

Tuesday 11th May, 2021

Dear Secretary of State for Education,

The Government has proposed that courses in price group C1 – covering subjects in music, dance, drama and performing arts; art and design; media studies; and archaeology – are not among its strategic priorities and will be subject to funding reductions. The proposed reduction of £121.40 per student represents a funding cut of 50 percent in the subsidy to these specialist subjects that are expensive to teach. The visual arts sector strongly disagrees with this proposal and furthermore, alongside the London Art School Alliance, opposes the removal of the London weighting.

The impact is far-reaching. More than ever, we appreciate the emergency funding that the Government has provided for the cultural sector across the country through the Culture Recovery Fund. This is why we find these policy proposals a strategic misstep and contrary to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport strategy *Here for Culture*.

We urge you to reconsider. Higher Education is a fundamental right of all people in this country. This proposal will detract from one of the UK's fastest-growing economies. The Creative Industries contributed £116bn in GVA in 2019 and supports 1 in every 16 jobs (DCMS 2019). This success has been built upon the UK's world leading arts education and its entrepreneurial graduates - 65% of employees in the creative sector have a degree, evidencing the value of the universities and schools of art. An arts education develops high level creative skills along with complex problem solving and critical thinking, areas that the World Economic Forum identified as the top three skills for future jobs.

The current proposal may limit the availability and accessibility of places on arts courses and result in fewer courses being offered. This will have a detrimental impact on our ability to retain our world leading position, attract inward investment through our cultural capital and our share of the global art market. The UK art market thrives due to a well-developed infrastructure of commercial galleries, public museums and galleries, and most importantly artists, of which the majority of the workforce have studied on arts courses.

Arts education is fundamental to the lives of the next generation of artists and designers. As professionals in the arts, we use the process of going to university as a way to learn, network, grow and experience the arts as a career. Artists and designers learn about art so they can see and engage with the world in a new and exciting way. They collaborate with scientists, engineers, new technologies, the NHS. Art positively contributes to wider society and not just the economy, it has the power to bring communities together, which we have all seen throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Universities have a fundamental role in energising cities and towns through complex relationships with communities, businesses, R&D, innovation and strategic partnerships with arts and culture. Shared teaching and research spaces in galleries, community programmes,

schools and artist opportunities will be negatively impacted by any cuts. If funding for arts education is reduced, university courses may not cover their costs, the outreach will diminish, and the talent pipeline will be impacted. The knock-on effect would be less-skilled workers in the creative industries, reduction in investment for cultural regeneration; and decreased health and wellbeing driven through placemaking agendas. The arts sector is vital to the rebuilding of the country's economy and requires nurturing and investment, especially now.

We ask you to revoke the policy proposals and ensure the continuation of a UK success story. If you believe that innovation is a strategic priority, you will not cut HE funding to the Arts – but better recognise our value as integral to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We are appealing to you, please listen to us and the rest of the cultural sector.

Art is essential to the growth of this country.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of the visual arts sector in the UK. A collective group of art schools, sector support organisations, galleries, institutions and universities across the country.

Paula Orrell, Director, Contemporary Visual Arts Network CVAN England

Sarah Munro, Director of BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art and Chair of CVAN England

Jo Townshend, Chair, CVAN London; Principal Partnerships Manager, UCL I&E

Kieren Reed, Director, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL

Sonia Boyce, OBE, RA, Artist, Inaugural Chair and Professor of Black Art & Design, University of the Arts London

Laura Sillars, Director MIMA, Dean MIMA School of Art and Design, Teesside University

Professor Richard Noble, Head Department of Art, Goldsmiths, University of London

Professor Bob Sheil, Director of The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

Professor Jeremy Till, Head of Central Saint Martins and Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of the Arts London

Sophia Phoca is Dean of Art at Camberwell, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges, UAL

Ralph Rugoff, Director, Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre

Tamar Garb, Durning Lawrence Professor in the History of Art, University College London

Maria Balshaw, Director, Tate

Alex Farquharson, Director, Tate Britain

Frances Morris, Director, Tate Modern

Helen Legg, Director, Tate Liverpool

Anne Barlow, Director, Tate St Ives

Gavin Wade, Artist-Curator, Eastside Projects and Chair of New Art West Midlands

Julie Lomax, CEO, a-n The Artists Information Company

Gilane Tawadros, CEO, DACS

Amanda Parker, CEO, Inc Arts UK

Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director, Crafts Council England

