



Northern Ireland Screen submission to the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee's  
'Inquiry into Inclusion in the Arts of Working Class Communities'

## **BACKGROUND TO NORTHERN IRELANDSCREEN**

Northern Ireland Screen is the national screen agency for Northern Ireland. We are committed to maximising the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industries for the benefit of Northern Ireland. This goal is pursued through our mission to accelerate the development of a dynamic and sustainable screen industry and culture in Northern Ireland.

Our previous strategy Driving Global Growth 2010-14 delivered significant economic, cultural and educational successes and we are intending to build upon this success in our new 4 year strategy entitled OPENING DOORS for the period 2014-18.

Northern Ireland Screen has 3 overarching targets:

1. That Northern Ireland will have the strongest screen industry outside of London in the UK and Ireland within 10 years;
2. That this industry will be supported by vibrant and diverse cultural voices that are recognized and celebrated equally at home and abroad;
3. And that the sector will be underpinned by the most successful screen and digital technologies education provision in Europe ensuring that the education is within reach and of value to the most socially disadvantaged.

Creating opportunities across the full range of the screen industries is the central theme of Northern Ireland Screen's economic strategy; this is also at the centre of both the Education and Cultural Strategies. Developing the screen industry and its cultural sector has an almost unrivalled fit with the ***Programme for Government*** with the creative and cultural mix of the sector impacting on multiple priorities simultaneously. Northern Ireland Screen's activities make a considerable contribution to ***Growing a Sustainable Economy; Creating Opportunities & Tackling Disadvantage;*** and, ***Building a Strong & Shared Future.***

Northern Ireland Screen is a company limited by guarantee, currently employing 25 people and is governed by a Board of thirteen directors. The Chairwoman is Rotha Johnston and Kenneth Branagh is Honorary President.

Northern Ireland Screen is funded by Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI) and part financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland; the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), also its Sponsor Department and it is delegated by the Arts Council of NI (ACNI) to administer Lottery funding for film in Northern Ireland.

For more information on Northern Ireland Screen please visit our website [www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk](http://www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk)

### **Creative Learning Centres (CLCs)**

1. Northern Ireland Screen works in partnership with Northern Ireland's three Creative Learning Centres (CLCs); the Nerve Centre in Derry/Londonderry; Nerve Belfast and the Southern Education and Library Board's AmmA Centre in Armagh. The centres provide training for young people and teachers in the use of new creative digital technologies.
2. A key priority is a substantial extension of the programme activities into rural and hard to reach areas previously not covered (we are currently in year 2 of the expansion programme); this is to be achieved by the CLCs actively pursuing areas of social exclusion and deprivation. The CLCs will continue to focus on the provision of programmes and services that focus on the marginalized and most disadvantaged schools and communities.
3. The provision of core funding for the CLCs with a continued focus on support across the curriculum particularly at KS2 and KS3 and the integration of the Northern Ireland Screen Digital Film Archive material into the formal curriculum are other key priorities.
4. Northern Ireland Screen will continue to work closely with the Education Training Inspectorate (ETI) to ensure the quality of delivery of programs and undertake to further embed DCAL's Learning Strategy and quality indicators into the working practices and evaluation protocols associated with the Creative Learning Centres, by continuing to develop and monitor action planning and self evaluation focused on improved outcomes for learners; continuation of the provision of partnership programmes that focus on creativity and help support the STEM/STEAM agenda; collaborating on learning programmes with other organisations in the DCAL family and encouraging participation from hard to reach and vulnerable groups
5. All CLC activity will give priority to young people in disadvantaged and marginalised groups and those living in poverty. Targets for 2014-15 (covering extended funding and existing funding programmes) have been agreed and are based on extended schools, special schools, schools in rural areas and youth & hard to reach groups. A minimum of 70% of all Creative Learning Centre activity will focus on the reduction of poverty and social exclusion.

### **Exhibition Sector**

6. The work undertaken by Northern Ireland's exhibition sector seeks to provide all the people of Northern Ireland with the opportunity to see as wide a range of films as possible, including those made by home grown creative talent.
7. **Cinemagic** is an award winning festival that aims through the use of film, television and digital technologies to educate, motivate and inspire young people through film screenings, industry workshops, practical masterclasses, filmmaking projects and outreach activities. Cinemagic delivers a proportion of Northern Ireland Screen's FilmClub programme to extended schools in areas of social deprivation, social exclusion and rural isolation.

