

THE STORY SO FAR

A photograph of two rappers performing on a stage. The rapper on the left is wearing a dark jacket and cap, holding a microphone. The rapper on the right is wearing a white tracksuit and cap, also holding a microphone and gesturing with his other hand. They are standing on a small white platform. The background is a large, curved wall covered in graffiti, with a spotlight shining down on them.

TRANSFORMING CREATIVITY IN WALES

APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023



WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

Charity number: 1060458

A YEAR OF RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION

This year has seen Wales Millennium Centre emerge confidently from the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic thanks to the ongoing support of our partners, members, donors, trusts, foundations and the public.

Our new Cabaret venue now shares the best of drag, cabaret, comedy, burlesque and more, and our new digital venue Bocs (one of a kind in UK arts centres) offers free, groundbreaking immersive experiences. We also continue to develop accessible and inspiring spaces for communities to gather and create in the heart of our building.

Community-led celebrations from St David's Day to Diwali have breathed life back into our building following the pandemic and we've expanded our Croeso 'pay what you can' tickets to communities across Wales.

In addition to hosting leading international shows, we continue to produce our own work, showcasing Welsh creativity to over 40,500 people worldwide. This has included a run at the National Theatre in London for The Boy with Two Hearts. As part of this work, we've continued to support artists with rehearsal space,



Graeme Farrow,
Artistic and Creative Director

guidance and industry connections and our creative associates have enriched our work for a second year.

As ever, Wales' future generations remain a priority and we're working to establish permanent youth-led Maker Spaces to nurture their creativity and grow our unique programme of free skills development training, alongside our industry partners.

As a charity that receives only 15% of our income from public funding, this work is only possible with the support of our audiences, funders, partners, visitors and volunteers. Your generosity enables us to push boundaries, expand our reach and amplify diverse voices. Thank you for being a part of our story.

Watch our story here:



“**THESE VISIBLE CHANGES ONLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE AND ARE THE RESULT OF ONGOING CONSULTATION WITH PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE A CREATIVE HOME FOR EVERYONE.**”

RAISING ASPIRATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

We produce joyful, life-enhancing creative learning opportunities and experiences with and for our nation's young people. We support them to build creative confidence and expand their skills, social networks and career pathways. This year over 6,500 young people have been inspired here at Wales Millennium Centre and across our partner venues in Wales.

👏 **I GAINED MANY TRANSFERABLE SKILLS THAT WILL HELP ME WITH INTERVIEWS AND FUTURE JOBS. 🙌**

170+ **Creative Voice** graduates received 12 hours of free in-depth training in radio, music and visual and digital arts.



👏 **A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY AND AN EXPERIENCE I'LL NEVER FORGET. 🙌**

A **Dros Nos** attendee who enjoyed 24 hours of behind-the-scenes access and creative expression, run with local youth groups at our annual sleepover.

👏 **Amazing event. Love how inclusive it is. We need more events like this. 🙌**

Our **Valleys Kids partnership** event **Life Hack** delivered 1,100+ hours of industry networking to young people across South Wales. 91% of those who took part reported gaining clarity on creative careers that are available to them.

👏 **The sessions were fantastic. Very informative and helped to inspire and spark an interest within the creative arts industry with the pupils. 🙌**

A teacher from one of our six **Valued Partnership secondary schools**, which empowered 90+ pupils with 15 days of on-site industry insights, working with Careers Wales.



Gyrfa Cymru
Careers Wales

👏 **...I have found members of senior management to be not only interested in our perspective but also eager to actually fight for our voices to be heard. 🙌**

One of our **Youth Collective** members, on helping to steer our decision-making processes, from our youth-led programmes to the design and use of our spaces.

👏 **When I started, I was just a shy kid who didn't talk to anyone and now I'm not afraid to do a show in front of everyone. 🙌**

One of 80+ young people who received free, accredited **Radio Platform** training. Our youth-led station saw 1,200+ broadcasts and welcomed 11 young talents into paid radio roles.



A WORLD-LEADING PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Wales Millennium Centre is a creative home for everyone. We fire imagination through world-class digital and live experiences, sharing creative opportunities and developing skills, playing a critical role in transforming creativity in Wales.

DIGITAL PIONEERS

“I collapsed in ecstatic tears when the headset came off. It was one of the most profound experiences of my life... GO. GO. GO.”

Audience feedback for the award-winning In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats, one of 88% of bookers “emotionally moved” by their immersive experience.

Our new Bocs venue is unique in UK arts centres and showcases free immersive digital experiences made by us and other industry leaders across the world.

