

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

718th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

24 October 2018

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe, *Deputy Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Miriam Dunne, Paddy Glackin, Martina Moloney, Helen Shaw, Sinead Moriarty, Mark O’Kelly, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Joan Sheehy (from 2.30pm).

In attendance:

Orlaith McBride, *Director*, Martin O’Sullivan *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of the Plenary meeting held on 19 September 2018

Director’s Report

Abbey Theatre Funding 2019-2020

Irish National Opera Funding 2019-2020

Visual Artists Workspace Scheme 2020

Strategic Funding Clarification Letter

Policy on Grant Advances

Schemes and Awards

Cnuas Recommendation

Appeals Panel Recommendations

18 – 10– 095 Apologies

Monica Spencer, Pádraig Ó Duinnín.

18 – 10– 096 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.

Government Grant 2019- Members **noted** the successful grant award for 2019. Members acknowledged the role of the Chair and Director in securing a c10% increase. Members were also informed that the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) had expressed its gratitude to the Arts Council for being incredibly helpful to DCHG in its case making for the Department’s overall grant.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) - Members were informed that the PAC had written to the Arts Council requesting additional information in relation to Filmbase. Members **noted** the request.

Council meeting without Executive and performance review for 2018- Members **noted** that these matters would be an agenda item for the November Plenary.

Resignation of Jack Crowley Audit and Risk Committee Chairman - Members **noted** that Jack Crowley had stepped down for personal reasons. Members acknowledged the Committee Chairman's contribution to the Committee. Members **agreed** that a formal note of thanks should issue from the Council.

Upcoming Governance Matters and Committee Vacancies:-

- *Policy & Strategy Meeting November-* Members were informed that a Chair needs to be appointed for the forthcoming meeting but that a permanent Chair would be appointed by the new Chair of the Arts Council;
- *Business and Finance Committee-* Members noted that two vacancies currently exist on the Committee;
- *North / South Working Group-* Members noted that one vacancy exists;
- *December Plenary Grants Meeting-* Members noted that the meeting would now take place on Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 December. Members were asked to consider chairing one day of this meeting and to speak privately to the Chair in relation to this.

Members **agreed** to consider the governance matters raised and revert to the Chair.

18 – 10 – 097 Minutes of Plenary meeting 19 September 2018

Members agreed the following changes:-

- The need to correct Fearghus Ó Conchúir's name in the Minutes;
- *18 – 09– 084 Reports- Policy and Strategy Committee 19 September-* Council asked that the minutes reflect the Executives understanding of the corporate strategy and its alignment and coherence across all aspects of the Council's work.
- *18 – 09– 091 Schemes and Awards Bursary Awards (2018, Round 2)- YPCE-* Members **noted** the increase in applications----- It was agreed that over time Arts Grants Funding might attend to this but that the eligibility criteria for the bursary need to be very clear.

Members **agreed** the Plenary Minutes for the 19 September subject to the changes being made.

18 – 10 – 098 Matters Arising

18 – 09– 088 Visual Artists' Workspace Scheme 2019- Members **agreed** that there is a need to undertake a needs assessment of the Visual Artists' Workspace Scheme and to do so in conjunction with Local Authority Arts Officers given the commitment many Local Authorities are making to the provision of artists' workspaces.



There were no other matters arising.

18 – 10 – 099 Director’s Report

Step Up Review 2014 – 2018 Progress Update

Members **noted** the update and confirmation that the findings and learnings would now contribute to the new Arts Council 5-year Dance Strategy. Members also welcomed confirmation that Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Council Member, will liaise with the Head of Dance on the strategy.

The Liam O’Flynn Bursary Partnership with NCH

Further to being previously agreed in principle at the September Council Meeting Members **noted** the increased bursary contribution, from the Arts Council, of €10k.

Seamus Heaney Commission Working Group

Member **noted** the update and **agreed** that Poetry Ireland should be asked to nominate a poet to the Working Group.

