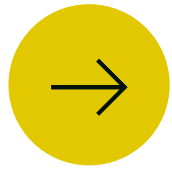
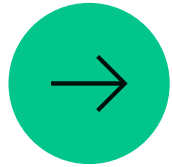


More People, More Places, More Spaces

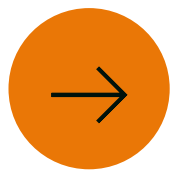
Budget 2026



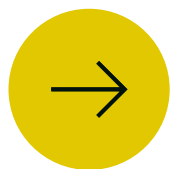
1. Funding for the arts



2. Arts infrastructure



3. Equal access to the arts



1. Funding for the arts

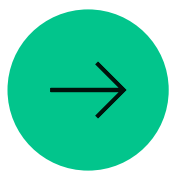
Challenge

The ambition and development needs of the arts sector are not being met and artists still suffer higher than average deprivation levels. There is record demand for arts funding, and despite significant recent increases it is not in line with EU averages or able to keep pace with rising costs.

The rights of children and young people to participate freely in cultural life and arts are not always upheld and the provision of appropriate opportunities for cultural and artistic activity is not equal for all children.

Action

- Address rising costs and unmet sectoral need by increasing Arts Council funding to €200m in 2026.
- Commit to multi-annual funding to address security and stability for the Arts Sector.
- Retain and Basic Income for the Arts scheme beyond its pilot phase and continue to support at least 2000 artists at a cost of €35 million per annum.
- Continue to expand Creative Schools at €4.5million per annum to reach more than half of schools in Ireland by 2027 and to increase level of support available to participating DEIS+ schools.
- Provide €3.5million of investment in a programme to address child poverty via the arts.
- Expand the Arts in Early Learning and Childcare Scheme to reach more children in the first five years of their life.



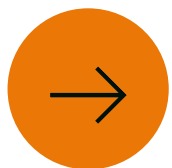
2. Arts infrastructure

Challenge

There is no national arts infrastructure strategy. Artists report severe challenges in accessing appropriate workspaces. There is a pressing need for both minor and major capital work and a focus on accessibility.

Action

- Partner with the Arts Council to develop a national arts infrastructure strategy.
- Maintain, develop and increase the ambition of the existing Cultural Capital Schemes run by the Department of Culture to address built infrastructure needs.
- Commit €21million capital funding for The Artist Campus at the Flour Mills in Dublin Port.



3. Equal access to the arts

Challenge

The rights of all people to engage fully in the artistic and cultural life of Ireland at all levels (as arts practitioners, participants, employees, audiences, advisors, and board members) is not being upheld.

Action

- Expand existing capital fund to support venue upgrades and adaptation across the range of accessibility and Universal Design requirements.
- Increase training opportunities and support the recruitment of trained professionals to support access to the arts.
- Enhance sectoral supports to promote arts access for marginalised people and minority groups.
- Support disabled artists by ensuring understanding exists in the DSP regarding Arts Council Funding and their artistic practice does not jeopardise their finances.