

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

672<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square

Monday, 19 May 2014 at 14:00

**Present:** Sheila Pratschke *Chair*, Aibhlín McCrann, *Deputy Chair*, Miriam Dunne, John Fanning, Brian Maguire, John McAuliffe, Éimear O'Connor, John O'Donnell, Mark O'Regan, Joan Sheehy, Ciaran Walsh, Judith Woodworth.

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

## Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2014

Director's Report

North/South Working Group minutes of meeting held on 17 April 2014

Appeals Panel meeting held on 13 May 2014

Theatre Projects (Round 2) 2014 - Recommendations

Awards

- Projects (Round 2) 2014
- Aosdána Cnuas

Opinions to Revenue Commissioners

## 14 – 05 – 044 Apologies

Monica Spencer.

## 14 – 05 – 045 Chairman's Introduction

The Chair requested members to declare any conflicts of interest they were aware of arising from the agenda. The Chair further reminded members to advise her of any other conflicts that might arise during the course of the meeting.

The Chair commented on the upcoming retirement of Dominica Sandys, Council Executive, noting that these duties will now be undertaken by Ciara Branigan. The Chair highlighted the reduced level of service that will now be available requesting where possible that members manage their own Council affairs including bookings and travel arrangements. It was **agreed** that new Council members contact details should be forwarded to key funded organisations.

## 14 – 05 – 046 Minutes of the plenary meetings: 15 April 2014

*Minute 14-04-035 Audit Committee meeting 3 March 2014*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The minutes of the Plenary meeting held on 15 April 2014 were considered and **approved**.

## 14 – 05 – 047 Matters arising from the minutes

### *Salary levels in Funded Organisations*

The Chair informed members that no specific directive has been provided to the Arts Council on what constitutes appropriate salary levels for funded organisations.

### *Peer Panel Long List 2014*

Members asked for clarity on the proposed approach.

The Director confirmed that a key element informing the review is feedback from the Internal Auditor following their audit of panel processes and procedures.

The Policy & Strategy Committee Chairman, confirmed that a paper on the proposed approach will be brought to the next meeting in June.

### **14 – 05 – 048 Director's Report**

#### *Budget for Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme 2015*

The Director confirmed that applications for Round 1 of the 2015 Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme were received by the deadline of 8 May and in order to proceed with preparing recommendations a budget needs to set for the scheme. Members **agreed** the 2015 budget at €1.25m.

Members also **noted** that a proposal for the Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme budget for 2016 will be brought to the Business and Finance Committee in October 2014.

#### *New Music Dublin*

Imelda Dervin, Acting Head of Music, joined the meeting.

It was confirmed that a full presentation of additional information on the 2013 event and a comprehensive report on the 2014 event is to be presented to the next Policy & Strategy Committee meeting. However, due to the planning timeline for the 2015 festival the NMD Steering Group has booked New York composer David Lang as artistic director. It was confirmed that David Lang's involvement is a strong endorsement of the festival and he is likely to attract a lot of international attention to the event. In order to fully secure the artistic director it was recommended that Council make an indicative financial commitment to the festival for 2015.

Members highlighted current poor attendance numbers and questioned whether the other partners namely RTÉ and the National Concert Hall were supporting the festival appropriately.

Following a detailed discussion members **agreed** to make a commitment of up to €100k towards the 2015 event subject to a full review/update on the 2013 and 2014 festivals being brought to the June Plenary meeting. It was also **agreed** that the other partners should be equally encouraged to make the necessary commitments to secure the artistic director.

#### *Arts Council Music Generation Partnership*

Members were updated on progress to-date including confirmation that Music Generation is negotiating a transition to a public funding model with the Department of Education and Skills.

It was confirmed that Music Generation is using the Arts Council's investment for a series of residencies in local Music Education Partnerships (MEPs). The outcomes of the first round were recently announced and include initiatives in Limerick City and Sligo.

Members welcomed and **noted** the update.

#### *Strategic Review 2014*

Members were briefed on progress to-date. It was confirmed that the Strategic Review Steering Group will meet for its final meeting on 4 June after which time their report will be finalised and circulated to Council members in advance of the June Policy Plenary. The proposal is then to publish the report in its entirety.

The Chair outlined the planned approach for the presentation and discussion on the Report at the June Plenary. The Chair emphasised the need for the Report to be published after the Policy Plenary. Members asked for time post Plenary to consider and respond to the Report.

Following a detailed discussion it was **agreed** that an additional Plenary meeting would be scheduled for June 26 to 1) allow for final consideration of the Report and 2) finalise post publication communications.

#### *Meeting with Abbey Theatre*

The Director updated on the Abbey Theatre's response to the Report and on the first meeting of the joint Working Group.

