

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

686<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square

Thursday 3 September 2015 at 14.00-17.00

## **Present:**

Sheila Pratschke Chair, Aibhlín McCrann, Deputy Chair, Ciarán Walsh, John McAuliffe, Miriam Dunne, John Fanning, Monica Spencer, Judy Woodworth, John O'Donnell, Joan Sheehy, Mark O' Regan.

## **In attendance:**

Orlaith McBride *Director*, Martin O'Sullivan *Finance Director & Company Secretary*.

## **Documents before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 26 June 2015

Directors Report

Making Great Art Work- Arts Council's Strategy 2016-2025

Open Call 2016 Recommendations

Engaging with Architecture Scheme 2015

Deis (Round 2) 2015

## **15 – 09 – 075 Apologies**

Eimear O'Connor, Brian Maguire.

## **15 – 09 – 076 Chairman's Introduction**

*Conflicts of Interest*- The Chair requested members to declare any conflicts that they may have with the agenda items and reminded members to advise her of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

The Chair expressed sympathy to John O'Donnell on the death of his mother.

In relation to the pre-budget advocacy work the Chair confirmed that a similar approach to 2015 would be used namely 1) pursuing key political contacts and relationships and 2) arranging targeted meetings. The Chair also welcomed any other suggestions / introductions which Members might have.

The Chair also **noted** the positive reception afforded to the Arts Council at the National Economic Dialogue.

## **15 – 09 – 077 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting: 26 June 2015**

15 – 06 – 065- *Conflicts of Interest-Touring (Round 1) 2016*- Members **agreed** that the conflict should be recorded as follows- *Miriam Dunne- Blood in the Alley, Bottom Dog Theatre Company and Helium Arts & Health as all touring to Garter Lane Arts Centre.*

The Minutes of the 26 June Plenary meeting were **approved**.

### **15 – 09 – 078 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising other than those covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### **15 – 09 – 079 Director's Report**

#### *2016 Programme Bursaries 16 x 16 – Delegated Authority*

Members **agreed** that authority be granted to the 2016 Programme Bursaries Panel 16 X 16 to approve recommendations. The approved recommendations will then be noted at the next scheduled Plenary meeting.

#### *Ireland 2016 Update*

Members **noted** the update including a summary of the financial investment for the National Choral Project and the project management arrangements now in place.

Members also **noted** that the National Choral Project will now be a centre piece of the Easter Sunday 2016 celebrations.

#### *International Federation of Arts Councils and Cultural Agencies (IFACCA)*

Members **noted** and welcomed the Director's nomination to the IFACCA Board.

#### *Update on [REDACTED] Initiatives*

Members **noted** that the [REDACTED] is underway and following completion the Council will revert to Dublin City Council with a plan in relation to next steps.

FOI Act 2014, Section 29, Deliberations of FOI Bodies

In relation to the joint visual arts commission, with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Members **noted** that a progress report, from both executives, will be made to the next North/South Working Group Meeting.

Members asked whether the Chair of Poetry discussions had progressed and although no progress was reported it was confirmed that the matter will remain on the agenda for ongoing discussion.

#### *Budget Approach 2016*

Members **noted** that a preliminary budgetary 2016 approach paper will be brought to the 22 September plenary Meeting to assist/inform budget planning.

#### *Culture 2025 - National Cultural Policy*

Members were informed that the Department (DAHG) has commenced a consultation process to support the development of Culture 2025. Members **noted** that the Arts Council's new strategy would form the basis of the Council's response to the process.

#### *Director's Diary Report*

The Director's Diary Report was **noted**.

### **15 – 09 – 080 Reports**

#### *Audit Committee 9 July Meeting*

Ciaran Walsh, Committee Member, updated Members on the meeting highlighting the following:-

- The Minutes of the 24 March meeting were agreed;
- *Draft 2014 Management Letter*- Members agreed that the Management Letter points should now be responded to and finalised;

- *Capital Assets*- it was agreed that a formal progress report should be prepared for the next meeting;
- *Grants approved by Panels*- it was agreed that an update on implementation will be brought to the next meeting;
- *ICT Security Audit*- it was agreed that the prioritised list of actions would be circulated to Members. It was also agreed that a progress update would be made to the next meeting;
- *Audit Committee Membership*- Members agreed to continue with their search for potential Members, with audit experience, who ideally have an interest in the arts;
- *Date for next Meeting*- Members agreed that the Oct 15 meeting should be rescheduled.

The evaluation process undertaken by Committee Members to evaluate the Committee Chairman's performance was also referenced.

The report and recommendations of the Audit Committee were **agreed**.

### **15 – 09 – 081 Arts Council's Strategy 2016- 2025**

Martin Drury, Strategic Development Director, joined the meeting.

The Arts Councils 10 year strategy, *Making Great Art Work – Leading the Development of the Arts in Ireland 2016-2025* was presented to members by the editorial group. Following a detailed presentation and discussion the Council unanimously **approved** the strategy.

Sean MacCarthaigh, Director Public Affairs & Communication, joined the meeting.

