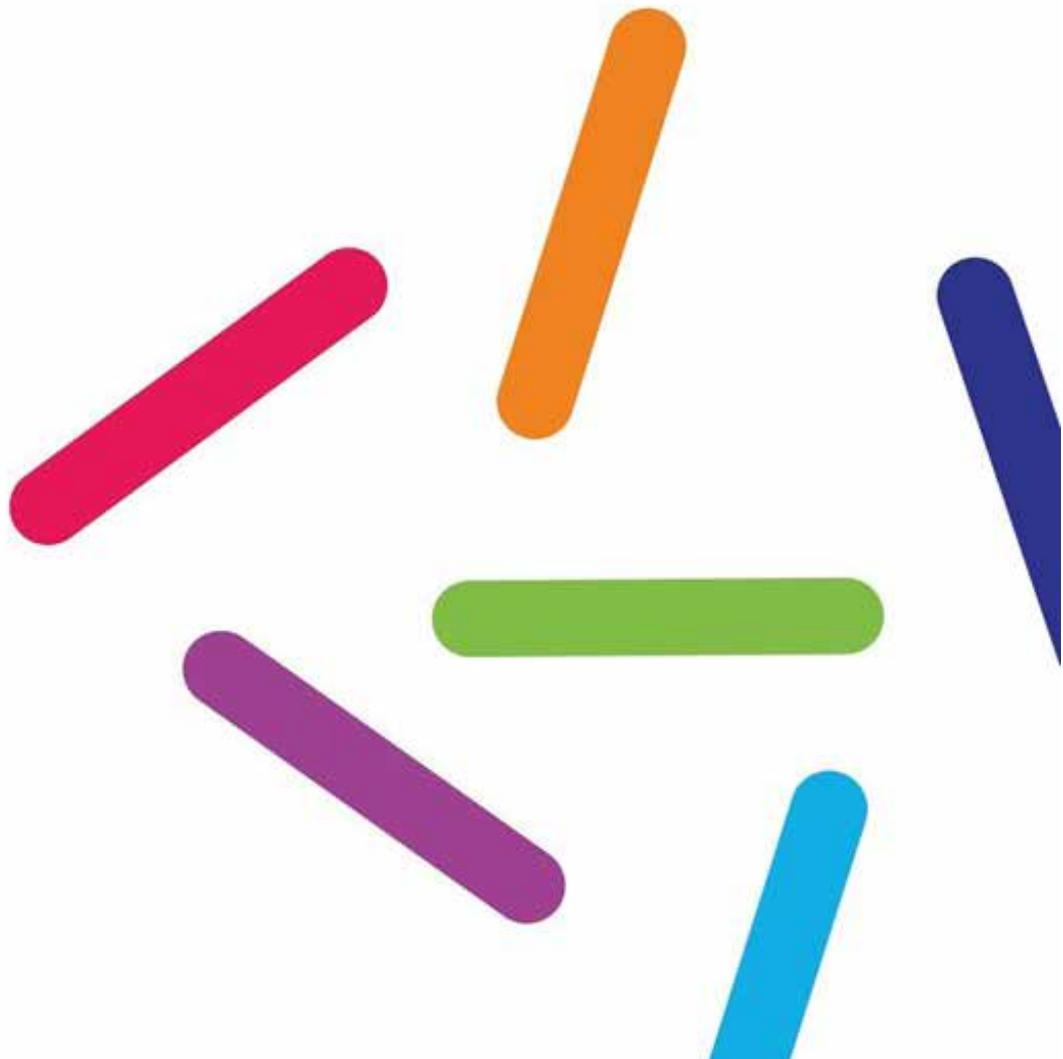


Easy Read



Report on Youth Arts in Wales

by National Youth Arts Wales and Youth Arts Network Cymru



This document was written by **National Youth Arts Wales** in partnership with **Youth Arts Network**. It is an easy read version of 'Youth Arts Development Sessions Recommendations Report'.

May 2022

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 27**.

Where the document says **we**, this means the young people who took part in feedback events. For more information contact:



Website: www.nyaw.org.uk

E-mail: nyaw@nyaw.org.uk

Phone: 029 2063 6466



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Introduction



This is a report about what young people think about **youth arts** in Wales. And the changes they want to see happen to make things better.



By **youth arts**, we mean art that young people do in their own time. Not in school or college.



The **Arts Council of Wales** asked 2 organisations to find out what young people think about youth arts.

The 2 organisations were:



- **National Youth Arts Wales**
- and **Youth Arts Network Cymru** worked together on this report.



They organised 3 online events to ask people about youth arts.

They invited:



- young people
- youth arts organisations
- and people who work in the arts.

The aim of the 3 online events was to:



- Talk about having a youth **forum** in Wales to tell Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales what is important to young people in the arts.

A **forum** is a group of people who come together to talk about something. It can be in person or online.



- Talk with young people about what they think is important in youth arts. And what needs **funding**.

Funding is money that is given to people or an organisation for a certain project.



About National Youth Arts Wales



National Youth Arts Wales is a charity that supports young people in the arts. For example, young actors, writers, dancers and musicians.



They work hard to help young people to get involved in the arts.



They think it is important to listen to what young people have to say about the arts.

About Youth Arts Network Cymru



Youth Arts Network Cymru is a **network** of people across Wales.



A **network** is a community of people with something in common. A **network** is useful to share ideas and work with other people.

Youth Arts Network Cymru includes:



- Youth Arts workers



- Artists



- Students



- Arts organisations who work with young people.



