

27 April 2007

This week saw considerable media coverage of the arts with leading arts figures continuing to attack the diversion of Lottery money to the 2012 Olympics and much discussion of the ongoing funding position for the arts.

- Visa fees: NCA in *The Stage*
- Arts funding cuts: NCA in *The Guardian*
- Public value

#### **NCA in the media: visa fees**

*The Stage* reported on the sharp increases in fees for work permits and visas which were announced in March and took effect this month. The increase from £153 to £190 and £85 to £200 respectively threatens international programming and could seriously damage the international standing of the UK arts scene. The NCA has been campaigning on changes to immigration policy since these were first mooted in 2005 and is currently collating evidence of the impact of the increased fees prior to a concerted parliamentary and media campaign. If you are affected by this issue and would like more information or could provide evidence of its likely effect on your organisation please contact the NCA urgently on [campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk) or 020 7287 2777.

The article is available at:

<http://www.artscampaign.org.uk/news/media%20archive%202007.html>

Information about the NCA's work on visas is available on the NCA website at:

<http://www.artscampaign.org.uk/campaigns/nationalpolicy/Visas%202005%20Overview.html>

#### **NCA in the media: arts funding cuts**

Lyn Gardner used her column in *The Guardian* to call for leadership in the arts in response to cuts in arts funding due to the Olympics Lottery raid, the reduction in Grants for the Arts and the unpromising Comprehensive Spending Review. She warned of losing "an entire generation of artists and producers" who "will have been unable to get funding at crucial early points in their careers."

The NCA has responded by posting a comment on the blog emphasising the need to unite the disparate voices of the arts world and present a unified front. The arts need to ask Government how it will make up for these cuts and sustain the sector after ten years of strong growth. We need to continue to assert the value of the arts as an

essential part of society, not something peripheral that can be culled when extra money is needed elsewhere.

The article and the NCA blog are available at:

<http://www.artscampaign.org.uk/news/media%20archive%202007.html>

**Public value – final call for members’ input**

The deadline for responses to Arts Council England’s ‘public value debate’ is 11 May.

The NCA will be responding soon and members can inform this by emailing

[campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk) or calling 020 7287 3777 before 1 May.

Information about the public value debate is available on the ACE website at:

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/artsdebate/index.php>

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If you have received this email but are not a member please visit [our website](#) to find out [why people join](#) and [the benefits of membership](#).

The NCA is the UK’s only independent lobbying organisation representing all the arts. It provides a voice for the arts world in all its diversity. It seeks to safeguard, promote and develop the arts and win public and political recognition for the importance of the arts as a key element in our national culture.

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