**Our response to ‘Capital Works!’, an evaluation of the Arts Council's capital investment, 2012 - 2018**

Arts Council England’s Strategic Capital Programme, the first since 2004, was launched in 2012 with small (below £500k) and large (over £500k) grants available. In 2017 we commissioned an independent evaluation to understand the outcomes and impact of our capital investment since 2012 and shape our thinking for the future.

Alchemy Research and Consulting produced *Capital Works!* in 2018. It considered a wide range of projects, taking a good, long look at what the programme has achieved and its impact on organisations, their staff and users.

We have drawn huge encouragement from the findings, achieving a better understanding of how the programme has contributed to our strategic goals, leveraged significant additional investment for arts and culture, improved financial resilience and greatly improved the user experience.

We will be able to use the findings to help inform the development of our new 10-year strategy, as well as improve our role and practice in capital funding. Actions we will take in responding to the report’s findings include the publication of a [new access guide](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/buildingaccess) and seeking ways to facilitate learning and sharing good practice.

*Capital Works!* is a valuable resource for us and for arts and cultural organisations. We hope that it will be widely read and that the case studies will both inform and inspire. When we publish our new strategy in Autumn 2019 we will set out our plans for future capital investment. Meanwhile, our 2019 small capital programme opens for applications in April – full details and guidelines are available [here](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/capital-small-grants).