

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

676<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square

Tuesday, 21 October 2014 at 14:00

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

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

## **Documents before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of meeting held on 23 September

Directors Report

676<sup>th</sup> Plenary 13 Oct (Part 1) -Grants

2015 Council Diary

Awards

Appeals Committee-additional briefing document

## **14 – 10 – 090 Apologies**

Éimear O'Connor, Brian Maguire, John O'Donnell.

## **14 – 10 – 091 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. It was **noted** that members had already declared conflicts in respect of decisions before this meeting.

*Grant allocation Letter 2015*

Members were informed of a letter received from Heather Humphrey's, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht confirming the Arts Council's grant allocation of €56.893m for 2015 the amount of which includes a funding allocation for Siamsa Tíre. Members **noted** the update.

*Year of Irish Design 2015 Inter Departmental Steering Group*

Members were updated on the Irish Year of Design Inter-Departmental Steering Group, an initiative of the Global Irish Economic Forum. Members were informed that the Chair has been asked to sit on the Steering Group. Members were also informed of a meeting held with Laura Magahy, Chair of the Design and Crafts Council, where the Chair was asked whether the Arts Council might consider allocating funding as part of the Year of Irish Design 2015 specifically towards theatre design and catalogue design during 2015. Members **noted** the update.

### *Committee Membership*

Members were informed that Ciaran Walsh had been reappointed as Chairman of the Business & Finance Committee and as a member of the Audit Committee for a second term. Members **noted** the update.

### *1916 Commemoration Planning*

Members were informed that the Arts Council has been asked for ideas as part of the 2016 national programme as the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht wants to make an announcement on the matter in the coming weeks. Members were informed that it is hoped the roll-out of the programme will be on a similar basis to the EU Presidency arrangement with the Arts Council being allocated a sum for national events in the contemporary arts. Members **noted** the update.

### **14 – 10 – 092 Minutes of the Plenary meetings: 23 September 2014**

*14 – 09 – 088 Strategic Review 2014*-Members **agreed** that 'excellence' and the 'individual artist' should be added to the highlighted matters.

The minutes of the 23 September 2014 Plenary meeting were **approved**.

### **14 – 10 – 093 Matters arising from the minutes**

*Council Diary* - It was **agreed**, in addition to providing via Board Pad, that a soft copy of the 2015 diary should be emailed to members.

### **14 – 10 – 094 Director's Report**

#### *Clore Leadership Programme / Jerome Hynes Fellowship*

Members were briefed that the director of the programme had written to the Arts Council requesting that the Council offer a full Fellowship for 2015/16. Members were informed that the Arts Council's relationship with the Clore Programme is an important one and in response to the request it is recommended that the Council agree to offer the Jerome Hynes Fellowship for 2015/16.

Members **agreed** to an allocation of €30k towards the Clore leadership programme for 2015/16.

### *Indicative Budgetary approach for Local Arts and Ealain na Gaeltachta*

#### *Local Arts-*

Members noted specific recommendations for particular local authorities especially those without an Arts Officer in place. Members noted that responses are due by November 20<sup>th</sup> and the final funding recommendations will be brought to the December Plenary meeting for agreement. Members **agreed** the approach outlined.

### *Éalain na Gaeltachta*

Members **agreed** the approach outlined.

### *EdPAE Update for Council*

Liz Powell, Head of Team, joined the meeting and updated members on the Public Access and Engagement (EdPAE) initiatives agreed in 2012 by Council. Members were informed that the key areas to advance included 1) progressing the development of the Arts and Disability Network (most notably the Ignite Commissions) and 2) developing a specific initiative to engage more with the traveller community as part of the Council's cultural diversity strategy. Members

noted the limited number of initiatives undertaken by the Arts Council in engaging with 'other communities'. Members were also informed of an upcoming symposium to evaluate and disseminate learning to-date from the arts and disability initiative which it is hoped will inform future policy in this practice area.

Members welcomed and **noted** the update on both initiatives. It was **agreed** that the Ignite commissions would be made available for members to view.

#### *Arts Audiences Conference –December 9, Dublin Castle*

Members were updated on this conference which is designed to disseminate to the sector the outcomes and results of Arts Audiences and Arts Council projects in the area of audience development. Members were informed of a presentation that will be made by Kantar Media on 'The Arts in Irish Public Life'. Members were also informed that Heather Humphrey's, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will speak at the event.

