



## **Northern Ireland Museums Council**

### **Funding for Museums**

#### **Introduction**

The following tables have been compiled by the Northern Ireland Museums Council by way of providing an overview of the major potential sources of funding for local museums operating in Northern Ireland. In drawing this information together, NIMC would like to thank the staff of various local museums for generously sharing their fund-raising expertise and identifying sources of funding that they have used.

The local sector consists of museums that are run by local authorities and those which are independently-run. The latter are invariably registered charities and this designation allows them to access funding from sources, such as trusts and foundations, which are not normally open to museums operated within a local government structure. While local authority-run museums may not have to fund raise for their core costs, unlike most of their independent counterparts, increasingly they are seeking external money in support of particular initiatives and programmes. Indeed, such are the needs of the different types of museum and the variety of projects they deliver, that it is not possible to provide an exhaustive listing of potential funding sources. Also, given the speed with which such sources change, NIMC will be reviewing this listing at regular intervals in the effort to keep the content up to date. In the interim, we would welcome any corrections or additions to the following tables.

The focus of the information below is upon funding for museums. However, some local curators and museum managers have successfully raised money from diverse other sources. Such success is often predicated upon creative lateral thinking and, rather than conceiving the financial requirement in institutional terms, focusing upon the objectives of the project to define the need. This approach opens up considerably more potential sources of support and some of the sources tapped into on this basis by museums are given below.

While NIMC provides training in fund-raising from time to time, there are other organisations with considerably more focused expertise in this field and thus the contact details of some of these are also provided.

Date of compilation: July 2013

Date of next review: Jan 2014

## Central Government

The funding programmes operating across all government Departments in Northern Ireland can be searched and accessed through the **Government Funding Database**. This site also provides details of the organisations in receipt of such funding, the type of project supported and the amount awarded, which may inspire thoughts of 'replica' projects or potential partners for future initiatives.

<http://govfundingpublic.nics.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

Central government support for culture tends to be channeled through the **Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**.

The Department distributes some funding directly, through the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Ulster-Scots Academy (known as MAGUS) for example, with details being available through the Departmental site

[www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/language-cultural-diversity-r08/ulster-scots.htm](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/language-cultural-diversity-r08/ulster-scots.htm)

However, the majority of arts and cultural funding is distributed through the various grant programmes delivered by the Department's agencies and 'arm's length bodies'.

<http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/subpages/funding.htm>

<http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/categories/5/investment-and-funding.aspx>

<http://www.ulsterscotsagency.com/community-projects/apply-for-funding/>

<http://www.sportni.net/Funding>

As an 'arm's length body' of DCAL, the **Northern Ireland Museums Council** operates two grant programmes.

[www.nimc.co.uk](http://www.nimc.co.uk)

Accredited Museums Grant Programme: Through this scheme financial assistance may be sought for the delivery of projects that will enable a museum to renew or maintain its Accreditation status, and/or which contribute to one or more of the Strategic Priorities of the Northern Ireland Museums Policy.

Acquisition Fund: This fund is open to Accredited local museums that are Museum Members of NIMC. The Fund assists museums to acquire objects, artefacts and specimens for their collections.

<p>Other agencies and 'arm's length bodies' which have provided capital and project funding for museums include - the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, the Community Relations Council</p>	<p><a href="http://www.nitb.com/BusinessSupport/FundingOpportunities.aspx">http://www.nitb.com/BusinessSupport/FundingOpportunities.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding/">http://www.community-relations.org.uk/funding/</a></p>
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## Local Government

<p>Currently there are 26 <b>Local Councils</b> in Northern Ireland. Many fund voluntary and community sector bodies delivering heritage projects, as well as funding their own museums. As Councils differ in their grant-making focus and processes, each will need to be looked at and assessed separately.</p> <p>Some Councils operate grant schemes which could be relevant to particular museum projects, such as good relations programmes, events and festivals, community projects, cultural funding, summer schemes and tourism initiatives.</p>	<p>Each Council has its own web site which details the full range of services it provides. Undertaking a search of such sites using 'grants' often saves time.</p> <p>A full list of Council web sites is available at <a href="http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland">http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland</a></p>
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## Lottery Funding

