

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

703<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

26 April 2017

## **Present:**

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe, *Deputy Chair*, Joan Sheehy, Miriam Dunne, Monica Spencer, Martina Moloney, Damien Downes, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Helen Shaw, Eimear O'Connor, Brian Maguire(from 2.35pm).

## **In attendance:**

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

## **Documents before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 22 March 2017

Director's Report

Art2016 Report

Works of Art Report

Awards for Noting

Appeals Panel Report

Cnuas Recommendations

## **17 – 04 – 027 Apologies**

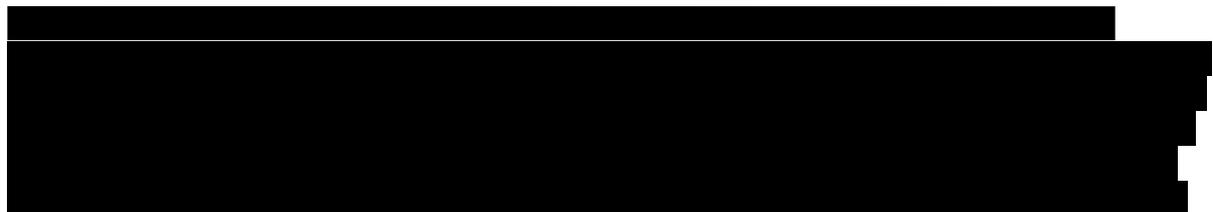
None

## **17 – 04 – 028 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.

*Opera Process*- Members were informed that phase 1 was now complete and that two organisations had been shortlisted to go forward to phase 2. Members expressed their compliments to the Executive on convening such an informed panel.

*Aosdána*- Members were updated on on-going matters including the deliberations of the Arts Council Working Group. Members **agreed** that there was a need to open formal communications, without pre-conditions, with the Toscaireacht. Members **agreed** that the representatives from the Council should include John McAuliffe, one other Council Member and the Director with the possibility that the Company Secretary might also be included. Members also **agreed** that there was a need to appoint a mediator agreeable to both sides to progress the process.



### **17 – 04 – 029 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting 22 March**

The Minutes of the 22 March Plenary Meeting were **approved**.

### **17 – 04– 030 Matters Arising**

Members were updated on the Executive's engagement with Creative Ireland since the last Council meeting.

### **17 – 04– 031 Director's Report**

#### *Electric Picnic 2017*

Members were briefed on the recommendation to provide funding towards the Literary Tent at Electric Picnic 2017. Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate €12,000 toward the initiative.

#### *Gender Equality Policy*

Members were informed that the Arts Council is required to have its own policy in place by the end of 2017. Members were also informed that the Executive had established an internal working group to review matters.

Following detailed discussion members highlighted the need for the Council to understand what this means for funded organisations. Members also referenced the need for funded organisations to have a gender policy in place and discussed whether as appropriate this would become a condition of funding in the future.

It was **agreed** that the working group will bring a paper to the Policy & Strategy Committee on the matter.

#### *Scoring Seminar*

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Val Balance, Manager and David Parnell, Manager, joined the meeting.

Members were informed that a revised scoring process has been developed for the Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme. Members were also informed that the revised score-sheet was reviewed by staff and advisers at a seminar on 7 April under the guidance of Professor Brian Singleton of Trinity College. It is now proposed that the revised process will be introduced for the recommendations on touring applications Round 1, 2018 at the Council meeting in June 2017. Following detailed discussion members **noted** the update.

#### *Director's Diary Report*

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

### **17 – 04– 032 Art 2016 Final Report**

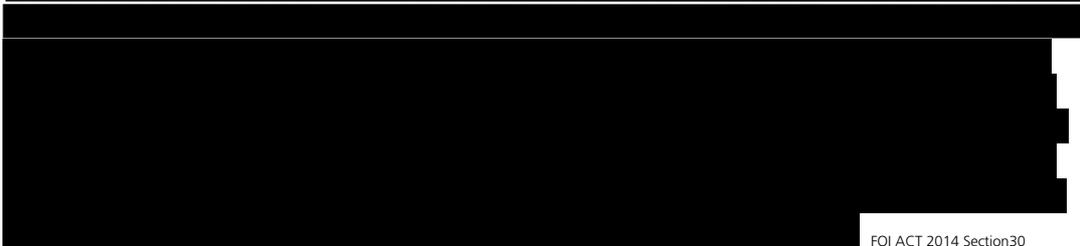
Members **noted** the Report.

