

PRAXIS: THE ARTISTS' UNION OF IRELAND

BUDGET 2026 STATEMENT

Praxis, the Artists' Union of Ireland, welcomes secured commitments from the government towards a permanent Basic Income for the Arts (BIA). This is a vivid demonstration of what artists, workers and artist-representative organisations, such as Praxis and the NCFA, can achieve when working together.

However, this is not a simple good news story. We are concerned that the current BIA pilot scheme will end in February 2026 and the intended successor BIA scheme, which is not yet fully approved, will not begin before September 2026. This uncertainty is not good for workers.

Further, while we welcome the commitment to a permanent BIA, it does not make up for the real term cuts to the Arts funding¹ and offers no definite plan to tackle the long-term deprivation in the sector.

Praxis members are anxious about their livelihoods. Uncertainty around the Arts Council's future has worsened an already precarious sector. The Arts Council plays a vital role in the arts infrastructure and in the livelihood of artists and arts workers in Ireland. The current level of funding to the arts means it is unable to provide the finances needed for the sector to function adequately. Funding levels are not keeping pace with inflation which is piling pressure on artists and arts workers to meet overheads and other costs.

"There's this constant atmosphere of anxiety. It feels like we're being asked to hold our breath until September 2026. Most of us can't afford to wait that long." - Praxis Member

50% of artists in Ireland live under the poverty line. Without lasting income support and public investment, how can artists pay for their electricity this winter? How can they pay for their materials and

¹ In 2025 the budget for the Arts was €380m and it is announced to be €384m for 2026. But, according to the [CSO](#), the inflation for the past year was 2%, so for the arts budget to remain the same in real terms it should have been €387.6m, so an effective cut of €3.6m.

supplies, for exorbitant rents, childcare, an emergency medical crisis? We want artists to thrive, not simply survive.

Praxis calls for increased levels of Arts Council funding, investment in arts infrastructure and a permanent Basic Income for the Arts that includes all artists who meet agreed eligibility conditions². We believe these are the first steps needed to ensure fair living and working conditions across the arts.

Either the BIA is transformative for the sector or it only helps a few. The pilot scheme has shown that Basic Income for the Arts pilot produced over €100 million in Social and Economic Benefits and for every €1 of public money invested in the pilot, society received €1.39 in return. This is a success story for both arts workers and government. Workers in the arts need now to be comprehensively consulted on the formulation of a permanent scheme. Every worker deserves security, stability, and a fair wage. Artists are no different. Our industry must be a vibrant, co-operative, and equitable one. We don't want to fight over scraps.

“The artists of Ireland are hailed as Ireland’s greatest asset on the world stage, yet where is the investment in us and the arts to match the lip service” - Praxis Member

14 October 2025

² The full Praxis' Case For The Basic Income for the Arts can be found [here](#)