<p>Money from the <b>National Lottery</b> is distributed through 13 organisations across the UK, each with specialist knowledge of their sector. Full details are available at <a href="http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding">http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding</a></p>	<p>The three main distribution bodies in Northern Ireland are:</p> <p><b>Big Lottery Fund</b> <a href="http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/">http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/</a></p> <p><b>Arts Council Northern Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/">http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/</a></p> <p><b>Heritage Lottery Fund</b> <a href="http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx">http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx</a></p> <p>In addition <b>Nesta</b>, an independent charity with a mission to help people and organisations bring great ideas to life, also distributes lottery funding <a href="http://www.nesta.org.uk/">http://www.nesta.org.uk/</a></p>
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## European Funding

The **European Commission** website provides an overview of grants available across a wide range of areas and disciplines.

EU money is distributed through the **Commission's Directorates-General** directly responsible for the policy in question, via **Commission offices and agencies** around Europe, and through other **national or regional authorities**

**Euclid** offers consultancy, advice, a seminar programme and online services with a particular focus on funding for cultural activities

The **EU Cultural Contact Point** for the UK is operated by **Visiting Arts**

The **Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013** is part financed by the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

[http://ec.europa.eu/contracts\\_grants/grants\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/grants_en.htm)

There are 33 DGs, with that focusing on Education and Culture offering specific opportunities for museums and heritage initiatives, see

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education\\_culture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/index_en.htm) and [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm)

The latter provides some useful tips and ideas.

An overview of current EU funded programmes operating in Northern Ireland is available through the Department of Finance and Personnel site at

<http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/index/finance/european-funding.htm>

Further detail on the programmes is available at the Special EU Programmes Body <http://www.seupb.eu/AboutUs/about-us.aspx> and of particular note is the Peace III programme. Check on the current minor social, cultural, educational and tourism initiatives through the 'Other EU Funds' button on that page.

See <http://www.euclid.info/funding/>

See <http://www.culturefund.eu/>

There are a number of Rural Development Partnerships across Northern Ireland, each with a focus on six strands within the third Axis or part of the Programme:

- 3.1 Diversification into Non – Agricultural Activities
- 3.2 Business Creation and Development
- 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities
- 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population
- 3.5 Village Renewal and Development
- 3.6 Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage

See

<http://www.laganruralpartnership.com/about/>

<http://www.downruralareapartnership.com/index.asp>

	<a href="http://www.rapidni.com/">http://www.rapidni.com/</a> <a href="http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk/business/SOAR.aspx">http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk/business/SOAR.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.arcnorthwest.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=frontpage&amp;Itemid=1">http://www.arcnorthwest.com/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=frontpage&amp;Itemid=1</a> <a href="http://www.northeastrdp.com/">http://www.northeastrdp.com/</a> <a href="http://www.sward.org.uk/">http://www.sward.org.uk/</a> <a href="http://www.growsouthantrim.com/">http://www.growsouthantrim.com/</a>
<b>Republic of Ireland</b>	
<p><b>The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</b> administers a number of funding programmes, some relating to Northern Ireland</p> <p><b>The Heritage Council</b> takes an integrated approach to heritage, with responsibilities that include both its cultural and natural aspects. It operate the <b>Museums Standard Programme</b> and provides grant to museum projects</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8755">http://www.dfa.ie/home/index.aspx?id=8755</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/home/?L=hdypgoni">http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/home/?L=hdypgoni</a></p>
<b>Museum and Heritage Organisations</b>	
<p><b>The Association of Independent Museums</b> (AIM) operates various grant schemes, including:</p> <p><b>AIM Sustainability Grant Scheme</b></p> <p><b>AIM Conservation Grant Scheme</b></p> <p><b>AIM Preventive Conservation Grant Scheme</b> supported respectively by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Pilgrim Trust</p>	<p>Details of AIM's programmes are available at <a href="http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/aim_grants/">http://www.aim-museums.co.uk/content/aim_grants/</a></p>

