

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

## 717<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin  
19 September 2018

### **Present:**

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe, *Deputy Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Miriam Dunne, Paddy Glackin, Martina Moloney, Helen Shaw, Monica Spencer, Sinead Moriarty, Mark O’Kelly, Fearghus Ó Conchúir (from 2.40pm).

### **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 and 20 June 2018

Director’s Report

Abbey Theatre Multi-Annual Funding 2019–2020

Irish National Opera Multi-Annual Funding 2019-2020

Multi Annual Funding Update

Visual Artists’ Workspace Scheme 2019

Diary 2019

Schemes and Awards

Cnuas Recommendations

Appeals Panel Recommendations

### **18 – 09– 079 Apologies**

Joan Sheehy, Pádraig Ó Duinnín.

### **18 – 09– 080 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.

*New Members-* Members **noted** and welcomed the appointment of Sinead Moriarty, Mark O’Kelly and Fearghus Ó Conchúir as new members of Council.

*Estimates Process-* Members **noted** a busy summer of positive interaction with officials from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). Members were further updated on an international arts initiative being promoted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as part of *Global Ireland*.

### **18 – 09 – 081 Minutes of Plenary meeting 19 & 20 June 2018**

Members agreed the following changes:-

Minute 18-04-040: The minute should now read- *it was sufficient to include in the minutes a reference to the meeting between the Arts Council and the Toscaireacht of Aosdána.*

Minute 18-06-078: The minute extract relating to Louth Contemporary Music should be taken out of the minutes as this has already been minuted.

Members **agreed** the Plenary Minutes for the 19 and 20 June subject to the changes being made.

### **18 – 09 – 082 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **18 – 09 – 083 Director's Report**

[REDACTED]

Section 30 Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies

*The Liam O'Flynn Bursary Partnership with NCH*

Paddy Glackin, Council Member, declared a conflict and left the meeting.

Members welcomed and **agreed** the €5k recommendation with the monies to come from the 2018 Traditional Arts budget. Members expressed some concern as to whether the proposed bursary amount was sufficient and **agreed** that if a further €5k could be sourced from within the budget then this amount should be added to the bursary.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Section 36 Commercially Sensitive Information

*Laureate for Irish Fiction – Update on Public Programme*

Members **noted** the update.

*Ealaín na Gaeltachta Draft Strategy 2018-2022*

Members **noted** the update.

*BoardPad Migration to Diligent*

Members **noted** the update.

*Private Investment Update*

Members **noted** the update.

#### Director's Diary Report

Members sought clarity on the meeting with the Charity Regulator. Members were informed that the Regulator is open to developing a forum to work through arts sector matters.

Members were also briefed on a meeting with Tania Banotti, Creative Ireland.

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

#### **18 – 09– 084 Reports**

##### *Business and Finance Meeting 27 June 2018*

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

- *Minutes of 25 April 2018*- were agreed;
- *Quarter 2 2018 Management Accounts* – were agreed;
- *People and Skills update* – was noted;
- *FOI report* – was noted;
- *ICT report & ICT risk register* – was noted;
- *Premises report* - was noted;
- *Cnuas Recommendations*- agreed the recommendation;
- *Negative Interest*- agreed that the Chair and Director would raise the matter with the Secretary General to see what could be done to manage the drawdown more effectively.

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

##### Policy and Strategy Committee 19 September 2018

John McAuliffe, Committee Chairman, briefed Members highlighting the following matters:-

- Equality and diversity presentation made with draft policy now to be prepared;
- Arts policy proposals agreed with cross artform engagement encouraged;
- Public Art paper noted. Further engagement with Creative Ireland and DCHG encouraged on expert body advice;
- Collection Policy agreed and communications plan in place;
- Review of schemes and awards approach agreed;
- Revised festival investment scheme approach agreed;
- Spatial analysis presentation noted;
- The Executive's excellent understanding of the corporate strategy and its alignment and coherence across all aspects of the Councils work.

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

Members **agreed** that the delegated authority approval to the Executive, for the Festival Investment Scheme, be increased to €50k.

#### **18 – 09– 085 Abbey Theatre Multi-Annual Funding 2019 - 2020**

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

Members thanked the Executive for the quality of the paper. Members considered the recommendation and following a detailed review **agreed** to postpone its decision until confirmation of the Art Council's 2019 Budget allocation had been received.

Members **agreed** that an Abbey Working Group Meeting should be scheduled after the October Council Meeting.

Members noted that Council membership of the Committee might be increased and it was **agreed** that Members should confirm their interest to the Chair.

#### **18 – 09– 086 Irish National Opera Multi-Annual Funding 2019-2020**

Liz Meaney, Arts Director was in attendance.

