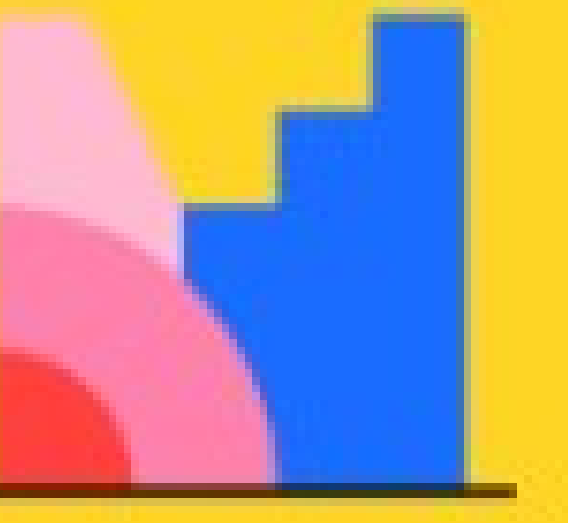


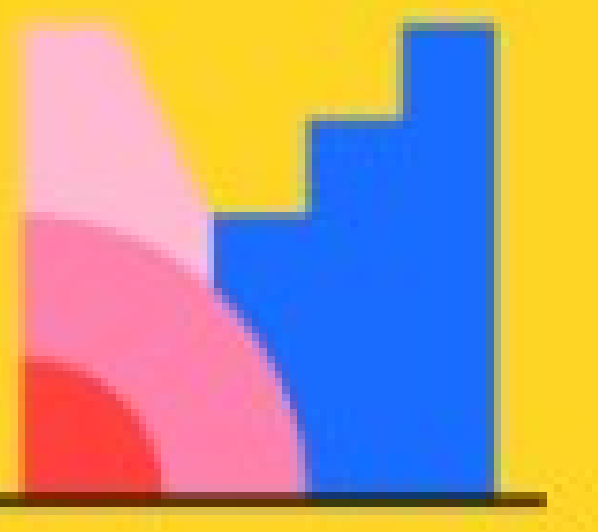
Creative Conversations

Join the Menti using the QR code below!



Agenda for this session

1. **Welcome by All Party Group for Arts Chair, Sian Mulholland MLA**
2. **Informal networking and lunch**
3. **Feedback on earlier Committee Event**
4. **Input from Audience via Menti (anonymous)**
5. **Wrap-up and next steps**



What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

Politicians in NI?

They don't

Not much

They don't

That it's just a hobby

Incomprehensible

Not that important

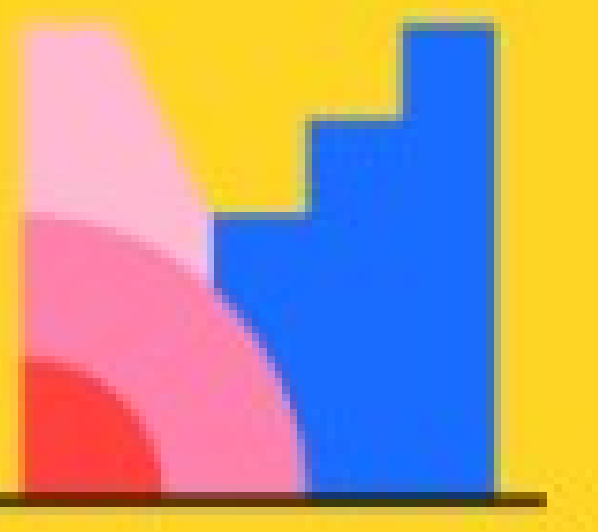
Waste

13



57





What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

They are clueless

They don't!

Impressed

A hobby

The least important sector!

They don't recognise the value of arts

Important but not a priority

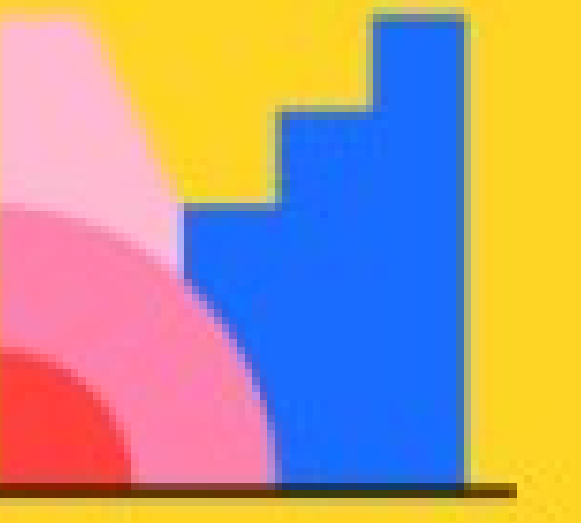
Not worth fighting for

13



57





What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

Not a priority

They don't!

Not important for a healthy society

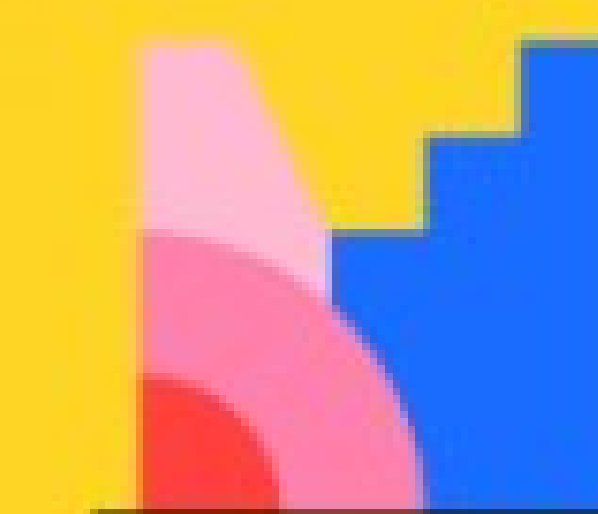
There's no evidence that they think of the arts at all!

Irrelevant and superfluous

Not much, there's very little support

Uninformed

Uneducated of communities needs



What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

Too little

They have a narrow definition of the arts as one thing or another.

I don't think they think at all. There is little value placed in the arts in NI. They fail to see how vital it is for our communities.

Complete lack of understanding but would be massively missed if gone

They dont

Not a priority

A mice luxury at best , a waste of resources at worst

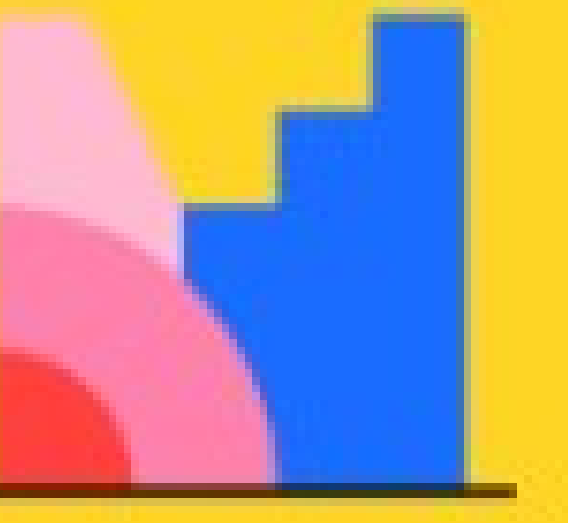
Optional

13



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What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

It isn't a priority

Know a lot more after today!