<p>The <b>Museum Association (MA)</b> operates various funds including:</p> <p><b>Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund</b> – For Collections Development</p> <p><b>Trevor Walden Trust</b> – for MA members undertaking AMA</p> <p><b>Daphne Ballard Trust</b> – Textile Conservation and Display</p> <p><b>Beecroft Bequest</b> – Acquisition of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century works</p> <p><b>Kathy Callow Trust</b> – Social History conservation</p> <p><b>MA Benevolent Fund</b> – to alleviate financial distress of MA members</p>	<p>Details of the MA programmes are available at <a href="http://www.museumsassociation.org/funding">http://www.museumsassociation.org/funding</a></p>
<p>The <b>International Committee of Museums</b> in the UK (ICOMUK) ICOM UK offers two bursary funds designed to help ICOM members resident in the UK and British Overseas Territories engage with the international museum community</p>	<p>See <a href="http://uk.icom.museum/bursaries/">http://uk.icom.museum/bursaries/</a></p>
<p>The <b>Heritage Alliance</b> manages the <b>Heritage Funding Directory</b> which is a free, easy to use guide to potential sources of support, financial and otherwise, for anyone seeking to undertake projects related to the heritage of the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/fundinghome.php">http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/fundingdirectory/main/fundinghome.php</a></p>

<p><b>The National Museum Directors Council</b> represents the leaders of the UK's national collections and major regional museums. It shares experience and good practice through its site</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/philanthropy/">http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/what-we-do/philanthropy/</a></p>
<p><b>Collections Management and Development</b></p>	
<p>In addition to the NIMC Acquisition Fund, there are a number of bodies that assist with the purchase of heritage objects. These include the <b>Art Fund</b> and the <b>National Heritage Memorial Fund</b></p>	<p><b>Arts Fund</b>  <a href="http://www.artfund.org/what-we-do/apply-for-funding">http://www.artfund.org/what-we-do/apply-for-funding</a></p> <p><b>National Heritage Memorial Fund</b>  <a href="http://www.nhmf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx">http://www.nhmf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx</a></p>
<p>One of the Sainsbury Family Trusts, <b>The Headley Trust</b>, supports curatorship and conservation in 'regional museums'. Operates an acquisition fund for archaeological items and the "purchase unusual or exceptional artefacts"</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.sfct.org.uk/the-headley-trust/">http://www.sfct.org.uk/the-headley-trust/</a></p>
<p><b>The Architectural Heritage Fund</b> is a registered charity founded in 1976 to promote the conservation of historic buildings in the UK. It does this by providing advice, information and financial assistance in the form of grants and low interest working capital loans for projects.</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.ahfund.org.uk/">http://www.ahfund.org.uk/</a></p>
<p>The <b>Institute of Conservation</b> is the lead voice for the conservation of cultural heritage in the</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=203&amp;Itemid=50">http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=203&amp;Itemid=50</a></p>

<p>UK. As well as directories of conservators the web site carries a list of funders of conservation projects and associated opportunities</p>	
<p>The <b>National Cataloguing Grants Programme</b> for Archives brings together a group of charitable funders to provide funding to tackle cataloguing backlogs, and is a direct response to the national problem of uncatalogued and poorly catalogued archives. The National Archives administers the scheme, while the final decisions on the allocation of grants are made by an independent Cataloguing Grants Panel.</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/cataloguing_grants_scheme.htm">www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/cataloguing_grants_scheme.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Working Internationally</b></p>	
<p>The <b>British Council</b> is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. At the beginning of 2013 it investment in its global arts programme to meet increased demand for UK arts, UK arts expertise and specialist skills in the creative industries overseas.</p>	<p>For details of funding and participation opportunities, contact the British Council office in Belfast.</p> <p>The Boat, 7th Floor, 49 Queen's Square, Belfast, BT1 3FG</p> <p><a href="mailto:general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org">general.enquiries@britishcouncil.org</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.britishcouncil.org/northernireland">http://www.britishcouncil.org/northernireland</a></p>
<p><b>The Headley Trust</b>, see above, also aids overseas work primarily in South Eastern Europe, with a focus on conservation and recording of heritage, and the raising of awareness of heritage issues.</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.sfct.org.uk/the-headley-trust/">http://www.sfct.org.uk/the-headley-trust/</a></p>

