



IFACCA

**International Federation
of Arts Councils
and Culture Agencies**

BRIEFING NOTE: NATIONAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19

6 April 2020

BACKGROUND

Since January 2020, the spread of COVID-19 has affected Members of the Federation in their work to support the arts and culture sector through investment, promotion and policy in their countries. Sharing global knowledge on the development of arts and cultural policies is at the core of the Federation's work and this Briefing Note is intended to provide National Members of the Federation with an overview of measures and policies put in place by national public agencies in response to the COVID-19 crisis. It focusses on the actions of National Member institutions to date (6 April 2020), so that members can identify peers within the Federation that may be able to offer insight and advice. It does not include whole-of-government stimulus packages, except for where they include dedicated funding for arts and culture; but it does include examples of how public agencies have interpreted whole-of-government support from a sector perspective. Where relevant, it also includes measures from Affiliate Members that have a national remit, as well as notable examples from non-member agencies. We will continue to monitor and share further examples as members make more information available to the Secretariat and the public. Given the focus on financial responses, the Briefing Note includes standard currency conversion into Euros for figures provided; these figures are approximate and current at the time of publication.

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REDIRECTED AND NEW FUNDS

- AUSTRALIA** The Australia Council for the Arts has released its first [Response Package](#) which repurposes all available uncommitted funds from this financial year (ending 30 June 2020) and will redirect approximately \$5 million (€2.8 million) to new programmes designed to provide immediate relief to artists, arts workers and arts organisations to support their livelihoods, practice and operations.
- CHILE** The Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, Chile has [redirected investment from existing programmes and initiatives to allocate CLP\\$15 billion](#) (€16.2 million) to support copyright payments, to promote cultural content, and protect affected cultural spaces and organisations.
- COLOMBIA** The Government of Colombia has [committed COP\\$120 billion \(€26.8 million\)](#) for the Ministry of Culture to support the arts and culture sector. It has secured a relief fund of COP\$80 billion (€17.8 million) to support senior artists and cultural workers as seen as the most affected by the health crisis, amongst other measures.
- ENGLAND** Arts Council England has announced a £160 million (€178.7 million) [emergency response package](#) to support individuals and organisations across the cultural sector, which includes £90 million (€100 million) National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs); £50 million (€55.9 million) for organisations outside of the National Portfolio; and £20 million (€22.4 million) for creative practitioners and cultural workers. This funding has come from reallocation of National Lottery Project Grants, Developing Your Creative Practice and our Development Funds for the 2020-21 period, and uses up almost all of its reserves.
- ESTONIA** On 2 April, a [supplementary budget was submitted to the Estonian parliament that seeks to secure €25 million for the fields of culture and sports](#). The proposed package is divided into two parts, which includes:
- €5.2 million for subsistence support for people active in the field of culture and sports; additional support for freelance creative people beyond the already valid Creative Persons and Creative Associations Act; and support for youth trainers at professional levels 3 and 4 (€ 400,000) and mentors for groups participating in the song and dance festival process (€ 600,000);
 - €19.8 million for partial compensation of costs resulting from missed events in the field of culture and sport and the disruption of the activities of organisations, including museums, theatres, the music industry, as well as state-related organisations.
- Parliament is currently considering the budget and the Ministry of Culture will release information about the decided budget; a detailed breakdown; conditions of distribution; and precise measures soon.
- GERMANY** The Minister of State for Culture has worked with the Minister of Economic Affairs, Finance and Labour and government to develop a [rescue package for the cultural, creative and media sector](#) worth €50 billion. The package is intended to respond to the specific living and working conditions of those working in the sector. This include helping small companies with operational security, securing personal living conditions and alleviating hardship through

individual legal measures. The package includes emergency grants to support immediate operating costs, as well as loans for business premises or leasing instalments, with an emergency aid for self-employed and small businesses totalling up to 50 billion euros paid. These are not redirected funds.