Lack of awareness of the scope of the arts

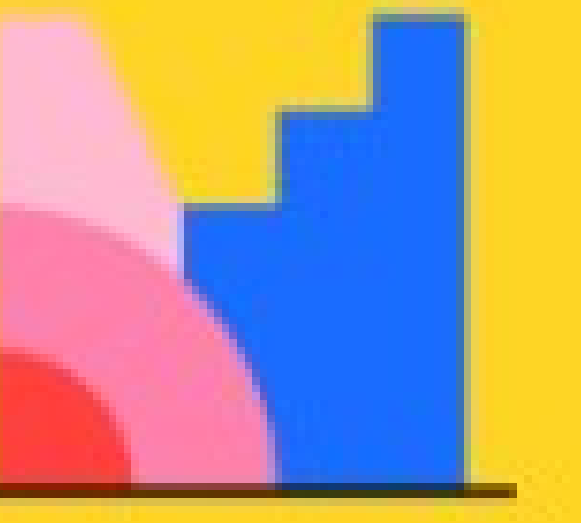
Valuable but not valued

Amateurs

Don't understand the value it brings to society and how it can transform communities

A thing to use order to achieve something they believe is valuable

It varies across parties but the lack of the arts in the PfG speaks volumes.



What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

Not vote dependant

Not much

They don't understand it's value to enhance a cohesive and thriving society.

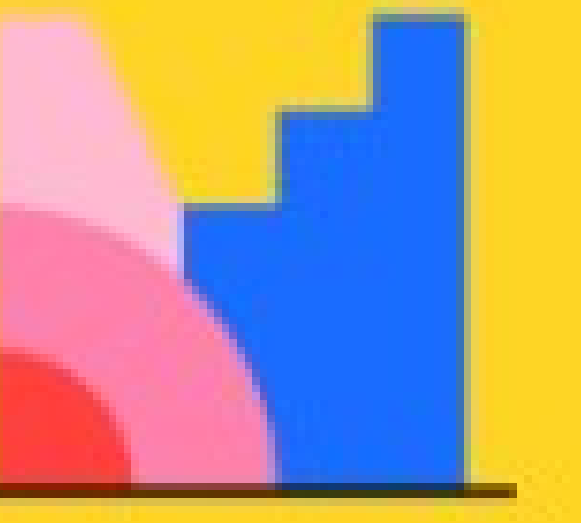
Dont appreciate the value of the arts and our contribution to mental wellbeing and healing

Disregard

I fear they prioritise what they think are more important areas of funding when our arts define us as a people and a country.

Choose not to engage and don't want to understand potential. Ignoring our potential helps maintain the binary structure that keeps them in office.!

Not sure tyey value our contribution



What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

I don't think many of them think of the arts at all

Irrelevant or alternative

A liberal elite whose time and resource can be exploited. A window dressing

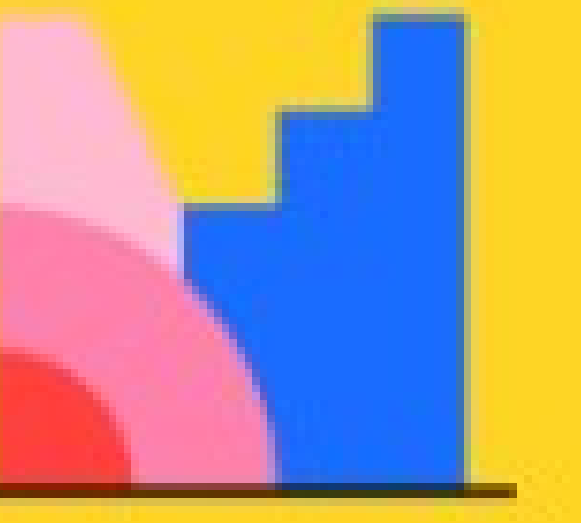
I fear our politicians think they have too much else to think about to worry about the arts. I wish every politician believed that arts, culture, creativity is part of our being, a human right

They always reference amateur drama

Unless we are seen to perform a socially useful role artists are thought to be unnecessary to most of our local politicians

That it does not need the investment of other sectors because we do this through passion. That it will be seen as a luxury by voters. That the sector cannot complain as too burned out.

That it'll work regardless of level funding - that artists expect to be poor and do it for the love of it. That it's a soft core objective once the big jobs are done 🙄



What do you think our local politicians think of the arts?

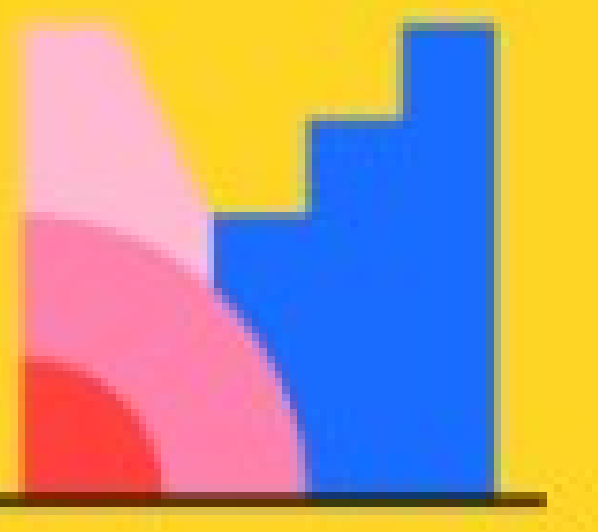
Largely, they don't understand & recognise its value, well politicians in neighbouring jurisdictions (ie Scotland, ROI) do. What the disconnect?

13



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What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Fund fund fund

recognising us as
professionals

Attend

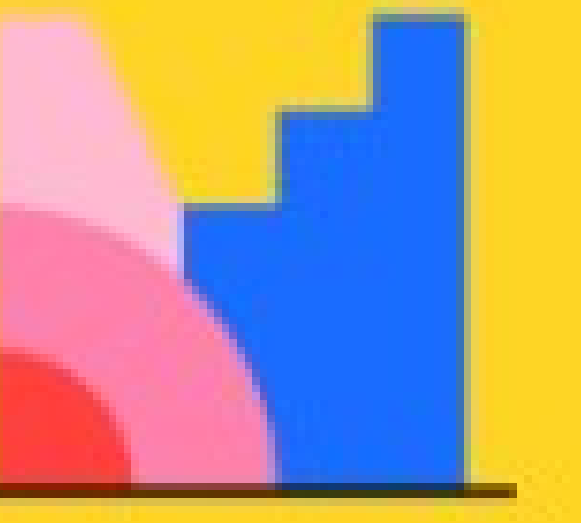
Speak up for the arts

FUNDING

Turn up to actually see
work.

