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Arts Centres in England and Wales by Regional Arts Association Area

Eastern Arts Association

- Snap Maltings, Aldeburgh 13
 The Towngate Theatre and Arts Centre, Basildon 20
 Triad Arts Centre, Bishop's Stortford 32
 Old House Arts and Community Centre, Brentwood 38
 Little Baddow Hall Arts Centre, Chelmsford 47
 The Playhouse and Arts Centre, Harlow 61
 Hemel Hempstead Arts Centre for Young People 65
 Fermoy Centre, King's Lynn 71
 Lowestoft Theatre Centre 112
 ACT, St Albans 128
 Stevenage Leisure Centre 143
 Pump House Theatre and Arts Centre, Watford 163
 Digswell Arts Trust, Welwyn Garden City 165

East Midlands Arts

- Alfreton Hall, Alfreton 16
 Chesterfield Arts Centre 49
 Zone, Brimington, Chesterfield 51
 The Palace, Newark 113
 Northampton College of Further Education Creative Arts Centre 121
 Midland Group, Nottingham 122

Greater London Arts Association

- The Albany, SE8 81
 Battersea Arts Centre, SW11 82
 Brycbox Youth Arts Workshop, New Malden 83
 Camden Arts Centre, NW3 85
 Centerprise, E8 86
 The Cockpit Arts Workshop, NW8 88
 The Drill Hall, WC1 90
 Fairfield Halls, Croydon 91
 Fairkytes Arts Centre, Hornchurch 94
 Haringey Arts Centre, N22 95
 Hoxton Hall, N1 96
 Institute of Contemporary Arts, SW1 97
 Inter-Action Community Arts Resource Centre, NW5 99
 Keskidee Centre, N1 101
 Marble Factory Project, SE5 103
 Moonshine Community Arts Workshop, NW10 104
 Morley College, SE1 105

- Oval House, SE11 106
 Ripley Arts Centre, Bromley 108
 Stage One Arts Workshop, E15 109
 Warehouse Theatre, Waterside Workshops, SE16 110

Lincolnshire and Humberside Arts

- Blackfriars, Boston 33
 Humberside Theatre (Hull Arts Centre) 68
 Arcadia Centre, Skegness 139
 Stamford Arts Centre 142

Merseyside Arts Association

- The Arts Centre, Wirral College of Art and Design and Adult Studies, Birkenhead 25
 Bluecoat Society of Arts, Liverpool 77
 Great George's Community Arts Project, Liverpool 79
 Southport Arts Centre 140

Northern Arts

- Holm Cultram Abbey, Abbeytown 10
 Durham Light Infantry Museum and Arts Centre 53
 Brewery Community Arts Centre, Kendal 70
 Bath House, Byker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 16
 People's Theatre Arts Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 117
 Spectro Arts Workshop, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 119
 Dovecot Arts Centre, Stockton-on-Tees 145
 Sunderland Arts Centre 146
 Renaissance Theatre Trust, Ulverston 156
 Wallsend Arts Centre 158
 Biddick Farm Arts Centre, Washington 161
 Carnegie Theatre and Arts Centre, Workington 169

North West Arts

- Chester Arts and Recreation Trust 48
 New Planet City, Lancaster 73
 Nuffield Theatre Studio, University of Lancaster 74
 Grange Arts Centre, Oldham 123

Southern Arts

- The Old Gaol, Abingdon 11
 West End Centre, Aldershot 15
 West Oxfordshire Arts Association, Bampton Arts Centre 18
 Spiceball Arts and Community Association, Banbury 19
 South Hill Park, Bracknell 35
 Arts Centre, Christ's Hospital, Horsham 66
 Lymington Community Centre 113
 The Old Fire Station Arts Centre, Oxford 125

- St Edmunds Arts Trust, Salisbury 131
 Shoreham Youth Workshop 135
 Wyvern Theatre and Arts Centre, Swindon 148
 Devizes Road Arts Centre, Swindon 150
 Wallingford Arts Centre, the Kinecroft Theatre 157
 Athenaeum Arts Centre, Warminster 160
 Tower Arts Centre, Winchester 168

South East Arts Association

- Gardner Centre for the Arts, Brighton 41
 Sidney Cooper Centre, Canterbury 46
 Farnham Maltings 58
 Folkestone Arts Centre 59
 The Stables Theatre, Hastings 62

South West Arts

- The Beaford Centre 22
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West Midlands Arts

- Aston University Centre for the Arts, Birmingham 26
 Birmingham Arts Laboratory 28
 Midlands Arts Centre for Young People, Birmingham 29
 University of Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry 52
 Ellesmere College Arts Centre 55
 Lichfield Arts Centre 76
 College Hill House, Shrewsbury 137
 Tamworth Arts Centre 151

Yorkshire Arts Association

- Arvon Foundation, Hebden Bridge 64
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 Arts Centre, York 171

North Wales Association for the Arts

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South East Wales Arts Association

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Introduction

The mushrooming of arts centres in Great Britain is something very recent. 'In meeting contemporary trends', said the 1965 white paper, *A Policy for the Arts*, 'the concept of the arts centre is most valuable since such a centre can be of any size and cover any range of activities.' Three-quarters of the centres in this Directory have started operating since that white paper was issued, and about half the total are less than five years old. In May 1967 the National Council for Social Service, defining an arts centre in a similar way to that used here, published the results of a survey of arts centres and reported that 'there are believed to be 34 centres in England and Wales'. Details of 133 centres (16 of which are in Scotland, 9 in Wales, 108 in England) are given in the pages that follow.

Infinite bureaucratic tedium can be squeezed out of attempts to define an arts centre. In recent years the word 'community' has become virtually obligatory and almost meaningless in referring to any activity involving more than half-a-dozen people. The term 'arts centre' has suffered from less promiscuous usage, but one gallery curator recently admitted that, in advertising a new job, he used the term arts centre as a come-on. And what should be made of that series of highly specialised and discrete buildings – the South Bank Arts Centre? For details of your National Theatre, Festival Hall, National Film Theatre and Hayward Gallery please refer elsewhere. To stimulate thought on the semantic problems we would add that while all arts centres are art centres, most art centres are not arts centres.

For our purposes we have included only those arts centres which are not subsidised as theatres and which meet the following criteria:

- a – there is a programme and a policy for more than one art form
- b – more than one space is used for arts activities
- c – there is some professional input (artistic or managerial)
- d – there is substantial usage which is not part of formal education (or adult education) provision.

Civic halls are excluded and more comprehensive leisure centres are only included if the arts activities play a very substantial part in the life of the building.