

# Restructuring of Taike's arts councils

Info briefing, 17 June 2024

Kaisa Rönkkö, Director, Taike

Henri Terho, Head of Arts Support, Taike



# Current role of arts councils

- Central Arts Council appoints arts councils after consulting significant actors in the arts.
- Typically around 600 members are proposed.
- All decisions based on peer reviews are made within arts councils:
  - 7 national arts councils for specific fields of the arts
  - 13 regional arts councils
- These arts councils have in total around 180 members.
- Each term is for 2 years, and members can serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- Taike's arts councils process around 12,000 grant applications a year.

# Need for change

- Uneven distribution of assessment work (currently over a thousand applications per artform per call for applications at most).
- Unflexible structure cannot respond to changing needs in the arts sector.
- Conflicts of interest complicate decision-making.
- Members of arts councils cannot themselves apply for a grant.
- Large number of meetings generate costs.
- Preparations and decision-making are not separate (as required by good governance).
- Effective peer reviews produce quality decisions, which should be retained.

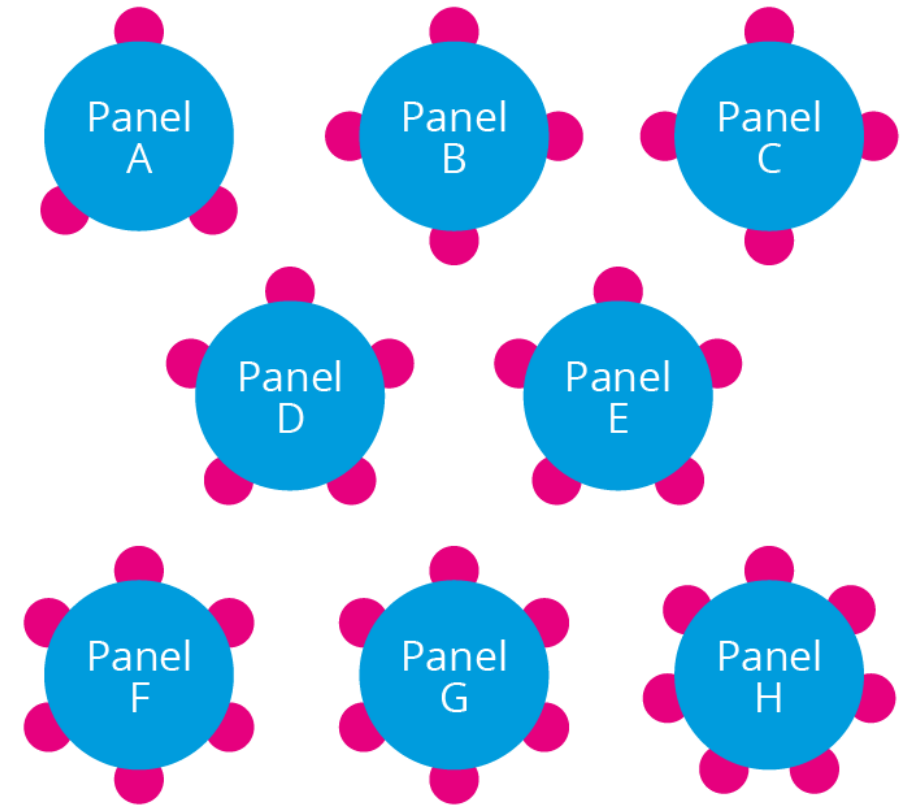
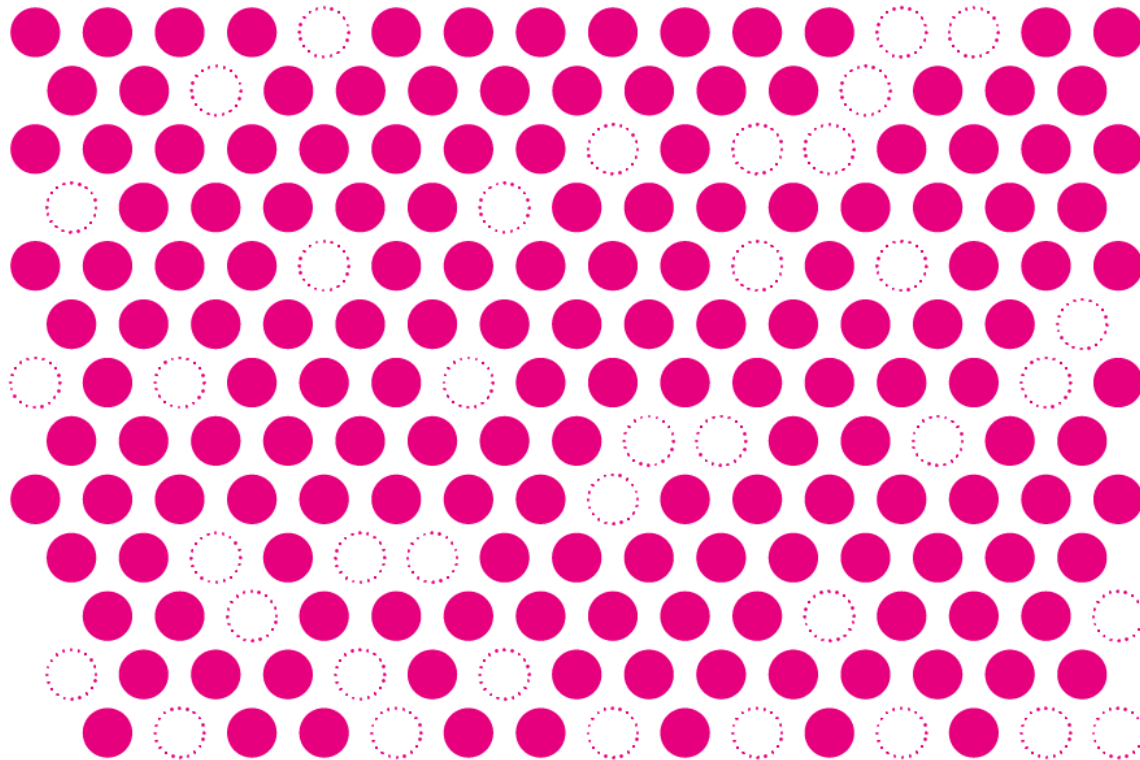
**Pool of Experts**  
Council of Arts and Culture  
appoints 200 experts