Attend and champion
events

Come and see the work



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Willingness to understand

Support research and development time.

Listen actively and ACT

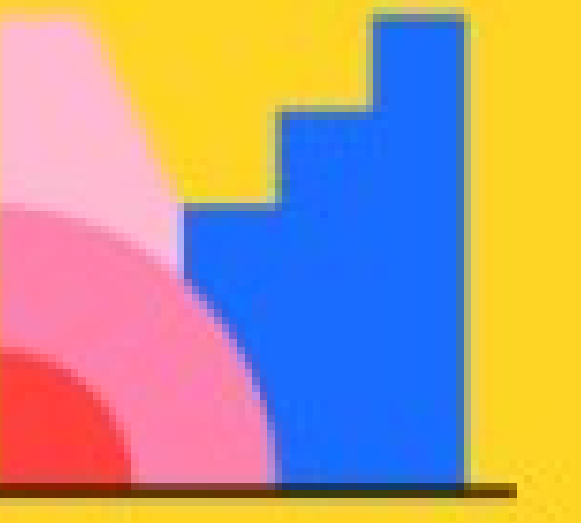
At the very least - reinstate the role the arts have always played in every PfG bar this most recent one.

Acknowledge our intrinsic value

Come and see what we do!

Fund. Show up. Learn. Demonstrate value for the professionals who work here.

Promote, talk about, turn up



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Encourage a universal basic income scheme for artists

Defend the need for them and not apologise for increasing funding

Speak up on our behalf. Help communicate the value.

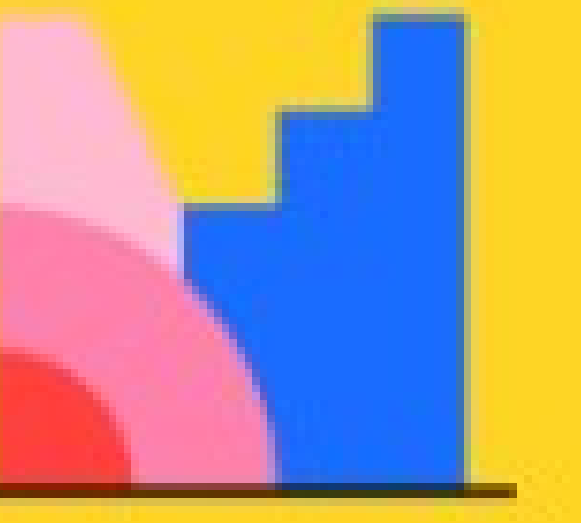
Prioritise arts more in the budget. Give a voice to the work the arts community do. Engage more with arts organisations.

National Strategy for the Arts with measures targets and min. 3 year funding streams

Elevate its broad value across PfG, be advocates at govt level and reflect that value in investment

Embody a cultural shift toward valuing the arts

Educate themselves on the huge range of social cohesion provided by the sector



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Attend arts events, educate themselves as to the professionalism of our sector.

Advocate for artists as constituents and civic activists

Come and experience it. Educate themselves on the birth of ideas.

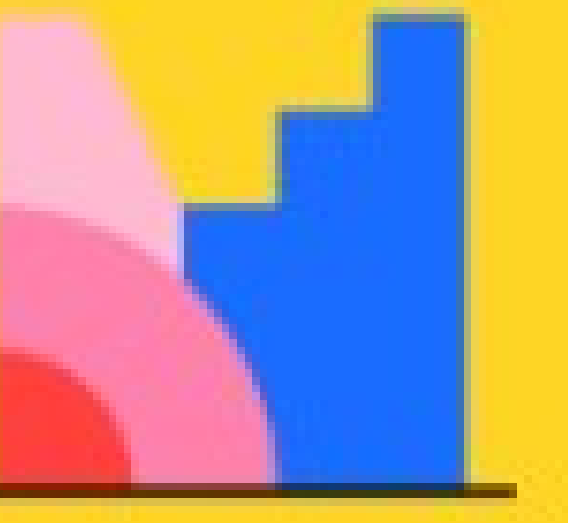
Come and see stuff!

Advocate for adequate funding - bringing it in line with rest of UK and RoI. A bit of investment will go a long way.

Support a consistent strategic plan that has nothing to do with party politics

Gain a better understanding of the impact of the arts in local communities and develop a realistic investment plan

Learn more about the scope of the work that we do



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Talking to local arts and arts organisations to find out what the problems are locally.
Addressing regional disparity and representing and being a voice for the sector

Start funding adequately and properly tracking the cross-cutting impact of arts for health, happiness, relationships, education and integration

An arts policy that demonstrates the value and importance of the arts.

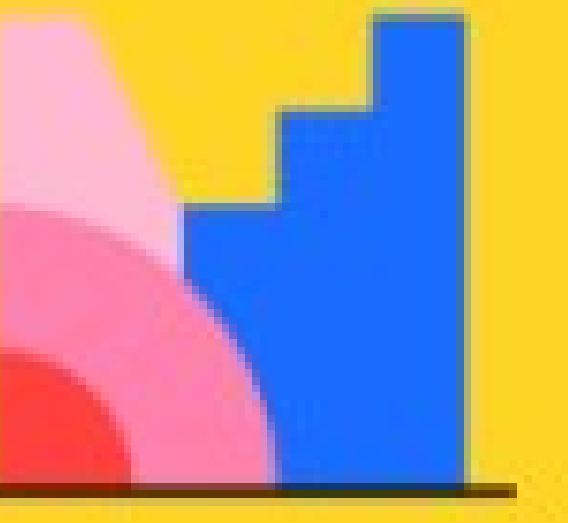
Understand that the arts are essential for a healthy society. Cut them, we'll get sicker.

Ask for data driven policy making rather than being swayed by assumption and political bias

Invest in education of arts careers and value

Advocating for funding in line with rest of UK. Why should NI citizens have less access as rest of UK, because underfunding = less access

Prioritise and invest invest



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Inform themselves about the breadth and impact - come to events, meet artists and teams, advocate, fund ACNI

Listen to the artists, we are experts in our field and see the impact & then FUND! from school to older person from professional to community

Advocate across departments. Insist that every department has an arts policy recognising how the arts are delivering the PFG.

