

PRESS RELEASE

November 25, 2015



SPENDING REVIEW FROM THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES FEDERATION

This Spending Review saw a strong endorsement from the Chancellor of the value of the arts and creative industries, and recognition that the contribution they make to the economy more than repays investment in them.

We welcome the fact that funding for Arts Council England and the national museums and galleries appears to have been broadly protected against pre-settlement fears that they would take a massive hit. We trust that the settlements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will offer similar support to their creative bodies.

However, we are concerned about the consequences for arts organisations outside London of the deep cuts to local authority budgets. We call upon national government, local authorities and the arts and creative sector to work more closely to ensure strong arts funding in the regions.

The Federation has begun work with our members and across Whitehall on increasing financial incentives to corporate and private giving, to help bolster strong public investment.

We welcome specific awards for Hull City of Culture, the Royal College of Art, The Factory in Manchester and the Victoria and Albert Museum among other institutions as well as the £20m investment in creating the next generation of coders.

We hope that measures such as the abolition of local business rates may benefit the many SMEs that are the cornerstone of the creative industries. But there are concerns at the potential impact of the apprenticeship levy on some of the bigger creative companies.

The Government's increase in spending on science and technology is laudable. But we fear that the £1.3bn investment to train new teachers particularly for STEM and EBacc subjects may accelerate the decline in arts teachers in schools where numbers have already fallen 11 per cent since 2010. STEM subjects are crucial to the success of the creative industries but not in isolation; we will redouble our efforts to convince ministers of the importance of arts subjects.

In the runup to this Spending Review, the arts and creative industries have collaborated efficiently to demonstrate the importance of investment. As the new umbrella body for the whole sector, the Creative Industries Federation is pleased to have played its part in making that case.