We also have Europe’s largest exterior LG digital screen installation on the front of our iconic building, broadcasting live motion graphics.

HOME OF WORLD-LEADING THEATRE

“The reception was incredible, the theatre is beautiful, I just feel so lucky.”

The performer Lauren Drew on the opening night of Les Misérables, one of 40 world-class musical, opera, dance, theatre and comedy productions to enchant 426,800+ audience members in our iconic Donald Gordon Theatre.



INDUSTRY-LEADING TALENT DEVELOPMENT

“What you have done here is truly amazing. It really is world-leading.”

Audience feedback for How Shall We Begin Again? an innovative main stage production from Jo Fong, one of our eight resident creative associates, paid to develop their unique practices and enrich our programmes.

“It’s the best thing I’ve ever done in my life. You learn how to work on giant productions... I’ve learned how to trust myself a lot more.”

One of our seven technical apprentices, who together have gained 11,000+ paid hours of world-class technical theatre experience with us and renowned partner venues across Wales.

INNOVATORS IN SUSTAINABILITY

“The solar panels on our roof will power our main stage activities for the next 25 years and we are an original member of One Planet Cardiff’s innovative heat network which will reduce our annual emissions by 80%. This proactive approach is ensuring a cleaner and greener future for generations to come.”

David Bonney, Building Conservation and Engineering Manager

7.5 ACRES OF CREATIVITY

Our eight prestigious cultural residents and partners help make Wales Millennium Centre the nation’s creative campus.



ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Working with 50+ community, national and international partners, and our eight cultural residents, we champion the voices of Wales' many communities to create joyous celebrations, experiences and spaces for everyone in our public building.



“...WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE HAS BEEN ALONGSIDE US EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING. AS CARNIVAL HAS GROWN AND DEVELOPED AND GOT BIGGER, SO HAS WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE'S INPUT.”

Butetown Carnival's creative director Keith Murrell on their biggest celebration yet. Carnival is just one of 160+ community-led performances, exhibitions, experiences and cultural celebrations which together have welcomed 11,000+ people to our building.

“It's really cool to see the work we put in, in action, and see that our ideas and our thoughts were taken seriously.”

Design Group member on our youth-led Maker Spaces, home to industry training, youth consultation and artist residencies for 500+ young people.

“New artists know that Cabaret is a place where they can come, try things out, and excel... while being supported by a crowd of people that want to see work that we make.”

Producer Peter Darney on our new purpose-built Cabaret venue, a first of its kind for Wales.

“...traditionally musical theatre in a large venue is seen by our community to be upper class and quite intimidating – so this has really made us feel welcome!”

One of 3,200+ audience members who have experienced world-class performances with Croeso 'pay what you can' tickets.

“I love it here and am thankful for the experience gained, opportunities to try new things and pleasure I have and continue to have as part of the Wales Millennium Centre family.”

One of 200+ volunteers sharing the joy of live theatre with our audiences, along with 22,700+ collective hours of their time, skills and passion for the arts in Wales.

FOR EVERYONE

We are a real Living Wage and Disability Confident employer, driving inclusivity with our cross-departmental equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) network, our partners and our communities. Search 'Diversity Action Plan' on our website for more.



INNOVATIVE WORK TO SHOWCASE WALES

Supporting Wales-based artists to develop and showcase innovative Welsh work, we've brought eight Wales Millennium Centre productions, co-productions and experiences to 40,500+ audience members, and we're working on another six, including our Welsh language main stage epic musical, Branwen: Dadeni, co-produced with Frân Wen.

👤👤 I came out of the studio with a renewed enthusiasm to learn the language. 🗨️

Applause from South Wales Life for Anthem, our joyous production that pushed the boundaries of Welsh language theatre and welcomed an audience that was 89% Welsh-speaking.

👤👤 Diverse. 🗨️ 👤👤 Inclusive. 🗨️ 👤👤 Welsh. 🗨️

The most frequently used words by 16,000+ audience members to describe our international arts festival, Llais. 95% agreed they can experience something unique and unmatched compared to other festivals.



👤👤 ...IT'S BEEN GREAT TO EXPERIENCE SUCH A RANGE OF AUDIENCES. BUT THE THING THAT STAYS TRUE WHEREVER WE GO IS THIS IDEA OF QUEER ALLYSHIP, QUEER LOVE AND QUEER JOY AND QUEER SELF-LOVE. 🗨️



👤👤 I've been very lucky to see everything currently showing at National Theatre this half term... My 'can only see one' recommendation is *The Boy with Two Hearts* – moving, tense, important. 🗨️

One of 16,000+ audience members in London and Cardiff moved by our Welsh refugee story. Our accompanying virtual reality experience *Ripples of Kindness* was showcased internationally.