- LUXEMBOURG** The Government of Luxembourg has released a [framework for stabilising the economy](#) with nine objectives, one of which is specific to the sustainability of the arts and cultural sector. In view of the widespread cancellation of events due to the COVID-19 epidemic, and the precarious situation that this can create, particularly for independent professional artists and intermittent performers, the government is doing everything possible to rescue the cultural sector. Announcements on how are yet to be made public.
- N.IRELAND** The Communities Minister of Northern Ireland has [announced an initial package dispersed to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland worth £1 million](#) (€1.1 million), to support artists, performers and creative producers across the arts and creative sector.
- NEW ZEALAND** Creative New Zealand has announced the first phase of its developing Emergency Response Package, which includes a \$16 million (€8.7 million) investment comprising NZ\$4.5 million of new money (€2.5 million), plus NZ\$11.5 million (€6.25 million) repurposed from other programmes.
- NORWAY** Arts Council Norway will manage a [compensation scheme for the cultural sector](#), with approximately NOK 300 million (€25.7 million) allocated by the Ministry of Culture to address the loss of revenue from ticket sales and participation fees, as well as additional expenses as a result of events having to be cancelled or postponed. The Ministry is currently drafting regulations. In addition, the Arts Council has allocated NOK 30 million (€2.6 million) of its existing funds for a separate grant scheme for affected art and cultural projects, including projects that have already been completed.
- On 3 April, [Arts Council Norway published further details](#) on the compensation scheme, including criteria, and announced that it will draw up specific guidelines for the scheme and establish an application form based on regulations from the Ministry of Culture, which will be open on 14 April and be open for two weeks.
- SINGAPORE** The National Arts Council of Singapore is distributing S\$1.6 million (€1 million) allocated by the Ministry of Culture Community and Youth (MCCY). On 26 March, the government announced that the arts and culture sector will receive an additional [support package of S\\$55 million](#) (€34.6 million) intended to save jobs and support upskilling and digitalisation of the sector.
- SWEDEN** The Swedish government has [allocated SEK 500 million](#) (€45 million) in urgent support to the cultural sector to support organisers, associations and individual cultural creators who have been directly affected by cancelled performances and assignments. The Swedish Arts Council will soon announce its role in distributing these new funds.
- On 1 April, [Konstnärsnämnden-The Swedish Arts Grants Committee announced that it will redistribute funds to provide emergency support](#) for artists, including via 100 additional work grants. The funds are separate to the government's support package for the cultural sector.

- SWITZERLAND** Pro Helvetia - Swiss Arts Council has worked with the Federal Office of Culture and other government departments to advise the Federal Council on its package of emergency measures, which includes CHF 280 million (€264.4 million) in emergency aid and loss compensation for the cultural sector. The funding is intended to prevent permanent damage to the Swiss cultural landscape and preserve Switzerland's cultural diversity; and cushion the economic effect on the sector from cancelled events.
- USA** The National Endowment for the Arts will distribute US\$75 million (€67.4 million) in funding provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These funds have been allocated in recognition that the arts contribute US\$877 billion (€790.6 billion) to the national economy and is the source of 5.1 million American jobs. The Arts Endowment will award funds to non-profit arts organisations across the country to help these entities survive the forced closure of their operations.
- URUGUAY** On 3 April, the Ministry of Education and Culture announced the creation of the Ruben Melongo Solidarity Cultural Fund worth UYP \$37 million (€780,000), which will be used to buy productions that will later be presented to educational centres and social organisations, among other initiatives. Artistic institutions and schools will also be supported, and teaching activities will be contracted through the online platform culturaencasa.uy.
- WALES** On 1 April, Cygnor Celfyddydau Cymru - Arts Council of Wales announced the launch of a €7 million Resilience Fund (€7.95 million) joint-financed by the Welsh Government and Arts Council of Wales, which will be managed by the Arts Council of Wales.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS

- ARGENTINA** The Ministry of Culture of the Nation, Argentina has allocated ARS\$30 million (€420,000) in emergency funds for cultural centres. It has also made emergency increases in investment for programmes that strengthen community organisations and groups; literature programmes; as well as the National Arts Fund, which supports scholarships, competitions, subsidies and loans. It will also allocate ARS\$7.2 million (€100,400) to employ artists to develop content that it will transmit via its digital platforms.
- On 3 April, the Ministry of Culture of the Nation promoted a call from the National Institute of Music for its programme to support musicians that do not qualify for the Emergency Family Income implemented by the National Government, which will offer 1,200 grants of AR\$10,000 (€145).
- AUSTRALIA** On 31 March, The Australia Council for the Arts announced the launch of its Resilience Fund, through which it will issue approximately \$5 million (€2.78 million) in redirected funds. The Resilience Fund was developed with sector input, offers quick response opportunities, and includes three streams:

- *Survive*, which offers small grants for individuals, groups and organisations to offset or recoup financial losses due to cancelled activity
- *Adapt*, which provide grants for individuals, groups and organisations to adapt their practice and explore new operating models
- *Create*, which provides grants for individuals, groups and organisations to continue to create artistic work and develop creative responses in a time of disruption.

CANADA On 30 March, the Canada Council for the Arts announced that it will provide approximately \$60 million (€39 million) in advance funding (the equivalent of 35 percent of annual grants held by over 1,100 core funded organisations) to help core funded organisations meet their immediate commitments, help ensure cash flow and address outstanding payments to the artists and cultural workers they employ.

