

Arts Council England evidence submission to the British Council APPG inquiry into the role of education and culture in the UK's future bilateral relations with the countries of Europe

1.0) Introduction

- 1.1) Arts Council England is the national development agency for arts, museums and libraries in England. We invest public funds in great art and culture for everyone, boosting our world-leading creative industries and the UK's global reputation.
- 1.2) Many of our funded organisations such as our National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), also help deliver quality art and cultural education.
- 1.3) Our funded organisations have built strong relationships with partners overseas and collaborate on exhibitions, projects and productions.
- 1.4) Arts Council funded organisations earn over £57 million a year from international activity and continues to reach more and more countries and overseas audiences. 67% of culture organisations are involved in international activity, the vast majority undertake this work to exchange knowledge and increase their reputation internationally.

2.0) International

- 2.1) Artists, arts organisations and museums in England have long been involved in international collaboration and exchange which gives our nation an international presence.
- 2.2) It highlights how global exchange enriches the art we make and experience – so that British audiences enjoy the best of the arts and British artists can continue to be part of the international cultural dialogue that has been critical to the spread of peace, prosperity and democracy.

3.0) Arts Council England supporting international touring

- 3.1) Arts Council England is proud to support organisations across the nation that also have a strong international presence. These tours

build relationships abroad and contribute to the UK and local economies.

- 3.2) Hofesh Shechter, in their 2017-18 production, *Grand Finale*, visited UK theatres alongside a 40-date international tour including Paris, Athens, Stuttgart, New York, Montreal and Oslo. International touring contributes an average 41 per cent of annual turnover, as well as providing opportunities to showcase the work to a global audience, identify talent and build relationships across the dance world. In the last three years, they have taken work, for the first time, to Hong Kong, Macau and Taipei.
- 3.3) The Royal Shakespeare Company tours internationally all year round. *Matilda The Musical* was taken to Australia, Broadway and 15 US states last year.
- 3.4) Writers' Centre Norwich has worked with partners in Japan, India, China, Korea, Myanmar, Singapore, Poland, Turkey, Scandinavia, Europe and South America, developing relationships, commissioning new work, engaging audiences and sharing expertise. In the last year, they've generated more than £150,000 from their international partnerships.
- 3.5) Liverpool Sound City received funding from the Arts Council's International Showcasing fund to develop new markets and audiences in South Korea by showcasing UK artists and bands at Zandari Festival - the biggest event of its kind in South Korea and the gateway to the Korean music market.
- 3.6) Curve Theatre has toured musicals across the world from Monaco to Hong Kong, bringing in an extra £469,000 in income and promoting British talent to the world whilst also serving its local community in the Midlands.
- 3.7) British Underground with support and funding from Arts Council England presented Future Art and Culture to 75,000 participants at SXSW in Austin, Texas. The festival brings together the global music industry alongside film and technology professionals to make personal and business connections as well as discover the next generation of talent.

4.0) **Arts Council England's NPOs European cultural education partnerships**

- 4.1) Arts Council England funded organisations work with organisations across the country that work in collaboration with similar organisations overseas.

- 4.2) A number of our NPOs, across a number of different artforms, are also involved in Erasmus +, building relationships with arts and culture partners in Europe.

5.0) Dance

- 5.1) Our funded dance organisations work with early years, children, young people and adults – creating cultural education collaboration overseas.
- 5.2) The Northern School of Contemporary Dance an Arts Council England NPO based in Leeds and with funding of £600,000 for 2018-22, is involved in Erasmus +.
- 5.3) The Northern School of Contemporary Dance says the programme has benefited the organisation and its staff: ‘As an institution that holds an Erasmus Charter we are able to benefit from, and contribute to, different initiatives within the activities of the European Commission. These initiatives include improving access to further development opportunities for teaching staff and the possible creation of student exchanges.’¹
- 5.4) Erasmus + also plays a part in the education for adults. One of our NPOs, Northern Ballet, a recipient of £12,488,000 of Arts Council for the 2018-22 funding period runs a programme called Shift Dance EU.
- 5.5) Shift Dance EU is a project for dancers with learning disabilities and partners with Psico Ballet Maite Leon Foundation (Spain) and Misiconi Dance Company (Netherlands).
- 5.6) The programmes overall aim is to raise the profile and skills of learning-disabled dancers across Europe and specifically to:
- Develop new teaching practice for dancers with learning disabilities, Autism or both that enables them to fulfil their potential and is underpinned by safe practice.
 - Share good practice; initially between the European collaborators, and subsequently the outcomes to an international audience of dance artists and teachers in community, education and professional settings.²

