

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

697th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

20 September 2016

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, Chair, John Fanning, John McAuliffe, Miriam Dunne, Brian Maguire, Monica Spencer, Joan Sheehy, Eimear O'Connor (until 5.15pm).

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 21 & 22 June

Director's Report

Touring- Strategic Budgeting

Update Reports on Organisations

Aosdána Review

Risk Register

Diary 2017

Deis (Round 2) 2016

Engaging with Architecture Strand 1 & 2

Travel & Training Awards

16 – 09 – 072 Apologies

No apologies.

16 – 09 – 073 Chair's Introduction

Conflicts of Interest-The Chair noted declared conflicts and requested members to declare any additional 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.

Nomination process for new Council Members

Members were updated on progress to-date. It was **noted** that the shortlisting of applicants will be completed, for the Minister, by 4 October and it is hoped that the six new Members will be appointed in time for the October Plenary Meeting.

Outgoing Council Members

It was **noted** that an occasion to mark departing Members contributions during their term of office is to be planned.

Committee Appointments / Reappointments

- Miriam Dunne- reappointed as a Member of the Business & Finance Committee and appointed as Chairman and as a Member of the Audit Committee;
- John McAuliffe- reappointed as a Member of the Policy & Strategy Committee and appointed as Chairman;

- Eimear O'Connor- stepped down as Chairman of the Policy & Strategy Committee but agreed to continue as a member of the Committee. Members thanked the outgoing Chairman for her considerable contribution to the role;
- Joan Sheehy- reappointed as a Member of the Audit Committee;
- Brian Maguire- stepped down from the Policy & Strategy Committee but indicated his interest in sitting on the Audit Committee.

Meeting with Minister Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Members **noted** a very good meeting held with the Minister in July at which the Chair and Director presented an outline 2017 budget request. Members were also updated on the Arts Council's proposed advocacy approach for Budget 2017.

16 – 09 – 074 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting 21 and 22 June 2016

The Minutes of the 21 and 22 June Plenary Meeting were **approved**.

16 – 09– 075 Matters Arising

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

16 – 09– 076 Director's Report

Arts Council/Toscaireacht Meeting

Members **agreed** to defer meeting with the Toscaireacht until the Aosdána review process is fully completed.

Request for Meeting by Liberties Press

Members **agreed** that this matter should be dealt with by the Executive.

Gare St Lazare Ireland

Members were briefed on a request from Gare St. Lazare for a revision from an already funded project to an alternative. Following detailed discussion on the matter Members **agreed** to withdraw funding and compensate the organisation for expenses incurred to-date.

New Approach to Communication

Members were updated on the role of the Communications Clinic, following their engagement in early 2016. Members **noted** and welcomed the activity report of work undertaken and were briefed on the planned media approach for the remainder of 2016.

Audience Development Adviser

Members were updated on the role of the new Audience Development Adviser and confirmation that Una Carmody was the successful tenderer. Members **noted** the update.

ART: 2016 Symposium

Members **noted** and welcomed that a symposium will be held in March 2017 to reflect on the impact of work produced under the 2016 Programme on both the artist and the public. Members **agreed** that the findings should be published.

Director's Diary Report

Members **noted** the Director's Diary Report.



Redacted Section 29, Freedom of Information Act 2014

16 – 09– 078 MGAW Budget Model 2017

Deirdre Behan, MGAW Project Manager, and David Parnell, Investment Strategy Lead, joined the meeting and made a presentation

Members were briefed on a revised budgetary approach based on the MGAW priorities and their impact of this reclassification on the existing 2016 Budget. Members were also updated on three budget planning scenarios for 2017 based on the proposed MGAW budgetary framework.

Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** that the MGAW priorities should be prioritised for budgetary increases as follows:-

Festivals

- Small festivals and MDA festivals -large MDA festivals seen as demonstrating good practice around audience / public engagement.

Individuals

- Prioritise emerging artists- double existing spend proposed
- Prioritise individual bursaries and projects
- Consider including funding Mentors – often proposed in emerging bursaries as an effective way to benefit both younger artist and more established artists
- Provide less budget increase to commissions, residencies and schemes

International

- No change in 2017 budget

Community Focused Arts Programmes

- More money to arts organisations working in this area
- Proportion of budget to be allocated to strategic partnerships

YPCE

- Prioritise all elements as per MGAW analysis

Members also **agreed** that new organisations should be considered for funding. In the case of existing organisations priority increases should be considered and Managers were encouraged to make strong recommendations. It was also **agreed** to explicitly link any increases to organisations to the new strategy.