Members **noted** the update and it was **agreed** that, when finalised, the programme for the conference will be circulated to members.

#### *Laureate for Irish Fiction*

Sarah Bannan, Arts Manager, joined the meeting and updated members on the nominations and shortlisting process for the Laureate together with the key decision dates leading to the selection of the first Laureate for Irish Fiction to be announced on January 27 2014. The Director confirmed that the President has been asked if he would be available to make the announcement from Áras an Uachtaráin. We await a response.

Members were informed that in advance of the announcement, a free public event is being organised for December 7 at the Irish Film Institute. It was confirmed that the event will be the first of many public and free events taking place between now and 2018, at which the public will have an opportunity to engage with Irish fiction.

Members also **noted** the valued contribution of the Arts Council's media partner, the Irish Times, to the initiative. [REDACTED]

Members **noted** the update.

#### *Laureate na nÓg 2014–2016*

Sarah Bannan, Arts Manager, updated members on the three priorities which Eoin Colfer has identified for his term as Laureate na nÓg, which are as follows:

- A nationwide tour of story and storytelling in areas that might not otherwise have visiting authors and storytellers
- Special storytelling events in fantastic and unusual places
- An anthology for children, entitled *Once Upon a Place*, telling stories of (or inspired by) places all over Ireland

Members **noted** the wonderfully imaginative programme being proposed by the Laureate.

#### *Director's Diary Report*

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

## 14 – 10 – 095 Reports

### 676<sup>th</sup> Plenary 13 Oct (Part 1) -Grants

The Chair, briefed members on the October 13 Plenary meeting confirming that the full minutes of the meeting will be attached as an appendix and the following were the **agreed** actions from the meeting:-

1. *Grants Meeting 16 June 2014*- the minutes, subject to inclusion of the agreed changes of the 16 June 2014 meeting were approved;
2. *Create* – it was agreed to write to Create acknowledging their success as a lead applicant in one of the first successful Creative Europe projects;
3. [REDACTED] - agreed that the matter of the economic well-being of artists is a broader policy issue across all artforms which needs to be considered by the Policy & Strategy Committee and not just focused on one organisation;
4. *Ealaín na Gaeltachta*- agreed the proposal to change the relationship and budgetary management;
5. *Festival & Events Scheme- Scoring System*- members agreed the proposal;
6. *Scoring Research proposal*- agreed that the recommendations should go forward for final agreement to part 2 of the Plenary meeting to be held on October 21.

Following the Chair's update, the Director made a presentation on the Scoring Research Proposal confirming that scoring is an essential element of a robust and transparent assessment process however it cannot stand alone and must be integrated into a more comprehensive funding framework.

The Director outlined the following proposed work programme to take place over the next 12 – 18 month period -

- A new funding framework and assessment system should be developed for 2016/17 linked to a new strategy with criteria clearly reflecting corporate and arts area priorities;
- The new funding framework will involve a review and redesign of existing funding programmes;
- The new framework should enable funding programmes to be tailored and designed to suit different types and scale of organisations as well offering varying funding agreements from 1-3 years;
- A comprehensive review of all non-recurring funding programmes should also be undertaken to ensure that the suite of funding supports offered by the Arts Council to artists and organisations work together and complement each other;
- Allocate sufficient internal human and financial resources to deliver on this project in 2015/16;
- Consult widely with the arts sector and develop a significant communications plan to ensure ease of transition;

Members **agreed** to proceed with the proposals and it was **agreed** that progress papers will be brought to Council at different stages of the project and that this new approach needed to be effectively communicated to the sector.

In relation to the scoring systems researched it was further **agreed** to expand the study to the end-users of these scoring systems to determine their impact.

### *Business & Finance Meeting 16 October*

The Committee Chairman briefed members on the meeting as follows:-

- The minutes of the meeting held on the 27 June 2014 were approved;
- Members agreed the 3rd Qtr accounts;
- High Level Budget 2015- members agreed the following for 2015:

- [REDACTED]
- Property update- agreed that a further update would be provided to the December meeting;
  - Risk Register- members approved the Risk Register;
  - HR & FOI Update- agreed.

The report and recommendations of the Business & Finance Committee were **agreed**.

