

ANNUAL SURVEY OF REVENUE FUNDED ORGANISATIONS



Llangollen International Music Festival (photo: Lluniau Llwyfan)

Key Statistics: April 2005 to March 2006



CEFNOGI CREADIGRWYDD
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THE ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES
SUPPORTING CREATIVITY

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Executive Summary

Introduction and Background

This report presents the findings of the Annual Survey of Revenue Funded Organisations (RFOs) for the financial year April 2005 to March 2006. It has been produced from information provided by those arts organisations who are regularly funded by the Arts Council of Wales (ACW). Therefore it is important to note that the findings presented within this report are dependent on the accuracy of the information supplied to ACW from the RFOs taking part.

Out of a potential 121 organisations, 119 returned a survey during 2005-06, giving an overall response rate of 98%, (please note the Wales Millennium Centre is not required to complete this survey). This high response rate can be partly attributed to the fact that the survey is a condition of grant.

The findings from this survey demonstrate the high level of activity generated by investment in RFOs through Welsh Assembly funding and the invaluable contribution which revenue funded organisations make to the Arts in Wales.

Key Findings for 2005-06

- 4.4 million attendances were made to exhibitions, film screenings and performances by touring companies and at public venues.
- Nearly 2.5 million attendances were made to participatory activities with nearly 750,000 of these made to activities specifically targeted at children and young people
- 250 productions were in performance by performing/touring companies, generating just over 3,000 performances and receiving around 530,000 attendances.
- 10,300 productions were in performance at venues throughout Wales, resulting in 13,700 performances and generating just over 2.2 million attendances
- Musical events at presenting venues had the highest number of productions, performances and attendances of all the artforms and were also the most popular open access participatory activity.
- Just over 40,000 members and 970,000 non members benefited from the services provided by RFOs to the arts sector
- Nearly 6,500 people were employed within revenue funded organisations

With over 4 million attendances at arts events and over 2 million attendances to participatory activities in Wales in 2005-6 the RFOs have a huge impact on the arts, providing opportunities to attend performances, take part in a wide range of artforms, provide support and advice to arts organisations and generate employment.

There were nearly 750,000 attendances to participatory work with children and young people in Wales and the work specifically targeted at children and young people in schools has increased since 2004-05.

The number of projects targeted at young people outside the school setting has increased, but has fewer sessions and attendances which would indicate more focused work with smaller groups.

Revenue funded organisations provide many participatory projects which are open to all. During 2005-06 there were over 45,000 sessions run, with over 1.7 million attendances. Clearly there is a demand to take part in the arts as while there were fewer projects in 2005-06 than 2004-05, there were more sessions and more attendances.

Music had the highest number of productions, performances and attendances of all the artforms and was also the most popular open access participatory activity.

Dance remains one of the most popular participatory activities for children and young people with the highest attendances.

Visual art and craft exhibitions have experienced a slight increase between 2004-05 and 2005-06 with a strong emphasis on the representation of the work of Welsh artists.

Revenue funded performing/touring companies have a strong programme of work with the number of productions, performances and attendances increasing over the two years. While revenue funded venues have experienced a growth in the variety of productions being presented there has been a slight decrease in audiences.

As well as actually generating art that people can attend or take part in, revenue funded organisations provide a strong support service to the arts sector. This is demonstrated through their membership base which shows an increase of over 31,000 since 2004-05, showing evidence of a demand for their services.

Employment within revenue funded organisations has grown over the two years by nearly a quarter confirming that the arts are increasingly having an impact on the economy in Wales.

Summary of Findings - 2005- 06

Arts Events

Revenue funded organisations reported that in total 4.4 million attendances were made to exhibitions, film screenings and performances by touring companies and at public venues all run by revenue funded organisations during 2005-06.

Exhibitions

Over 550, exhibitions covering a wide range of visual media were held during 2005-06. These exhibitions drew in attendances of 1.4 million.

The exhibitions on show during the year represented the work of nearly 5,000 artists of which half were either trained or currently practising in Wales.

Exhibitions also supported the community with just over 10% of all exhibitions focusing on the work of local community artists.

Exhibitions on display at RFOs generated sales of around £290,000 through just over 1,600 items sold during the year.

Film Screenings

There were nearly 1,700 film titles screened by RFOs during 2005-06 of which around 400 were short films. These titles received over 6,000 screenings generating attendances of nearly 238,000.

Production Companies

It was reported that there were just over 250 productions in performance by performing/touring companies during 2005-06. There were a little over 3,000 performances of these productions resulting in 536,000 attendances.

The majority of attendances were to performances given by these companies in Wales, 75%, followed by England, 22%, Scotland 2%, those outside the U.K 1% and Northern Ireland, 0.2%

Theatre in Education companies produced just over 50 productions specifically for schools during the year giving nearly 2,000 performances of these productions. Overall, around 116,500 attendances were made to these performances.

