

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

674th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square

Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 14:00

Present: Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, Aibhlín McCrann, *Deputy Chair*, John Fanning, Brian Maguire, Monica Spencer, Éimear O'Connor, John O'Donnell, Mark O'Regan, Miriam Dunne, John McAuliffe (via conference call), Ciarán Walsh, Judith Woodworth, Joan Sheehy (from 2.30pm).

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of meeting held on 17/18 June

Appeals Panel Recommendation

14 – 06 – 070 Apologies

Monica Spencer

14 – 06 – 071 Chairman'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. It was **noted** that members had already declared conflicts in respect of decisions before this meeting.

September 23 Plenary meeting

The Chair confirmed that the September 23 Plenary meeting is to be held in Limerick and that Joe O'Connor will be invited to attend to discuss/explore 'the intrinsic value of the arts' with members. Members **noted** the update.

14 – 06 – 072 Minutes of the Plenary meetings: 17 and 18 June 2014

Minute 14-06-058 - University Residencies -Literature and Traditional Arts

The minute should be updated to read '--- Members also referenced the planned overview of the Arts Councils residency programme confirming the need for a cohesive policy across all residencies.'

Minute 14-06-062 - Abbey Theatre Review

The minute should be updated to include the following '----proceed with its delivery.'

Minute 14-06-063 - Grants Committee Terms of Reference

The minute should be updated to read '-- In future grant decisions will be considered at Plenary meetings.'

Minute 14-06-068 - Strategic Review 2014

The minute should be updated to read '--- **agreed** there would be further discussion and consideration of the Report and its implications among the members in due course.'

Minute 14-06-069 - Estimates Process

The minute should now read ' The Chair confirmed that rather than convening an ad hoc working group that a more targeted approach was preferred and that members would be kept updated on progress.'

The minutes of the Plenary meeting held on 17 and 18 June 2014 were considered and **approved**.

14 – 06 – 073 Matters arising from the minutes

Minute 14-06-062 - Abbey Theatre Review

The Chair confirmed that both the Arts Council and the Abbey had agreed on all publication matters and that the Abbey Theatre Review Report would be published, via the Arts Council's website, in early July. Members **noted** the update.

14 – 06 – 074 Appeals Committee

Members were briefed on the Appeal as follows:-

Appellant: Galway Fringe Festival: Festivals and Event Scheme 2014 – Strand 1

Decision- no failure in process was identified and the appeal was not upheld.

Members **approved** the decision.

14 – 06 – 075 Reports

Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting 26 June 2014

The Committee Chairman updated Members as follows:-

- The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2014 were agreed;
- *Digital Media Platform*- a working group consisting of representatives of Council (members and executive) and a number of outside experts will be established to consider Arts Council policy and strategy in the digital domain, inclusive of the digital platform agenda.
- *Current Residencies*- a further paper elaborating on aspects of the various residency initiatives supported by Council would be tabled at an autumn meeting of the committee.
- *Public Art*- the new direction of Council policy and of its advisory function as set out in the paper was agreed;
- *Data and Information*- The 3-part proposal made in the tabled paper was agreed;
- *Peer Panels*- The next step was agreed. A paper capturing the lessons of research and reflection in the coming months would be tabled at an autumn meeting of the committee;
- *Venice Biennale*- it was agreed to recommend to Council the extension for a further three years (2015-2017) of (a) the multi-annual commitment (currently €70,000 p.a.) towards the Irish entry to the Venice Biennales and (b) the advance commitment of up to €20,000 from the touring budget for the Irish tour of same;

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

14 – 06 – 076 Strategic Review 2014

Members considered the draft press release to accompany publication of the Strategic Review Group Report. Following a detailed discussion, members **agreed** that the Report and press release should be published, via the Arts council's website, in early July. It was **agreed** that a new draft press release would be circulated to members for comment prior to issue.

14 – 06 – 077 Any other business

HR Update

The Director confirmed that sanction had been received to recruit for three positions:-

- Arts Director – Performing and Local Arts
- Head of Music and Opera
- Head of Young People, Children and Education

Members **noted** and welcomed the update including confirmation that the recruitment process has been activated.

Committee Membership

The Chair confirmed the reappointment of Mark O'Regan to the Policy & Strategy Committee. Members **noted** the appointment.

Additionally in the absence of a quorum for the Business & Finance Meeting on June 27 it was **agreed** that Mark O'Regan be appointed to the Committee for that meeting.

Dr Ronnie Tallon RIP

Members **noted** with regret the passing of one of Ireland's most influential architects Dr. Ronnie Tallon, RIP.

Summary of decisions/actions

1. The minutes of the Plenary meeting held on 17 and 18 June 2014 were considered and **approved** subject to the following changes being made:-
 - a. *Minute 14-06-058 - University Residencies -Literature and Traditional Arts-* the minute should be updated to read '--- Members also referenced the planned overview of the Arts Councils residency programme confirming the need for a cohesive policy across all residencies.'
 - b. *Minute 14-06-062 - Abbey Theatre Review-* The minute should be updated to include the following '----proceed with its delivery.'
 - c. *Minute 14-06-063 - Grants Committee Terms of Reference-* the minute should be updated to read '-- In future grant decisions will be considered at Plenary meetings.'
 - d. *Minute 14-06-068 - Strategic Review 2014-* the minute should be updated to read '--- **agreed** there would be further discussion and consideration of the Report and its implications among the members in due course.'
 - e. *Minute 14-06-069 - Estimates Process-* the minute should now read ' The Chair confirmed that rather than convening an ad hoc working group that a more targeted approach was preferred and that members would be kept updated on progress.'
2. *Appeals Committee- Galway Fringe Festival* -no failure in process was identified and the appeal was not upheld. Members **approved** the decision;
3. The Report & recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee were **agreed**;
4. *Strategic Review 2014-* Members **agreed** that the Report and press release should be published, via the Arts council's website, in early July. It was **agreed** that a new draft press release would be circulated to members for comment prior to issue;

5. *Committee Membership*- in the absence of a quorum for the Business & Finance Meeting on June 27 it was **agreed** that Mark O'Regan be appointed to the Committee for that meeting.