Ciarán Walsh, Council member and member of the Working Group confirmed that the Bonnar Keenlyside Report had brought a renewed positivity to discussions with the Abbey representatives and that there was broad agreement with the recommendations albeit the Abbey needed time for further consideration and digestion of the detail. It was also confirmed that the proposal is to publish the Report around the time of the June Plenary meeting.

Members welcomed and **noted** the update.

#### *Director's Diary Report*

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

### **14 – 05 – 049 Reports**

#### *North/South Working Group meeting 17 April 2014*

Éimear O'Connor, Council member and member of the North/ South Working Group updated Members on the meeting as follows:

- The Director provided an update on 1) 'Own Art' 2) Chair of Fiction and 3) SR14 Review;
- The Director of ACNI updated on 1) ACNI 5 year review 2) cuts to annual funding and the current prioritisation on poverty/social inclusion with regard to funding decisions;
- An update on North South Touring;
- Public relations possibilities for both Ministers were discussed;
- Jointly funded clients;  
[REDACTED]
- Common ticketing proposals - ACNI to share current TOR;
- An update on Creative Europe;
- Ulster Orchestra and all island Orchestral Forum - it was noted that John O'Kane would pick this matter up with RTÉ in his new role.

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

#### *Appeals Panel meeting 13 May 2014*

Joan Sheehy, Council member, briefed members on the meeting as follows:

*Sinead Jones - Travel & Training Award*

No failure in the process was identified. Appeal was not upheld.

*Keith Pascoe- Music Project Award*

No failure in the process was identified. Appeal was not upheld.

It was also **agreed** that going forward ICT need to put a system in place verifying the actual documentation submitted and received.

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

*Meeting with Toscaireacht of Aosdána 13 May 2014*

The Chair updated members on the meeting. It was confirmed that the full General Assembly meetings will now be held in public. It was also confirmed that the Arts Council had offered to assist the Toscaireacht in developing a communications strategy as well as reviewing its internal systems and procedures. It was also noted that Mary FitzGerald, Chair, Toscaireacht had written to the Arts Council thanking the Council for its ongoing support.

Brian Maguire, Council member and member of the Toscaireacht, updated on progress in relation to proposed voting changes. It was also noted that Brian Maguire had participated in preparatory matters for the meeting but had excused himself from the actual meeting.

Members asked if Aosdána could hold an annual event to showcase the range of work being done by its members. It was **agreed** that all options would be considered.

The report and recommendations of the meeting with the Toscaireacht of Aosdána were **agreed**.

*Grants Committee 19 May 2014: Theatre Projects (Round 2) 2014*

John Fanning, Committee Chairman updated members on the meeting:

*Theatre Projects (Round 2) 2014*

Members who declared a conflict left the meeting for those decisions.

Members **agreed** the recommendations. A financial appendix (incorporating a schedule of conflicts) is attached to the minutes.

*Cork Midsummer Festival Update*

Úna McCarthy, Head of Festivals, joined the meeting. A briefing was given on 1) proposed approach and plan for Festival 2014 and 2) progress on the restructuring plan and 3) update on independent review by Arthur Lappin. It was noted that the Arts Council has not yet received a copy of this Report.

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

**14 – 05 – 050 Discussion Document on National Literature Centre**

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director and Sarah Bannan, Head of Literature joined the meeting.

Members were briefed on the background to the 2011 document, which set out an initial rationale and issues for consideration in the context of the development of a national literature centre. It was highlighted that while the sector was supportive of the idea, and the document

was welcomed by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, it was not progressed to a feasibility phase as proposed at the time, as other capital developments were prioritised. A number of positive changes have occurred in the literary sector and wider environment since the time of the document's development, and it was suggested that it might be timely to revisit the concept.

Members welcomed the update and **noted** that the SR14 might provide the opportunity for greater discussion on this matter. It was **agreed** to revisit the discussion document and discuss next steps in the autumn.

#### **14 – 05 – 051 Awards**

##### *Projects (Round 2) 2014*

The Projects (Round 2) 2014 were **noted**. A financial appendix is attached to the minutes.

In relation to Arts Participation projects it was **agreed** that the panel attendance record should be updated to include the adviser's name also in attendance.

The Chair expressed her thanks to all members who had served as Panel Chairs.

##### *Aosdána Cnuas*

Brian Maguire declared a conflict and left the meeting.

The Cnuas recommendations were **agreed** and a copy is attached to the minutes.

#### **14 – 05 – 052 Opinions to Revenue Commissioners**

This was **noted** by members.

#### **14 – 05 – 053 Any other business**

##### *Social Welfare for Artists*

Brian Maguire raised the 3yr income averaging currently available to farmers outlining the need for artists' income to be similarly assessed. The Chair welcomed the highlighting of this matter suggesting that in the first instance a meeting with the Minister for Social Protection be sought to initiate discussion on the matter. Members **agreed** to progress this issue as a matter of Council policy.