CROATIA On 1 April, the Ministry of Culture, Croatia announced that it will provide emergency aid payments of HRK 1,625 (€195) or HRK 3,255 (€389) net per month to freelance artists whose contributions are paid from the budget of the Republic of Croatia and who can prove that due to special circumstances conditioned by the coronavirus they have been prevented or significantly impeded from performing artistic activities. The grant will apply from 15 March–15 June, and will be subject to monthly review.

DENMARK On Friday 27 March, the Ministry for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs announced that it will lower the threshold for aid through its compensation scheme for the self-employed, freelancers and artists to DKK 10,000 (€1,340) to broaden support for these workers.

ENGLAND On 24 March, Arts Council England announced that it has allocated £90 million (€100 million) in emergency funds for its National Portfolio Organisations; it is being flexible in how NPOs can use these funds; and will expect NPOs to demonstrate support for freelance creative practitioners. It will make available £50 million (€55.9 million) to organisations that are not NPOs to support the resilience of their businesses and support public facing activities during the COVID-19 emergency. It will also make available £20 million (€22.4 million) to individuals working in the cultural sector, including artists, creative practitioners and freelancers. Artists and creative practitioners will be able to apply for grants of up to £2,500 if they have a track record in publicly funded culture. It is also looking to provide £4 million (€4.5 million) from this £20 million budget for grants to benevolent funds targeted at other cultural workers.

On 31 March, Arts Council England launched two new funds to support individuals and independent cultural organisations. These funds will be delivered via two rounds in April and the budget will be split evenly across both rounds. It also announced that it will contribute £4 million (€4.5 million) of its emergency funds to benevolent funds that will be administered by other organisations.

FINLAND Arts Promotion Centre Finland has announced that it will distribute approximately €1.5 million in initial emergency aid to the arts and culture sector. The emergency fund comprises contributions from public and private actors including the Ministry of Education and Culture (€500,000), the Arts Promotion Centre (€100,000), the Finnish Cultural Foundation (€500,000), as well as the Jane and the Aatos Erko Foundation, the Saastamoinen Foundation, the Svenska

Cultural Foundation, and the Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation (€100,000 each). The support is targeted primarily at short-term grants to freelance artists whose work has been materially affected by the crisis.

- FRANCE** Ministry of Culture presented its [first action plan in favour of artist-authors](#) whose economic situation has been directly affected by the pandemic and the measures taken to limit its spread. The approach is to ensure that whole-of-government measures in place are specific to ensure that artist and authors that meet the criteria receive economic support through: mobilisation in favour of artist-authors of the support systems put in place by the Government in the context of the state of health emergency; and implementation of sectoral, complementary and subsidiary measures to guarantee that all artist-authors find an answer adapted to their situation.
- IRELAND** On 3 April, Arts Council of Ireland - An Chomhairle Ealaíon announced a €1 million fund to enable artists to make new and original art during the COVID-19 crisis. [The Arts Council COVID-19 Crisis Response Award](#), is designed to support the creation of new artistic work and its dissemination online for the public benefit.
- KOREA (Rep of)** Since February, [Arts Council Korea \(ARKO\)](#) has announced a series of measures to advise and support the arts and culture sector in relation to the health crisis. On 9 March, it released an Emergency Support fund for victims of COVID-19 that includes dedicated arts loans.
- LITHUANIA** On 31 March, the Lithuanian Council for Culture announced [new funding measures](#) for individual creators and non-governmental sector organisations. These measures include €600,000 for individual three-month scholarships for cultural or artistic creators; dedicated funding opportunities worth €1.2 million for cultural NGOs to adapt and / or digitise content; and more than €700,000 to compensate cultural workers.
- MALTA** On 2 April, Arts Council Malta launched a [Special Call for applications](#) for funding to support projects to address the affects of the crisis on the sector. The fund is open to artistic development and production; community-based initiatives; cultural and creative sector support; training or education development; international exchange and collaboration; and artistic research. Applicants are encouraged, but not obliged, to tackle themes such as Borders, Confinement or Isolation; and to adopt New Media and Digital Technologies in order to implement their projects.
- MEXICO** The Secretary of Culture, Mexico has [initiated a National Agreement](#) with secretaries and heads of culture throughout the country to continue support for culture and allocate up to MXN\$1million (€38,000) of the resources of the Support to State Institutions of Culture (AIEC) for artists and local creators totalling MXN\$32.0 million (€1.2 million) nationwide. It has also opened a call for applications to the programmes *Life to the cultural infrastructure* which will offer up to MXN\$200,000 (€7,606) for cultural programming and up to MXN \$1 million (€38,000) for the rehabilitation or equipment of buildings dedicated to cultural activities; and *Strengthening of the cultural infrastructure*, which will offer up to MXN\$5 million (€190,000) for financing cultural construction projects and equipping buildings dedicated to cultural activities. It has also [opened calls for its programme *With you in the distance: Art Movement at Home*](#) which offers successful applicants MXN\$20,000 (€760) in exchange for contents created

with specialised programs for video and audio editing; or produced with mobile applications for social networks such as Instagram and Tik Tok.

