in the National portfolio for 2015/18, receiving around £60million in funding over the three years.

A further nine south west museums in three consortia covering Bristol, Exeter & Plymouth and Cornwall will achieve Major partner museum status, receiving almost £9.3million grant in aid funding for their combined programmes of activities that make a major contribution to the Arts Council’s goals.

The awards are one strand of Arts Council England’s total investment in arts and culture during 2015/18, which also includes the National Lottery funded Grants for the arts scheme and strategic funds used to support targeted programmes of work that deliver the ambitions set out in *Great art and culture for everyone*, Arts Council England’s 10-year strategic framework for the arts and culture.

The National Portfolio will have 670 arts organisations and 21 Major partner museums. The investment in arts organisations for 2015/16 will be £339.5million compared with £341.4million in 2014/15. The budget for Major partner museums nationally is £22.6million, an increase of £1.1million. This reflects an overall shift in National portfolio spending- in 2008

this was 51% to London and 49% outside the capital. In 2015/16 this will be 47% in London and 53% outside.

Arts Council England have also announced capital awards totalling £71million, an increase to the Grants for the arts budget, bringing it to £70million and a new tranche of Strategic funds including a funding strand of £15million to support ambition and talent outside London.

The south west at a glance:

- 83 National portfolio organisations for 2015/18, compared to 79 in the 2012/15 portfolio
- 11 organisations joining the portfolio for the first time
- 3 organisations receiving additional funding that reflects a significant extension to their programme and ambitions
- 65 organisations receiving funding at the same level as their 2014/15 award, consolidating the core of a high-achieving sector
- A total of 122 applications to join the 2015/18 National portfolio received in the south west
- 3 Major partner museums in the south west

A full list of all the south west national portfolio organisations and major partner museums for 2015/18 appears in the Notes to editors.

National portfolio organisations

The new National portfolio is informed by the high achievement and excellent work done by south west organisations during the current three year funding agreement as well as reflecting where Arts Council England has invested in developing and strengthening the local ecology. In Exeter, for example, strategic funds were invested to develop the theatre ecology and this has resulted in a strong, vibrant theatre community and three organisations joining the portfolio – Exeter Northcott Theatre, Kaleider and The Bike Shed Theatre.

Some organisations joining the portfolio have developed as a result of strong partnership working with the Local Authority and Higher Education partners, where joint planning and investment has seen culture flourish and be recognised as a driving force in building the community, both economically and socially. Bournemouth Borough Council have worked closely with Arts Council England to develop the successful Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival, growing from an annual event to year-round engagement and participation across all communities.

Partnership working has also been vital to ensure that where there has been major capital investment such as in Southampton's New Arts Complex, organisations can be supported to a level where they will be resilient but also encourages them to increase their earned income and look for other funding sources, such as philanthropic giving.

The 11 organisations joining the portfolio in the south west are:

- acta Community Theatre Ltd
- Black Bird/Red Rose Productions (The Mark Bruce Company)
- Bournemouth Borough Council (Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival)
- A consortium comprising: Bristol Music Trust and St George's Bristol
- Exeter Northcott Theatre Company Ltd
- Kaleider
- MAYK Theatre Ltd
- Situations
- Tangle
- The Bike Shed Theatre
- The Point

Many of the National portfolio organisations in the south west are doing strong work in developing new talent and in working with people from communities where there is traditionally less opportunity to access arts opportunities. Amongst the organisations joining the portfolio are acta Community Theatre in Bristol, who actively engage local communities in the creation and delivery of their work; Tangle based in Somerset, a diversity-led organisation with strong artistic ambition that reflects their role as a think tank for racial equality in theatre; and The Point in Eastleigh, a combined arts venue with an exceptional approach to developing talent, engaging thousands of people in participation every year.

Excellence is strongly represented in the south west portfolio with new organisations including The Mark Bruce Company, an award-winning dance company with a strong education programme, whose ambition and exceptional talent push boundaries; and MAYK, a theatre producing organisation that collaborates with extraordinary artists and audiences to make exciting things happen in unusual ways, including through the internationally acclaimed Mayfest in Bristol.