##### *'Droit de Suite' Scheme*

Brian Maguire further highlighted that currently in Ireland the artist royalty payment only applies to purchases over €3k and that approval should now be sought to reduce the limit in line with the current European figure of €1k. Members noted that some artists are not aware of this scheme and they should be alerted to it. Members **agreed** the proposal.

##### *Auction Houses - Orphan Works*

Members suggested that the beneficiary of copyright monies received under this Scheme should be the Ciste Cholmcille Trust and that the Minister of State for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, who is responsible for the Scheme, should be approached to seek the necessary change. Members **agreed** the proposal.

The Director highlighted the current staffing constraints and the need for additional supports to assist with these projects. Members **noted** the matter.

##### *National Irish Visual Artists Library-Edward Murphy RIP*

Members **noted** with regret the passing of Edward Murphy RIP and his contribution to the arts.

*Presentation by Catriona Crowe- National Archives*

Catriona Crowe, Head of Special Projects, National Archives, joined the meeting.

The Chair set the context for the invitation to Catriona Crowe to address the meeting. She indicated that in the context of the Decade of Centenaries that she had invited Catriona to specifically talk to the Council on history, commemoration and celebration.

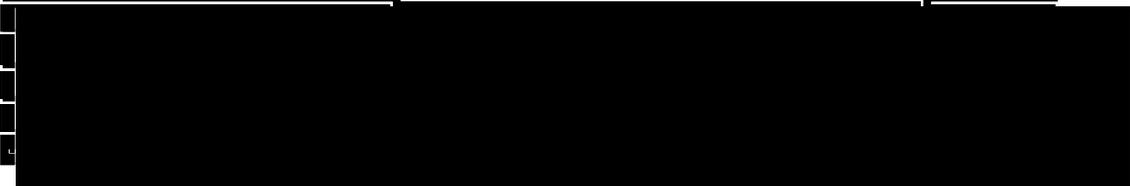
The Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations was referenced and it was noted that there was no representative with a specific cultural brief on the Group. It was suggested that the Arts Council should be represented on the Group. In the first instance members **agreed** that the Chair should write to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht seeking representation on the group as well as seeking clarity on specific funding being made available in a timely fashion to develop a cultural programme as part of the Decade of Centenaries.

Members welcomed and **noted** the update.

There being no other business the meeting ended.

*Summary of decisions/actions*

1. *Chairman's introduction* - it was **agreed** that new Council members contact details should be forwarded to key funded organisations.

2. 

3. Matters arising from the minutes  
*Peer Panel Long List 2014* - Policy & Strategy Committee Chairman, confirmed that a paper on the proposed approach will be brought to the next meeting in June.

4. Director's Report  
*Budget for Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme 2015* - **agreed** the 2015 budget at €1.25m. Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme budget for 2016 will be brought to the Business and Finance Committee in October 2014.

*New Music Dublin* - a full presentation of additional information on the 2013 event and a comprehensive report on the 2014 event is to be presented to the next Policy & Strategy Committee meeting. **Agreed** to make a commitment of upto €100k towards the 2015 event subject to a full review/update on the 2013 and 2014 festivals being brought to the June Plenary meeting. It was also **agreed** that the other partners should be equally encouraged to make the necessary commitments to secure the artistic director.

*Strategic Review 2014* - the report will be finalised and circulated to Council members in advance of the June Policy Plenary. The proposal is then to publish the report in its entirety. **Agreed** that an additional Plenary meeting would be scheduled for June 26 to 1) allow for final consideration of the Report and 2) finalise post publication communications.

*Meeting with Abbey Theatre* - confirmed that the proposal is to publish the Report around the time of the June Plenary meeting.

5. Reports

*North/South Working Group meeting 17 April 2014* - report and recommendations of the Working Group were **agreed**.

*Appeals Panel meeting 13 May 2014* – the report and recommendations of the Appeals Committee were **agreed**.

*Meeting with Toscaireacht of Aosdána 13 May 2014* - report and recommendations of the meeting with the Toscaireacht of Aosdána were **agreed**.

*Grants Committee 19 May 2014: Theatre Projects (Round 2) 2014* - report and recommendations of the Grants Committee were **agreed**.

6. Discussion Document on National Literature Centre - **agreed** to revisit the discussion document and discuss next steps in the autumn.

7. Awards  
Arts Participation - **agreed** that the panel attendance record should be updated to include the adviser's name in attendance.

*Aosdána Cnuas* - recommendations **agreed**.

8. Any other business  
*Social Welfare for Artists* - **agreed** to progress this issue as a matter of Council policy.

*'Droit de Suite' Scheme* - **agreed** the proposal.

*Auction Houses - Orphan Works* - **agreed** the proposal.

*Presentation by Catriona Crowe- National Archives* - **agreed** that the Chair should write to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht seeking representation on the group as well as seeking clarity on specific funding being made available in a timely fashion to develop a cultural programme as part of the Decade of Centenaries.