NEW ZEALAND Creative New Zealand has allocated NZ\$16 million (€8.9 million) to its [Emergency Response Package](#). Its initial investment of NZ\$4.5 million (€2.5 million) will provide support to its existing investment clients; as well as resilience grants for artists, arts practitioners, arts groups and arts organisations which are open to eligible, non-investment clients. These include an *Arts Continuity Grant* (up to NZ\$50,000), supporting the creation of new work or the reframing of an existing project in light of COVID-19, including creative and professional development, promotion and distribution; and an *Emergency Relief Grant* (up to NZ\$10,000 per individual), for eligible artists and arts practitioners, collectives and groups who we know may be experiencing devastating loss of income and opportunity and an uncertain future, and who have applied for the announced government support. It plans quick turnaround for applications and rolling weekly decisions, but it will monitor its commitment and the rapidly changing environment.

PARAGUAY On 3 April, the Minister of Culture has announced a number of [emergency measures in response to feedback from the sector](#), including \$1 billion (€141,400) for the Culture Funds for Citizen Projects which will be managed by the National Secretary of Culture.

SCOTLAND Creative Scotland has launched three funding programmes: a £2 million (€2.2 million) Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund to help sustain creative practice by freelance creative professionals who have lost earnings due to the cancellation of work; a parallel £1.5 million (€1.7 million) Screen Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund to provide similar one-off bursary support to self-employed screen sector workers; and a £7.5 million (€8.9 million) Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development to provide support for individuals and organisations to sustain their creative development in the coming months, which will support up to 12 months of activity with a maximum award of £50,000 (€56,000).

SINGAPORE The National Arts Council of Singapore is distributing S\$1.6 million (€1 million) allocated by the Ministry of Culture Community and Youth (MCCY) through two new initiatives. The first is a Capability Development Scheme for the Arts (CDSA) which is open to arts organisations and individuals to encourage upskilling and grow organisational capabilities, including NAC's Major Companies and Seed Grant Companies (MCSG); Non-MCSG arts organisations and companies either registered with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) or with the Registry of Societies (ROS); and Arts Self-Employed Persons (SEP) and sole proprietors who are Singapore Citizens or Permanent Residents that reside in Singapore and work in the local arts scene. The second is a 30 percent subsidy for venue rental and associated costs for arts and culture activities, including productions, workshops and masterclasses taking place from 7 March to 30 June 2020. [Read more](#)

On 26 March, the government announced that the arts and cultures sector will receive an additional [support package of S\\$55 million](#) (€34.8 million) intended to save jobs and support upskilling and digitalisation of the sector, with three areas identified:

- support for major companies and leading arts groups, to help them safeguard jobs and retain capabilities in the local arts ecosystem

- enhance the National Arts Council's Capability Development scheme for the Arts to deepen skills and support the professional development of arts organisations and practitioners
- step up digitalisation efforts to build the sector's digital capabilities and establish more digital arts platforms to reach audiences.

SOUTH AFRICA On 29 March, the [Department of Sport, Arts and Culture](#) released information on R150 million (€7.3 million) towards assisting artists, athletes, technical personnel and the core ecosystem that supports them, to soften the economic impact of the crisis.

SWITZERLAND Pro Helvetia - Swiss Arts Council has worked with the Federal Office of Culture and other government departments to advise the Federal Council on its package of emergency measures, which includes CHF 280 million (€264.4 million) in emergency aid and loss compensation for the cultural sector. Measures include emergency aid to cultural companies and creative professionals; repayable interest-free loans to ensure non-profit-making cultural companies can maintain liquidity; and non-repayable emergency aid for culture professionals to claim cover for immediate living costs, provided that this is not insured by the new compensation for loss of earnings based on the income replacement regulations. The process is being carried out via the cantons (cultural companies) or via Suisseculture Sociale (creative artists). Cultural companies and creative artists can request compensation from the cantons for the financial damage associated with the cancellation or postponement of events or the closure of companies, with default compensation covering a maximum of 80 percent of the financial loss. The Confederation bears half of the costs that the cantons award. And associations in the fields of music and theatre can be supported with a financial contribution for the financial damage associated with the cancellation or postponement of events. [Read more](#)

TUNISIA The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has announced a [Culture Recovery Fund](#) to support artists, cultural institutions, workers and businesses across the cultural and creative industries. The Fund is a central source of funding consisting of mixed endowments from the private and public sectors, which will be managed by two committees: a Reflection and Steering Committee comprising representatives of various donors and civil society, chaired by the Minister of Cultural Affairs, which will direct strategy and distribute funding; and an Executive and Monitoring Committee chaired by a Director General from the Ministry, his team and professional sectoral executive sub-committees distributed in the institutions of the Ministry according to their specialties.

