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**Arts Funding Review Reveals Disparities: D2N2 residents don't receive their fair share of national and local arts funding**

[Nottingham, UK] - In a comprehensive study examining arts funding distribution, [Data Culture Change](#) reveals concerning findings regarding the historic underinvestment in arts within the D2N2 region, including in Nottingham, its core city. The study, conducted independently and without external funding, sheds light on significant disparities between the funding received by these areas compared to other regions and cities across England.

The analysis shows that residents of D2N2, comprising Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, and Nottinghamshire, have consistently fallen short of receiving an equitable share of national and local arts funding.

These findings underscore the urgent need to address historic underinvestment in the arts within D2N2. As the Mayoral Elections for the East Midlands Combined County Authority on 2 May 2024 approach, Data Culture Change calls on policymakers and stakeholders to prioritise equitable funding to support the vital role of the arts in enriching communities and transforming lives across the region.

Highlights from the study include:

***D2N2 compared to the English regions:***

- Lottery Funding: Since the inception of the National Lottery in 1995, D2N2 has received £10 less per capita in arts funding compared to the average for English regions (excluding London), amounting to over £21 million in lost funding.
- Arts Council England Revenue Funding: Arts Council England allocates £11.5 million in revenue funding to 25 organisations in D2N2 annually, this equates to only £5.21 per person, significantly lower than the English regional average of £6.14.
- Local Government Arts Funding: The 19 local authorities in D2N2 collectively invest £8.3 million annually in the arts, amounting to £3.79 per person, far below the English regional average of £7.14.

***Nottingham compared to other English 'Core Cities':***

- Lottery Funding: Nottingham has historically received £20 less per capita in arts lottery funding compared to the average for English 'Core Cities,' translating to a shortfall of £6.4 million in funding.
- Arts Council Funding: With only 14 organisations receiving revenue funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham lags behind other 'Core Cities,' receiving just £18.67 per person compared to the average of £25.37.
- Local Government Arts Funding: Nottingham's per capita annual net expenditure on the arts stands at £4.73, significantly lower than the 'Core Cities' average of £12.75.

David Brownlee, Chief Executive of Data Culture Change, commented:

“On every metric we examined, arts investment in D2N2 was less per person than the English average. This was also almost universally true when London was excluded. The region is home to an amazing range of funded and unfunded arts organisations. They could be doing so much more to improve life and opportunities in their communities if the region received an equitable share of national and local government and Lottery arts funding”.

[Stephanie Sirr, MBE, Chair of Nottingham’s Strategic Cultural Partnership](#), responded to the report:

“This timely study highlights a pretty dreadful picture of historic and current funding to support arts activities in D2N2. The future is at risk of worsening further with local cuts to all arts funding. It’s encouraging to see Mayors of other Combined Authorities not only understanding the value of investing in the arts for their communities, but also finding the comparatively small sums required to safeguard their cultural assets. We hope the inception of the East Midlands Combined Authority will have a similar impact on the creative lives of our communities.”

For more information on the study and its findings, visit <https://dataculturechange.com/em-arts-funding>

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