<p>Various countries maintain <b>cultural institutes</b> that facilitate and aid cultural co-operation and engagement. Some provide financial support for projects which include the presentation of their country's arts and heritage in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Below are the contact details of some of the foremost institutions, and it is worth contacting the embassies directly to explore cultural partnerships with particular countries.</p> <p><a href="http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/about/cultural-cooperation/">http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/about/cultural-cooperation/</a>  <a href="http://www.goethe.de/ges/enindex.htm">http://www.goethe.de/ges/enindex.htm</a>  <a href="http://londres.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm">http://londres.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm</a>  <a href="http://dublin.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm">http://dublin.cervantes.es/en/default.shtm</a>  <a href="http://www.icilondon.esteri.it/IIC_Londra/Menu/Opportunita/Cooperazione_culturale_e_scientifica/">http://www.icilondon.esteri.it/IIC_Londra/Menu/Opportunita/Cooperazione culturale e scientifica/</a>  <a href="http://www.polishculture.org.uk/">http://www.polishculture.org.uk/</a>  <a href="http://eng.si.se/">http://eng.si.se/</a>  <a href="http://www.eunic-brussels.eu/asp/index.asp">http://www.eunic-brussels.eu/asp/index.asp</a></p>
<p><b>Travel</b></p>	
<p>The Arts Fund operate the <b>Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grants Programme</b> which provides funding for travel and other practical costs to help curators undertake collection and exhibition research projects</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.artfund.org/what-we-do/apply-for-funding/curatorial-grants-aims-and-eligibility">http://www.artfund.org/what-we-do/apply-for-funding/curatorial-grants-aims-and-eligibility</a></p>
<p>The <b>Winston Churchill Memorial Trust</b> awards travel grants to men and women to enable them to acquire knowledge and experience abroad for others in their profession and community in the UK</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.wcmt.org.uk/">http://www.wcmt.org.uk/</a></p>
<p><b>Trusts and Foundations</b></p>	
<p>Listed below are some of the Trusts and Foundations which have supported local museums in Northern Ireland</p>	
<p>The <b>Esmée Fairbairn Foundation</b> was established in 1961 by Ian Fairbairn as a memorial to his wife Esmée. It is one of the largest independent grant-making foundations</p>	<p>See <a href="http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/apply-for-funding/">http://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/apply-for-funding/</a></p>

in the UK ( <b>See Museums Association above</b> )	
<b>Ulster Garden Villages</b> primarily allocates funds to projects within Northern Ireland that will have a positive impact in Northern Ireland.	See <a href="http://www.ulstergardenvillages.co.uk/">http://www.ulstergardenvillages.co.uk/</a>
<b>ENTRUST</b> regulate the <b>Landfill Communities Fund</b> on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs	See <a href="http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/lcf">http://www.entrust.org.uk/home/lcf</a>
The <b>Radcliffe Trust</b> has a policy of making grants principally in two sectors: Music and Heritage & Crafts.	See <a href="http://www.theradcliffetrust.org/index.asp?ID=231">http://www.theradcliffetrust.org/index.asp?ID=231</a>
<b>Donations</b>	
The <b>Gift Aid scheme</b> increases the value of donations to charities by allowing them to reclaim basic rate tax from <b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs</b> on donations by individuals who pay UK tax. The HMRC web site also has details of other tax-efficient giving to charities.	See <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm">http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/gift-aid.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/index.htm">http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/individuals/giving/index.htm</a> <a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/businesses/giving/">http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/businesses/giving/</a>
The <b>Charity Commission</b> for England and Wales has comprehensive guidance on <b>legacies</b>	See <a href="http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/detailed-guidance/fundraising/wills-and-charitable-legacies/">http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/detailed-guidance/fundraising/wills-and-charitable-legacies/</a>
<b>Fundraising Tools and Support</b>	
<b>NICVA's Grant Tracker</b> is a database of funding sources, including trusts, foundations and the corporate sector, which may be accessed through an annual subscription.	See <a href="http://www.grant-tracker.org">www.grant-tracker.org</a>

