

OUR NATIONAL PORTFOLIO, 2018-22

International Narrative



Since the 2012 Cultural Olympiad, the value of international collaboration and exchange, which promotes talent and helps maintain a world class cultural offer in England, has been more widely acknowledged.

In 2014/15, research found that 65 per cent of the Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisations had undertaken wide-ranging international activity, including UK artists' residencies abroad, hosting foreign artists' residencies, touring programmes and negotiating co-productions or taking UK artists abroad. This activity generated £34 million, with international income accounting for 7 per cent of turnover for National Portfolio Organisations.

International working makes the production of ambitious work through co-commissions possible; touring the world generates the income that allows many of our orchestras and choreographers to thrive and perform at home. There is a strong overseas market for English arts and culture.

As part of the 2015 investment process, the Arts Council committed £18 million of strategic funds to international work over three years.

From 2015, we have supported creative collaborations across borders for individual artists and organisations through the Artists International Development Fund, Ambition for Excellence, Reimagine India, International Showcasing, the Strategic Touring Fund, and a co-investment with Arts Council Korea.

Our annual survey for 2015/16 indicated that the 140 National Portfolio Organisations that reported on this area earned £57 million from international activity over the year. A further 50 organisations reported a total of £10 million inward investment from abroad while 90 organisations reported international touring activity, predominantly within Europe, with North America and Asia being the next most toured regions.

Reimagine India and International Showcasing attracted a high number of successful applications from diverse organisations.

Investment in showcasing has resulted in high profile English presentations at South by South West in Austin, Texas (Art and Tech innovators convened by British Underground), in Venice (the Diaspora Pavillion at the 2017 Biennale, hosted by the International Curators Forum) and Dusseldorf (British Contemporary Dance presented by Nottingham's Dance 4 at Tanzmesse, the key global dance marketplace, in partnership with the GREAT campaign).

In their applications for the National Portfolio 2018-22, there was a clear increase in organisations that talked about international activity being essential to their plans for the development of artists, new audiences and income streams as well as how they might bring the best work from overseas to audiences in England.

In 2018-22 international collaboration, with and beyond Europe, looks set to increase. Our continuing investment in international collaboration and artistic exchange includes funding for: International Curators Forum (visual arts London); Culture Squared CIC (Bradford Literature Festival, literature, Yorkshire); 1927 (theatre, South East); NTS Live (music, London); Without Walls (combined arts, North); and Wise Children (theatre, South West). The new £9 million annual investment in The Factory will generate an exciting array of international programming through the Manchester International Festival.

There are a number of uplifts in funding for international activity. These include: Motionhouse (dance, Midlands); Jazz Refreshed (music, London); and Kneehigh (theatre, South West).

Many of these new investments extend, consolidate and bring into the mainstream work that was initiated by strategic funding investment from 2015 to the present. We have awarded uplifts in funding specifically for international market development to Dance 4 and Farnham Maltings.

The Arts Council will work with international partner funders in Europe and beyond, as well as with the British Council, Department of International Trade and the GREAT campaign to attract investment for international activity, championing excellence across borders and opening new international markets for the best of English arts and culture.

MORE INFORMATION:
[artscouncil.org.uk/npo](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/npo)

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