

Assistance to Arts Competitions

October 2004

The following *Ask IFACCA* question has been submitted to the IFACCA secretariat.

From: Ben Strout
Director Arts Development
Australia Council for the Arts, Australia

Question

Mr Strout is interested in knowing which national arts support agencies offer grants to externally managed competitions, prizes or awards in any artform. We would appreciate a yes/no answer to the following:

Does your agency:

1. provide recurring financial support for competitions?
 2. provide one-off support for some aspect of competitions?
 3. explicitly exclude support for competitions (as the Australia Council does currently)?
-

Responses

The IFACCA secretariat has collated responses to this query for the benefit of anyone who is interested in the topic. This report should not be seen as a full global survey and analysis of arts agencies' assistance to competitions, but a rough introduction to the type of assistance provided by agencies that responded to the query.

There were nine responses to this request (a list of respondents is below). Responses are summarised in figure 1. Responses were mixed, with 3 out of 8 agencies indicating that they provide recurring support for externally managed competitions (Finland, Namibia and Zimbabwe). Five agencies provide one-off (ie. project) support to competitions.

This is a very small 'snapshot' of support for competitions by national arts agencies. The survey of national arts agencies used for IFACCA's 'country profiles' suggests that 71 percent of national arts agencies (24 out of 34) provide assistance to 'awards and prizes/honours in the arts and culture'. There is no way of determining from the survey which of these are externally managed and which are undertaken by the arts agency itself, nor can it be determined which are non-competitive awards and which are competitive. Nevertheless, the data at least suggest that competitive awards and honours are common among the world's national arts agencies.

IFACCA is interested in any further information on this topic. If your agency supports competitions, or if you have information that could be added to figure 1, please contact the IFACCA secretariat at info@ifacca.org. Mr Strout has asked IFACCA to pass on the following message of thanks:

'Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to IFACCA's survey on government arts support for public competitions.

As you can imagine, some Australian competitions have gained a national or even international reputation. They have a role in raising the profile of the arts and specific artists, yet - as was shown in most of the responses we received from other agencies internationally - it is not clear whether there should be ongoing government support for these events. Without new resources, to 'open the doors' to considering support for these events across the board challenges government's already limited budgets.

I greatly appreciate that you were able to respond so quickly to the IFACCA questionnaire. Your information helped our governing body, the Australia Council, consider these issues and clarify its position on support for competitions here in Australia. Essentially, this will continue to be available through access to 'project' support rather than ongoing operational funding.

Thank you again for your timely advice.'

Respondents

Responses to this question were received from:

- Retha Louise Hofmeyr, Ministry of Basic Education and Culture, Namibia
- Risto Ruohonen, Ministry of Education, Finland
- Hannu Saha, Arts Council of Finland
- Tanja Grželj, Ministry of Culture, Slovenia
- Yuen Kum Cheong, National Arts Council, Singapore
- Phil Hammond, Arts Council of Northern Ireland
- Hilde Billiet, Ministry of Flanders, Belgium
- Per Svenson, State Fund for Culture, Sweden
- Elvas Mari, National Arts Council of Zimbabwe

Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared by Christopher Madden of the IFACCA Secretariat. Errors, omissions and opinions are the Secretariat's and cannot be attributed to the Board or members of IFACCA. The report may be used freely with acknowledgement. Suggested reference: International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies, 2003, *Assistance to Arts Competitions*, IFACCA, Sydney.

© IFACCA 2004. IFACCA is interested in hearing from anyone who cites this report.

Figure 1: Competitions Ask IFACCA: Summary of responses

Country	Does your agency:		
	provide recurring financial support for externally managed competitions?	provide one-off support for some aspect of externally managed competitions?	explicitly exclude support for externally managed competitions?
Australia – Australia Council	No	Yes	Yes, for recurring support
Belgium – Ministry of Flanders	No	Yes, for the music sector	Yes, for the visual arts and theatre sectors.
Finland – Ministry of Education	Yes, for large international competitions Also, with the Arts Council's recommendation, competitions can have tax free status for their prizes.	No	No
Finland – Arts Council	Yes, for music: Subsidies to Organise Music Competitions: for the organisation costs of nationally or internationally significant competitions.		
Namibia – Ministry of Basic Education and Culture	Yes. Annual funding for various arts festivals (dance and choral) - competitive at regional level but non-competitive at a national level. Funding is also made available to the National Theatre and National Art Gallery, for scriptwriting and drama competitions (annually) and for visual arts (bi-annually). College of the Arts has an annual competition for further study. The Ministry is also partners in other competitions, such as the national broadcaster's Music Makers Competition.	Yes. The Ministry supports various visual art competitions at school level to raise awareness of environmental and social issues. These are often one-off in terms of specific theme and partners, but regular in terms of presentation.	No
Northern Ireland – Arts Council of Northern Ireland	No	Infrequently	No, but the Ministry tends to support only traditional arts competitions which form a big part of the traditional arts scene here in Northern Ireland.
Singapore – National Arts Council	No	Yes	Yes, the Council does not support small scale competitions with limited outreach.
Sweden - Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs	No. The Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs does not support any form of externally managed competitions. However, the Council manages the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, which is a literary prize established by the Swedish government.		
Zimbabwe - National Arts Council	Yes. The national awards "National Arts Merit Awards" and the "Jikinya Competitions for Primary School Dance in Zimbabwe" are funded by the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe and the corporate sector.		