

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

722nd Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

13 February 2019

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Sinead Moriarty, Martina Moloney, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Dónall Curtin, Helen Shaw, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Paddy Glackin (from 2.30pm).

In attendance:

Orlaith McBride, *Director*, Martin O'Sullivan *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Liz Meaney, *Arts Director*.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of the Plenary meeting held on 23 January 2018

Director's Report

Abbey Theatre Update

Cnuas Recommendation

19 – 02– 014 Apologies

Mark O'Kelly (**noted** that non-attendance by the member was due to the related Ministerial Warrant not been received).

19 – 02– 015 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 her of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

Governance Matters- Members **agreed** the following:-

- The upcoming role of Arts Council Chair and the selection process for three new members will shortly be advertised via the Public Appointments Service;
- Deputy Chair- the appointment to be made shortly by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht from the existing membership cohort;
- Audit and Risk Committee- the appointment of Donáll Curtin to the role of Committee Chairman;
- Business and Finance Committee- the appointment of Martina Moloney to the role of Committee Chairman;
- Policy and Strategy Committee- the appointment of Loughlin Deegan to the role of Committee Chairman.

19 – 02 – 016 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 23 January 2019

19 – 01– 006 *The Abbey Theatre Update*- Members **agreed** to amend the Minute to read '- --Members considered and discussed the public challenge to the Abbey around issues regarding engagement with Irish artists---'

Members **agreed** the Minutes for the 23 January 2019 Meeting.

19 – 02– 017 Matters Arising

Markievicz Bursaries- Members **noted** that the award would be open to all artists.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There were no other matters arising.

19 – 02– 018 Artists’ Remuneration Policy

Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Toby Dennett, SDD Manager, joined the meeting.

Members were updated on a proposed process to support the development of an Arts Council policy on the fair and equitable remuneration and contracting of artists. Members welcomed the update and further discussed the need for benchmarking and the possible need for a formal exemption system. Members **agreed** the process and confirmed Sinead Moriarty and Fearghus Ó Conchúir to be the two Council champions for the initiative.

19 – 02 – 019 Director’s Report

Touring Budget 2020

Following consideration of the increased demand members **agreed** to increase the budget to €2m for 2020.

Nominations for the Collection Acquisition Committee

Members were informed of the need to appoint two voting Council members and one non-voting chair to the Committee. Members **agreed** to contact the Director to confirm their interest.

Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference- Update to Membership Structure

Members **agreed** that the Committee Chairman should be a member of Council, with relevant qualifications and experience and for the Terms of Reference to be updated accordingly.

Conversations on a Playwright – Tom Murphy Acting Masterclasses

Loughlin Deegan, Council member, declared a conflict and left the meeting.

Members were updated on a proposal from actors, who worked closely with Tom Murphy RIP, for a programme of activity. Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to provide €20.6k to fund the proposed 2019 programme.

Separately members **agreed** that the Arts Council should formalise a policy for such an initiative.

Theatre Sector Meeting

Members **noted** that two consultative meetings will now take place, with the Theatre Sector in March, one in Dublin and one in Limerick.

New Music Dublin Update

Members **noted** that the current partnership with the National Concert Hall and RTÉ will come to an end following delivery of the 2019 festival. Members also **noted** that a number of current stakeholders intend to apply to the Arts Council for support for a new music event in 2020.

[REDACTED]

Functions and deliberations of a public body

Director's Diary Report

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

19 – 02 – 020 Reports

Policy and Strategy Committee 13 February 2019

Helen Shaw, Acting Committee Chairman, briefed members on the key recommendations from the Committee Meeting:-

- *CHL Venues Report*- Members agreed to feedback on Report recommendations;
- *Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy*-the implementation approach was agreed and budget was discussed;
- *Disabled access Touring*- Members agreed new approach and increased budget to €25k;
- *MGAW 2020-22 developing a new 3yr plan*- Members agreed the approach;
- *Artform Policy Priorities*- Members noted the proposed policies;

Members **agreed** the recommendations of the Policy and Strategy Committee.

19 – 02– 021 The Abbey Theatre Update

Dónall Curtin declared a conflict and left the meeting. David Parnell, Head of Theatre joined the meeting.

Members were informed that progress had been made, by the Abbey Theatre, in relation to meeting some of its funding conditions [REDACTED]

Section 30 Functions and deliberations of a public body

Members **agreed** that the incoming Deputy Chair would chair Working Group meetings until a new Chairman is appointed. Members also **agreed** the need to have a communications approach in place.

19 – 02– 022 [REDACTED]



Section 30 Functions and deliberations of a public body

19 – 02– 023 Cnuas Recommendations

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

19 – 02– 024 Any Other Business

Strategic Discussion Matters Standing Item- Members **noted** that artists' remuneration, discussed earlier in the meeting, was the strategic item for this meeting.

Move from Board Pad to Diligent- Members **noted** that the transfer to the new meeting paper management system will take place in March.

Sheila Pratschke, Chair, final meeting-- Members took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair for her considered and very positive chairmanship acknowledging the Chair's considerable contribution in the setting of the Arts Council's MGAW strategy. Members also noted the numerous material and often very sensitive matters that the Chair had to engage with and lead out on successfully during her term.

There were no other matters.

Chairman: _____

Date