Venues

Revenue funded venues around Wales reported presenting just over 10,300 productions giving nearly 13,700 performances. A total of just over 2.2 million attendances were made to these performances.

Music was the artform with the highest number of productions, performances and attendances at revenue funded venues during 2005-06. 48% of all attendances to performances at venues were for music.

Participation in Arts Activities

Overall, it was reported that nearly 2.5 million attendances were made to participatory activities run by revenue funded organisations. Nearly 750,000 of these attendances were made to activities specifically targeted at children and young people.

Just over 2,500 projects specifically targeted at children and young people were run - generating 36,000 sessions by RFOs in 2005-06.

Dance was the most frequently attended children and young peoples participatory activity with over 35% of all attendances.

There were just over 1,500 open access participatory projects run by RFOs during 2005-06, resulting in over 45,400 sessions and over 1.7 million attendances.

Music was the most popular open access participatory activity with the highest number of projects and attendances.

Print/Recordings/Broadcasts

Nearly 190 titles were in print during 2005-06 with just over 1,700 copies of these titles sold.

During 2005-06 revenue funded organisations reported there were around 300 film/video titles produced during the year. However, only half of those produced were completed and available for distribution or sale.

In total a little more than 300 sound recording titles were produced during 2005-06 and 6,200 were sold while nearly another 1,000 copies were distributed free of charge.

There were just over 900 broadcasts, during 2005-06 with 60% recorded and 40% live.

Services to the Arts Sector

In terms of membership services to the arts sector there were nearly 43,000 members registered with RFOs and just over 971,000 non members who had used their services.

During 2005-06 RFOs provided just 1,600 training and mentoring sessions delivered to 8,800 participants.

In total there were just over 170 artist residencies facilitated during 2005-06 and a little more than 130 public art projects.

Employment and Board of Management

Revenue funded organisations reported that almost 6,500 people were employed in RFOs during 2005-06 with over half of all employees being female, 57%, and 43% male.

Nearly 1,000 people gave their time voluntarily to sit on boards of management and share their expertise, 57% of which were men and 43% women.

Comparison of 2004-05 Findings with 2005-06

Arts Attendances

There was a slight increase in both the number of exhibitions on show at RFO galleries and the number of attendances since 2004-05. Exhibitions have increased by 3% and attendances to exhibitions by 8%

While the number of feature length film titles has decreased by 3% the number of short film titles has increased by 36%.

There was a reported increase in the overall number of productions in performance by performing/touring companies from the previous year by 58%. However, performances have increased only slightly by 5% and attendances by 14%

In terms of performances at revenue funded venues the number of productions in Wales has increased by just over 6,300 productions since 2004-05. There has also been an increase in performances of around a quarter. Despite this attendances have decreased by 26%

Dance and drama have experienced some of the biggest increases across the board at RFO venues in terms of productions, performances and attendances.

Print/Recordings/Broadcasts

The number of book titles in print has been reported to have risen from just over 130 in 2004-05 to nearly 190 in 2005-06, an increase of nearly 40%

The number of film/video titles produced has increased dramatically from around 40 to just over 300, however, sales of these titles have decreased as have the number distributed for free.

The number of sound recordings produced has reportedly decreased by around a 100, from just over 400 in 2004-05 to a little more than 300 in 2005-06. However, the number sold has increased massively from just over 150 in 2004-05 to over 6,000 in 2005-06.

The number of broadcasts by RFOs has risen over the two years from just over 580 in 2004-05 to nearly 850 in 2005-06.

Participatory Activities

Projects, sessions and attendances for activities specifically targeted at schools in Wales have all increased between 2004-05 and 2005-06. Projects increased by 2%, sessions by 14% and attendances by 3%

However, it has been reported that sessions and attendances for activities specifically focused on young people outside the school setting have declined. Despite projects increasing a little (3%) for these activities, sessions and attendances both decreased by around a quarter each.

Dance appears to be the most popular activity for children and young people in both years.

Youth Theatre, Music, Performance Arts and Dance have had a major increase over the two years. Projects have increased by around 160 and sessions by just over 5,100. Attendances also increased by just over 24,200.

There has been a big decrease of 31% in the number of open access participatory projects between 2004-05 and 2005-06. Despite this, sessions have actually increased by 44% and attendances by 1%

In both years music was reported as the most frequently attended participatory workshop with around 1.5 million attendances in both years.

Services to the Sector

The number of members registered with RFOs has increased by over 31,000 since 2004-05.

The number of events run for members decreased over the two years by around 15 events. Attendances to these events also decreased by 925.

Both artist residencies and public art projects have experienced slight decreases over the two years.

Employment and Board of Management

The number of people employed by the RFOs has increased by nearly a quarter between 2004-05 and 2005-06.

The number of members on boards of managements in RFOs has also risen over the two years from just over 850 in 2004-05 to around 970 in 2005-06.

Summary

Overall the findings from the 2005-06 annual survey show that revenue funded organisations in Wales present and create a wealth of opportunities for the public to get involved and take part in the arts in Wales.