WALES On 1 April, Cygnor Celfyddydau Cymru - Arts Council of Wales announced the launch of a [£7 million Resilience Fund](#) (€7.95 million) joint-financed by the Welsh Government and Arts Council of Wales, which will be managed by the Arts Council of Wales. The Arts Resilience Fund will be open to individuals and organisations and is intended to complement existing funding packages announced by the UK and Welsh Governments. The Arts Council of Wales will publish further details on Tuesday 7 April.

NEW LEGISLATION

PARAGUAY The National Secretary of Culture, Paraguay is developing a [National Plan for Containment and Recovery of the Cultural Sector](#) within the framework of Law No. 6524/2020 – "which declares a State of Emergency throughout the territory of the Republic of Paraguay before the pandemic declared by the World Health Organization due to the COVID-19 or Coronavirus and administrative, fiscal and financial measures are established" – with the aim of accessing financial emergency funds that allow the development of policies of cultural impact at the highest national level.

INTERPRETING WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT MEASURES

AUSTRALIA The Office for the Arts within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications details a [list of government support measures that apply to the cultural and creative sector](#) such as employment schemes, tax concessions, rebates and exemptions, and loans for small to medium businesses.

CANADA The Canada Council for the Arts has a dedicated section on its website to [inform and explain government support measures](#) and how the arts and culture sector can access resources such as Emergency Care and Support Benefits, Emergency Loan Program for Canadians Abroad, Access to Employment Insurance and other support for personal finances.

COOK ISLANDS The Ministry of Cultural Development has communicated to the cultural sector the eligible government support measures in place for tax, businesses, and income support.

CROATIA The government of Croatia has established an official website with all related information, updates and government measures. Each portfolio under the measures has a dedicated section including [measures for culture](#).

DENMARK The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces has outlined [government measures that apply to the arts and cultural sector](#) including bailouts and compensation for individuals and organisations in the workforce, compensation for cancelled events in March 2020, and tax extensions.

ENGLAND Arts Council England provides guidance on [support for organisations from Government and other sources](#) such as business support, tax relief specific to cultural organisations, international trade guidance, support for employers, premises and insurance, as well as other non-government support for business. It also contextualises how National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) may draw and be eligible to the measures and sources in place.

ESTONIA In addition to its own initiatives, the Ministry of Culture has a [frequently asked questions section on its site that explains other government support measures](#), such as social tax cancellations for the self-employed and unemployment insurance.

- IRELAND** Arts Council of Ireland - An Chomhairle Ealaíon has prepared a detailed guide for the arts and culture sector on accessing COVID-19 government supports for [employer and employee guidance available to download as a pdf](#).
- NETHERLANDS** DutchCulture shares information on the [effects of COVID-19 on the cultural sector in the Netherlands and the available measures for financial support](#). It covers information for self-employed people working in arts and culture; on grants and funding; for organisations in arts and culture with employees; and on residence permits.
- NORWAY** Arts Council Norway provides an [overview of measures](#) that the authorities and other actors have taken, including national measures and those aimed at cultural life, as well as municipal and regional measures.
- SWITZERLAND** Pro Helvetia has an Info hub that includes federal government measures such as emergency aid. It [links to the Federal Office of Culture \(FOC\)](#) where detailed explanatory information is made available for the cultural sector under the various government support measures.

SERVICE DISRUPTIONS AND OPERATIONAL CHANGES

- AUSTRALIA** The Australia Council for the Arts has suspended investment programmes that were open or due to open, in order to concentrate on responding to the crisis faced by artists and arts organisations and sustaining the sector in the immediate and short term.
- CANADA** The [Canada Council for the Arts](#) has initiated a blackout period that will continue until further notice. During this period, it will work with the Ministry of Canadian Heritage and the federal government on practical and immediate measures to help the arts and culture sector. It has also extended deadlines, suspended funding for public events and will allow grantees to postpone events.
- CHILE** The Ministry of Cultures, the Arts and Heritage of Chile has announced it will close its Culture Fund division [for three months](#) - with the possibility of subsequent re-evaluation - of their calls for applications to their quick response fund that support the national and international circulation of artists and their works. The objective is to safeguard the safety of representatives of the artistic and cultural sector circulating in the country and internationally. This measure will reallocate remaining public funds to new funding mechanisms that support the digital circulation of content, which will be announced soon.
- CROATIA** On 31 March, the Ministry of Culture, Croatia announced that it will [postpone its programmes](#) of public needs in culture and the conditions of payment of funds for approved programmes in special circumstances, in order to provide emergency to freelance artists, part-time artists and those without permanent sources of income. It also announced that it will suspend for six months its review on the status of independent artists.
- ENGLAND** Arts Council England has delayed the publication of its Delivery Plan element of its new strategy until later in the year and has communicated that its ambitions for the strategy will be reviewed in the coming months. It has also suspended its National Lottery Project Grants, Developing

Your Creative Practice and Grassroots Music funding programmes. While new applications and those that have not been decided will not be considered at present.