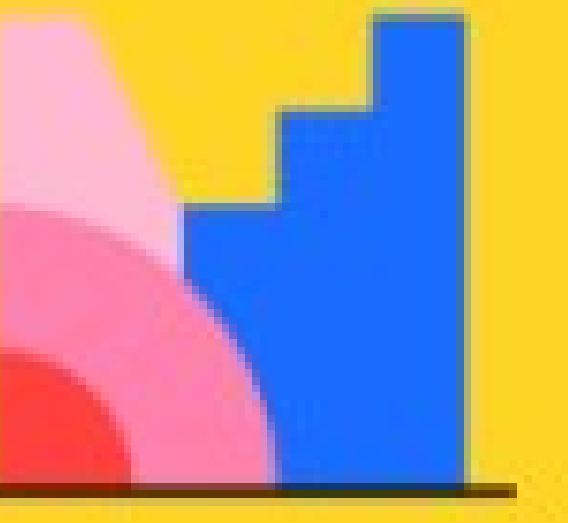
Create an actual long term strategy. Longer term investment planning to nurture growth and maximise returns. Generate connection between private and public to increase both public and commercial arts

Actually see our work. Listen to our feedback Invest in us properly, on a multi-annual basis. Understand our position as laying foundations of the wider creative industries and film sector

Step out of political-local constituency mode and support arts for all

1. Advocate for more financial support for the arts. 2. Understand our concerns and challenges. 3. Understand the impact of the arts.

Fund the work See the value in what we do View and integrate the arts as an important part of our society to function effectively



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

Give the arts sector credit when they talk about the amazing creativity/ cultural excellence of here.

Support and recognise it as a vital industry that is vital for the economy

See the sector and arts workers as the professionals that we are

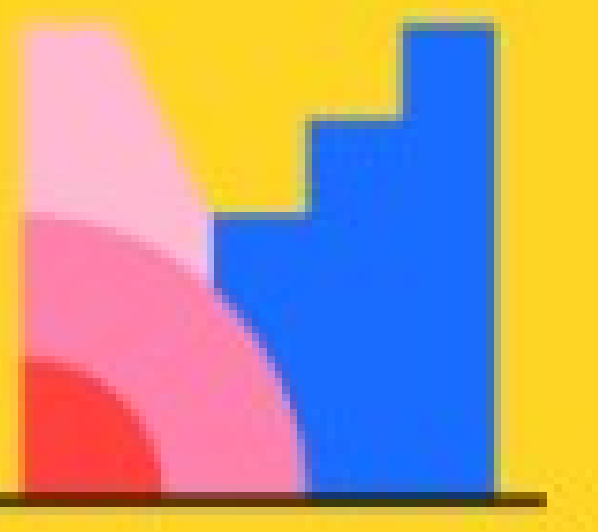
Fund them properly. Respect the sector and its individuals as professionals. Respect our time- actually plan agendas fully for days like today. Stop wasting our talents until they want something.

Turn up. Go to stuff. Tell people they've been. Find out about the arts in their constituency. Ask questions in the chamber. Be open minded.

Funding. Multi-year funding. Support us by paying people properly. Ensure enough maintenance to stop places crumbling. Be open to challenging difficult work. Support r&d not just instrumental outputs.

They should be recognising the arts as integral to all aspects of society, education, social, economic, tourism and health. It should be a priority in all areas of politics.

Take action to change the understanding and appreciation of the value of both arts practice and arts participation in government inline with speaking up for the need for proper investment.



What more can local politicians be doing to support and nurture the arts?

They could support by attending events recognise the unique creativity & cultural talent within their own constituency. Recognise & Revisit Unlocking Creativity Agenda NI unlocking potential of NI

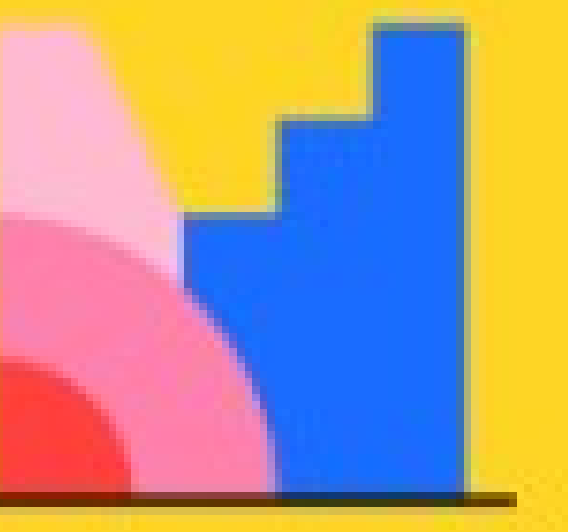
I would love every politician to have to do a participatory arts course in their community so they understand what being creative is.

Recognise it's value by funding appropriately. Investment in the arts supports both education, career development and the health of society.

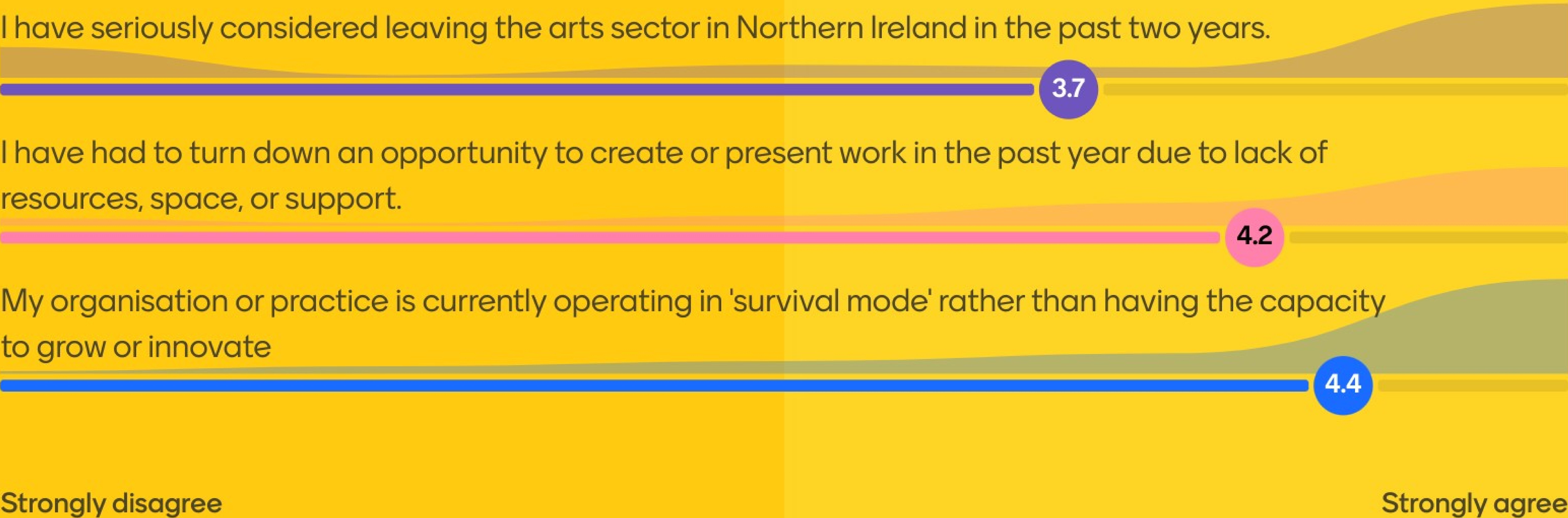
Name the main challenges facing the arts at the moment?

