

Valuing the arts in an age of austerity

June 2011

[Angus Kennedy](#), [Dr Kim Wiltshire](#) and [John Summers](#) will discuss how the arts sector can ensure excellence in the midst of dramatic budget cuts



The Arts in general have always had a difficult time in attracting public and private funding for their activities, but with widespread cuts in public spending budgets, *including the arts*, financial considerations on which productions and organisations will and which won't go ahead will be more difficult than recently. The economic crisis and subsequent funding cuts are forcing many in the arts to reappraise how they argue the case for funding.



The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) is investigating techniques to assess the economic value of the arts, what it terms *non-market goods*, in terms of what people *feel* they would be willing to pay for things if they were not free.

And the February 2011 Royal Society for the Arts (RSA) pamphlet entitled '**Arts Funding, Austerity and the Big Society: Remaking the case for the arts**' states:



Listen again (not miked so variable quality)...

Speakers' introductions - click on the  Play button: [{mp3}arts-speakers-intros{/mp3}](#)

Initial audience comments - click on the  Play button: [{mp3}arts-audience-initial{/mp3}](#)

Speakers' responses - click on the  Play button: [{mp3}arts-speakers-responses{/mp3}](#)

Concluding comments - click on the  Play button: [{mp3}arts-concluding-comments{/mp3}](#)

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Some background readings

[Can the arts save the economy?](#) , listen again to this Battle of Ideas 2009 session

[The Hallé Orchestra is world class again](#) , by Petroc Trelawny, Telegraph Blogs 02 October 2009

[Just what are the arts good for?](#) , watch and listen again to this Battle of Ideas 2010 satellite event

[Crisis? The arts have rarely been in better health](#) , Simon Jenkins, London Evening Standard, 23 February 2010

[Arts bodies braced for fresh cuts](#) , by Ian Youngs, BBC News 16 November 2010

[The arts and cultural sector faces 'apocalyptic' cuts in austere Britain](#) , by Dave O'Brien, LSE Blog 31 January 2011

[Arts Funding, Austerity and the Big Society: Remaking the case for the arts](#) ' RSA pamphlet, February 2011

[Arts Council funding decision day: as it happened](#) , Guardian, Culture cuts blog, 30 March 2011

[Melvin Bragg: why the arts have replaced heavy industry](#) , The Telegraph, 12 May 2011

[The true value of nature is not a number with a pound sign in front](#) , George Monbiot, Guardian, 06 June 2011 (a wider context article on putting a price on non-market goods)

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