### **After School Film Clubs**

8. After School Film Clubs have been established with the aim of introducing children and young people to the benefits of the world of film, and the clubs have considerable potential to contribute to the Executive's efforts to promote a shared future and a cohesive society. Film Clubs are exclusively set up in the most deprived and hard to reach areas.
9. The expansion of Film Club into 270 extended services schools and other schools in disadvantaged areas across Northern Ireland and a target to increase club membership by 25% is well under way.
10. An ETI inspection showed that the education experience associated with After School Film Clubs was good. It also asked that DCAL's Learning Strategy be further embedded into Film Club activity.

### **Outreach**

11. The outreach work of the **Belfast Film Festival** was enhanced in 2013-14 by the launch of its specialist touring 'Pop Up' cinema with the aim of complimenting the work of the festival's regional outreach strategy. It will seek to encourage inclusion and understanding through sharing and learning with emphasis on specific film programming; the key objective will be to engage with areas/communities that are in geographical areas of poverty, who are marginalized groups and who are harder to reach with cultural cinema activity.
12. **The Queens Film Theatre (QFT)** is Northern Ireland's leading independent cinema since 1968. It offers, through its 'Learning Programme' a year round programme of education screenings designed to support the national curriculum and it aims to enable young audiences to engage more deeply and creatively with the best in new and classic world cinema. The 2013-14 schools programme for Cinemagic and QFT Learning with full event and film information was launched to teachers in September 2013.
13. The CoderDojo programme currently has 11 Dojos across Northern Ireland where young people aged 5-17 can access learning from mentors and work on projects related to computing, coding, website development, app development, games design and more. CoderDojo is run by volunteers from the ICT and computing industries.
14. In partnership with CoderDojo, Northern Ireland Screen will expand the CoderDojo network and the number of mentors and will provide training and infrastructure support through the Creative Learning Centres. We will also aim to establish 20 CoderDojos with a minimum of 2 mentors at each Dojo to provide regular club meetings each month; one Dojo conference for mentors and young people to take place annually and the expansion of CoderDojo to focus on rural and other disadvantaged areas.

15. The successful FabLab initiative at the Nerve Centre, Derry/Londonderry and the Ashton Centre, Belfast has enabled local communities to access new computer controlled open source 3D printer technology, laser cutters and milling machines to develop ideas and bring them to life. FabLab encourages entrepreneurship at community level by providing direct access to technology and open source software to make people's ideas a reality.
16. Northern Ireland Screen is providing support for FabLab to expand their reach into schools to provide young people with skills in using these exciting new technologies linked with the STEAM agenda. Outreach staff will work closely with schools in disadvantaged areas to provide access to learning programmes involving hands on training in the use of FabLab resources. Outreach officers will develop outreach programmes with local schools and STEAM curriculum based resources will be developed and made available online. Programmes will be focused on areas of deprivation and disadvantage

#### **Digital Film Archive (DFA)**

17. The DFA is accessible at 20 sites across NI including museums, arts centres and public libraries. The DFA outreach activity delivers themed presentations based on the content of the archive to a variety of audiences including community and reminiscence groups, historical societies and schools.
18. It is dedicated to working with older persons in the community and outreach events/presentations are delivered in care homes/sheltered housing/historical societies and church groups. The DFA presentations are also being delivered for hospice/hospital/health charities and carers' groups.
19. In 2013-14 new performance targets were agreed including the targeting of DFA presentations in identified areas of deprivation, social exclusion and rural isolation. Northern Ireland Screen continues to prioritise outreach work based on the Digital Film Archive and will endeavour to increase, through the training and support of third party partnerships, its provision of outreach workshops using the DFA. Partner organisations use portable copies of the DFA to deliver outreach presentations and learning programmes particularly to older people's groups and community groups.

#### **Stakeholder Collaboration**

20. Northern Ireland Screen is already working with other key stakeholders such as PRONI, Libraries NI and NI Museum's Council to maximize the potential that the creative industries have to address poverty and social exclusion in local communities. However, limited resources mean that we have restricted opportunities to expand on this work.