159 responses



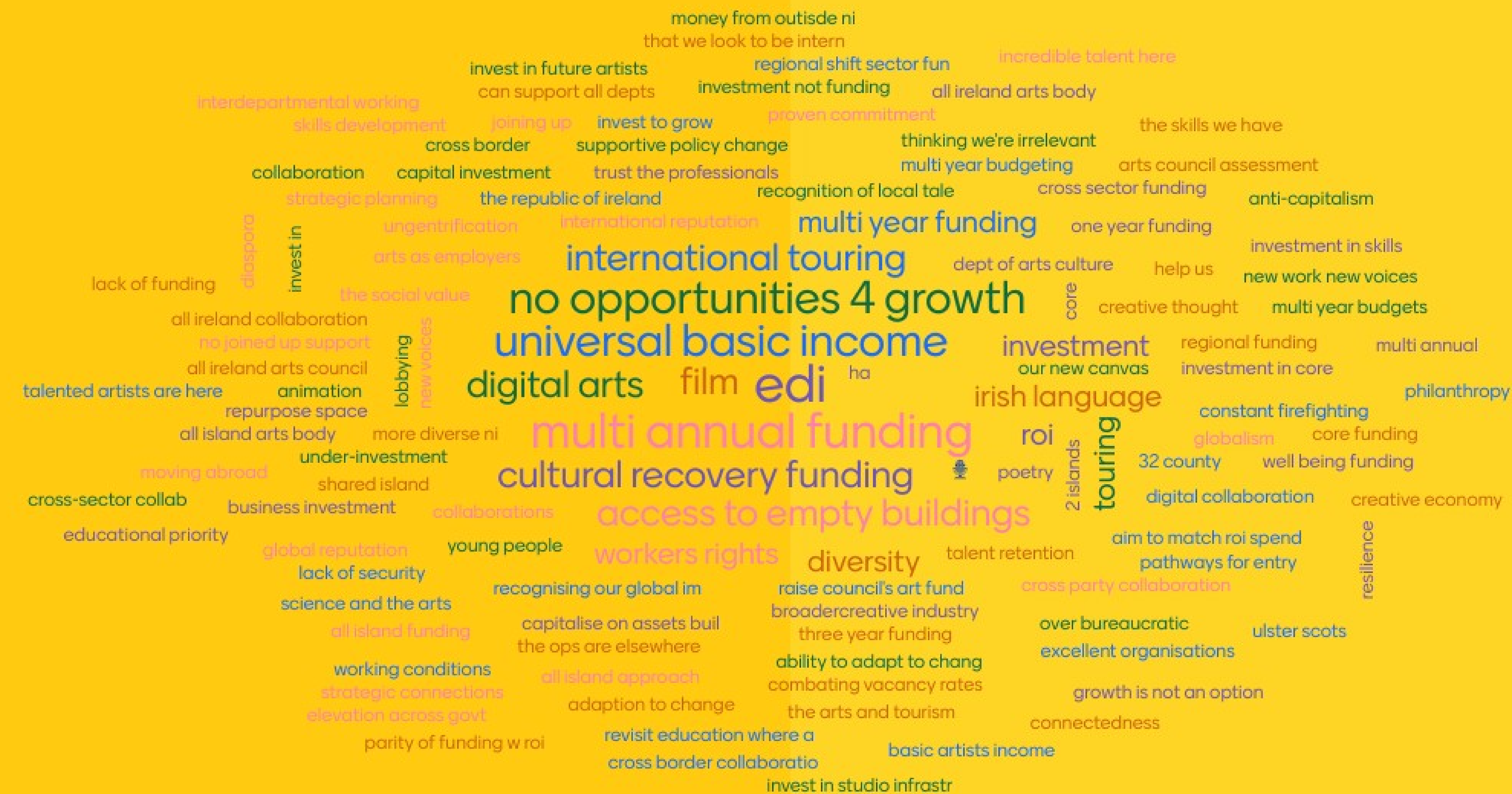


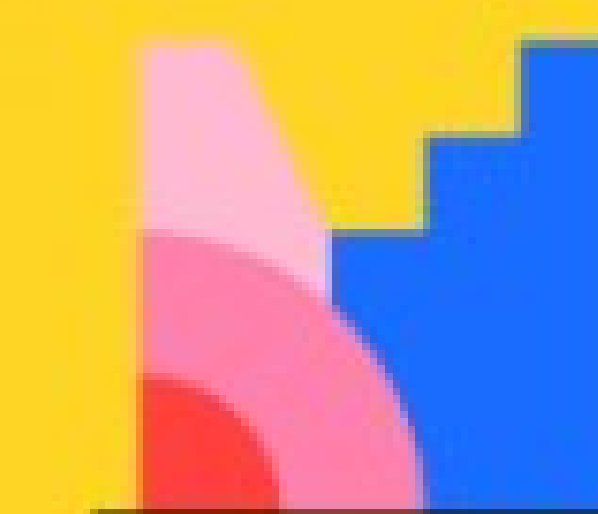
Challenges...



What are the main opportunities for growth facing the arts at the moment?

157 responses





Opportunities

There are untapped opportunities for the Arts sector in NI to develop local, national and international partnerships and markets.

4.3

Cross-sectoral partnerships (with health, education, technology, or business) represent a major opportunity for the Arts sector

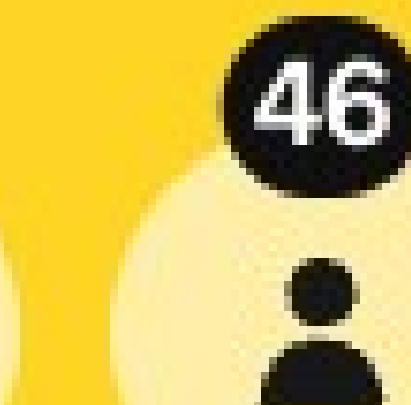
4.0

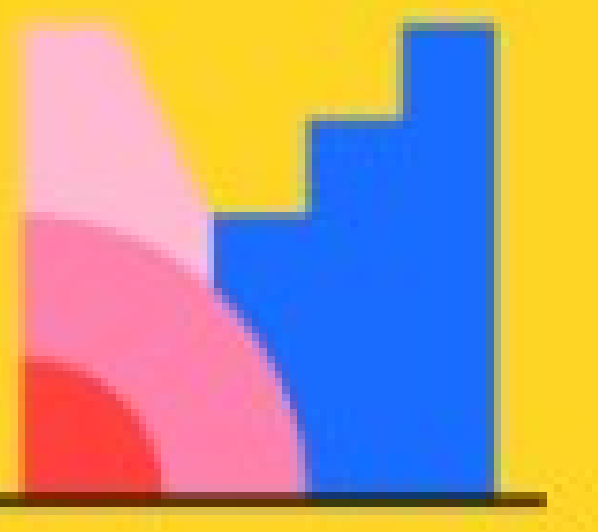
A Universal Basic Income for artists would fundamentally transform your ability to create and develop work in Northern Ireland.