The 3 organisations receiving significant additional investment from 2015 are:

- Asian Arts Agency
- Southampton City Council (Southampton New Arts Complex)
- Spike island

Asian Arts Agency is an arts development agency that develops, promotes and supports international, contemporary and traditional South Asian arts in the south west and beyond. They have received significant additional investment to support an extension to their area-wide touring programme and allow them to develop international opportunities.

Spike Island is a major arts organisation in Bristol providing workspace and facilities for hundreds of artists, creative individuals, businesses and students. The additional funding reflects the range and depth of its expanding exhibition programme as well as the exemplary work it has done in developing new and emerging talent.

The impact of the work done by Asian Arts Agency, Spike Island and other organisations such as Pavilion Dance South West and Bristol Music Trust and St George's Bristol benefits communities far beyond their immediate neighbourhood and contributes strongly to Arts Council England's mission of making great arts available to everyone.

Sheila Healy, Chair of the South West Area Council, said: 'Culture throughout the South West is vibrant and exciting with organisations and artists doing exceptional work and engaging their whole community in inspirational and enjoyable activities. Sadly, the level of ambition demonstrated in the applications is not matched by our financial resources so we have had to make extremely difficult choices. But funding for National portfolio organisations or Major partner museums is only one part of Arts Council England's investment programme and hopefully we may be able to support some of these organisations in other ways, such as through our Grants for the arts programme.'

Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England said: 'This is an extremely strong portfolio of organisations delivering high quality arts and cultural experiences to audiences throughout the south west.'

'Due to budget restraints we were not able to fund a number of very good applications, including some organisations which have been part of our National Portfolio in the last three years. However, we are delighted that we have maintained or increased our level of support to so many of our core organisations through this process and will continue to work to ensure that ambition, artistic adventure and entrepreneurial spirit are kept alive so that a strong countrywide cultural ecology is nurtured and maintained.'

'We will be looking at how we can best invest in strengthening the work by and for disabled artists and audiences in the south west. Disability focused arts is one area where we felt that what we are hoping to achieve – a strong and vibrant ecology of work that reaches across the whole of the south west – was not going to be achieved solely through the National Portfolio. There is much excellent work being done by individual organisations and we want to find the best way of supporting and developing this in a joined-up national approach.'

Major partner museums

Awarded Major partner museum status for the first time is the For Cornwall Museums Partnership of six leading museums in Cornwall: Falmouth Art Gallery, National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Penlee House Gallery & Museum, Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, Royal Cornwall Museum, Wheal Martyn.

The partnership is unique, bringing together two museums run by Town Councils and four independent charitable organisations to create a 'dispersed model of excellence' in mainly rural locations. The museums' collections are of regional and national significance and, working together, they are committing to building visitor numbers in imaginative ways and showing strong leadership for the whole museum sector in Cornwall. This partnership demonstrates that excellence can thrive in museums at the heart of their communities and in rural areas.

The award-winning Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery and Bristol's Museums Galleries & Archives are also named as Major partner museums for 2015/18, remaining in the portfolio.

Capital awards

Arts Council England have also announced a number of capital awards for arts organisations in the south west.

- £195,000 to Salisbury Arts Centre to upgrade and refurbish its Grade II listed church building
- £490,000 to acta Community Theatre in Bristol to extend and refurbish the acta centre
- £250,000 to Roses Theatre Trusts in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire to refurbish and enhance the theatre and make it fully accessible
- £367,187 to The Point in Eastleigh, Hampshire to improve facilities and create a sustainable building
- £180,000 to the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton to repair and upgrade equipment
- £216,146 to PREMA arts centre in Uley, Gloucestershire to undertake essential repair work to the roof
- £750,000 to Teignbridge District Council to buy technical equipment for the new multi-use arts centre, the Carlton Pavilion

Two other organisations were successful in their Stage I capital applications and have received an award to help towards the costs of continuing to develop their large-scale bids.

