

# Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

## THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS RECEIVES LIFELINE GRANT FROM GOVERNMENT'S £1.57BN CULTURE RECOVERY FUND

The **Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA)** has been awarded a grant of £789,000 from the Government's £1.57 billion **Culture Recovery Fund (CRF)**, which will help to ensure its future sustainability in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. The **ICA** is one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across England that will receive urgently needed support totalling £257 million, announced this week as part of the first round of the **Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)** CRF grants programme being administered by **Arts Council England (ACE)**.

The ICA has been unable to fully reopen its building on The Mall – which includes exhibition spaces, a theatre, two cinemas, a bookstore and a bar-restaurant – since it closed to the public and staff on Monday 16 March 2020. With no income from ticket sales, retail, sponsorship and hires, the world-renowned arts organisation, founded in 1946, has faced increasing uncertainty about when it would be possible to reopen its doors, or even whether it would be able to reopen at all.

Thanks to this lifeline, the ICA is now in a far better position to survive and to continue its important work developing and presenting a world-class programme of ground-breaking exhibitions, performances, screenings and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading artists and thinkers.

The ICA will announce its opening date and forthcoming programmes in the very near future.

### **Oliver Dowden MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, said:**

'This funding is a vital boost for the theatres, music venues, museums and cultural organisations that form the soul of our nation. It will protect these special places, save jobs and help the culture sector's recovery. These places and projects are cultural beacons the length and breadth of the country. This unprecedented investment in the arts is proof this government is here for culture, with further support to come in the days and weeks ahead so that the culture sector can bounce back strongly.'

### **Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Arts Council England, said:**

'Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times.'

### **Stefan Kalmár, Executive Director of the ICA, said:**

'I am pleased that the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and Arts Council England (ACE) recognise the historic role that the ICA has

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played for nearly 75 years, and are supporting us in such a meaningful way as we embark on the long road to recovery. Apart from the 22% income we receive from ACE through its National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) grant for 2019/20, all our income is earned or raised – a financial model that left us in a particularly precarious position when we were forced to shut our doors. Yet it is through the critical work of organisations such as the ICA that society can come together and try to comprehend the complexity of a world in crisis – and it is our civic duty to resume our public programmes as quickly and as safely as possible.’

**Kerry Bishop, Managing Director of the ICA, said:**

‘We give thanks to DCMS and ACE for this timely award, and for their support when it is so desperately needed. After almost seven months of total closure followed by radically reduced visitor numbers for the foreseeable future has left the ICA in a precarious situation, and this award will provide us with vital breathing space to rebuild. We give our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to all our Members, Friends, artists, collaborators and supporters, and to the ICA staff and Board, who have all supported us through these challenging times. Our partial reopening this month for the BFI London Film Festival has given us a taste of what we have all been missing – a necessary reminder of the importance of culture to all our lives.’

**Lauren Richards, Finance Director of the ICA, said:**

‘We have worked hard to find significant savings across all operational areas in response to Covid-19, balancing the need for financial discipline with strong commitments to our staff, our community and our artists. Senior staff, including the Executive Director and the senior management team, have agreed to make salary sacrifices during the current financial year; Board members have generously pledged donations; and we have pursued all possible funding opportunities from both public and private sectors. Complementing these emergency measures and others we have taken, this Cultural Recovery Fund grant will help us to stabilise as we evolve our model to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organisation.’

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## ABOUT

The **Institute of Contemporary Arts** is an independent organisation that supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. From our home on The Mall, the geographic heart of the UK establishment, the ICA encourages and enables different modes of cultural production to thrive on mutual engagement with one another, and presents a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century: ground-breaking exhibitions, performances, independent film and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading artists and thinkers.

Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. It has previously staged the first institutional exhibitions by artists including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Damien Hirst, Cindy Sherman and Cosey Fanni Tutti; historic performances and legendary concerts by artists such as Laurie Anderson, David Bowie, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; and critical discussions featuring the likes of Kathy Acker, Homi K Bhabha, Stuart Hall and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.

[www.ica.art](http://www.ica.art)

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in *Let's Create* that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Arts Council England developed a £160 million in **Emergency Response Funds**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund**, an unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)

## CONTACT

To request further information, images and interviews, please contact:

Miles Evans, ICA's Press Consultant / [milesevanspr@gmail.com](mailto:milesevanspr@gmail.com) / +44 (0)7812 985 993  
or ICA Communications team / [press@ica.art](mailto:press@ica.art)



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