4.6

Strongly disagree

Strongly agree





What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Multi annual funding

Multi year funding

Why is there no arts policy yet?

International opportunities

Funding

Multi annual funding

Why is the arts not in the PfG

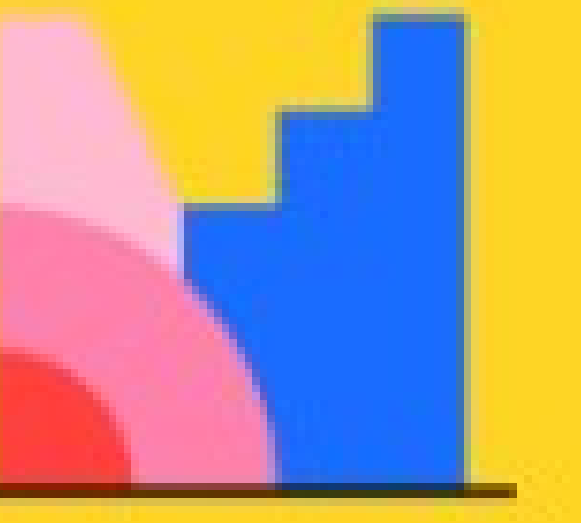
Developing a Concordat for the Arts with the NI Executive and all Councils

3



52





What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

All of us.. not a selected few in different sessions

Regional funding pots

Multi annual funding

Increased investment

Capital funding

Night time economy

Universal basic income scheme for artists

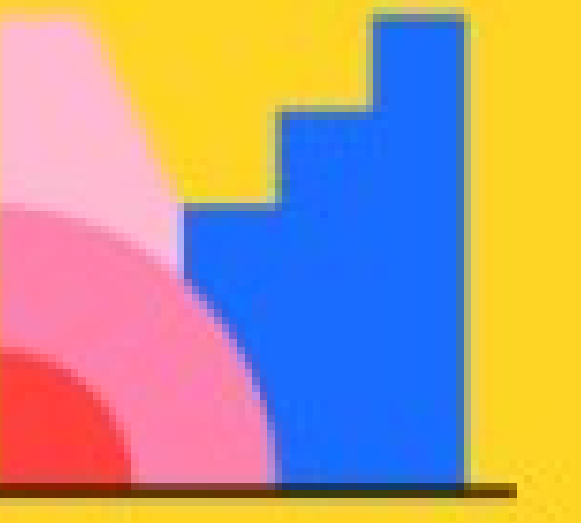
Hold ministers to account on announcing change

3



52





What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Doubling funding as per Scotland

Help us advocate for secure, affordable, safe and secure work spaces

Increasing funding across the board

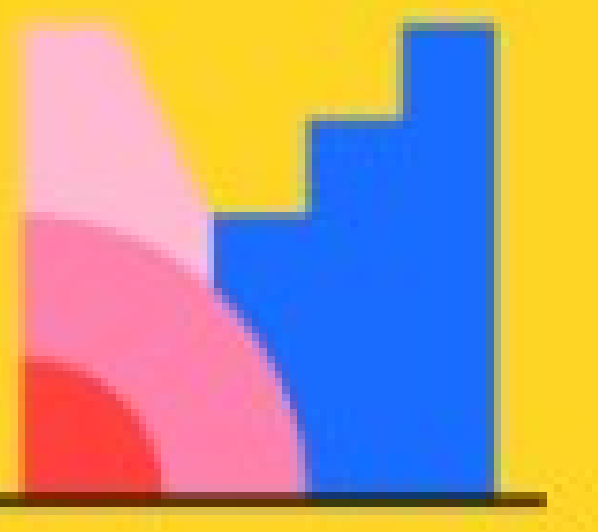
Lobbying for multi annual support

Cross dept strategy re Arts

Where is arts in public policy

Identify what's the point of arts in NI.

Protection of digital artists (IP)



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

How you will work for us, as constituents and as a substantial (14,500 strong) community in our own right

Longer term multi-year strategy for growth and investment to guarantee a minimum level of investment, allowing organisations to plan more securely.

District council support - more rural areas

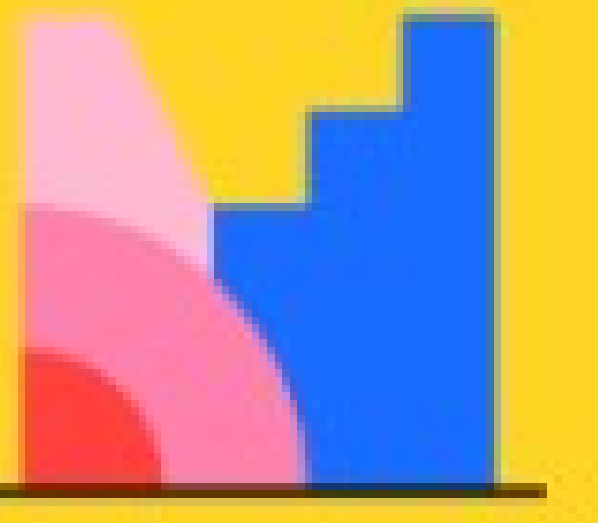
Encouraging each party to take a public position on the arts, ideally positive!

Multi annual funding

Understanding value

Joined up thinking across govt re Arts policy

Deliver a strategy



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Celebrating successes

Invest in crumbling infrastructure

Cross border 2 islands, councils all on same page

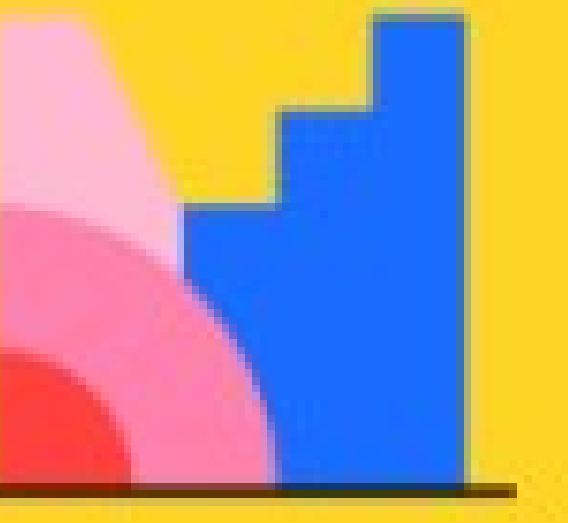
Multi annual funding, invest for professional performance not just community participation

Increase the arts budget in the communities department.
Prioritise the arts Promote the message that the arts are vital
Pursue parity of funding with ROI, GB

Economic impact and benefits derived from a thriving arts scene

-universal basic income for artists. look at the pilot that's ran in the south. it's INCREDIBLE. -dedicated arts studio and rehearsal space prioritised in Belfast city - respect us!

