

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

700th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

12 December 2016

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, Chair, John McAuliffe, Brian Maguire, Joan Sheehy, Eimear O'Connor, Miriam Dunne, Monica Spencer.

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Conflicts of Interest Declarations

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 16 & 17 November 2016

Director's Report

Cork Film Festival Grant Recommendation 2017

Local Authority Grant Recommendations 2017

Ealaíon na Gaeltachta Grant Recommendation 2017

Abbey Theatre- Approach to funding 2018-2020

Third Party Schemes 2017

Visual Arts Workspace Scheme 2017

Festival & Events (2017) Round 1

Cnuas Recommendations

Report from Appeals Panel

16 – 12 – 112 Apologies

No apologies.

16 – 12 – 113 Chair's Introduction

Conflicts of Interest-The Chair noted declared conflicts and requested members to declare any additional 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. Miriam Dunne declared a conflict with Kilkenny County Council, Cork City Council and Waterford County Council.

The Chair confirmed the appointment of new members to the Arts Council by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. She also confirmed that the Letters of Invitation and Warrants had yet to issue. A full Induction Programme over two half days was being planned for all members of the Council, existing and incoming members.

The Chair also reported on the launch of Creative Ireland at the National Gallery by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, TD. It was agreed that the Chair and Director would meet with the senior officials in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to discuss the role of the Arts Council in the context of this new policy initiative.

It was also **agreed** to invite John Concannon to attend the next Council plenary in February 2017.

16 – 12 – 114 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting 16 & 17 November

The Minutes of the 16 & 17 November Plenary Meeting were **approved**.

16 – 12– 115 Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising other than those covered elsewhere on the agenda.

16 – 12– 116 Director's Report

Arts in Education Residencies

Members were informed that an invitation had been issued to the Presidents of Higher Education Institutions providing Initial Teacher Education, to submit Expressions of Interest in hosting one or more artists-in-residence through a partnership agreement with the Arts Council building on the previous residencies. The invitation indicated that the Arts Council would potentially invest up to €45,000 over three years (€15,000 per annum over the period 2017-2020) in each agreed residency

The following colleges are currently developing proposals:

- DCU Institute of Education
- Marino Institute of Education
- Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
- Maynooth University School of Education

It was **agreed** to develop these partnerships with further details being brought to Council for approval in the first quarter of 2017.

Arts Council Collection Purchases

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director, and Claire Doyle, Manager, joined the meeting. Following a detailed presentation Members **agreed** the recommendations. Members also **agreed** that the budget shortfall of €14.4k should be provided from Contingency. Members expressed their thanks to Stephanie O'Callaghan and Claire Doyle for their work in convening the Working Group and managing the recommendations process. It was further **agreed** to formally constitute the Acquisitions Group ensuring external representation for all future acquisitions subject to a decision on the future of the collection.

Private Investment Adviser

Members welcomed and **noted** the appointment of Kieran MacSweeney as the Arts Council's Private Investment Adviser.

Update: Pilot Co-Funding Award 2016 (Creative Europe Co-operation Projects)

Members **noted** the update.

Director's Diary Report

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

16 – 12– 117 Reports

Business & Finance Meeting 12 December 2016

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

- *Minutes of 13 October 2016* - were approved;
- *Draft Indirect Arts Budget 2017*- Members agreed the Indirect Arts Budget for 2017;
- *Board Pad Licence Agreement*- agreed the Board Pad Licence for 2017;
- *Goodbody Trusts' Update*- noted;

- *MGAW Three Year Plan 2017- 2019-* noted;
- *Workforce Plan 2017-2019-* noted;
- *HR update-* noted;
- *Adviser Procurement Update-* noted;
- *Premises Update-* noted;
- *ICT update-* noted;
- *FOI update-* noted;

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

Policy & Strategy Meeting 12 December 2016

John McAuliffe, Committee Chairman, updated Members highlighting the following:-

- *Minutes of 25 October Meeting-* agreed;
- *Making Great Art Work: Update* noted;
- *Making Great Art Work: Funding Review 2017-* update noted;
- *Opera: Policy 2017-2019-* agreed and agreed related budget for 2017 and 2018 as described in the document 6.1. *Opera: Policy and Investment Framework 2017-2019*. It was agreed that budget decisions for 2019 would be taken at a later stage. A Request for Proposals document will be developed and circulated to members in January for comment before issuing in February 2017.
- *Arts Council Collection – options-* agreed that the executive would prepare an expanded proposal in line with Option 2 incorporating ambition, ‘blue-sky thinking’ and partnerships. It was also agreed to research related costing’s. It was agreed that the human resource requirements relating to the collection would be included in the Workforce Plan. In addition it was agreed that account of the collection would be visible in corporate planning and in the annual report.
- *Review of Festivals and Events-* agreed to send the PowerPoint presentation that had been prepared for the December 2016 meeting to the Committee Members and to defer discussion until the next Policy and Strategy Committee meeting (in February 2017).