Members thanked the Executive for the quality of the paper. Members considered the recommendation. The benefit of having a clear opera policy was acknowledged by Members. Following a detailed review Members **agreed** to postpone its decision until confirmation of the Art Council's 2019 Budget allocation had been received.

#### **18 – 09– 087 Multi Annual Funding: Update**

Members were reminded that at the February 2018 Plenary Meeting it had been agreed that MAF funded organisations would be offered a funding envelope that would represent the approved amount for 2018 plus a 3% year on year increase for 2019 and 2020. Members **noted** the MAF Strategic Funding grant amounts for 2019 and 2020.

#### **18 – 09– 088 Visual Artists' Workspace Scheme 2019**

Members **noted** that the Scheme has now been brought in-house and that 2019 recommendations will be brought to Council for approval. Members **agreed** the budget of €230k for 2019 and also **agreed** that from 2020 onwards it should be delegated to a Peer Panel should the scheme continue following the review of all remaining schemes and awards.

#### **18 – 09– 089 Budget Planning 2019**

The Director made a presentation on the budget planning approach taken. Members were updated on a number of possible scenarios. Members noted the priority areas of Strategic Funding, Touring and the individual artist. Members welcomed and **noted** the presentation.

#### **18 – 09– 090 Diary 2019**

Members **noted** the 2019 diary dates.

#### **18 – 09– 091 Schemes and Awards**

*Opera Commissions 2018*

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

*Engaging with Architecture, 2018 – Strand 1 and Strand 2*

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

Members **noted** the level of declared conflicts. Members **agreed** that this Scheme needs to be looked at as part of the review of the funding framework.

*Invitation to Collaboration*

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

*Next Generation 2018 Bursaries*

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

Members also **noted** the following:

- concern about the experience level of recent applicants was highlighted by the Panel with a suggestion that an experience threshold needs to be set to ensure a balance between emerging and established applications;
- unlike other artforms the applications from theatre practitioners did not display the same level of imagination or innovation;
- noted that there were too many attendees for the Annamakerrig residence module to be really effective with a suggestion that attendees need to be split into more than one group;
- consideration should be given to multi-annual awards.

*Bursary Awards (2018, Round 2)*

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

Members **noted** the balance between emerging and established artists. The technical issues around third level college recognition were also noted. Members recognised that in some cases the applicant's request was too low. Members acknowledged that a network / forum for curators would be beneficial for networking.

Members **agreed** that future Visual Arts Bursary Panels should distinguish between curatorial and artistic practice particularly in reporting the outcomes of the panel.

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

Members **noted** the increase in applications. Members also noted that there was no project award available under YPCE which meant that some applications under the Bursary Award were more suited to projects. It was agreed that overtime Arts Grants Funding might attend to this but that the eligibility criteria for the bursary need to be very clear.

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

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

Members noted that the demand and budget were very close so wondered about the competitiveness of this bursary round. Members were informed that all awards had achieved a score above the funding threshold score.

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

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

Members **noted** the significant difference between the funding request and offer for some applications in literature. Members **agreed** that an explanation on the rationale / reasons for the reductions should be provided noting that some emerging artists applied for more than the standard €4000 award.

It was **agreed** that as a principle Panels should award the amount requested or as near to it except in exceptional circumstances. This was particularly important in bursaries.

### **18 – 09– 092 Cnuas Recommendations**

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

Members **noted** the Cnuas recommendations reviewed by Business & Finance at its June meeting and subsequently agreed via circulation by email to Members. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

### **18 – 09– 093 Appeals Panel Recommendations**

Arlen House- Application Number: A281963- Arts Grants Funding 2018 / 2019- Appeal not upheld. The panel found no failure in process.

Publishing Ireland- Application Number: A281717- Arts Grant Funding 2018 / 2019- Appeal not upheld. The panel found no failure in process.

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

Members **noted** the retirement of Martin Higgins as the Appeals Panel Chair. Members expressed their thanks to the Chair for his considerable commitment to the role. Members also **noted** that Ray Dolan Chief Executive Officer, SafeFood Ireland, will be the new Chair.

Members also asked if members could join by telephone for Appeal Panel meetings and that this should be facilitated as much as possible where members living outside Dublin are attending. Members **agreed** that where possible meetings should be scheduled around Council Meetings.

### **18 – 09– 094 Any Other Business**

[REDACTED]

Section 30, Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies

Members **noted** that a Working Group meeting was scheduled to immediately follow the Council Meeting.

*Pathfinder Survey*

Members **agreed** that the survey should be updated and published.

[REDACTED]

Section 30, Functions and Negotiations of FOI Bodies

There were no other matters.