

**ARTS
FOR THE
PEOPLE**



**PEOPLE
BEFORE
PROFIT**

KEY DEMANDS

PAY ARTISTS PROPERLY

- Expand the Basic Income for the Arts so all eligible artists can access it for as long as they need. Increase it to €375 a week.
- Introduce living wage rates for artists

MAKE SPACE FOR THE ARTS

- Legislate for low-cost “meanwhile” use of vacant premises and faster compulsory purchase by councils of long term vacant and derelict properties
- Reinststate 5% space for arts, culture and community spaces, including live/work spaces for artists, in new developments
- Fund local councils to renovate and fit out vacant spaces for artists, arts and cultural uses
- Cap rents at a quarter of household income

MAKE ARTS AFFORDABLE

- Free entry for under-25s, disabled people and carers and a free day every month in all publicly supported venues
- End the Ticketmaster rip off - establish a not-for-profit publicly-owned ticketing agency

SUPPORT THE ARTS AT NIGHT

- Extend permitted opening hours to 5am for late night venues, with free 24-hour public transport

FUND THE ARTS

- Increase government funding for arts and culture by 50% in the short term; double it in the medium term
- Expand the definition of arts eligible for state funding to include comedy and other creative art forms

Ireland is renowned around the world for its writers, musicians, artists and filmmakers yet government support for the arts is among the lowest in the EU 1. Artists are struggling to make ends meet, the physical infrastructure needed to create art and show it to the public is lacking, and enjoying the arts is increasingly unaffordable for many. People Before Profit's Arts Policy provides radical yet practical solutions to these problems, beginning with the cost of living crisis.

PAY ARTISTS PROPERLY

Artists are so badly paid that half of them are living in enforced deprivation. They face the same high housing and living costs as everyone else and on top of that often have to pay high rents for studios and workspaces - if they can find them. It's no surprise that many artists are considering emigrating or abandoning their craft altogether.

The government's Basic Income for the Arts scheme has been a lifeline for the small numbers that have benefited from it. People Before Profit would expand it and make it permanent so all eligible artists can access it for as long as they need. We would extend its scope to additional creative art forms like performance arts, comedy, socially-engaged art, crafts, and design. Finally, we would immediately increase it to €375 a week and index it to inflation. Our policy to abolish means testing of social welfare payments would prevent disabled people, carers and lone parents from being penalised for income they receive for their artistic practice.

Alongside the Basic Income, minimum pay rates for artists must be introduced, as advocated for by Praxis, the artists' union. Based on the living wage for artists in Scotland, this should be set at €31.42 an hour for graduate artists, €39.40 for artists with 3+ years' experience and €48.80 for artists with 5 years+ experience.

To support this, we would legislate for collective bargaining and trade union recognition, including of the artists' union, Praxis and guarantee full protection of employment rights for all artists and for arts, culture and entertainment workers.

MAKE SPACE FOR THE ARTS

From studios to galleries, concert venues to nightclubs, space for the arts is being crowded out by landlords and developers greedy for the higher profits offered by hotels or offices. People Before Profit would enshrine guaranteed space for the arts in national planning policy, beginning with 5% as a minimum baseline for arts, culture and community spaces, including live/work spaces for artists, in new developments alongside expansion of the Percent for Arts scheme.

We would legislate for “meanwhile” use of vacant premises at low cost and reform the compulsory purchase laws to allow faster and widespread compulsory purchase by councils of long term vacant and derelict properties to permanently expand the stock of publicly owned space for artists and the arts. To support both meanwhile and long term use, we would introduce ringfenced funding for local councils to renovate and fit out vacant spaces for artists and the arts and provide them with low cost state-backed insurance. We would also immediately increase funding to local authorities to extend library opening hours and expand cultural, educational and heritage-based activities in our libraries.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ARTISTS

People Before Profit would establish a State Construction Company to boost social housing output from just over 9,000 new builds last year to at least 25,000 annually, and cost rental and affordable housing to at least 10,000 new builds a year. This would directly benefit low income artists, as would our real rent controls policy which caps rents at a quarter of household income through People Before Profit’s Rent Reduction Bill 2023. We would also make the inclusion of live/work spaces for artists a planning condition for new residential developments.

SUPPORT THE ARTS AT NIGHT

Ireland's night time culture has been suffocated by a lingering conservatism that dates back to Ireland's Catholic past and remains the attitude of many government politicians. Germany recognises its nightclubs and live events venues as cultural institutions; in Ireland they are treated with suspicion and forced to close at the earliest time in Europe.

People Before Profit would enable nightclubs and live music venues to be recognised as cultural spaces eligible for state funding and supports and facilitate the opening of not-for-profit night time venues run by cooperatives. We would grant annual licenses to nightclubs, extend opening hours to 5am and expand 24-hour public transport. To protect workers, we would mandate higher pay rates for late night work.

MAKE ARTS AFFORDABLE

Going out - whether it be to a theatre, gallery, concert or nightclub - is increasingly a luxury many can't afford. This is especially damaging for young people, locked out of social lives as well as housing. People Before Profit would mandate free entry to publicly funded arts and culture events for under-25s, disabled people and carers. In addition, we would introduce "one free day a month" in all publicly supported venues (similar to Heritage Ireland's Free Wednesday scheme). Our longstanding policy to expand public transport and abolish fares would facilitate free low-carbon travel to cultural events. We would also establish a not-for-profit publicly-owned ticketing agency to end the Ticketmaster rip off and reduce overheads through providing state-backed insurance for arts venues.

FUND THE ARTS

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael know the price of everything but the value of nothing and share a conservative, penny-pinching outlook towards the arts. Government funding for cultural services sat at around €1 billion in 2023, which compares very badly to other EU countries and especially to other high income EU countries. Just to reach EU average and high income EU country averages, government spending on Cultural Services would have to rise by 40-50%.

People Before Profit commits to increase government funding for the arts by 50% or €500 million in the short term and to double it to €2 billion in the medium term. We would expand the scope of artistic and cultural activities that are recognised as eligible for state funding to cover additional creative art forms. We would guarantee multi-annual funding to arts organisations so that they can properly plan for the future and All state funding would be strictly conditional on high quality employment and training being provided with full protection of workers' rights and equality of access for minority and disadvantaged communities and groups.

