

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

707th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

19 Sept 2017

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, Joan Sheehy, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Helen Shaw, John McAuliffe, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Miriam Dunne, Monica Spencer, Brian Maguire, Martina Moloney (via conference call).

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 20/21 June 2017

Minutes of Meeting held on 23 June

Director's Report

Abbey Recommendation 2018-2020

Opera Main Scale Update

Investment Plan 2018

Communications Strategy

Council Diary 2018

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Engaging with Architecture Strands 1 & 2

Next Generation Bursaries 2017

Travel & Training

Bursaries 2017 (Round 2)

Cnuas Recommendations

17 – 09– 076 Apologies

Eimear O'Connor, Damien Downes.

17 – 09 – 077 Chair's Introduction

Conflicts of Interest- The Chair requested members to declare any 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.

17 – 09 – 078 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 20 & 21 June

The Minutes of the 20 & 21 Meeting were **approved**.

17 – 09 – 079 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 23 June

The Minutes of the 23 June Meeting were **approved**.

17 – 09– 080 Matters Arising

Aosdána

Members were informed that the Chair of the Toscaireacht had been in touch with the Chair over the summer and that both Chairs were now due to meet however a meeting date has yet to be arranged.

ARC Chair Appointment

Members were informed that there was no further update at present on the matter.

17 – 09– 081 Director’s Report

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Irish Research Council

Members were informed that the MOU will guide partnership between the two agencies and provide for structured and consistent engagement over the period 2017 – 2020. Members asked that an expert panel on the arts needs to be established and noted that this agreement would help to progress research in this area. Members welcomed and **approved** the MOU.

Festivals Update

Members **noted** updates in relation to the Dublin Fringe Festival and Clonmel Junction Festival. Members also **noted** the update in relation to the Festival Investment Scheme Clinics.

Members **agreed** a budget 2018 increase to €1.4m for small festivals.

Touring Forum Proposal

Members were update on a proposed collaboration between Theatre Forum and the Association of Irish Stage Technicians to establish codes of practice that will help strengthen the working relationship between venues and producers. Members welcomed the recommendation and **agreed** to invest €9,500 in the initiative.

Creative Schools- Project Lead Contract

Members were informed that following the completion of an EU procurement process Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) Limited have been selected as the project lead for Creative Schools. Members **approved** the contract term options and related budgets and **agreed** to their appointment. Members separately **noted** the daily rates quoted for additional services. Members **agreed** that a transparent approval process should be put in place to manage any additional work instructed under the contract.

Members **noted** that a full update on the Creative Schools Project will be brought to Council later in 2017.

Tradition Now 2017 Update

Members **noted** the Arts Council’s investment of €40k for 2017 with confirmation that the festival will take place from 3 - 8 October.

New Music Dublin (NMD) Update

Members were presented with 1) an indication of the Council’s approach to assessing the progress of the initiative particularly in terms of performance indicators, and 2) sight of comprehensive accounts/ and budget for NMD partnership to cover 2016/2017 financial years. Members **noted** both. Members separately highlighted the need for the 2018 NMD festival to be closely monitored by the executive specifically in terms of increased attendance figures.

Director’s Diary Report

The Director’s Diary Report was **noted**.

17 – 09– 082 Abbey Funding Recommendation 2018-2020

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



17 – 09– 086 Council Diary 2018

Members **noted** the proposed diary dates for 2018.

17 – 09– 087 Appeals Panel- 11 September

The recommendations from the Appeals Panel were as follows:-

Gabriel Rosenstock, Application Number: A273736, Irish Language Literature Bursary Award 2017, Round 2. Appeal Outcome-the appeal was not upheld. No failure in the process

Martin Tourish,, Application Number: A273306, Deis Recording and Publication Award, 2017. Appeal Outcome- appeal was upheld. The panel found that the assessment incorrectly used "Other Income" as the absolute criterion to determine feasibility. The panel recommended as a remedy that the application be presented at the shortlisted stage of the next appropriate award.

The recommendations of the Appeals Panel were **approved**.

17 – 09– 088 Awards

Engaging with Architecture 2017 (Strands 1 & 2)

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

Next Generation 2017

Members **noted** the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes. Based on feedback from the Panel Members **noted** that there might be a need to tweak the eligibility criteria for certain art forms such as Literature.

Travel & Training

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

Bursaries 2017 (Round 2)

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

Members separately noted the need to look at banding for bursaries and that an upper band of €20k should be considered. In addition the type of information being requested from applicants needs to be looked at. Both matters should be considered as part of Phase II of funding framework.

17 – 09– 089 Cnuas Recommendations

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

17 – 09– 090 Any Other Business

Cork Film Festival

[REDACTED]

FOI Act 2014 Section 30

Assessor Transparency

Members raised a concern in relation to subcontracted assessments indicating that it is not clear to the applicant who is assessing their application. Members **agreed** that the executive should review the matter.

There were no other matters.