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

16 – 12– 118 Cork Film Festival Grant Recommendation 2017

Stephanie O’Callaghan Arts Director, Fionnuala Sweeney, Head of Film, joined the Meeting.

Members were briefed on the Cork Film Festival’s application for 2017 funding. Following a detailed discussion, Members **agreed** to offer repeat funding of €166,000 subject to the satisfactory outcome of an independent audit in early 2017. It was also **agreed** that 25% of the funding could be advanced while awaiting the outcome of the audit.

16 – 12– 119 Local Authority Grant Recommendations 2017

In the absence of the Head of Local Authorities, Liz Meaney, Arts Director, briefed Members on the main highlights from the Context Note and Members’ clarifications were responded to. All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes. Members **noted** the additional funding available and **agreed** that a further call for proposals would be made in early 2017.

Members also **noted** the need for a standard evaluation process across Local Authorities in relation to arts funding assessments.

In relation to public art, Members **noted** the need to establish a public art inter-departmental committee.

16 – 12– 120 Ealaín na Gaeltachta Grant Recommendation 2017

Val Ballance, Head of Venues, joined the Meeting. Members were briefed on the main highlights from the recommendation text and Members' clarifications were responded to. Members **agreed** the funding recommendation as set out in the financial appendix to these Minutes.

Members **noted** the additional funding available and agreed that a further allocation would be made in early 2017.

16 – 12– 121 Venues update

The briefing which should have been provided in November was made by Val Ballance, Head of Venues. The main highlights from the recommendation texts were highlighted and Members' clarifications were responded to. In particular Members were informed that the Arts Council will commence its review of Venues in Q1 2017 noting that one of the outputs will be the grouping and evaluation of venues on a portfolio basis. This significant piece of work will be done with Local Authorities.

16 – 12– 122 Abbey Theatre Approach to Three Year Funding 2018 - 2020

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, briefed Members on the recommendation. Following a detailed discussion Members **agreed** the approach outlined.

16 – 12– 123 Third Party Schemes 2017

Members **agreed** the third party schemes for 2017.

16 – 12– 124 Awards

Visual Arts Workspace Grant Awards 2017

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

Festivals and Events Panel, 2017 – Round 1

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

16 – 12– 125 Aosdána Cnuas

Members considered the recommendations and **agreed** all recommendations. An appendix is attached to the Minutes.

16 – 12– 126 Appeals Panel 7 & 8 December 2016

The recommendations from the Appeals Panel were as follows:-

Donna Cooney- Application Number – A091503- Visual Arts Project Award, Round 1, 2017. Appeal upheld- on the grounds that the appellant was subject to unfair treatment when the deadline for the award had to be extended for technical reasons and the applicant wasn't informed though other applicants were. Suggested remedy – the appeals panel suggested that the Arts Council write to the artist recommending that they resubmit a new application for funding adhering to all the guidelines as outlined in the original *Guidelines for applicants* for this round of funding. A new deadline for submission should be communicated by the Executive. The application should then undergo a check for eligibility. If the application passes the eligibility check it should be assessed and automatically shortlisted for review by a panel. The Executive should make every effort to reconvene the original peer panel that sat for this award and they should be asked to determine whether to fund this application in the context of the others already funded for this scheme.

Gare St. Lazare Ireland- Application Number: A088053- Theatre Project Award, Strand 3, Round 2, 2016. Appeal not upheld- the panel were satisfied that there was no failure of process or any unfair treatment of the organisation.



FOI Act 2014, Section 36

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

16 – 12– 127 Any other Business

Grants Process- Annual funding decisions

Members **agreed** in future that all funding decisions on an artform basis would only be agreed following review and consideration of all recommendations rather than each organisation being considered on an individual basis.

Toscaireacht Meeting to discuss proposed Aosdána Changes

Members **noted** that the meeting was still outstanding and discussed how best to progress.

Eligibility rules for the Cnuas

Clarification was sought in relation to the current residency eligibility rules. It was **agreed** to seek professional advice on the matter.

John Montague RIP

Members **noted** with regret the passing of John Montague RIP.

Declan Burke Kennedy RIP

Members **noted** with regret the passing of Declan Burke Kennedy RIP.

There were no other matters for consideration.