#### *Audit Committee Meeting 16 October*

Ciaran Walsh, Committee member, briefed members on the meeting as follows:

- The minutes of 27 June 2014 meeting were approved;
- *Internal Audit Reports-*
  - *Grants approved by Panels* -agreed that a further progress update would be provided to the December Audit Committee meeting
  - *Purchasing* -agreed that a further progress update would be provided to the December Audit Committee meeting;
  - *Capital Assets-* agreed that a further update should be provided to the December Audit Committee meeting;
  - *ICT Security Audit-* agreed that a further update would be provided to the December Audit Committee meeting. It was also agreed that a copy of the Report should be circulated to members;
- *Risk Register-* Members agreed the updated Risk Register;
- *Renewal of Internal Auditor's Contract-* [REDACTED]

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

#### *Policy & Strategy Meeting 21 October*

The acting Committee Chairman briefed members on the meeting as follows:

- *Arts Council Collection* - ongoing commitment to appoint a suitably qualified individual to develop a policy on the Council's collection was noted;
- *Engaging with Architecture Scheme* - the recommendations were agreed to and the executive were asked to return in due course with a work plan to give effect to the recommendations showing the resource implications and timeframe for so doing. The presentation made by Annette Clancy is to be made available to members via Boardpad;
- *Literary Resource Organisations* - it was agreed to recommend that the allocated monies be made available to WORDS Ireland to pursue the schedule of activities outlined and within the MOU agreed by its constituent organisations. This support should be subject to an evaluation process being put in place which would allow for a review of the initiative to be discussed by the Arts Council in October / November 2015;
- *Spatial Planning* - the tabled paper was noted;
- *International 'Spillover' Research Project* - the tabled paper was noted and the initiative welcomed.

The report and recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee were **agreed**.

#### 14 – 10 – 096 Council Diary 2015

The Council Diary January to December 2015 was **agreed**. It was also **agreed** that Panel dates for 2015 would now be included and that the updated Diary should be brought back to the November Plenary meeting for noting.

#### 14 – 10 – 097 Awards

##### *Music Project Awards*

The Music Project Awards were **noted**. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

It was **agreed** that going forward the maximum award should be reduced from €35k to €30k.

##### *Opera Project Awards*

The Opera Project Awards were **noted**. A Financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

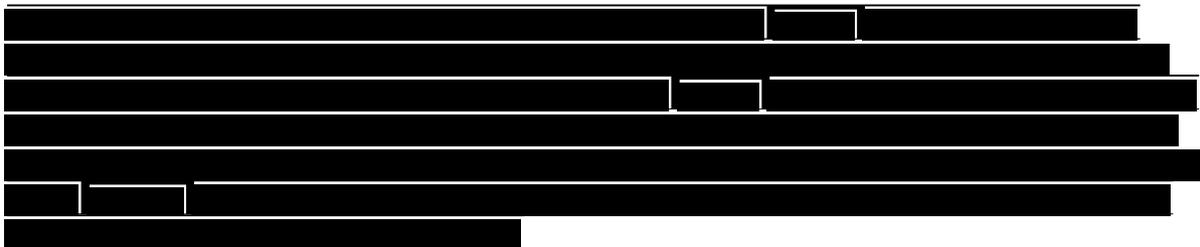
##### *Theatre Project Awards*

Members noted that this was the first time that Theatre Projects were before a Panel. Aibhlín McCrann, Panel Chairman, noted that the panel members had prepared and performed well.

Members **noted** a typographical error in relation to the amount recommended to Aonghus Óg McAnally which should read €47,386.

The Panel Chairman, asked members to note that due to an issue with the short-listing process one application was not presented to the original panel and that the panel reconvened to consider the application. Members **noted** that the application was recommended for funding even though the available budget for 2015 Round 1 had already been allocated. However funding was made available from the 2015 Round 2 budget.

The Theatre Project Awards were **noted**. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.



A discussion also took place on the non-shortlisted applications not being available to the panel for review. Members suggested that, if possible, non-shortlisted applications should be made available to panels. Members referenced the Internal Audit Report on Panels and recommendations in relation to panels including those on short-listing and that these should be introduced in the first instance. Members **agreed** to this approach.

The matter of whether given the breadth of genre in theatre that it may be necessary to extend the size of future panels. It was **agreed** that this would be considered by the theatre team.

#### 14 – 10 – 098 Strategic Review 2014

The Director made a presentation to members outlining the proposed next steps in considering the Strategic Review highlighting the overarching principles 1) Demographic (people) and 2) geographic (places) and setting out four priority actions being:-

- Agree to develop position papers on each arts area to be presented in February 2015 to Policy and Strategy;
- Begin to develop a new 'engagement programme' with sector for 2015;

- Continue to develop Research and Information Programme;
- Review and renew our communications and 'public facing' function to raise the profile and role of the Arts Council in public domain.