Director’s Diary Report

Venues Review Update- Members sought a status update on the Venues Review. Members **noted** that the Review is still a work-in-progress. Members expressed concern that the key findings wouldn’t be available in advance of the December Council grants Meeting. Members **agreed** that an abridged version of the recommendations should be sought and brought to the November Policy & Strategy Meeting.

Meeting of International Federation of Arts Councils and Government Agencies in Manchester- Members **noted** the update.

Meeting with Creative Ireland- Members were informed that Tania Banotti and Sinead Copeland were in attendance. Members **noted** that 1) Creative Schools and 2) National Creativity Fund were discussed. In relation to the National Creativity Fund members expressed their concern in relation to any perception of double funding under the DPER Circular 13/2014. Members **agreed** that clarity should be sought from Creative Ireland on the matter. Members also asked if it was possible to put an MOU in place so as to expressly set out and better leverage the responsibilities and obligations of both Creative Ireland and the Arts Council particularly in relation to Creative Schools.

Members **noted** the remainder of the Director’s Diary Report.

18 – 10– 100 Reports

Business and Finance Meeting 11 October 2018

Miriam Dunne, Committee Chairman, briefed Members highlighting the following matters:-

- *Minutes of 27 June 2018* - were agreed;
- *Quarter 3 2018 Management Accounts* – were agreed;
- *Budget 2019* – was agreed;
- *People and Skills update* – was noted;
- *FOI report* – was noted;

- *ICT report – was noted;*
- *Premises report - was noted;*
- *Risk Register - was noted;*
- *Contract over €50k- was agreed;*

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

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 11 October 2018

Joan Sheehy, Committee Member, briefed members highlighting the following matters:-

- *Minutes of Meeting held on 13 June 2018- were approved;*



Section 30, Functions and Negotiations of a public body

- *Internal Audit Actions Progress Update - Members noted the progress made;*
- *Draft C&AG Management Letter- Members noted the progress made;*
- *Risk Register- Members agreed the Risk Register;*
- *ICT Organisation Review- Members noted the update.*

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

North / South Working Group Meeting 15 October

The Director briefed members highlighting that the following matters were discussed:-

- Brexit and the arts in Northern Ireland – particularly noting the risk to the Creative Europe programme;
- Artists mobility;
- North / South Touring.

Member **noted** the update.

Private Investment Advisory Group Meeting 27 September

Joan Sheehy briefed members highlighting the following matters:-

- Membership of Advisory Group;
- 3-pillar strategy- Capacity Building, Culture for Giving and Foundation Dedicated to the Arts;
- RAISE progress update;
- Culture for Giving for the arts in Ireland;
- Foundation Dedicated to the Arts;
- Next Generation proposal;
- Next Meeting scheduled for 10 December.

Members **noted** the update.

Members requested a progress update on the RAISE application and shortlisting process. Members were informed that following a highly competitive process five organisations had been shortlisted for Tier 1 and that 30 had been nominated to participate in Tier 2. Members were informed that given the strong interest and positive feedback from the selection workshops an additional 'light touch' Tier 3 stand was now also being added for

the unsuccessful applicants. Members were informed that it would cost an additional €10k. Members welcomed and **noted** the update.

18 – 10– 101 Budget 2019

A presentation was made to members on the proposed 2019 Budget. Members **noted** that the presentation had already been discussed and agreed by the Business and Finance Committee. Following a detailed discussion, Members **agreed** the 2019 Budget.

18 – 10– 102 Abbey Theatre Multi-Annual Funding 2019 – 2020

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Rachel West, Head of Theatre joined the meeting.

Members considered the recommendation. Following a detailed discussion, members **agreed** in principle to provide grant funding to the Abbey Theatre of €7m for both 2019 and 2020. In relation to 2019 members specifically **agreed** to withhold €300k with release being contingent on compliance with a number of specific conditions and for a further €200k to be restricted for Touring.

Members also **agreed** that the letter received from the Irish Society of Stage and Screen Designers (ISSSD) should be uploaded to Board Pad and that a formal response should issue.

18 – 10– 103 Irish National Opera Multi-Annual Funding 2019-2020

Liz Meaney, Arts Director was in attendance and Niall Doyle, Head of Music and Opera joined the meeting.