Multi year funding. Move on from Standstill



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Pfg. Role should be recognised and reinstated. Integrated cultural strategy from July 23 should be adopted

Multi annual funding

Keeping our theatres open

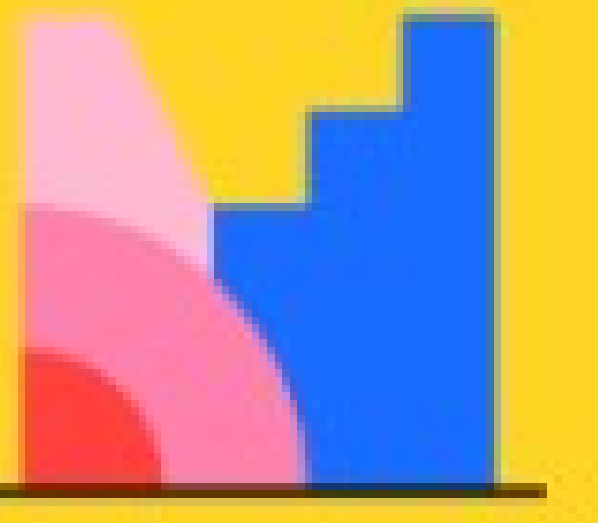
Fair pay across disciplines

Changing policy around empty buildings for arts Incentive and penalties for building owners who don't maintain properties
Advocacy for arts and artists and understanding the sector in wider landscap

Creating opportunities for promotion of the diverse nature of sectors delivering

Employment fund to create career opportunities in the arts sector plus funding to stabilise organisations..

Recognise different needs of individual arts entities



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

next year is too late.....!

A high profile arts minister

Regional representation
Inclusive opportunities for interagency work
Recognise the impact upon health & well being of all our communities & economy

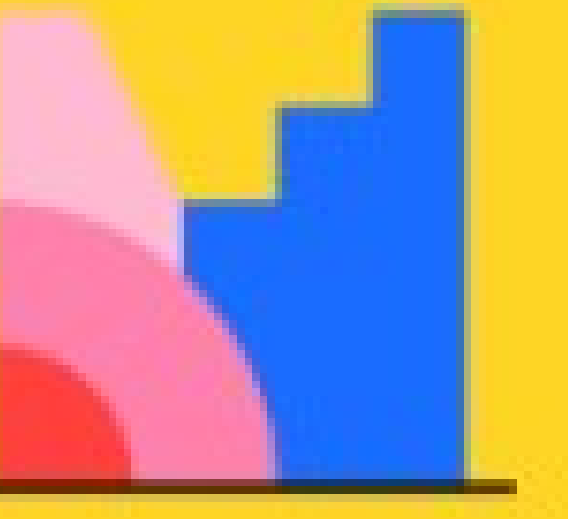
Department, acni and sector working together

Integration in all aspects of pfg and access of opportunity for all children.

Genuine support

Follow the different policies in development

Placing arts at the heart of government policy conversations.



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Adequate to excellent effective support for community arts

Sign-off on an arts policy drawn from the sector and from our knowledge and lived experience

One year funding decisions needs to come earlier please!! But multi annual best

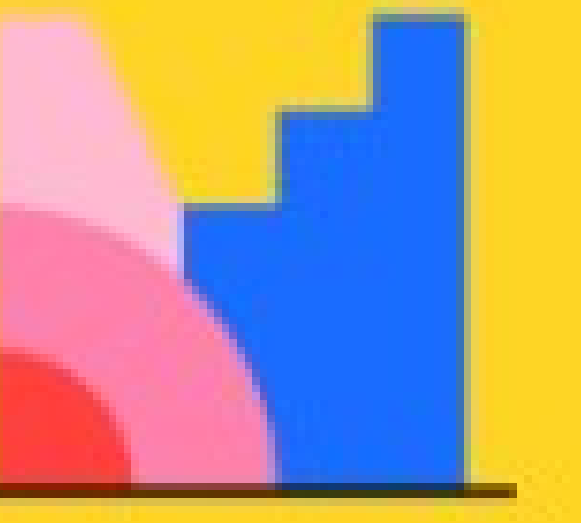
Multi annual funding to enable longer term planning. Opportunities for cross departmental working. Cross border working - North, South, East and West

Opportunities across departments for using arts to support delivery of key policy agendas

PfG to explicitly include Arts and Culture

Strengthening the Arts Council

Multi annual funding. More funding. Arts in schools. Talent & Professional development. Greater quality. Clear strategic ambition and conditions to succeed. Artists making art again. EDI & rights



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Artists basic income, access to community asset transfer, Arts Council leveraging more funding for artists to develop work without social objectives - art for arts sake, as it should be

Reducing the comparative funding gap

UBI

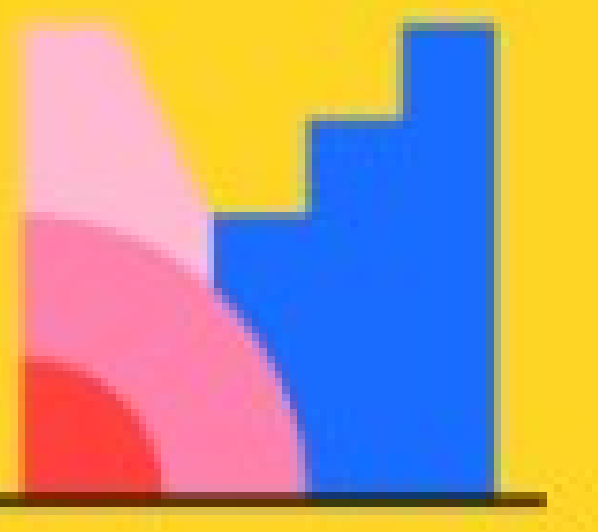
Be passionate advocates and a voice for arts at govt

Hold gov to account for investment or lack of investment

Celebrate successes

Increase in funding. Support for artists. Arts education needs valued.

Reducing bureaucratic burdens on funding, particularly for smaller pots



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Minister Lyons priority areas and how he wants arts council existing funding programmes to be re-aligned to meet his priorities. This needs to be a top and urgent focus of the APG.

