

John Ball
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Our ref: Corr 2766-2020
Date: 04 November 2020

Henry Downey

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Dear Mr Downey

Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries

Thank you for your letter of 19th October to Minister Ní Chuilín MLA on behalf of Belfast City Council about funding for the Arts and Creative Industries. I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

Minister Ní Chuilín places great value on the role of arts and culture. She, and officials, have been engaging with representatives from across the sector and she is acutely aware of the very significant impact the current restrictions are having on those who make their living in these sectors.

The Minister welcomed the £29m allocated by the Executive on 24th September to provide support across the arts, language, culture and heritage sectors and the wider creative economy. On 19th October she made the first allocation from that package with £3m being directed to the Individual Emergency Resilience Programme, administered on the Department's behalf by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This builds on earlier investment by the Department into this fund and allowed further grants totalling £3.85m to be made to 1089 people whose creativity, effort and hard work make such a contribution to the economy and the quality of life of all people here.

The programme was open to those working right across the creative economy and, among many other categories, awards were made to singers, musicians and DJs as well as sound/audio technicians and engineers, stage technicians and event and venue crew.

The Minister has to date also made a series of further allocations from the Executive funding package:

- £7.75m for arts organisations
- £5.5m for a Heritage Recovery Fund
- £2.5m will be shared among the Irish Language, Ulster Scots and Sign Language Sectors
- £2m for Community based arts, culture and heritage projects

The Minister will announce shortly how the remaining £8m will be distributed.

Yours sincerely



John Ball
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