

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

723rd Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin
20 March 2019

Fearghus Ó Conchúir *Deputy Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Martina Moloney (left the meeting at 5.45pm), Dónall Curtin, Helen Shaw, Mark O'Kelly.

In attendance:

Orlaith McBride, *Director*, Martin O'Sullivan *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Liz Meaney, *Arts Director (for all items after the Director's Report)*.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda
Minutes of the Plenary meeting held on 13 February 2019
Director's Report
Wexford Festival Opera Recommendation
Touring (Round 2) 2019 & Advance Planning 2020
Abbey Theatre Update
Budget 2020 presentation
Open Call Review
Cnuas Recommendation
Awards for Noting

19 – 03– 025 Apologies

Sinead Moriarty, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Paddy Glackin.

19 – 03– 026 Chair's Introduction

Conflicts of Interest- The Deputy Chairman **noted** that members had already declared their conflicts and requested members to declare any further conflicts that they may have with the agenda items and reminded members to advise him of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

Business as usual- the willingness of members to step in and support the Deputy Chairman to fulfil his duties, as acting Chairman, was welcomed and **noted**.

Chairman and current member vacancies update- In relation to the Chair position, Members **noted** that the closing date for the receipt of applications had been extended to the end of March. Members also **noted** that the appointment of remaining vacancies will be filled following appointment of a new Chair.

19 – 03 – 027 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 13 February 2019

19 – 02– 015 Chair's Introduction-Governance Matters- The minute should now read '--- agreed----'

19 – 02– 021 *The Abbey Theatre Update*- The minute should now read ‘--- the incoming Deputy Chair would chair Working Group meetings until a new Chair is appointed----’

Members **agreed** the Minutes for the 13 February 2019 Meeting.

19 – 03– 028 Matters Arising

Members **noted** that the proposed draft policy in relation to one-off grant/development initiatives will be brought to the April Plenary Meeting.

There were no other matters arising.

19 – 03 – 029 Director’s Report

The Liam O’Flynn Award 2019

Members **noted** the award of the inaugural Liam O’Flynn Award to musician and composer Úna Monaghan.

Arts Councils 5 Nations Meeting and IFACCA World Summit Update

Members **noted** the update. Members thanked the Director for hosting the meeting and **agreed** that a short report highlighting the key matters raised/identified at the World Summit would be circulated to members.

Director’s Diary Report

Meeting with Minister Zappone

Members sought further clarity on the Director’s meeting with Minister Zappone in relation to th

[REDACTED]

Section 30, FOI Act, Functions and Negotiations of a Public Body

Meeting with Galway 2020

Members sought additional clarity on the meeting. Members **noted** the update. Members **agreed** that a draft MOU with Galway 2020 would be brought back to the Council.

Members **noted** the remainder of the Director’s Diary Report.

19 – 03– 030 Wexford Festival Opera Funding 2019

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Niall Doyle, Head of Opera, joined the meeting. Members were updated on the proposed recommendation for 2019.

[REDACTED]

Following a detailed discussion Members **agreed** the funding recommendation, including all listed conditions and a repeat grant of €1.45m.

[REDACTED]

19 – 03– 031 Touring- (Round 2) 2019 & Advance Planning 2020

Val Ballance, Head of Venues, joined the meeting.

Touring (Round 2) 2019

Members were briefed on the recommendations. Following a detailed discussion, Members **agreed** all recommendations totalling €704,545. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Touring Advance Planning 2020

Members were briefed on the recommendations. Following a detailed discussion, Members **agreed** all recommendations totalling €571,912. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

In relation to [REDACTED] recommendation, members **agreed** that the score for artistic merit should be reduced to 4.

Members **agreed** that going forward a different approach to the scoring of advance planning touring would be considered in the context of the forthcoming review of Touring. Members also **agreed** that the specific budget for advance planning touring should be decided in advance of the recommendations being issued.

Members **agreed** that a review of Touring should now be undertaken and the scope of the review should include matters such as:-

- Existing balance across artforms;
- Prioritisation of certain artforms;
- Review of existing scoring process;
- Consistency of scoring across artforms and whether additional moderation is required;
- Current recommendation texts;
- Geographic spread;
- Diversity and how could this be reflected going forward;
- Explore options for emerging / new applicants;
- Effectiveness of how new Strategic and MAF touring is working.

Members **agreed** that a draft proposal should be brought to the April Plenary Meeting.

19 – 03 – 032 Reports

Business and Finance Committee 27 February 2019

Martina Moloney, Committee Chairman, gave a report to members on the key recommendations:-

- *Agreed to co-opt Dónall Curtin as a member for this meeting;*
- *Minutes of 4 December 2018 - were agreed;*

- *Trusts Report* - Members agreed that further clarification on the percentage of funds being invested in unethical funds should be sought and whether currency hedging is being used;
- Report on Committee Performance 2018 - was agreed, members also sought clarity on whether attendance at sub-committees is reported on in the Annual Report. Members agreed that the Committee TOR's should be reviewed and brought for approval to the next meeting. Members also asked for the Committee's responsibility in relation to risk to be formalised;
- 2018 Management Accounts - were agreed. Members also agreed that a short rationale on key variances should be prepared and circulated to members;
- Budget 2019 update- – was noted including confirmation that all available reserves have been built into the budget;
- *HR report* – was noted.
- *FOI report* – was noted;
- *ICT report* – was noted. Members agreed that a copy of the Avendris Report should be uploaded to Board Pad;
- *Update on o/s leases for 69 & 70* - was noted;
- *Draft Workplan 2019*- was agreed;
- *Next meeting April 17 at 9am*- agreed.