## Council of Arts and Culture

Council appointed at a general session of the Government or by the Ministry of Education and Culture  
· *Makes grant decisions*

## Grant Assessment Panels

Applications are evaluated by Grant Assessment Panels  
- *Prepare grant decisions*



## Taike

· *Assembles Review Panels*



# Council of Arts and Culture

Council of Arts and Culture appointed either at a general session of the Government or by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

- Chairperson + 6–9 members
- Represents a diverse range of expertise in the arts and culture
- 4-year term
- Makes all decisions based on peer reviews (grants, prizes, opinions regarding supplementary artist pensions)
- Appoints members of Pool of Experts.

# Pool of Experts

Council of Arts and Culture appoints members based on preparations made within Taike.

- Pool of Experts comprises around 200 members from across Finland who are artists and other experts in the arts and culture.
- Each member signs up for the task.
- Membership is subject to public criteria, such as status as a professional
- Each term is for 4 years, and members can serve no more than two consecutive terms, i.e. 8 years.
- Members can apply for grants from Taike.
- Composition of Pool of Experts is public information.

# Grant Assessment Panels

Members of Grant Assessment Panels appointed by Taike.

- Number of panels varies according to call for applications; for example, 10-15 panels would assess applications for artist grants.
- Panels assembled from Pool of Experts for each call for applications.
- Panels typically have 3-7 members.
- Panels can represent specific artforms or be thematic.
- Panels assess grant applications whose comparison is meaningful and possible.
- Panels prepare other decisions based on peer reviews (prizes, opinions regarding supplementary artist pensions).
- Panels formulate opinions on applications by communities.
- Members are paid fees for attending meetings and assessing applications.
- Council of Arts and Culture decides on grants based on presentations by panels.
- Composition of panels is public information.

# Stages of restructuring

- External evaluation of Taike (*Agency Taking Shape*), 2021
- Workshops organised by the Ministry of Education and Culture, October 2023
- Online brainstorming, hundreds of opinions, November 2023
- Webinar on restructuring, 14 December 2023
- Working group of the Ministry of Education and Culture and Taike, 2024
- Stakeholder discussions, May 2024
- Info briefing, 17 June 2024



# Schedule

- Restructuring of arts councils is being implemented as part of legislative changes affecting Taike.
  - Educational and Cultural Administration 2030: Taike and the National Audiovisual Institute will merge
- Legislative hearing procedure, autumn 2024
- Discussed by Parliament in early 2025
- New law enters into force on 1 January 2026
- Decision-making during the change process is secured by a transitional regulation.



## Further information:

Henri Terho, Head of Arts Support, t. +358 295 330 901, [henri.terho@taike.fi](mailto:henri.terho@taike.fi)

<https://www.taike.fi/fi/tietoa-taikesta/asiantuntijaelimet/toimikuntarakenteen-uudistus>

# Questions?

Kaisa Rönkkö  
Director, Taike

Henri Terho  
Head of Arts Support





# Thank you for your participation!