- £195,000 to St George's Bristol
- £344,995 to Hall for Cornwall

Notes to editors

1. **Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015

and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

2. **The 83 organisations** in the south west that will be in the 2015/18 National Portfolio are:

- Academy of Circus Arts & Physical Theatre (Circomedia)
- acta Community Theatre Ltd
- Activate Performing Arts
- Arnolfini Gallery Ltd
- Art Asia
- Arts & Health South West
- Arts in Rural Gloucestershire
- Artsreach
- Asian Arts Agency
- Aspex Visual Arts Trust
- Beaford Arts
- Bernard Leach (St Ives) Trust Ltd
- Black Bird/Red Rose Productions (The Mark Bruce Company)
- Bournemouth Borough Council (Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival)
- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- Bridport Arts Centre
- Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (consortium comprising) Bristol Music Trust and St George's Bristol
- Bristol Old Vic and Theatre Royal Trust Limited
- B-Side Multi Media Arts Festival
- Cheltenham Festivals
- Cinderford Artspace
- Cornwall Arts Centre Trust
- Creativity Works for Everyone
- Devon Guild of Craftsmen
- Exeter Northcott Theatre Company Ltd
- Exeter Phoenix
- Gloucestershire Everyman Theatre Company Ltd
- Inbetween Time Productions
- John Hansard Gallery
- Kaleider
- Kneehigh Theatre Trust Ltd
- Knowle West Media Centre
- Literature Works
- MAYK Theatre Ltd
- Miracle Theatre Trust Ltd
- National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain
- New Theatre Royal Trustees (Portsmouth) Ltd
- Newlyn Art Gallery Ltd

- North Devon Theatres Trust
- Nuffield Theatre
- Pavilion Dance South West
- Plymouth Arts Centre
- Poetry Can
- Poole Arts Trust Limited (Lighthouse)
- PREMA
- Real Ideas Organisation
- Rent-a-Role Drama Service (Barbican Theatre)
- Roses Theatre Trust
- Salisbury Arts Theatre Ltd (Salisbury Playhouse)
- Salisbury Festival Ltd
- Shademakers Carnival Club*
- Situations
- Sixth Sense Theatre for Young People
- Somerset Film and Video Ltd
- Southampton City Council (Southampton's New Arts Complex)
- Spike Island Art Space Ltd
- St Edmunds Arts Trust Ltd (Salisbury Arts Centre)
- St Pauls Afrikan Caribbean Carnival Ltd
- State of Emergency Productions
- Stroud Valleys Artspace Ltd
- Swindon Dance
- Take Art Ltd
- Tangle
- The Anvil
- The Architecture Centre
- The Bike Shed Theatre
- The Hall for Cornwall Trust
- The New Carnival Company
- The Poetry Archive
- The Point
- The Pound Arts Trust Ltd
- The Shademakers Carnival Company
- The Wiltshire Music Centre trust Ltd
- Theatre Alibi
- Theatre Bristol Ltd
- Theatre Royal Plymouth
- Theatre Royal Winchester
- Tobacco Factory Arts Trust
- Travaux Sauvages Ltd (Wildworks)
- Travelling Light Theatre Company
- Turner Sims Concert Hall

- Walford Mill Education Trust Ltd
- Watershed Arts Trust Ltd

*Shademakers Carnival Club is a current NPO that has re-located to the Isle of Wight from London; their funding award is not included in the south west budget figures quoted

3. The 3 Major partner museums in the south west for 2015/18 are:

Bristol's Museums Galleries & Archives

Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery

For Cornwall Museums Partnership (Falmouth Art Gallery, National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Penlee House Gallery & Museum, Porthcurno Telegraph Museum, Royal Cornwall Museum, Wheal Martyn)

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F Further reading

Peter Stark et al [Rebalancing Our Cultural Capital](#) (RoCC), October 2013.

Arts Professional [Pulse report: Regional arts funding – getting the balance right](#),

Arts Professional - [New figures reveal the true extent of the London/regions divide](#), 30-October-2013

Culture, Media and Sport Committee - Third Report - [Work of Arts Council England](#), HC 279
28 October 2014

Arts Council England (ACE) - [This England: how Arts Council England uses its investment to shape a national cultural ecology](#), February 2014.

GPS Culture - Arts Council England's National Investment Plans 2015-18 [Hard Facts to Swallow](#), 10 October, 2014.

[Arts Council England \(ACE\)](#) [Arts Council England responds to 'Hard Facts to Swallow'](#)
Press release [10 October 2014](#).