- ESTONIA** The Estonian Ministry of Culture and its subsidiary bodies have temporarily suspended open application rounds, until one month after the emergency period has ended (currently due to end 1 May 2020); and will allow applicants to rounds that have closed to modify, withdraw or deliver.
- LITHUANIA** On 31 March, the Lithuanian Council for Culture announced that in order to support emergency measures, it will cancel programmes including International and Interinstitutional Cooperation , Networking , Creative Community Initiatives , Art for Human Welfare , Visiting and / or Managing Places of Exile and Burial , Cultural Education and Children and Youth Culture.
- SOUTH AFRICA** The National Arts Council of South Africa has suspended funding due to a national 21-day lockdown, from Thursday 26 March. It is encouraging applicants to submit applications as scheduled so that funding activities can resume as quickly possible.
- WALES** Cygnor Celfyddydau Cymru - Arts Council of Wales has announced that it will not accept new applications to funding programmes for the next three months; and will keep the situation under review over the coming weeks and announce any changes to its approach in due course. It has also postponed for one year its five-yearly Investment Review, the process for which was scheduled to take place during 2020, in the interest of focussing sector efforts on the immediate crisis and ensuring the process is viable and fair.

REVISED CONDITIONS FOR EXISTING SUPPORT & REPORTING

- AUSTRALIA** The Australia Council for the Arts is adopting a flexible approach for existing supported organisations and individuals. It will remove requirements on meeting audience KPIs; bring forward payments; delay or simplify reporting requirements; vary the purposes and outcomes of funding; extend timelines for projects; and allow organisations to use money provided to be repurposed to pay essential bills such as wages, rent or utilities.
- CANADA** The Canada Council for the Arts has suspended funding for projects that rely on domestic and international travel for a four-month period to limit sector and public exposure to the virus. It will allow applicants to withdraw applications for activities that would no longer be eligible so that they will not count against an applicant's annual application limits. Successful applicants whose existing grants include funding for travel; public events that must now be cancelled; or that unspent funds may retain funding and apply them to other eligible expenses, on the basis that that their final grant reports detail the impact of COVID-19 on the funded activity and how the funds were used. The Canada Council has also relaxed its policy regarding the reimbursement of grants affected by COVID-19. Core funded organisations are not required to replace programmes, events and activities affected by changes related to COVID-19. However, they are required to address the effects of COVID-19 on their work and their response in annual

reporting. The Canada Council is also allowing flexibility in reporting deadlines. It has also relaxed penalties for reporting deadlines not being met.

- DENMARK** The Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces has [advanced the payment of its annual funding to libraries](#), at the request of the Ministry of Culture.
- ENGLAND** Arts Council England has relaxed funding conditions for up to six months for its NPOs and will advance grant payments to assist with cashflow where possible. It is also relaxing funding conditions for individuals and organisations that have received funding for projects affected by COVID-19.
- ESTONIA** The Estonian Ministry of Culture has announced plans to ease restrictions and broaden criteria who can apply for [support under the Creative Persons and Associations Act](#) (2004) which aims to support creative people who have lost income and guarantees a minimum wage and EHIF insurance for six months. The Ministry is working to increase the current funding available.
- GEORGIA** The [Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia](#) has extended the deadline for submissions to its Culture Promotion Program Framework to 30 April 2020 and will allow those that have already submitted to amend their applications to response to the current context.
- IRELAND** The [Arts Council of Ireland - An Chomhairle Ealaíon has announced](#) that will honour all existing funding commitments, and allow grantees to draw down 90 percent of their funding to allow them fulfil in turn their own business commitments, especially to artists. It will not impose any financial penalties for organisations/individuals that are unable to deliver key activities/key services arising from the impact of the COVID-19 virus. The Council has closed its Travel and Training Award until further notice, to contribute to public health measures at a time when most countries are restricting international mobility.
- LITHUANIA** The Lithuanian Council for Culture has confirmed that the proliferation of COVID-19 and related circumstances that have influenced the activities of institutions, organisations, and individuals [may be considered force majeure](#), which may be subject to review of contract performance obligations; as such it will not demand reimbursement of funds already used to carry out activities that have been cancelled or changed.
- MEXICO** The Secretary of Culture, Mexico has confirmed it will fulfil its contractual commitments with artists, regardless of the date on which their presentations are carried out.
- NEW ZEALAND** [Creative New Zealand has suspended](#) all funding programmes currently open, due to open or applications in process, in order to be flexible, responsive and responsible.
- N.IRELAND** The Arts Council of Northern Ireland announced that it will honour all grants already made in 2019/20; issue any remaining balance of payments for 2019/20 as a matter of urgency; work flexibly with on contracts for next year (2020/21) which may include advancing grant payment to assist with cashflow. In exchange, it is also asking funded arts organisations to continue as far as possible to honour agreed contracts with artists and freelancers.
- NORWAY** Arts Council Norway has announced that funding recipients will not have to return funds that have been used to plan events the scheme applies to cancelled activities due to take place

between 5 March to the end of April. This period may be extended. Applicants are still required to document expenses in financial acquittals and reports.

