

INFORMATION NOTE

Board Composition of Statutory Bodies for the Arts in Selected Places

Table – Board composition of statutory bodies for the arts in selected places

| | Arts Council England | National Endowment for the Arts, United States of America | Arts Council, Ireland | Canada Council for the Arts | Australia Council for the Arts |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| Year of establishment | (a) Established by Royal Charter in 1994; and (b) Being granted a Supplemental Charter in 2002. | 1965. | The Arts Council, Ireland was established in 1951. It underwent a restructuring in 2003. | 1957. | 1975. |
| Corporate status | A national development agency for the arts in England. | A federal agency and the official arts organization of the federal government. | A state body and the development agency for the arts in Ireland. | A national arm's-length agency. | A government arts funding and advisory body. |
| Relevant legislation | Not applicable. | National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965. | The Arts Acts of 1951, 1973, and 2003. | Canada Council Act. | Australia Council Act 1975. |
| Role and functions | (a) Distributing public funds; (b) Commissioning research; (c) Promoting innovation in the arts; and (d) Providing advice and information to artists and arts organizations. | (a) Providing national recognition of artistic excellence and merit; (b) Providing national leadership in arts learning; (c) Providing access to the arts for all; (d) Recognizing, preserving and sharing America's diverse cultural traditions and heritage; (e) Serving as a powerful financial catalyst; (f) Establishing national standards and incentives for the state and local government support for the arts; (g) Bringing together representatives of the arts and the public and private sectors at the national, regional and community levels; (h) Providing national leadership and encouragement for communication, dialogue, research and new thinking on issues important to the future of the arts; (i) Providing national stewardship and nurturing of distinct artistic fields; and (j) Serving as a national symbol and voice for American culture at home and abroad. | (a) Advising government and non-governmental bodies, individuals and arts organizations on artistic matters; and (b) Providing support and financial assistance for artistic purposes to individuals and organizations. | Fostering and promoting the study and enjoyment of and the production of works in the arts. | (a) Formulating and carrying out policies designed to: (i) promote excellence in the arts; (ii) provide and encourage the provision of opportunities for persons to practise the arts; (iii) promote the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the arts; (iv) promote the general application of the arts in the community; (v) foster the expression of a national identity by means of the arts; (vi) uphold and promote the right of persons to freedom in the practice of the arts; (vii) promote the knowledge and appreciation of Australian arts by persons in other countries; (viii) promote incentives for and recognition of achievement in the practice of the arts; and (ix) encourage the support of the arts by the states, local governing bodies and other persons and organizations; (b) Advising the Commonwealth government on matters relating to the promotion of the arts as well as to the performance of its functions; and (c) Doing anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the foregoing functions. |

Table – Board composition of statutory bodies for the arts in selected places (cont'd)

| | Arts Council England | National Endowment for the Arts, United States of America | Arts Council, Ireland | Canada Council for the Arts | Australia Council for the Arts |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Board composition | | | | | |
| <i>Number of board members</i> | The National Council, comprising up to 15 members, including the Chairman and nine members who are also the Chairmen of the regional arts councils, is the governing board of the Arts Council England. | The National Council on the Arts, comprising 20 members, including six ex-officio members from Congress, advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts on agency policies and programmes. | There are 13 members, including the Chairman. | There are 11 members. | Including the Chairman, the Australia Council for the Arts comprises between five and 13 members. |
| <i>Appointment mechanism</i> | <p>The Chairman and all other members of the National Council are appointed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.</p> <p>Each member is appointed because of his or her special interest in, or experience of, the arts as a practicing artist or an arts administrator; as a senior academic; or as a public or private sector executive.</p> <p>Members are appointed for a term of four years, and may be reappointed for a further term of four years.</p> | <p>The Chairman and all other members are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate.</p> <p>The term of office of the Chairman is four years, while the term of office of a member is six years in staggered terms.</p> <p>The Presidential appointments, by law, are selected for their widely recognized knowledge of the arts or their expertise or profound interest in the arts. They should have recorded distinguished service or achieved eminence in the arts and are appointed so as to represent equitably all geographical areas of the country.</p> <p>Members from Congress are appointed in the following manner: two by the Speaker of the House, one by the Minority Leader of the House, two by the Majority Leader of the Senate, and one by the Minority Leader of the Senate. The term of service is two years.</p> | The Chairman and all other members are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism for a term of five years. | The Chairman, members and the director are all appointed by the government. | <p>Members are appointed by the Minister for the Arts and Sport.</p> <p>The Chairman is appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Minister for the Arts and Sport.</p> <p>Members are appointed with a view to achieving a balance of relevant expertise in the arts, corporate governance and administration, along with regional, gender, ethnic and Indigenous community representation.</p> <p>At least one of the members must be a community interest representative.</p> <p>Terms of appointment are generally three years and the maximum is six years.</p> |

Table – Board composition of statutory bodies for the arts in selected places (cont'd)

| | Arts Council England | National Endowment for the Arts, United States of America | Arts Council, Ireland | Canada Council for the Arts | Australia Council for the Arts |
|---------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Governing structure | The Arts Council England, established by Royal Charter, is accountable to Parliament for its activities and expenditure. Its governing body is the National Council. | The US National Endowment for the Arts is accountable to Congress for its activities and expenditure. | The Arts Council, Ireland is under the aegis of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. | The Canada Council for the Arts reports to Parliament through the Minister of Canadian Heritage. | The Australia Council is accountable to the government through the Minister for the Arts and Sport. |
| Mode of operation | The Arts Council England has nine regional arts councils and a national council to assist in discharging its functions. Except for the South East Regional Arts Council, each regional arts council consists of 15 members. Six of the 15 members are representatives of local government or regional government. | The National Council on the Arts advises the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who is also the Chairman of the National Council, on agency policies and programmes. It reviews and makes recommendations to the Chairman on applications for grants, funding guidelines and leadership initiatives. | The Arts Council, Ireland may establish committees from within its own membership, expert panels, and working groups for the purpose of considering aspects of Council business and making recommendations to plenary meetings of the Council. | Both the Canada Council for the Arts and its staff rely heavily on the advice of artists and arts professionals from all parts of Canada. The Canada Council for the Arts also works in close co-operation with federal and provincial cultural agencies and departments. | The Australia Council for the Arts may appoint committees to assist in the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers. |
| Funding | Grant-in-aid from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is divided among regions, according to population size. | Congressional appropriation. | Government appropriation. | The Canada Council for the Arts receives an annual appropriation from Parliament supplemented by endowment income, donations and bequests. | Government appropriation. |
| Supporting services | Served by its own staff. | Served by its own staff. | Served by its own staff. | Served by its own staff. | Served by its own staff. In 2005, the Australia Council for the Arts has 125 full-time staff. |

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