### **17 – 04– 033 Reports**

#### *ARC Committee 30 March 2017*

Joan Sheehy, ARC Member, updated Members highlighting the following:-

- *Minutes of Meeting held on 22 February 2017-* were approved;

- *Members' Skillsets*- the decision was deferred. The Chairman undertook to re-circulate the revised proposed template for final comment and to seek agreement at the next meeting;
- *Committee Performance 2016- decision deferred*. The Chairman undertook to circulate the amended draft to members in advance of the next meeting for comment with the objective of seeking approval of the amended draft at the next meeting;
- *Additional ARC Meeting*- agreed that an additional ARC meeting should be scheduled;
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- *High Level Review of Internal Financial Controls 2016*- Members agreed the Report;
- *Supplementary report to assess the impact of un-remedied internal financial control recommendations on 2016 SIFC*- agreed that the draft report needs further work to ensure that it includes the final report on the Collection before being re-presented to the next ARC meeting;
- *Progress update on Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations*- agreed that the final report should be brought to the next ARC Meeting;
- *Members Independence*- Director of Finance to discuss the form of the conflicts of interest note with the external auditors and will seek clarity on whether the current form is in compliance with relevant regulations and accounting standards;
- *Gap Analysis 2009 Code v 2016 CoPGSB*- agreed that the Executive need to consider and revert with a resourcing plan and agreed that the objective should be to achieve full compliance with 2016 CoPGSB by 31 December 2017;
- *Grantee Agencies- provisions in their constitutions*- additional disclosure will be necessary in the 2016 Annual Report;
- *Aosdána Cnuas- accounting treatment*- agreed to reflect on the matter further with a final decision to be made at the next ARC meeting

FOI ACT 2014 Section30

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

#### *Works of Art Update Report*

The Finance Director and Company Secretary updated Members on the Report.

Members **noted** the report.

#### *Business & Finance Committee Meeting 25 April 2017*

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

- *Minutes of 21 February 2017*- were approved;
- *Draft Management Accounts for Q1 2017*- were agreed;
- *Budget Savings Proposal*- agreed to allocate €825,000 to the recommended funding programmes;
- *Travel & Training*- agreed to circulate the Travel & Training demand analysis by art form / practice area to Members and agreed the need for it to be promoted across the art form / practice areas;
- *Trusts' Report*- agreed the following in relation to the existing Trusts:-
  - *John Broderick Trust*- to contact the UK solicitor associated with the drafting of the original Deed to determine if it would be possible to vary the trusts of the will so as to allow the trustees to distribute more than just annual income;

- *Other Trusts (excluding Ciste Cholmcille)* - to frame a draft scheme for combining the other trust funds and to present for discussion to the Charities Regulatory Authority.

In relation to the Budget Savings Proposal Members **agreed** an amendment to increase the allocation to €100k for Visual Arts Bursaries and to reduce the allocation to €125k for Travel & Training.

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

*Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting 26 April 2017*

Helen Shaw, Committee Member, updated Members highlighting the following:-

- *Arts Council Collection*; A paper on the collection was discussed and **agreed** with recommendations in relation to increased investment in the management, care, maintenance and resourcing of the collection; it was also **agreed** that the Arts Council would continue towards realisation of the value of the collection as it relates to public engagement in the arts and that this would entail on-going investment;
- It was **agreed** that the acquisitions committee would comprise a non-voting chair and six panel members including two Council members with relevant expertise. It was further **agreed** to establish rolling appointments and a fixed duration of term;
- *Funding Review*: A paper was presented on the new funding framework specifically looking at Infrastructure and Programme funding. It was agreed to schedule a further meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May given the timelines for delivery;
- *Venues Review*: The terms of reference for the venues review were presented.

Members **agreed** to schedule an additional meeting for 19 May at 1.30pm.

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

*North / South Working Group Meeting*

Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Working Group member, updated members highlighting the following:-

- Heaney projects were discussed and it was noted that Arts Council of Northern Ireland is still very committed to a joint approach;
- Funding issues post Brexit were discussed;
- An update was provided on jointly funded organisations.

The report and recommendations of the North South Working Group were **agreed**.

**17 – 04– 034 Aosdána Cnuas**

Members **approved** the recommendation. Members also **noted** the Cnuas suspensions. An appendix is attached to the Minutes.

**17 – 04– 035 Awards**

*Bursaries (Round 1) 2017*

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

*Commissions 2017*

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

*Deis (Round 1) 2017*

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

*Young Ensemble Scheme 2017*

Members **noted** the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes. Members **noted** the significant contribution the young people on the Panel.

**17 – 04– 036 Appeals Panel 24 April 2017**

The recommendations from the Appeals Panel were as follows:-

Dave Flynn- Application: A257143- Music Bursary Award (Round 1) 2017- Appeal upheld- recommendation to offer the artist a remedy of shortlisting his application for a future round of funding.

Sean Horgan- Application: A257089- Literature Bursary Award (Round 1) 2017- Appeal not upheld- no failure in process was identified.

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

**17 – 04– 037 Proposed New Organisation Structure**

The Director made a presentation to members. Following detailed discussion, members welcomed the new structure and proposed plans around the related resourcing requirements. Members **noted** the update and thanked both the Director and the Human Resources Manager for their work in developing a new structure specifically designed to effectively deliver on *Making Great Art Work*.

**17 – 04– 038 Any Other Business**

*Marketing for Arts Organisations*

Members highlighted that many arts organisations need specific support in the area of marketing and asked for consideration to be given to initiating some type of shared marketing programme with a university with this expertise as part of the Audiences Strategy.

*Donal Toolan RIP*

Members **noted** with regret the death of Donal Toolan.

There were no other matters for consideration.