What young people want

In the events, young people said they want to see changes in 3 main areas:



- **network** and youth voice



- **funding** for youth arts



- what we should do next.



We will talk about these 3 areas over the next few pages.

Network and Youth Voice

Network



People said the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government should do more for young people.

The Arts Council and Welsh Government should:



- listen to young people more



- work with young people more



- be more flexible with arts **funding** for young people.



People also said they wanted an arts **network** for young people. So they can meet and work with each other.

This **network** could help young people to:

- work together
- help each other
- get information about the arts
- connect with art organisations
- get help with **funding**
- help start careers in the arts.



Everyone agreed that young people should run the **network**. And that it should be online and in person.

People said the **network** should:

- be easy for everyone to take part in





- include young people from all different communities in Wales



- be in Welsh and English.



People said there should also be more **funding** for **Youth Arts Network Cymru**.



This could help **Youth Arts Network Cymru** work with young people and the Arts Council of Wales to start this new **network**.



In the events we talked about how we could make sure the **network** was easy for all young people to take part in.



People said we could:



- use social media to connect with young people



- help young people to meet each other online, for example with an online **forum**



- work with schools, colleges, and universities to tell students about the **network**.

“Young people need a network where they can work together. A community.”



Youth voice



People said that it was important to listen to young people.



But they said it was important that young people should not have to fix all the problems.



They had a few ideas on how to do this, for example:

Through helping a group of young people to meet up to talk about things that are important to them in the arts.



- The group could contact the Arts Council of Wales for advice and feedback.



- People said it was important that this group had real power to change things.



- People said we could learn from other youth **networks** and organisations. Like Cardiff Youth Council and Welsh Youth Parliament.

Through inviting 2 young people to join the Arts Council of Wales.



- But these 2 young people must know that they do not have to represent all young people.

Through giving young people training.



- This training would give them the skills and confidence to become the next leaders in the arts in Wales.

“Young people can help to create change in the Arts Council and be the voice of youth arts.”

Funding for youth arts



People talked about **funding** a lot.



Many people said it was important to give more **funding** to youth arts.



And that there should be **funding** that can only be used for youth arts.

People said young people should be involved in:



- writing **funding** applications
- making decisions about who gets the **funding**.



Accessible funding applications



People said that it should be easier to apply for **funding**. For example, there should be no hard words or terms that are hard to understand.



Young people said that getting advice from organisations that give out **funding** was very helpful. They wanted more of this advice.



People said it was important to tell young people why they did not get **funding**. This will help if they ask for **funding** again.



Not many people know that the Arts Council of Wales has **accessible application forms**. For example, in Braille and Easy Read. The **Arts Council** need to tell people.



Funding that young people can apply for



Lots of people said young people should be able to apply for **funding** themselves.



But they should get help from the Arts Council of Wales or another arts organisation to do this.



People said **funders** could offer **mentors** to help them with their application forms.



Mentors are people who have experience and can give advice to young people.



Coronavirus has made it harder for young people to start careers in the arts. They need more help and support to do this.



What young people want to see happen next



Arts organisations need to think about this report, and how to better support young people into the arts.

It is important that this is done in a way that:



- includes everyone



- is easy for everyone to take part in



- is **anti-racist**. This means against the unfair treatment of people because of their race.

What young people want to happen in the next 3 months



- This report to be sent out in English and Welsh.



- Videos to be made of young people in the arts saying what **they** think about this report.



- This report shared on social media. For example, Instagram.



- Paid Instagram adverts about this report so the report reaches more young people.

What young people want to happen in the next 6 months



- More events with young people.



- For the events to be in English and Welsh.



- For Arts Council of Wales to talk more with arts organisations to get ideas about how to start the youth arts **network**.



- For arts organisations to use the events to get ideas about how to support young people to work with the Arts Council Wales.



- Plans to be written and sent out in English and Welsh for:
 - starting a youth panel
 - **funding** that is only for youth arts
 - making **funding** applications easier to find and do.



What young people want to happen in the next 1 to 2 years



- **Funding** that can only be used for youth arts.



- For **funders** to make sure that young people can apply for this **funding** themselves.



- Funding application forms that are easy for young people to do. For example, no hard words and using easy language instead.



- For arts organisations to work together to make an arts **network** in both Welsh and English for young people. And for the **network** to be supported to work with the Arts Council of Wales.



- 2 young people invited to join the Arts Council of Wales. And for the Arts Council to listen to them and support them.



- A training programme for young people to become leaders in the arts.



What the youth facilitators said



The youth facilitators are young people who were paid to help run the events.



Jannat Ahmed

Equality



Everyone deserves the chance to take part in the arts. For fun or for work.



But lots of young artists are leaving Wales because there is not enough support.



Dyddgu Glyn Jones



It is important to hear young people's voices in the arts.



If young people were allowed in the Arts Council of Wales, we would get the support we need to stay in the arts in Wales.

Eden-Mae Davies



I believe that the most important thing we can give to young people in the arts is opportunities.



Fahadi Mukulu



One of the most important things is a strong **network** of young people.



And giving them space to talk about what is important to them.



Hannah Lad



Young people want a youth **network** that can offer opportunities to all ages.



Safyan Iqbal



I am proud of being Deaf and it is important to have a Deaf role model.



It would be good to be able to get **funding** to support my work.



Hard words

Forum

A forum is a group of people who come together to talk about something. It can be in person or online.

Funding

Funding is money that is given to someone or an organisation for a particular project. For example, a photography exhibition.

Mentors

Mentors are people who have experience and can give advice to young people.

Network

A network is a community of people with something in common. A network is useful to share ideas and work with other people.