6.0) Theatre

¹ Further information found at: <http://www.nscd.ac.uk/study/erasmus/>

² Further information found at: <http://shiftdance.eu/en/about/>

- 6.1) Our theatre productions work in partnership with countries Europe to deliver high quality performances and education experiences for people of all ages.
- 6.2) Arts Council funded theatre organisations collaborate in early year and education projects with European partners.
- 6.3) Polka Theatre, an Arts Council London based NPO with agreed funding of £2,280,876 between 2018-22 is the UK partner in Small Size, the European network for Early Years' Theatre.
- 6.4) Polka Theatre have a strong reputation of creating world-class theatre for young audiences since 1979. The European partnership with Small Size supports artist development and showcases some of the very latest theatre being created for babies and toddlers from the UK and Europe.
- 6.5) Boundless Theatre's Schools & Higher Education Erasmus + programme: Boundless Dialogue partners with the Theatre National de Toulouse (France) and the Theatre National de Wallonie-Bruxelles. The project develops playwriting skills of those students that take place and translates their work.
- 6.6) London International Festival Theatre (LIFT), an Arts Council NPO, awarded £1,810,432 for the 2018-22 funding period is well known for the theatre it takes internationally.
- 6.7) In 2015 LIFT launched UpLiFTers in Tottenham that brings together young people, local schools and other partners with international artists and other companies.
- 6.8) Unicorn Theatre a London based NPO awarded £5,215,326 for the 2018-22 funding period, is the UK's leading theatre for young audiences aged 6 months to 18 years. The theatre welcome audiences of 90,000 both at home and overseas.
- 6.9) The Theatre stages regular European co-productions especially in Belgium and the Netherlands.
- 6.10) Pilot Theatre is currently involved in two European programmes, PLATFORM shift+ and Boomerang. These projects focus on producing theatre for young people and working and sharing with multiple partners across continents. Both projects are supported with EU funding and their findings will contribute to education programmes in the UK and in the EU.

7.0) Literature

- 7.1) Arts Council funded literature organisations create opportunities to experience literature from other countries.

- 7.2) Children's Book Show, an Arts Council NPO, with a funding agreement of £268,316 between 2018-22, has an ongoing commitment to showcase the best of the UK's and international children's authors and illustrators, including literature in translation on their annual touring programme.
- 7.3) Children's Book Show exhibit the work across the country giving children both in London and outside the chance to hear world-class artists talk about their work.
- 7.4) Once more, they collaborate with and often gain modest financial or in-kind support from cultural institutes and embassies. For example, in 2018, they presented French authors and illustrators at L'Institut Francais in London.

8.0) Music

- 8.1) Music cultural education opportunities help the development of emerging talent.
- 8.2) Performances Birmingham Limited (covering Symphony Hall and Town Hall both Arts Council funded) is in the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).
- 8.3) Involvement has enabled talent pipelines to be utilised for emerging classical performers across a range of instruments and countries. Each hall nominates a 'rising star', who is paid to tour other European ECHO halls and share in associated education programmes in that place.

9.0) Summary

- 9.1) Arts Council England is proud to support organisations, across arts forms that contribute to the UK's strong international presence.
- 9.2) These organisations make a significant economic contribution to the national economy as well as their respective local economies.
- 9.3) The relationships that these organisations have are invaluable as best practice is shared through their collaboration.
- 9.4) A number of these collaborations focus on cultural education. These partnerships focus on early years, children, young people and adults. These make a positive contribution to the learning of the participant and creates cultural education opportunities and experiences at home and abroad.

- 9.5) In instances these partnerships and collaborations also help grow talent pipelines in the UK by using skills and experiences from overseas.
- 9.6) These relationships enhance the reputation of the UK around the world and showcase the quality of the UK's arts and culture offering, as well as its cultural education offering.