In the case of additional funding for Opera it was **agreed** that a decision would not be made until a new policy was agreed in October and confirmation of the overall budget figure required for implementation on a phased basis was presented for agreement by members.

Members **noted** that the detailed 2017 arts budget would be brought to 13 October Business & Finance Committee for review.

16 – 09– 079 Touring Strategic Budgeting

Members were updated on the following matters following discussion:-

- *Scoring-* **agreed** new approach to be put in place for Touring (round 2) 2017 and Advance Planning 2018;
- *Strategic budget allocation-* **agreed** that budget to be based on weighting in accordance with MGAW priorities;
- *North South touring-* **noted** new marketing initiatives in place to promote joint nature of scheme.

Members **noted** that current touring rounds are not suitable for Circus & Street Arts tours and **agreed** that the matter should be considered further.

16 – 09– 080 Organisations Update

Members reviewed and **noted** the Organisation updates. In particular Members **noted** the managerial change at Cúirt and agreed that the matter would need further consideration as part of the 2017 Grants process. Members also noted Poetry Ireland's new location **noting** the possibilities the location might offer with regard to the 'Literature House' concept.

16 – 09– 081 Reports

Business & Finance Committee Meeting 24 June 2016

Miriam Dunne, Member, Committee Chairman, updated Members highlighting the following:-

- *Quorum-* agreed to co-opt Sheila Pratschke as an alternate Member for this meeting;
- *Minutes of 19 April 2016* - the Minutes of the 19 April Meeting were approved;
- *Draft Q2 2016 Management Accounts-* Members agreed the quarter 2 accounts;
- *High Level Budget 2016-* noted by Members and agreed that a copy of the presentation would be put up on Board Pad;
- *Risk Register-* agreed that the Risk Register should be considered by Council at its September Plenary Meeting;
- *Supplementary Pension-* Members agreed the award of a supplementary pension to Theresa Cullen.
- *Updates were provided on Premises negotiations, HR, FOI & ICT*

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

Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting 20 September 2016

Eimear O'Connor updated Members highlighting the following

New Music Dublin- members agreed to commit to three years (2017-2019) subject to review following 2017 festival. It was agreed to commit the remaining balance of €50,000 retained for 2016 New Music Dublin and to make a core 2017 investment of €150,000;

MGAW – a presentation was given on progress relating to key projects arising from the strategy since the last meeting of the Council in June.

Artform Priorities & Initiatives –priorities and specific artform initiatives to be presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee in 2016/17 aligned to MGAW were presented for agreement. It was agreed to review mid-year given the volume of initiatives being proposed across the arts teams.

Young People, Children and Education –a presentation was made to the Committee by the Head of Young People, Children and Education on the priorities being progressed specifically in relation to the Arts in Education Charter and Growing Up in Ireland research in partnership with the ESRI. This research will be launched in advance of the budget.

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

16 – 09– 082 Risk Register

Members **noted** the Risk Register.

16 – 09– 083 Council Diary 2017

Member **noted** the Council Diary for 2017.

16 – 09– 084 Awards

Engaging with Architecture Strands 1 & 2 2016

Members **noted** the recommendations. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes. Members noted that Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director, was in attendance as distinct from Claire Doyle, Head of Visual Arts, and asked for the record to be updated.

Deis (Round2) 2016

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

Travel & Training Awards May – July 2016

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

16 – 09– 085 Aosdána Cnuas

Members **agreed** all recommendations except that for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Section 37, FOI Act 2014. This would be re-considered following receipt of the required compliance documentation. An appendix is attached to the Minutes.

16 – 09– 086 Any other Business

Panel Administrative Matters

- *Visual Arts Bursary Panel*- Members noted that applicants undertaking post graduate studies were mistakenly shortlisted for the Panel- it was **agreed** that this matter would be addressed.
- *Arts Participation Bursary Panel*- Members noted that an applicant was brought forward who was not listed on the shortlist- it was **agreed** that this matter would be addressed.

Chairing the Annual Grants recommendation and awards process

Members **agreed** to consider & revert to Chair.

Retiring Member John Fanning

On the occasion of John Fanning's last Plenary meeting the Chair took the opportunity to acknowledge his huge contribution and complimented him on being a committed and strategic Member of the Arts Council during his term of office.

There were no other matters for consideration.