



Data report: Arts Council-funded cultural infrastructure

June 2020

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The following data report comprises of analysis by the Arts Council Policy team of a survey of our regularly funded organisations, using experimental high streets data from Ordnance Survey and Points of Interest data supplied by Landmark Information Group Limited.

When referring to all Arts Council-funded organisations this data refers to National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), including Sector Support Organisations (SSOs), Music Education Hubs (MEHs) and the spaces used by Creative People and Places (CPP) projects. The data set out below is indicative of all cultural buildings used by Arts Council-funded organisations in England, based on sample information collected through surveys.

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1. Location of Arts Council-funded cultural infrastructure

a. Areas of deprivation

- 33% of the buildings used by all Arts Council-funded organisations (NPOs, MEHs, SSOs and CPPs) are in the top 20% most deprived areas in England.
- 32% of the spaces used by CPP projects alone are in the top 10% most deprived areas in England.
- 21% of buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are in the top 20% most employment deprived urban areas.
- 55% of spaces used by CPPs are in the top 20% most employment deprived urban areas.
- 34% of buildings used by all Arts Council-funded organisations are in the top 20% most health deprived areas in England.
- 57% of the spaces used by CPP projects alone are in the top 20% more health deprived areas in England.

b. High streets

The following data was conducted using experimental high street data from Ordnance Survey (OS).

OS definition of a high street:

“a minimum of 15 retail address point geometries in a cluster, and a maximum of 150 metres between the geometries in the cluster.”

1. Number of high streets in England: 6,136
2. Number of high streets in England by region:
 - London: 1,204
 - South East: 915
 - North West: 866
 - Yorkshire and the Humber: 640
 - West Midlands: 604
 - South West: 591
 - East of England: 547
 - East Midlands: 493
 - North East: 276
3. Number of buildings on high streets in England: 404,745
 - a. 66 buildings per high street in England on average
 - b. Total building footprint area to nearest square metre, for all high streets in England: 1,969,023 sqm
4. A breakdown of address types on high streets in England, which have been mapped to MHCLG land use categories (total: 908,689):
 - a. Retail address count: 279,471
 - b. Office address count: 99,154
 - c. Community address count: 18,418
 - d. Leisure and recreational address count: 2,610
 - e. Residential address count: 509,036

5. Location of buildings used by Arts Council-funded organisations on high streets in England:
- 75% of buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are either on, or within a 5-minute walk, or 500m of a high street in England
 - 90% of buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are either on or within a 15-minute walk, or 1500m of a high street in England
 - 33% of buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are located on high streets in England
6. NPO and MEH breakdown by discipline:
- 49% of **visual arts** buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are located on high streets in England and 86% are within a 5-minute walk, or 500m of a high street.
 - 39% of **theatres** used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are located on high streets in England and 82% are within a 5-minute walk, or 500m of a high street.
 - 11% of **museums** used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs are located on high streets in England and 38% are within a 5-minute walk, or 500m of a high street.
7. Location of CPP buildings on high streets in England:
- 24% of buildings used by CPPs are located on high streets in England
 - 64% of buildings used by CPPs are either on or within a 5-minute walk, or 500m of a high street in England.

c. Other points of interest

1. Using Landmark's (UK-wide) Points of Interest data, we found:
- 30% of schools (primary and secondary) and academies are within a 15-minute walk of a cultural building used by an Arts Council-funded organisation (NPOs, SSOs and MEHs).
 - 40% of all UK museums and craft centres are within a 5-minute walk of a cultural building used by Arts Council-funded organisation (NPOs, SSOs and MEHs).

Using Ordnance Survey's AddressBase data (which provides a listing of addressable and non-addressable buildings) we have analysed addresses that fall within a walkable distance of Arts Council-funded organisations.

The total number of residential addresses in England as of the latest AddressBase data (June 2020) is 25,718,902.

2. Using Arts Council-funded theatres as an example, we found:
- 11.3% of all residential addresses in England are within a 15-minute walk of an Arts Council-funded theatre.
 - Based on 2019 ONS data, the average UK household size is 2.3 people, suggesting that over 6.7 million people in England live within a 15-minute walk of an Arts Council-funded theatre, which equates to 12% of the population in England.

3. Expanding the analysis to cover all buildings used by Arts Council-funded organisations (NPOs, SSOs, MEHs and CPPs), we found:

- 34% of all English residential addresses are within a 15-minute walk of all buildings used by Arts Council-funded organisations.
- Approx. 19.9m people living in England are within a reasonable walking/cycling distance to a cultural building used by an Arts Council-funded organisation, which equates to 36% of the population in England.

2. Additional facilities offered by Arts Council-funded cultural infrastructure

Many Arts Council-funded buildings offer a number of facilities to the public beyond their artistic activities, in some cases these facilities fall in rural areas and therefore provide amenities to an otherwise sparsely provided-for area.

- 22% of buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs have either a café, bar or bookshop or a combination of all three.
- 35% of buildings used by NPOs, SSOs and MEHs also have public toilet facilities and/or education facilities onsite.

1. Comparative statistics showing examples of some of the facilities provided by Arts Council-funded organisations in comparison to other well-known brands, or types of space:

- **Cafés** – NPOs have c. 500 cafés across England, this equates to 95% of the number of Pret A Mangers (530) in the UK.
- **Bars** – NPOs have c. 402 bars across England, which equates to over 50% of Wetherspoons pubs in England (745).
- **Bookshops** – NPOs have c. 140 bookshops across England, this equates to nearly 60% of all Waterstones bookshops in England (237).

- **Cinemas** – 258 NPOs have a cinema or screening space. This equates to more cinemas than Odeon (120) and Cineworld (124) have in the UK and Ireland combined. Arts Council's regularly funded organisations make up over a third of the cinemas in the UK (775), therefore NPOs would be the largest cinema chain in the country.
- **Education/learning space** – 476 NPOs have education or learning spaces. This equates to more than the number of medium and large towns in all of England and Wales (438).
- **Restaurants** – 202 restaurants are within NPOs, this equates nearly 150% of Wagamama's (138) and 60% of Nando's (340) in all of the UK.
- **Public toilets** – 556 NPOs have public toilets, this equates to 12% of toilets run by major councils in the whole of the UK (4,486).

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