- SCOTLAND** Creative Scotland has announced that it will honour all funding awards already committed – regardless of whether the funded activity is cancelled, reduced or rescheduled. It has asked all recipients to honour contracts agreed with freelancers and artists and to think about what help they can offer their communities.
- SLOVAKIA** Slovak Arts Council has suspended programmes for activities that involve public events and revised guidelines for how funds can be spent for a set period. It has released a [detailed statement](#) on changes, flexibility and extensions to existing grants programmes.
- SWEDEN** The Swedish Arts Council has [extended grant application deadlines](#) for some current rounds in order to meet the changing needs of the sector.
- WALES** Cygnor Celfyddydau Cymru - Arts Council of Wales has relaxed its conditions of funding for Arts Portfolio Wales organisations for at least three months and may advance grant payments to support their cashflow. It will also honour all project funding awards already committed to cover costs, regardless of whether the funded activity has been cancelled, reduced or rescheduled. In exchange for its support, Arts Council Wales has asked recipients to honour contracts agreed with freelancers and artists and to think about what help they can offer to their communities.

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

- AUSTRALIA** The Australia Council for the Arts is working with existing organisers of sector surveys seeking to gather data on the impacts of COVID-19 on the arts and cultural sector in the country to draw together a national sector-wide summary; it also plans to convene a working group to collect data on longer-term effects.
- CHILE** The Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, Chile has launched an [online public consultation](#) to gather data on the employment conditions and economic status of cultural agents and organisations, so that it can adapt its programmes in response to sector needs, as well as share information and coordinate with other portfolios such as social services.
- CZECH REP** The Arts and Theatre Institute has conducted an online survey for representatives from umbrella organisation, professional association and individuals in the independent arts sector to map the impact of the Ministry of Health's Extraordinary Measures. It has published a [summary of its findings online](#)
- IRELAND** The Arts Council of Ireland - An Chomhairle Ealaíon has initiated a [survey to complement ongoing research](#) to help it plan with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht how best to support the arts sector.

N.IRELAND	The Arts Council of Northern Ireland has designed a survey to collect information about the financial and human impacts that the spread of coronavirus have had on artists and arts organisations in Northern Ireland. It will work closely with Government to share the impacts arising and make the case for additional resources to help mitigate against the short, medium and long-term effects of the situation.
PARAGUAY	On 27 March, the National Secretary of Culture issued an urgent call inviting and urging unions, associations and organisations of the different cultural sectors to provide the Secretary with a list of their representatives who are in a situation of economic vulnerability, in order to generate a database that allows the definition of immediate contingency measures, due to the state of emergency declared by the National Government.
SINGAPORE	The National Arts Council of Singapore has launched a survey for self-employed persons/freelancers working the arts.
URUGUAY	On 2 April, the Ministry of Education and Culture launched a survey to measure the impact of public health measures on the culture sector and its workers .
USA	Americans for the Arts has launched a survey to gather data and stories to capture the effects of COVID-19 on sector operations caused by cancelled events, lost wages and additional expenses; as well as capture the narrative that will demonstrate how arts and culture workers survived the crisis. It is publishing the latest results from the survey on its online dashboard .

SUPPORTING ACCESS

ENGLAND	<p>On 31 March, Arts Council England published guidance for its two new funds to support individuals and independent cultural organisations, which includes measures to ensure equality, diversity and access. With these measures the Arts Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure access support is available for disabled and D/deaf applicants applying to the individuals fund • set a higher application ceiling of £3,000 in the individuals fund for disabled and D/deaf applicants to factor in additional access support requirements if successful • prioritise support for disabled-led organisations, as part of its balancing criteria for applicants to the organisational support programme • produce the guidance in a range of alternative formats including Easyread, BSL and Large Print. We will publish these as soon as possible • run two rounds for applications, to ensure anyone who needs longer to develop their proposal can apply.
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ARGENTINA** The Ministry of Culture of the Nation, Argentina will deliver dedicated courses for the cultural sector through its *Virtual Campus of Distance Education*, taught by monitoring and evaluation by specialists and focussed on Public Cultural Management, Museums and Heritage, Cultural Industries and the use of digital technologies.
- AUSTRALIA** The Australia Council for the Arts will launch *Creative Connections*, an online webinar series for the cultural sector, offering practical, accessible and useful professional development. The content will be delivered by industry experts on key topics and emerging themes that will assist the sector to navigate the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19. Themes will include crisis management and communication, arts in the digital age as well as ongoing issues of climate change, intercultural working with First Nations and inclusive learning practices. These sessions will be recorded and published on the Australia Council website for public engagement and wider reach.
- PARAGUAY** On 3 April, the National Secretary of Culture announced that it will provide a virtual campus of cultural action, a platform that will offer cultural workers a free space to develop sessions, courses and / or live workshops, which will allow them to collect or receive donations through payments by credit cards, deposits in electronic or bank transfers.