Members considered the recommendation. Members **noted** the great success of the company in its first year acknowledging what had been achieved. Following a detailed discussion, members **agreed** funding as follows:-

- 2019- €2.986m;
- 2020- €3.076m.

In relation to 2019 members **agreed** for a note on remaining governance matters to be referenced in the 2019 Funding Agreement with Q2 2019 identified as the 'back stop' date for resolution.

18 – 10– 104 Visual Artists' Workspace Scheme 2019

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director, Claire Doyle, Head of Visual Arts and Ben Mulligan from the Visual Arts Team joined the meeting.

Members considered the recommendations. Members **noted** that the scoring and related narrative worked really well. Following a detailed discussion members, **agreed** funding totaling €230k for 2019. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Members expressed some concern about the commercial nature and scale of some of the organisations being funded **noting** that it was being done at the expense of some small organisations not receiving funding support. In the case of one organisation (Mart) members **agreed** that funding should be conditioned.

Members **agreed** that a discussion paper on artists' studios should be brought to a future Policy and Strategy Meeting.

Members thanked the Executive and welcomed having the Scheme back 'in-house' allowing members the opportunity to fully review and evaluate the individual recommendations.

18 – 10– 105 [REDACTED]

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director, Ann O'Connor, Head of Arts Participation joined the meeting.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Section 30, Functions and Negotiations of a Public Body

18 – 10– 106 Draft Advance Grant Policy

Members considered the recommended general principle approach and also how to progress exceptional requests. Following a detailed discussion members, **agreed** the Advance Grant Policy.

18 – 10– 107 Schemes and Awards

Opera Projects and Production Award 2019

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

Theatre Project Award (2019)

Members **noted** the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes. It was also agreed that as part of the review of schemes and awards that the strands under the Theatre Projects would be reviewed.

Members **agreed** that going forward the strands should be reduced into two for 1) New Work and 2) Production.

Arts Participation Project Award (2019)

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

Film Project Award (2019)

Members noted the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Visual Arts Project Award (2019)

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

Members **agreed** that the difference between a visual artist and an artist filmmaker needs to be clarified in the guidelines for the next round of projects.

Music Project Award (2019)

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

Members **agreed** that the Music Policy needs to be developed that reviews all supports in music across the range of schemes and awards. Members also requested that the 'subsidy per seat' analysis included in the Music Projects assessments would be discontinued.

Traditional Arts Project Award (2019)

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

Dance Project Award (2019)

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

Circus & Street Arts Project Award (2019)

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

In relation to Memorandum's of Understanding (MOU'S), members noted the varying standards across the art forms. Members **agreed** that a template MOU should be made available by the Arts Council. Members identified the MOU in place for North / South Touring as a possible exemplar.

18 – 10– 108 Cnuas Recommendation

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

18 – 10– 109 Appeals Panel Recommendations

Julie Dubsky- Application Number: A283104- Next Generation Bursary Award – 2018- Appeal not upheld. The panel found no failure in process.

Simon Toussifar- Application Number: A282937- Visual Arts Bursary Award – Round 2 – 2018- Appeal not upheld. The panel found no failure in process.

EBUKI – Earthen Building UK and Ireland- Application Number: A283819- Travel & Training Award, 2018- Appeal not upheld. The panel found no failure in process.

Co-Motion Arts & Media Productions Ltd- Application Number: A283493- Project Theatre Award, 2019- Appeal not upheld. The panel found no failure in process.

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

18 – 10– 110 Any Other Business

John McAuliffe, Deputy Director, Acknowledgement

The Chair took the opportunity to extend the thanks of the Council on this being the Deputy Chair's final Council Meeting. The Chair expressed what a pleasure it was to work with the Deputy Chair for the duration of his Council membership noting the good and fruitful relationship with all Council members. The Chair specifically noted his role as

Chairman of the Policy and Strategy Committee as well as acknowledging him as an excellent Deputy Chair. Members welcomed and **noted** the acknowledgement.

There were no other matters.