👤👤 To have the generosity and the support that I had from Wales Millennium Centre in terms of their transparency, I've never had that before... allowing me in the meetings, allowing me in those conversations. It was really from the ground up. 🗨️

Connor Allen, Children's Laureate Wales in 2021, and the writer and performer behind the lauded, ground-breaking grime-theatre mash-up *The Making of a Monster*.

Luke Hereford, writer and performer behind the critically acclaimed cabaret co-production *Grandmother's Closet*, which enthralled audiences in the Edinburgh Fringe, Cardiff, Manchester, Bristol and Norway.

FUELING OUR FUTURE

Diolch. Our ambitious journey is only possible with our family of volunteers, members, partners and supporters who share our passion for championing young people, communities and emerging artists from across Wales. We couldn't do it without you.

WANT TO BECOME PART OF OUR STORY TOO?

Donate – a small donation can make a huge difference.

Volunteer – share your time, skills and passion for the arts with our family of volunteers.

Join – become a member and enjoy a range of exclusive benefits in recognition of your generous support.

Name a seat – be part of our history by naming a seat for yourself or a loved one in our spectacular Donald Gordon Theatre.

Leave a gift – get closer to what you love during your lifetime whilst making a lasting contribution for future generations as part of our Legacy Circle.

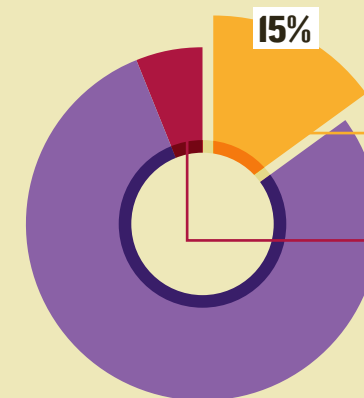
Share your passion – help to develop and fund transformative projects and enjoy exclusive experiences as a Chair's Circle member.

Grow your brand – entertain your clients, reward staff and enjoy access to world-class art and culture as one of our corporate supporters.

JOIN, DONATE.



FUNDING BREAKDOWN



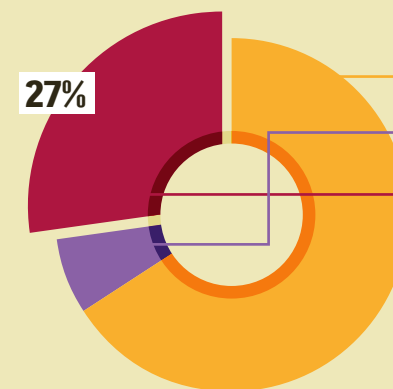
INCOME 22/23

Arts Council Wales core funding | £4 MILLION (15%)

Income from our theatres, cafes, bars and shop | £21 MILLION (79%)

Donations and philanthropic giving | £1.6 MILLION (6%)

ONLY 15% OF OUR INCOME IS FROM PUBLIC FUNDING – THE REST COMES FROM OUR COMMUNITY.



EXPENDITURE 22/23

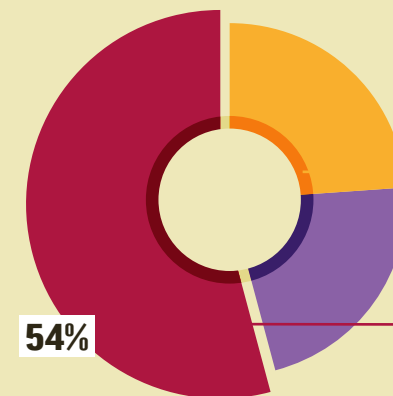
Costs linked to our commercial activities | £18 MILLION (66%)

Charitable activities | £1.8 MILLION (7%)

Direct fund-raising costs | £5,000 (0%)

Costs of running and maintaining our building, housing eight cultural residents across 7.5 acres | £7.6 MILLION (27%)

IT COSTS £7.6 MILLION A YEAR TO KEEP OUR ICONIC PUBLIC BUILDING OPEN TO OUR 1.8M VISITORS, 364 DAYS A YEAR.



CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE 22/23

Community | £435,000 (24%)

Wales Millennium Centre Productions | £400,000 (22%)

Creative Learning | £960,000 (54%)

Official annual accounts to be filed with Companies House in December 2023. Figures rounded.

