The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon
731st Plenary Meeting
70 Merrion Square, Dublin
20 November 2019

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair, Paddy Glackin, Dónall Curtin, Jillian Van Turnhout, Mark O’Kelly, Loughlin Deegan, Helen Shaw, Sinead Moriarty, Martina Moloney, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Pádraig Ó Duinnín.

In attendance:
Orlaith McBride, Director, Martin O’Sullivan Deputy Director & Company Secretary.

Documents before the meeting
Agenda
Chair’s Activity Update Report
Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 23 October
Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 11 November
Director’s Report
Partnership Funding 2020
Galway 2020
Public Affairs & Communications Plan 2020-21
Appeals Panel Review
Appeals Panel Recommendations
Awards & Schemes
Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations
Minutes P&S Meeting 17 September 2019
Risk Register

19 – 11– 118 Apologies
None

19 – 11– 119 Chair’s Introduction
Conflicts of Interest- The Chair 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.

Congratulations to the Director- Members took the opportunity to congratulate the Director on her appointment as incoming Director of the National Archives of Ireland.

Chair’s Activity Update Report- Members noted the report.

Abbey Working Group Meeting 1 November - Dónall Curtin declared a conflict for this agenda item and left the meeting. Members were updated on ongoing activity and compliance matters together with outstanding governance issues including the planned approach for filling outstanding board vacancies and the updating of the Abbey’s
Constitution. Members also noted that the Abbey would present a progress update to Council, at the February 2020 meeting, on its capital project. Members noted the update. The Chair also noted that he had subsequently contacted the members of the Abbey Selection Committee requesting a meeting to proceed with filling the Abbey board vacancies.

Aósdana Working Group- Members noted that the working group would meet later in November.

Council Vacancy- Members noted that a ministerial nomination has been made but that official Departmental notification had not yet been received; and that the new Member should be in place for the December meeting. Members noting the proximity to the December Council meeting, agreed that the new Member should be circulated with the Strategic and Arts Centre Funding 2020 Assessment and Decision-Making Process Briefing presented at the 20 November P&S Meeting.

Committee and Working Group Membership- Members agreed that the following members are to join the following Committees and Working Groups:-

- Audit and Risk Committee- Melatu Uchenna Okorie;
- Business and Finance Committee- Paddy Glackin and Jillian Van Turnhout;
- Policy and Strategy Committee- Sinead Moriarty, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Helen Shaw and Mark O’Kelly;
- Abbey Working Group- Helen Shaw and Loughlin Deegan;
- Aósdana Working Group- Paddy Glackin and Melatu Uchenna Okorie;

Members agreed that the full list of Committee and Working Group Membership should be uploaded to Diligent.

Scheme for the purchase of works of art at half-price by public bodies: - Members agreed that all public bodies that participated in the scheme should be written to seeking 1) confirmation as to the current location of art pieces purchased under the scheme and 2) commitment from them to maintain their retention in public ownership.

19 – 11– 120 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 23 October
Members agreed the Minutes for the 23 October 2019 Meeting.

19 – 11– 121 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 11 November
Members agreed the Minutes for the 11 November 2019 Meeting.
19 – 11– 122 Matters Arising
National Symphony Orchestra move to NCH- Members were informed that Kevin Lonergan, DCHG, would be invited to attend the next Policy & Strategy Committee meeting to update on progress. Members were informed that the Government decision on the matter has been made and DCHG’s role is now to manage the logistics of this decision.

Irish National Opera Governance- Members reiterated that Council’s expectation is that a new Chair will be appointed in 2020. Members agreed that the INO should revert back to Council by the end May 2020 to confirm status.

19 – 11– 123 Director’s Report
Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy Update
Following recommendations around the proposed workplan for 2020 Members agreed a budget of €115k with the funding to be taken from the overall budget allocation for MGAW policy initiatives.

Open Call 2021
Members agreed to the draw-down of up to 20% in advance funding by successful applicants, during the final quarter of 2020, to facilitate the necessary development of projects happening early in 2021. Separately Members agreed that the revised approach and process around the deferral of Open Call 2020 to 2021 needs to disseminated out to applicants at the earliest opportunity.

Touring 2021
Members agreed that a budget of €2m should be allocated to touring for 2021.

Fáilte Ireland Meeting
Members were informed that a good meeting had taken place between the Director and representatives from Fáilte Ireland with mutual recognition of the importance of keeping communications line open. Members noted the commitment to continue to meet and progress towards putting a high level strategic Memorandum of Understanding in place between both organisations.

Culture Night
Following the transfer of operational and budgetary management of Culture Night to the Arts Council for 2020 onwards Members were updated on the ongoing due diligence being undertaken by the Executive. Members noted the update and confirmation that a more detailed briefing paper will be brought to the first Plenary Meeting of 2020.

Section 36 Commercially Sensitive Information

Director’s Diary Report
Members noted the report.

19 – 11– 124 Reports
Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 20 November
Loughlin Deegan, Committee Chairman, updated members on the meeting and recommendations made:

- Artists Remuneration Policy & Implementation Plan- agreed;
- EHRD update on implementation-noted;
- Strategic Funding and Arts Centre Funding assessment and decision-making process -noted;
- Presentation from Creative Schools- noted

Members noted the report and agreed the recommendations from the Policy and Strategy Committee.

19 – 11– 125 Galway 2020
Members noted the areas of joint collaboration between the Arts Council and Galway 2020 as underpinned in the MOU agreement as well as detail on organisations, projects and activities supported by the Arts Council that will feature as part of Galway 2020.

19 – 11– 126 Partnership Funding 2020 Recommendations
Deirdre Behan, Strategic Development Director and Sinead O’Reilly, Head of Local Arts joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Members noted the recommendations including allocations to 26 Local Authorities for Culture Night. Members agreed the recommendations and a financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.
19 – 11– 128 Review of Arts Council’s Appeals Process

Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director, joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Members noted the draft report and recommendations. Following review of the recommendations Members agreed that implementation of accepted recommendations should now proceed while noting that other recommendations need further consideration before a final recommendation can be made further agreeing that progress updates should be provided to Council.

19 – 11– 129 Premises Update

19 – 11– 130 Appeals Panel Recommendation

Blaise Smith- Application Number: A436902- Visual Arts Project Award, Strand 2, 2020- appeal not upheld- the panel found no failure in or unfair application of the published process.

The recommendation of the Appeals Panel was agreed.

19 – 11– 131 Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

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

19 – 11– 132 Awards

Music Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Architecture Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Film Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Visual Arts Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Members noted that 50% of recommendations related to film and suggested that there should be more collaboration between the Visual Arts & Film teams indicating that there should possibly have been a secondary assessment by film. Members agreed that both Managers should discuss and agree an approach.

Arts Participation Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Traditional Arts Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Theatre Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Circus & Street Arts Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Dance Project Award (2020)
Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

Members noted that there was some confusion in relation to the available budget for the dance projects panel. Members agreed that the available budget should be fully established and agreed in advance of the panel meeting.

Separately members noted that there were a large number of non-shortlisted projects across the artforms and wondered whether applicants were getting adequate feedback and assistance around the application process.

19 – 11– 133 Matters for Information
Members noted the following:-

- Policy and Strategy Committee Minutes 17 September 2019;
- Current Risk Register- members noted that the change of Director and the current ICT Manager vacancy need to be included. Additionally in relation to the measurement of risk tolerance (currently shown as low or medium- what does this mean) Members asked for it to be presented in a more refined manner.

19 – 11– 134 Any Other Business
Members Private Session
Section 30 Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies

There were no other matters.