A presentation on the Communications and Dialogue Process to commence in September was also made outlining the different stages in this process to include briefings with key stakeholders, workshops with the arts and broader sector, on-line submissions and cluster meetings to explore specific themes and elements of the strategy. It was **agreed** that the Policy and Strategy Committee will continue to guide the development of the first three-year plan (2017-2019) and accompanying plans across the arts areas and cross-cutting themes.

Council **agreed** that Year 1 of the Strategy in 2016 would involve the following priorities as well as the regular day-to-day business of the Arts Council:

- 3 Year Plan 2017-2019 developed incorporating arts area /cross cutting themes through P&S;
- Overall Investment Strategy to include the nature and scope of our investment to deliver on goals and objectives of strategy; new funding framework; including review of all schemes and awards;
- Develop *Briefing Document* on 5 Considerations to inform overall Investment Framework and Strategy;
- Workforce Plan developed to support delivery;
- Progress the Local Government aspect of the strategy as a key element of Spatial and Demographic.

It was **agreed** to circulate a set of key responses/messages to Council Members in advance of the publication of the Strategy.

### **15 – 09 – 082 Open Call 2016 Recommendations**

Members **noted** Council's decision of 26 July which for the record was recorded and agreed as follows:-

*'Having been previously circulated with the Selection Panel's recommendations Members considered and agreed the recommendations in the manner set out in the paper. Members further agreed that this agreed Minute (together with an Appendix setting out the individual award amounts) should be noted in the Minutes of the Council's next Plenary meeting'.*

Members **noted** the lack of theatre projects included in the recommendations.

Members also noted the budget under allocation. It was confirmed that project management and marketing were identified by the Panel as being shortfalls in the recommended applications and given the holistic nature of the programme it was felt that the organisations should, in this regard, be additionally supported by the Arts Council. Members **agreed** this approach. Members **noted** and welcomed Panel Members willingness to offer their support to recommended organisations e.g. mentoring was suggested.

### **15 – 09 – 083 Awards**

#### *Engaging with Architecture Scheme 2015*

Members noted that Eimear O'Connor was the Panel Chair for strand 1 and that Aibhlin McCrann was the Panel Chair for strand 2. A short update on Panels was provided.

Member **noted** the recommendations. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

#### *Deis (Round 2) 2015*

Mark O'Regan Panel Chair gave a short update on the Panel.

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

#### *Travel & Training Awards*

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

### **15 – 09– 084 Any Other Business**

#### *Martin Drury, Strategic Development Director*

Members noted with considerable regret Martin Drury's confirmation that he would be leaving the Arts Council at the end of 2015.

#### *Chairing Panels*

Members sought clarification on whether the protocol for chairing Panels in their own area of expertise had changed.

Following a detailed discussion it was **agreed** that the matter required further clarity and that it should be brought back for consideration at a future Council meeting.

There were no other matters for consideration.

#### *Summary of Decisions*

- *Conflicts of Interest-Touring (Round 1) 2016-* Members **agreed** that the conflict should be recorded as follows- *Miriam Dunne- Blood in the Alley, Bottom Dog Theatre Company and Helium Arts & Health as all touring to Garter Lane Arts Centre;*
- *Minutes of the Plenary Meeting: 26 June 2015-* were **approved**;
- *2016 Programme Bursaries 16 x 16 – Delegated Authority-* Members **agreed** that authority be granted to the 2016 Programme Bursaries Panel 16 X 16 to approve recommendations;

- *Audit Committee 9 July Meeting*- the report and recommendations of the Audit Committee were **agreed**;
- *Arts Council's Strategy 2016- 2025*- following a detailed presentation and discussion the Council unanimously **approved** the strategy;
- *Arts Council's Strategy 2016- 2025*- it was **agreed** that the Policy and Strategy Committee will continue to guide the development of the first three-year plan (2017-2019) and accompanying plans across the arts areas and cross-cutting themes;
- *Arts Council's Strategy 2016- 2025*- Council **agreed** that Year 1 of the Strategy in 2016 would involve the following priorities as well as the regular day-to-day business of the Arts Council:
  - 3 Year Plan 2017-2019 developed incorporating arts area /cross cutting themes through P&S;
  - Overall Investment Strategy to include the nature and scope of our investment to deliver on goals and objectives of strategy; new funding framework; including review of all schemes and awards;
  - Develop *Briefing Document* on 5 Considerations to inform overall Investment Framework and Strategy;
  - Workforce Plan developed to support delivery;
  - Progress the Local Government aspect of the strategy as a key element of Spatial and Demographic.
- *Arts Council's Strategy 2016- 2025*- it was **agreed** to circulate a set of key responses/messages to Council Members in advance of the publication of the Strategy;
- *Open Call 2016 Recommendations*- project management and marketing were identified by the Panel as being shortfalls in the recommended applications and given the holistic nature of the programme it was felt that the organisations should, in this regard, be additionally supported by the Arts Council. Members **agreed** this approach;
- *Chairing Panels*- following a detailed discussion it was **agreed** that the matter required further clarity and that it should be brought back for consideration at a future Council meeting.