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- AUSTRALIA** The Australia Council for the Arts has introduced weekly First Nations' roundtables for artists, creatives and organisations for updates and discussion of the implications of COVID-19 for First Nations independent and small to medium sector, live performance and public gatherings. It has partnered with the Office for the Arts, Australia to deliver weekly support workshops with peak arts bodies, which have included representatives from the COVID-19 Business Liaison Unit, the Australian Banking Association and the Department of Social Services, who provided information on support available for creative and cultural organisations and their people. It has also launched new Facebook Group *Arts and creative industry: digital support* as the first stage of its digital support solution for individual artists and small to medium organisations that may not have the technology, skill sets or bandwidth to successfully present and represent their work online through live streaming or other methods.
- SINGAPORE** The National Arts Council of Singapore is offering Arts Resource Hub (ARH) Drop-In Chats for Arts Freelancers so they can seek help and advice. Individuals can arrange for a 40-minute chat with the NAC's Director for Sector Development (Visual Arts).
- SPAIN** The Minister of Culture and Sport called for a series of roundtable discussions requesting proposals to help rebuild the cultural sector as a result of the current crisis. In parallel, the Minister has contacted all the Councillors of Culture of the autonomous communities, in order

to guarantee coordination and collaboration between administrations, since culture portfolio is a shared between the State, autonomies and municipalities.

USA The National Endowment for the Arts has created a [resource list](#) of other relief support programmes, contacts and centres for artists and arts organisations across the country in response to COVID-19.

SOCIAL SERVICES

PARAGUAY On 3 April, the National Secretary of Culture announced that it will implement [contingency actions for food security aimed at cultural workers](#) in situations of economic vulnerability, with the provision of food kits, which will be delivered to unions for distribution as of 9 April.

VIET NAM The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has been tasked by the Prime Minister to [enhance the role of community and family](#) in preventing and fighting COVID-19 and has already implemented some initiatives.

LINKS TO DEDICATED PAGES FOR COVID-19 INFORMATION

Australia Council for the Arts	https://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/about/covid-19/
Canada Council for the Arts	https://canadacouncil.ca/covid-19-information
Ministry of Culture, Croatia	https://www.min-kulture.hr/default.aspx?id=24300
Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces	https://slks.dk/om-styrelsen/covid-19/
Arts Council England	https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19
Estonian Ministry of Culture	https://www.kul.ee/et/uudised/korduma-kippuvad-kusimused-koroonaviiruse-levik-ja-kultuurivaldkond
Arts Council of Ireland - An Chomhairle Ealaíon	http://www.artscouncil.ie/COVID-19/
Lithuanian Council for Culture	http://www.ltk.lt/naujienos/400-del-tarybos-darbo-organizavimo.html
National Culture Fund (FOCUNA), Luxembourg	https://www.focuna.lu/fr/News/Coronavirus-soutien-du-secteur-culturel
Creative New Zealand	https://www.creativenz.govt.nz/news/covid-19-cnz-response
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	http://artscouncil-ni.org/news/coronavirus-covid-19-advice
Arts Council Norway	https://www.kulturradet.no/korona
Creative Scotland	https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2020/02/coronavirus-advice#guidance
National Arts Council, Singapore	https://www.nac.gov.sg/media-resources/press-releases/Supporting-The-Arts-Community-During-COVID-19-Period
National Arts Council of South Africa	https://www.nac.org.za/latest-news/working-together-to-combat-covid-19/
Swedish Arts Council	https://www.kulturradet.se/information-med-anledning-av-coronaviruset/
Pro Helvetia-Swiss Arts Council	https://prohelvetia.ch/en/dossier/info-hub-covid-19
Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguay	https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-educacion-cultura/comunicacion/noticias/coronavirus-informacion-actualizada
National Endowment for the Arts	https://www.arts.gov/coronavirus
Cygnor Celfyddydau Cymru - Arts Council of Wales	https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/arts-council-wales-responding-coronavirus-covid-19