

Our history...

- 1976 Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA) founded, based on a model developed in New York by David Rockefeller. The first organisation of its kind, ABSA pioneered business sponsorship of the arts in UK, which in 1976 was worth £600,000. By 2009 that figure had risen to £686 million
- 1978 Created the Arts and Business Awards in seven categories
- 1987 HRH The Prince of Wales becomes Patron, now President
- 1988 Develops UK-wide coverage, with offices in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- 1988 Launches new programme to bring business skills into the arts
- 1991 Develops the largest national network for information, knowledge and skills sharing for fundraisers
Co-launches CEREC (the Comité Européen pour le Rapprochement de l'Economie et de la Culture) a pan-European body to develop national and cross-border business support of the arts
- 1999 ABSA changes name to Arts & Business, and includes nine offices across the UK
- 2002 Creates The Prince of Wales Arts & Kids Foundation and raises over £1m to support it (now called The Prince of Wales Foundation for Children and the Arts)
- 2004 Creates Mission, Money and Models to explore organisational and financial sustainability in the non-profit cultural sector
- 2006 In its 30th anniversary year, Arts & Business has offices across six English regions and the three other UK nations, as well as 500 business members and more than 1000 arts members. It is now part of an international network of 26 organisations, many of which have been founded with its help. By 2006, Arts & Business has placed more than 5500 business people as advisors or board members in arts organisations

- 2008 Creates The Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy to honour five leading philanthropists
- 2008 Launches Visual, an inspiring and flexible contemporary art service for business and business people
- 2009 Arts & Business has worked with many of the UK's leading cultural businesses, including BP, Deutsche Bank, Ernst & Young, Prudential, PWC, Sky, Land Securities, Bank of Scotland, HSBC, Channel 4, UBS and Unilever, to strengthen their arts engagement
- 2009 Continues to develop new initiatives, such as a major campaign with Futurecity to develop the Government's initiatives on "empty spaces" and a private sector policy for the arts to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the public sector in policymaking. Launches The Great Art Debate and Young Professionals On Boards, a placement and mentoring service for under 30-year-olds mirroring its Board Bank service
- 2009 Publishes the 30th Private Investment in Culture Survey (PICS), the world's only survey of its kind