

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.

Section 36 Commercially Sensitive Information

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 be 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.

[REDACTED]

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.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Section 30 Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Section 36 Commercially Sensitive Information

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

[REDACTED]

Section 30 Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies

There were no other matters.