



Arts

Policy

Jeremy

Corbyn

Winning

Values

Introduction

Central to Labour's vision to rebuild and transform Britain must be a radical transformative vision for the arts. There is immense potential in the skills and talents of our people, and huge opportunities ahead of us in science, technology and culture. The next Labour government will prioritise supporting and developing a thriving creative sector by investing in a culturally rich, more prosperous future for our country.

Years of systemic under-funding for the arts under the failed Tory austerity agenda and the impact of Brexit threaten to undermine Britain's arts sector and our proud cultural heritage. With 56% of all overseas trade in the creative sector falling within Europe and access to vital EU arts funding under threat a bold and inspiring policy programme for the arts has never been more desperately needed.

Our creativity has been our proud contribution to world culture. Shakespeare turned theatre into the story of all human experience. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's work has inspired generations of novelists and continues to delight audiences of all ages and backgrounds across the globe. Mary Shelley created an entire genre of literature. The BBC pioneered the technical side of broadcasting to turn radio and television into art forms. The 1960s catapulted the Beatles on to the world stage; the 1970s did the same for David Bowie. Glastonbury, a farm in Somerset gave the world a taste for outdoor music festivals and the Notting Hill Carnival made multicultural heritage into a mass shared experience. Around the world people look to us and see a nation that exudes the best of the arts.

It is not just the soul of the nation that is lifted by great art, each and every one of us is raised as an individual by the arts that we absorb and lifted still higher by the chances we have – too often fleeting – to live out our own artistic natures.

In every one of us there is a poet, a writer, a singer of songs, an artist, but today too few of us have the opportunities to access and participate in the arts.

For decades government has been the natural partner for the arts, allowing the risk taking that is essential so that great art can be created, for artists to survive the many misses that go into making the precious hits. Government has both created the space for the greatness of our nation's artistic achievement and let each of us bring the artistic greatness out of ourselves.

It is vital that government support the enrichment that creativity brings to each of us individually and collectively, and the enrichment that creative industries continue to bring to our economy. A Labour government under my leadership will return to the government's longstanding role of facilitating the greatest heights of Britain's artistic heritage and giving every one of us the capacity to enjoy, absorb and appreciate the cultural enterprise to have immeasurably enriched both our nation and the wider world.

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Restoring the arts to the heart of government policy making

Drawing on Britain's rich cultural heritage, Labour under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership will commit to extending access and participation in the arts to all people and all communities across Britain.

Labour will deliver on our transformative vision to support British creative industries building on our historical contribution to the arts and culture.

In opposition Labour will launch a wide-ranging consultation on supporting British arts and commit to delivering a comprehensive national plan for the publicly funded arts, culture and heritage sector in government. 50 years since Jennie Lee's 1965 ground-breaking White Paper, the first comprehensive national strategy for the arts of its time and the only since, a Jeremy Corbyn led Government will revisit and update an inspiring national strategic vision for the arts in the 21st century. A comprehensive national plan for our arts to compliment the Creative Industries Industrial strategy. An effective coordinated arts strategy reaches across government. For arts policy making to be at it's most effective, we will implement a cross-departmental cabinet committee in Parliament on the arts and creative industries tasked with a specific remit of increasing participation in the arts and culture to restore arts to the heart of Government policy making.

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Reinstating and expanding funding of British Art

Despite Arts Council England research demonstrating that for every pound of public spending in arts and culture, an additional £1.06 is generated in the economy^[1] the British government spends a smaller percentage, of its total GDP on arts and culture than many of our European neighbours and less than the 0.5% European average^[2].

The next Labour Government will over the course of the next Parliament aim to increase the proportion of GDP the British government spends on arts and culture to match the European average, improving access to and quality of arts provision in the UK.

Working within our fiscal credibility rule Labour will reverse Tory cuts, protecting and increasing local authority budgets allowing us to raise real terms arts expenditure locally and nationally. Labour will restore grant in aid funding of the Arts council. Lottery funding will remain distinct from grant in aid funding and cultural budgets will be devolved to a regional level improving integration of cultural planning with local decision-making, better linked to place-making, economic growth, skills to deliver a comprehensive cultural strategy.

For the UK, this is £46m boost to place arts funding back on a secure financial footing. We will restore the £9.6m cuts made in to Creative Scotland's budget since 2010.

Devolution has given the nations and regions that make up our country the chance to develop their own cultural identities and so enrich all of us. Labour will protect this and ensure that we place funding for arts and culture on the secure financial foundations they require, in every part of the country.

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[1] "Contribution of the arts and culture industry to the national economy: An update of our analysis of the macroeconomic contribution of the arts and culture industry to the national economy" Report for Arts Council England, July 2015

[2] General government expenditure by function (COFOG); Eurostat

Access for all

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child commits nation states to “respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity”.