<p>NICVA also operates a web site that carries the latest fundraising news</p>	<p><a href="http://www.fundraisingni.org/">http://www.fundraisingni.org/</a></p>
<p>The web site of the <b>Association of Charitable Foundations</b> includes downloadable leaflets, facts and figures about charitable trust funding, and links to trusts and foundation websites, UK and international umbrella bodies, and other resources for grant-seekers.</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.acf.org.uk">www.acf.org.uk</a></p>
<p>The <b>Directory of Social Change</b> is an information-providing charity. It produces a number of guides and directories for those seeking funding.</p> <p>It also operates a subscription website giving information about trust and foundation funding</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.dsc.org.uk">www.dsc.org.uk</a>.</p> <p><a href="http://www.trustfunding.org.uk">www.trustfunding.org.uk</a></p>
<p>There are 56 <b>Community Foundations</b> in the UK, covering all of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and most of England.</p> <p>The <b>Community Foundation for Northern Ireland</b> is Northern Ireland's centre for philanthropy, with advice and services available for those people, whether they be financial advisors, institutions, charities or individuals. It manages 17 funds covering a range of disciplines</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/community_foundations/map">http://www.communityfoundations.org.uk/community_foundations/map</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.communityfoundationni.org/">http://www.communityfoundationni.org/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.communityfoundationni.org/Grants/Grants-Overview">http://www.communityfoundationni.org/Grants/Grants-Overview</a></p>

<p>The <b>Charities Aid Foundation</b> assists charities with fund-raising, finance and associated matters. It does not run a grant programme, but from time to time will manage the distribution of fund on behalf of other funders</p>	<p>See  <a href="https://www.cafonline.org/">https://www.cafonline.org/</a></p>
<p><b>Crowdfunding</b> is the process of raising funding from the public, often using a website resource as a platform and publicising the project using social media. It includes donation-based platforms designed specifically for creative projects. <b>Creative Choices</b> provides a good overview of the concept and links to the main associated sites</p>	<p><a href="http://www.creative-choices.co.uk/develop-your-career/article/8-steps-for-crowdfunding">http://www.creative-choices.co.uk/develop-your-career/article/8-steps-for-crowdfunding</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.creative-choices.co.uk/tools-resources/article/find-funding?utm_source=newsletter&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_term=newsletter47&amp;utm_campaign=Find%2Bfunding">http://www.creative-choices.co.uk/tools-resources/article/find-funding?utm_source=newsletter&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_term=newsletter47&amp;utm_campaign=Find%2Bfunding</a></p>
<p>The <b>Institute of Fundraising</b> is the membership body that supports professional fundraisers, through leadership, representation, standards-setting and education. It has a branch in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>See  <a href="http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/about-us/">http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/about-us/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/groups/national-northern-ireland/">http://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/groups/national-northern-ireland/</a></p>
<p>The <b>Charity Commission for Northern Ireland</b> provides guidance to help charities and their trustees fundraise effectively, efficiently and legally.</p>	<p>See  <a href="http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/Your_charitys_activities/Fundraising/">http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/Your_charitys_activities/Fundraising/</a></p>
<p><b>Commercial Giving and Sponsorship</b></p>	

<p><b>Arts and Business Northern Ireland</b> has over 25 years experience in facilitating creative partnerships between business and the arts through research, training and the promotion of culture.</p>	<p>See <a href="http://www.artsandbusinessni.org.uk/about/">http://www.artsandbusinessni.org.uk/about/</a></p>
<p><b>The Directory of Social Change</b> is an independent charity with a vision of an independent voluntary sector at the heart of social change. It operates various fund raising support mechanisms</p>	<p><a href="http://www.companygiving.org.uk">www.companygiving.org.uk</a> is the main DSC site for accessing its training programmes and fund raising subscription services. The site also carries links to government funding, funding for individuals and trust funding</p>