Championing the great work that is carried out

Action not talk

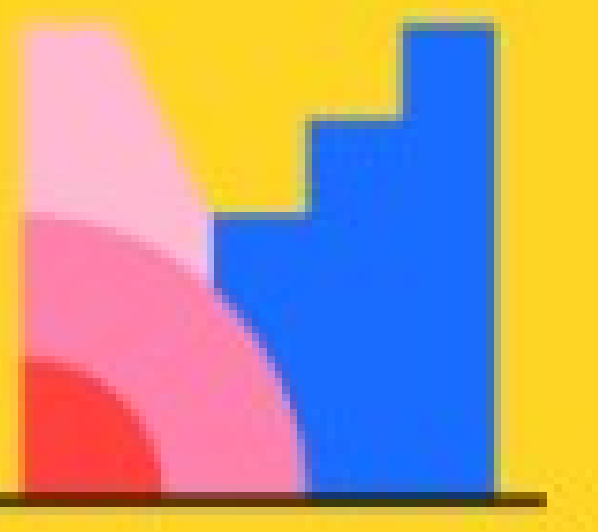
Workers rights and whistleblowing channels.

well being within the arts (but this is USUALLY linked to stress which is linked to FUNDING)

Access funding Share knowledge skills & resources & expertise. Equitable opportunities & access to resources across NI Explore more cross border opportunities

PFG

Support for emerging local writers



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Sustainability across the arts sector. Increased funding and value

Protecting our cultural resource ie creative workers!

During Covid we were told things would improve post covid but the situation for the arts has worsened and is more threatened now than ever before

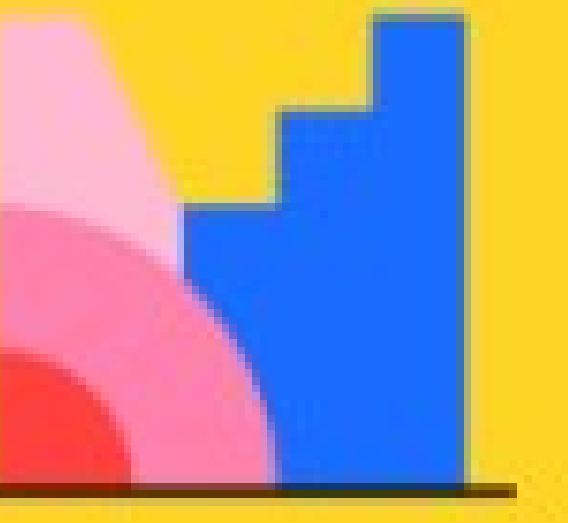
UBI

an all Ireland focus

Challenging the lack of multi-annual funding and address the readdress the balance of risk held by arts organisations when only hearing about funding in their current financial year

Increased investment in the arts

Strategy



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

Strategy mentorship for artists

Parity of funding with ROI & GB

Helping hold government to account

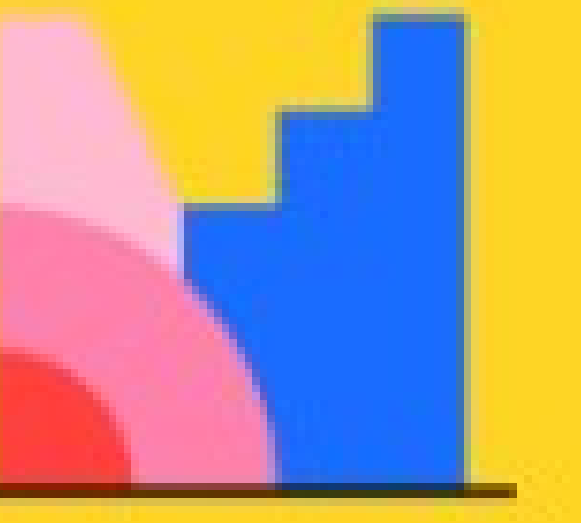
Testimonials from leaders in tv/film industry on role of arts as pathways

Where's the arts strategy? Multi annual funding. The value - 8 billion in social value alone. Sustainability support.

Build upon previous work done through Forum for local Gov & the Arts Revisit Creative Youth Partnership model
Supporting, CPD & appropriate payment of artists

EQUITY for workers.
EQUITY in funding distribution.

Give us an arts champion



What topics do you want the All Party Group to focus on over the next year?

How to save the arts in ni

Support of rural arts practice

Supporting ACNI properly so they can support us

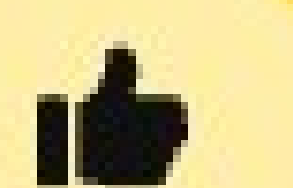
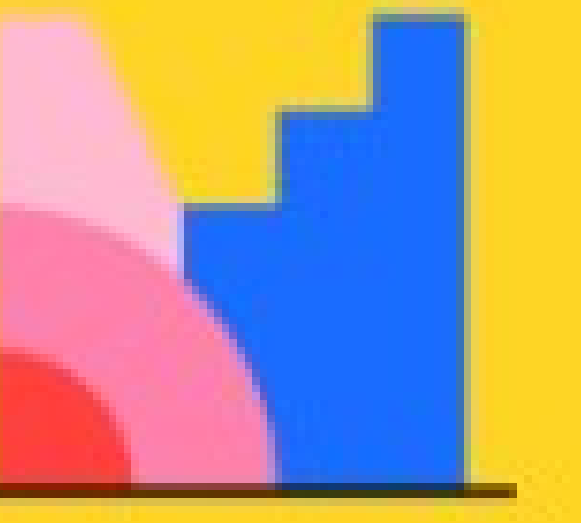
valuing the arts council

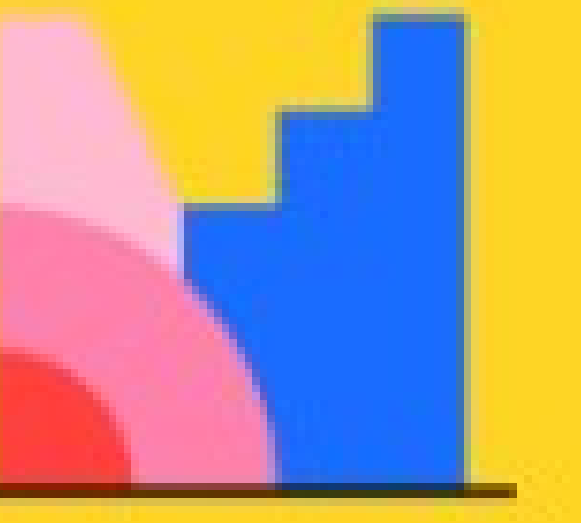
Increased visanility of the value of the Arts through media

Invest in talent development.

Celebrate case studies of good practice regionally & internationally

Any other comments you would like to add?





Next steps

- Session summary will be compiled
- This will be sent to the Chair of the Communities Committee and others
- An action plan and calendar of dates will be sent to all participants
- How can you use your voice?