Members welcomed the presentation as a pathway through the issues. Members **noted** that the Executive/ arts managers might workshop issues together to better understand areas of convergence/cross-cutting issues to ensure that future thinking isn't determined by existing 'silos'.

Members referenced excellence and the individual artist as key issues that need to be considered across artforms/practice areas as well as the need for each area to explore its own environment with both a national and, where appropriate, international focus.

Members **noted** that the Arts Council needs to begin to talk to its various 'communities' in a new and different way noting that the Arts Council is positioned between the political world and that of the people and how best we face both.

Members **noted** that current initiatives (for example Laureate na nÓg) demonstrate the level of 'excellence' and wide engagement which is already underway.

Members commented on the proposed approach for communications, public relations and public affairs noting that it needs further discussion in terms of a new strategy.

Members **agreed** the four priority actions and in addition the following additional actions were **agreed:-**

- That a distilled version of the PESTLE / Pathway research should be brought to the next Plenary;
- Develop thoughts on what a development agency might look like and define what our role in this regard might be;
- Develop proposals around sectoral engagement;
- Develop a work programme/implementation plan and timeline and bring to the November Plenary meeting.

#### **14 – 10 – 099 Appeals Committee**

[REDACTED]

#### **14 – 10 – 100 Any Other Business**

*Architecture- O'Donnell Tuomey Architects*

Members **agreed** to write to congratulate O'Donnell Tuomey Architects on being awarded the prestigious Royal Gold Medal for architecture.

[REDACTED]

*Invitation to Heather Humphrey's, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to meet Council*  
Members noted that the Minister has been invited to attend the November Plenary but has yet to confirm.

### *Meeting with the Abbey Theatre*

Ciara Walsh, Council member, updated on the most recent Abbey Review meeting confirming that both parties are almost agreed on a new monitoring mechanism which is in line with the Bonner Keenlyside recommendations and will commence in 2015 and that a new financial reporting format has also been agreed.

Members welcomed however the progress made in relation to ongoing programming in the Peacock.

Members also **agreed** that an update on Private Investment should be added for discussion at the next meeting.

Members **noted** the update.

### Summary of decisions/actions

1. *Minutes of the Plenary meetings: 23 September 2014- Minute 14 – 09 – 088 Strategic Review 2014-* Members **agreed** that 'excellence' and the 'individual artist' should be added to the highlighted matters. The minutes of the 23 September 2014 Plenary meeting were then **approved**;
2. *Council Diary* - it was **agreed**, in addition to providing via Board Pad, that a soft copy of the 2015 diary should be emailed to members
3. *Clare Leadership Programme / Jerome Hynes Fellowship-* Members **agreed** to an allocation of €30k towards the Clare leadership programme for 2015/16;
4. *Indicative Budgetary approach for Local Arts and Ealain na Gaeltachta-* Members **agreed** the approach outlined;
5. *EdPAE Update for Council-* it was **agreed** that the Ignite commissions would be made available for members to view;
6. *Arts Audiences Conference December 9, Dublin Castle-* it was **agreed** that, when finalised, the programme for the conference will be circulated to members;
7. *676<sup>th</sup> Plenary 13 Oct (Part 1) –Grants-* See attached appendix for **agreed** actions;
8. *Scoring Project (12-18 month Work Programme)-* Member **agreed** to proceed with the following:-
  - a. A new funding framework and assessment system should be developed for 2016/17 linked to a new strategy with criteria clearly reflecting corporate and arts area priorities;
  - b. The new funding framework will involve a review and redesign of existing funding programmes;
  - c. The new framework should enable funding programmes to be tailored and designed to suit different types and scale of organisations as well offering varying funding agreements from 1-3 years;
  - d. A comprehensive review of all non-recurring funding programmes should also be undertaken to ensure that the suite of funding supports offered by the Arts Council to artists and organisations work together and complement each other;
  - e. Allocate sufficient internal human and financial resources to deliver on this project in 2015/16;
  - f. Consult widely with the arts sector and develop a significant communications plan to ensure ease of transition;
9. *Scoring Project additional-* **agreed** that progress papers will be brought to Council at different stages of the project and that this new approach needed to be effectively communicated to the sector;