If we are to meet this promise, more must be done to ensure the many benefits of access to the arts and culture are more evenly shared. In achieving this Labour will take bold, radical steps to ensure every child is able to fully develop their creativity at school. All pupils should have the opportunity to learn an instrument, participate in drama, dance and have regular access to a theatre, gallery or museum in their local area.

We will introduce an arts pupil premium to every primary school in England and Wales in line with the PE pupil premium and consult on the design and national roll-out to extend this pupil premium to all secondary schools. This will be a £160m boost for schools to invest in projects that will support cultural activities for schools over the longer-term. For Scotland, we will ensure an equivalent payment of at least £13m is made, plus Barnett consequentials, in additional arts and cultural funding.

Labour endorse proposals made by the creative learning alliance to consider dance and drama as national curriculum subjects within their own right and will consult with educational experts to establish dance and drama as independent subjects within the National Curriculum^[3].

Apprenticeships, Bursary and scholarship schemes are essential for ensuring access to the arts for the most disadvantaged students. Labour would introduce a national Creative Apprenticeship brokerage service with minimum employment standards, delivered by a single combined Sector Skills Council covering the Cultural and Creative Industries. To ensure talented students from low-income backgrounds can access specialist training, labour will bring forward plans to establish one nationally administered Bursary and scholarship scheme for the arts.

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[3] The national curriculum in England Framework document; July 2014

Protecting Performers

Cuts in funding in the arts and broadcasting have created a profession that suffers from appalling levels of low pay, sometimes no pay at all, insecure employment and, too often, exploitative working conditions.

To address the systemic exploitation within the creative sector requires bold government action. Labour would consult with trade unions and employers within the sector to develop and enforce transparent national policy and guidelines on minimum standards of artists' pay and conditions including exhibition fees, supported by funding agreements from arts councils. Address the proliferation of unpaid internships and unpaid labour and introduce a real living wage, protecting performers in the sector.

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Safeguarding our galleries, museums and libraries

Maintaining world leading museums and galleries, expertly administered and free at the point of use is crucial to our cultural heritage. Labour will defend our cultural assets and will implement a moratorium on all privatisations in the museum sector in Government. Working alongside the culture sector Trade Unions, Labour will consider the sectoral demands of those working to maintain our public museums to challenge corporate influence, reverse outsourcing and ensure that all workers are paid the real living Wage.

Labour will commit to develop a national policy on libraries in consultation with users, front-line staff, unions, campaigners and the academic community. Giving libraries a long-term future, we will enforce in law a commitment for local authorities to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service extended to digital services.

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Protecting the BBC

Under the Coalition and Conservative Governments the BBC has been under sustained ideological attack, threatening the future not just of the BBC but the creative industry as a whole. The licence fee has been frozen for six years and the phasing out of grant-in-aid and other grant income are jeopardising its ability to provide high-quality and varied content.

The BBC is the cornerstone of the UK's creative industry. Every £1 of the licence fee spent by the network generates £2 of economic activity, adding £8.3bn in to the economy^[4]. Labour in alliance with a broad coalition of organisations will be at the forefront of the campaigning to defend the licence fee as a means of funding an independent BBC, oppose cuts to grant-in-aid funding to our treasured public broadcasting institution and will support the continued provision of devolved regional television news and local radio.

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[4] "The Future of the BBC: The Alternative White Paper"; The Federation of Entertainment Unions; March 2016

Notes and Costings

Restoring the cuts made to arts funding since 2010/11 will cost £42.8m nationally. Future costs can be reversed, on current OBR forecasts, whilst remaining inside the Fiscal Credibility Rule envelope and thus reducing the current spending deficit over time. Previous cuts can be funded through a reversal of reductions in Capital Gains Tax announced at Budget 2016 (see below).

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Cuts made since 2010/11

		Funding lost (£m, real)
Arts Council England	Grant-in Aid	7.2
	Art Expenditure	16.80
Creative Scotland	Grant-in Aid	4.1
	Art Expenditure	5.5
Arts Council of Wales	Grant-in Aid	4.5
	Art Expenditure	4.7
Total		42.8

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Revenue Raisers

The entire cost of restoring cuts to central arts expenditure, and bringing in the arts pupil premium, can be met by reversing the cuts to Capital Gains Tax (CGT) introduced by then-Chancellor George Osborne in Budget 2016. This will raise £670m by the end of the current Parliament.

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Budget 2016 scorecard

House of Commons Library research shows that the tax cut is worth an average of £3,000 to people drawn overwhelmingly from the richest 0.3% in society. It is a handout for the wealthy and it is therefore fair and proportionate that a damaging cut to public revenues is reversed.

Capital Gains Tax: reduce basic rate to 10% and main rate to 20% excluding residential property and carried interest

2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
-105	-630	-605	-670	-735

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