Members **agreed** the recommendations of the Business & Finance Committee.

Additionally members **agreed** that a presentation on the broader HR function should be made to the next meeting of the Committee.

ARC Committee Meeting 27 February

Dónall Curtin, Committee Chairman, gave a report to members on the key recommendations:-

- *Minutes of Meeting held on 4 December 2018*- were approved;
- *2018 Performance Review* - Members agreed that the ARC Committee had discharged its responsibilities for 2018;
- *O/s 2018 IA & C&AG audit action* – Members noted the update;
- *IA Cyber Security*- Members agreed 1) to resolve remote access issue immediately and 2) that a detailed implementation plan and timeline, for all medium level recommendations, should be developed and brought to next ARC meeting;
- *IA SIFC & SIC*- Members noted and agreed the report;
- *IA Communications / Public Affairs Review TOR's*- Members agreed the TOR and also agreed that the TOR's should be shared with Council Members;
- *C&AG Letter of Engagement*- Members noted the LOE. Members agreed that a copy of the LOE should be uploaded to Board Pad; Members also agreed that a copy of the C&AG's Financial Management Maturity Model, mentioned in the LOE, should also be uploaded to Board Pad;
- *Draft 2018 Financial Statements*- Members noted the Draft Financial Statements. Members agreed that the Financial Statements should go forward for audit. Members also agreed that the Draft Financial Statements should be forwarded to the Department (DAHG) to ensure compliance with CoPGSB;

- *Risk Register*- Members noted the Risk Register. Members agreed that the Arts Council's Risk Appetite Statement needs to be developed ASAP and brought back to the ARC / Council for approval;
- *ICT specific risks*- were noted;

Additionally, the Chairman confirmed that the Arts Council's cumulative remaining reserves have been fully allocated to budgeted activity and that there is a need going forward to rebuild a reasonable residual reserve.

Members **agreed** the recommendations of the ARC Committee.

Private Investment Advisory Group Meeting 7 March

Martin O'Sullivan, Deputy Director, gave a report to members on the following matters;

- Business to Arts have agreed to become members & made a presentation on projects & programmes which they are currently running;
- *Update given on RAISE programme*- 63 organisations actively participating in Tier 1, 2 & 3 also concern highlighted that successful participants will be penalised- recommendation from members that Arts Council should regard organisations more favourably if they are successful in RAISE;
- *Culture for giving*- a pilot video generated on mobile phone to profile impact created by an arts organisation was presented- agreed that Head of Communications & our Private Investment adviser would look at template options with the objective 'arts make our lives better' & feedback to the next meeting;
- *Foundation dedicated to the arts*- review how existing B2A Docklands foundation is working and review options for collaboration between AC / B2A ;
- *PIAC Terms of Reference / Membership*- extend invitations to Ireland Funds & IDA & see how we might engage with them.

Members **noted** the report.

Members suggested that the Arts Council should consider holding a national symposium around corporate and high net worth linkage with the arts.

Members noted that there is an existing vacancy for a member of Council on the Advisory Group. Members **agreed** to consider and express their interest to the Deputy Chairman.

19 – 03– 033 The Abbey Theatre

Dónall Curtin declared a conflict and left the meeting. David Parnell, Head of Theatre joined the meeting.

Members considered the recommendation from the Executive and following detailed discussion Council **agreed** to release €200,000 of the 2019 withheld monies, with immediate effect, subject to the following conditions:

- Confirmation from the Abbey of the prioritisation of support for those independent artists and companies who are part of the Abbey's programme in 2019;
- Confirmation that the Abbey is proposing to move away from 'in association' arrangements as a central part of its programming approach (notwithstanding

- historical arrangements already in place – e.g. Dublin Dance Festival – and the hosting of occasional touring work);
- Confirmation that all artists will be paid appropriate Abbey rates in the context of in-house and co-production arrangements.

[REDACTED]

Section 30, FOI Act, Functions and Negotiations of a Public Body

19 – 03– 034 Budget 2020 Presentation

The Director presented a number of indicative budget scenarios for 2020. Members were informed of a proposed similar, but earlier, engagement with the Department around budget 2020. Members **noted** and welcomed the update.

Members suggested that [REDACTED] might be included as a priority area. Members also suggested that it might be possible to [REDACTED].

Section 30, FOI Act, Functions and Negotiations of a Public Body

19 – 03– 035 Open Call Review

Karl Wallace, Acting Head of Festivals, joined the meeting.

Members were briefed on a number of proposed changes to the scheme. Members suggested that the scheme should be capable of attracting significant once-off type projects/initiatives. Essentially it should be different to that sought under existing regular type grants.

Following a detailed discussion, members **agreed** to increase the budget to €1m for 2020. Members also **agreed** that the priorities for the scheme need to be reviewed and reconfigured around;-

- Context-must speak to the 'current moment' and the contemporary context for artists making work and publics engaging with that work;
- Funding of artists to create work of significance and ambition which is currently not served via other schemes;
- Projects that exist outside of artform boundaries.

Given the urgency around finalising these priorities, members **agreed** that the revised priorities could be circulated for final agreement via email.

19 – 03– 036 Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the Cnuas recommendations. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

19 – 03– 037 Awards

Authored Works

Members **noted** the award. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Reel Art 2018

Members **noted** the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

19 – 03– 038 Any Other Business

There were no other matters.