Black Curators Collective

Iwona Blazwick, OBE, Director, Whitechapel Gallery

Caroline Julian, Director of Policy & Programmes, Creative Industries Federation

Sophie Leighton, Director, Bethlem Gallery, Beckenham

Mary-Alice Stack, Chief Executive, Creative United

Alistair Hudson, Director, Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth, University of Manchester
Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries
Jonathan Watkins, Director, Ikon Gallery
Lucy Davies, 198 Contemporary Arts & Learning
Mark Smith, Executive Director, Axisweb
Martin Clark, Director, Camden Art Centre
Sue Ball, Executive Chair, CVAN Yorkshire and Humber
Ceri Littlechild & Kath Wood - Co-Chairs of CVAN East, Wysing Arts Centre
Katharine Stout, Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea
Dave Moutrey, Director & CEO, HOME, Manchester
Nephertiti Schandorf, Artistic Director, Peckham Platform
Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art
Red Eye Photography Network
SCAN Scottish Contemporary Art Network
Margot Heller, Director, South London Gallery
Paul Hobson, Director, Modern Art Oxford
Chris Mooney-Brown, co-chair, Visual Arts Group Wales
Andrew Miller MBE, co-founder, #WeShallNotBeRemoved UK Disability Arts Alliance
Helen Cammock, Artist and Co-Chair of Visual Arts South West
Woodrow Kernohan, Director, John Hansard Gallery and Co-Chair, Visual Arts South West
Marcel Baettig, Bow Arts Trust
Ben Roberts, Artistic Director Brighton CCA and Co-Chair Cubitt Artists
Joe Scotland, Director, Studio Voltaire
Lea O'Loughlin, Co-Director, Acme
Robert Leckie, Director, Spike Island
Zoé Whitley, Director, Chisenhale Gallery
Nicola Freeman, Director of Engagement & Learning, The Hepworth Wakefield
Victoria Pomery, Director, Turner Contemporary
Sepake Angiama, Artistic Director, Institute of International Visual Arts
Nigel Prince, Director, Artes Mundi
Seema Manchanda, Managing Director, The Showroom
Sarah Fisher, Director, Open Eye Gallery, Co-Chair of Contemporary Visual Arts Network, NW
Aaron Cezar, Director, Delfina Foundation
Andrew Nairne, Director, Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge
Ingrid Swenson, Director & Rosa Harvest, Deputy Director at PEER, London
Prof. Gregory Sporton, Westminster School of Arts, University of Westminster
Jo Paton, Chief Producer, Serpentine
Professor Mick Grierson, Research Leader, UAL Creative Computing Institute
Dr Samantha Lackey, Director, Liverpool Biennial
Sue Jones, Director, Whitstable Biennale / Cement Fields
Sally Shaw MBE - Director, Firstsite Colchester
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Dr. Mark Altaweel, Vice-Dean Innovation, Enterprise, and Knowledge Exchange, Social and Historical Sciences, UCL
Professor Simon Robertshaw, Dean, University of East London
Ryan Hughes, Artistic Director, Coventry Biennial
Sarah Dance, Arts Consultant, Chair of Creative Estuary,
Joe Hill, Director of Towner Art Gallery,
Katharine Stout, Director of Focal Point Gallery - Co-chairs of the South East Creative Economies Network (SECEN)
Kate Bright, Associate Professor of Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL
Emma Hart, artist and lecturer of Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL
Alessio Antonioli, Director, Gasworks and Triangle Network
Elaine Speight, Reader in Curatorial Practice & Place, University of Central Lancashire, Co-Chair of Contemporary Visual Arts Network, NW
Dr Marquard Smith, Programme Leader, MA MUseums & Galleries in Education, UCL Institute of Education
Joyce Cronin Co-Director, The Bower
Sarah Davies, Executive Director, Phoenix Arts Space and the Creative Workspace Network
Dr Claire Robins, Reader in Art and Education, UCL Institute of Education
Andrew Stone, formerly Head of Art, Architecture and Design, London Metropolitan University
Lizzie Carey-Thomas, Chief Curator, Serpentine Galleries, London
Mary Cremin, Director, Void Gallery, Derry
Sarah Pickering, Artist, Co-Founder of the Global Photographies Network, and lecturer in Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL
Kate Adams, Artistic Director & CEO, Project Art Works & Chair CVAN SE
Brigid Lowe, Associate Professor in Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL
Hugh Mulholland, Senior Curator, MAC Belfast
Rocca Holly-Nambi, Director, b-side, Dorset
Susanne Clausen, Director Reading International and Professor of Fine Art at the University of Reading
Hayley Dixon, Deputy Director, Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea
Alessandra Cianetti, Founder, performingborders
Carey Young, artist and Associate Professor in Fine Art, Slade School of Fine Art
Christopher Emmett, Head of Design, London Metropolitan University
Robert Mills, Head of Department, History of Art Department, UCL
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Zoe Li, Director, Yeovil Art Space, Steering Group Member, Visual Art South West
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Paul Bavister, Lecturer, The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL
Kim Wide, MBE - CEO and Artistic Director, Take A Part CIO
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Emma Gower, Executive Support Manager, New Art Exchange
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