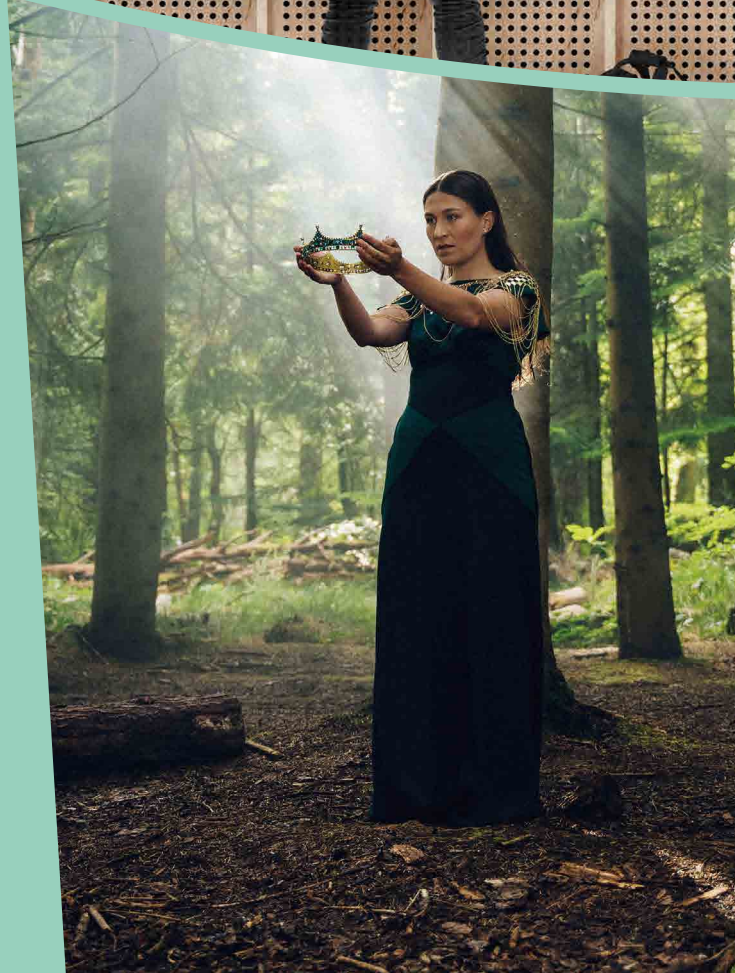
A GLIMPSE OF WHAT'S TO COME

As we look to the future, we have ambitious plans for 2023/24 and beyond.

TRANSFORMING CREATIVITY IN WALES

Our exciting plans include:

- A programme of innovative experiences, workshops and talks to immerse 8,000+ people in the world of VR, 360° films and projections, and more.
- Opportunities for 10,000+ community members to participate in our upcoming co-curated experiences, installations and celebrations, spanning Eid, Carnival and Diwali.
- The arrival of our first Welsh language main stage epic musical Branwen: Dadeni, co-produced with Frân Wen.
- The return of our international arts festival Llais with our most epic line-up yet.
- The expansion of our programme of courses for young people offering more creative opportunities and experiences.



EXPANDING OUR SPACES

In 2022/23 we saw the opening of our new Cabaret space, our digital venue Bocs and our new café-bar Ffwrnais. Next year we will complete this ambitious phase of transformations marking a warmer welcome to Wales Millennium Centre, with our refurbished members' bar Copr.

Next, we're creating permanent youth-led Platform spaces, enabling 10,000+ young people and creatives to co-develop and access our programmes. They will include recording studios, digital labs, rehearsal, performance areas, a new radio station and a maker's workshop.

Looking further ahead, we are planning for the Cardiff Bay Production and Skills Hub, which will offer more rehearsal and production space and industry training to Wales' creatives, and reinforce our reputation as a world-class cultural district.

WE ARE WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE. FIRE FOR THE IMAGINATION.



THANK YOU

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Arts Council of Wales
Welsh Government
Garfield Weston Foundation
Moondance Foundation
The Simon Gibson Charitable Trust
The Mary Homfray Charitable Trust
Worshipful Livery Company of Wales

FOUNDING PATRON

In memory of Sir Donald Gordon

LIFE PRESIDENT

The Lord Rowe-Beddoe DL

SPECIAL SUPPORT

In memory of David Morgan
In memory of David Seligman OBE
and Philippa Seligman
Babs Thomas and in memory
of Peter Thomas

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Clive Richards CBE KSG DL
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Thank you also to all our volunteers,
Partner, Ffrind+ and Ffrind members, and
other donors for your continued support.

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