

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

691st Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square

Tuesday 24 February 2016 at 14.00-17.00

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, Chair, John McAuliffe, Mark O'Regan, Miriam Dunne, John Fanning, Eimear O'Connor, Monica Spencer.

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 9 & 10 December 2015

Directors Report

Touring (Round 2) 2016 Recommendations

Touring Advance Planning 2016

Additional Resources Proposal

Update on Organisations

Travel & Training Awards

Programme Activity Fund (YPCE) 2016

Aosdána Cnuas

Appeals Panel Recommendations

16 – 02 – 001 Apologies

Joan Sheehy, Ciaran Walsh, Brian Maguire.

16 – 02 – 002 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.

Aosdána

Members were informed of an on-going piece of research exploring options / proposals in relation to the Cnuas with the intention being that findings will be presented to the Toscaireacht and thereafter to the broader membership of Aosdána.

16 – 02 – 003 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting: 9 & 10 December 2015

The Minutes of the 9 & 10 December Plenary meeting were **approved**.

16 – 02 – 004 Matters Arising

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

16 – 02 – 005 Director's Report

#wakingthefeminists

Members were informed that the group is seeking a meeting with Council. Members **agreed** in principle to a delegation from the Council meeting with the group.

Members were also made aware that the Abbey Theatre has established an inclusion and equality sub-committee and its members are also seeking a meeting with the Council. Members **noted** that the Chair and Head of Theatre will meet with them.

Meeting request from Smock Alley Theatre

Members were informed that Patrick Sutton had written to the Director requesting a meeting with the Council. Members agreed that the Executive should deal with this matter in the first instance.

Remembering Brian Friel

Members were briefed on two initiatives taking place during 2016 to celebrate the life and work of Brian Friel:-

- 1) A proposal from The Gallery Press, seeking once-off support, towards the publication of a five-volume *Collected Plays* of Brian Friel. Members welcomed the proposal and **agreed** to a one-off grant of €10,000;
- 2) A proposal from the MacGill Summer School, seeking financial assistance, towards the celebration of the life and work of the late Brian Friel as part of its 2016 Programme. Members welcomed the proposal and **agreed** to offer €18k towards the initiative. Members also recommended the need for the documenting / recording of the event. Additionally Members **noted** that the profiling and networking opportunity which the event affords the Arts Council.

Officers and Directors' Indemnity

Members **noted** that the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform ("DPER") agreed to have the Civil Service indemnity extended to both Members of Council and Members of the Audit Committee from January 2016.

Arts Council/RTÉ Strategic Partnership

Members **noted** that discussions are underway, with RTÉ, regarding the development of an MOU to support areas of common interest. Members were informed that progress updates on the MOU will be provided to Council during 2016.

Association of Local Authority Arts Officers

Members were informed of a request from the Association of Local Authority Arts officers for financial support from the Arts Council to develop their website. Members **agreed** to provide €6,700, from the Local Arts budget allocation, to the Association of Local Authority Arts Officers for this project.

FOI Act 14 – Section 35 Confidential Information

Art 2016 Programme Update

Members **noted** the update.

Harp: update on Report and development initiatives

Members noted the update particularly the proposed role of Cairde na Cruite in progressing the Report's recommendations.

Panel Paper Update

Members **noted** the update on Panel recommendations either completed or underway.

Diary Report

The Diary Report was **noted**.

16 – 02– 006 Touring Round 2 2016 & Advance Planning 2016

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director, Aidan Burke, Operations Director, Val Ballance, Head of Venues and David Parnell, Head of Theatre, joined the meeting.

Members were provided with an outline brief on the applications received the development of the scoring pilot was particularly highlighted. It was agreed that further research would be undertaken into a more strategic approach to budgeting for discussion at a future meeting in advance of the next round of applications,

Round 2 2016 Recommendations

Members reviewed and **agreed** the recommendations for Literature, Music, Street Arts, Theatre, Traditional Arts, Visual Arts, Circus and Dance. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Advance Planning 2016 (touring activity to take place January to December 2017)

Members reviewed and **agreed** the recommendations for Music, Visual Arts and Dance. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Members’ attention was drawn to the knock on budgetary effect which the Advance Planning Dance recommendation would have on the Touring budget for Dance in 2017. Members **agreed** to review as part of the budgetary process for 2017.

Members **agreed** that, for all future rounds (incl. Advance Planning), applicants should be made aware of the budgetary allocation available for the particular round being applied for.

16 – 02–007 Update on Organisations

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director, provided a general update on an art form and arts practice basis highlighting a small number of specific cases where particular issues were currently being addressed. Members were also informed that the December grant decisions were generally well received by the sector and also that there is a widespread welcome for the Local Authority Framework for Collaboration. Members **noted** and welcomed the update.

16 – 02–008 Additional Resources Proposal

Members were informed that an additional €1m became available to the Arts Council in December 2015 following the revised estimates process. Members were presented with a number of budgetary recommendations on how the additional funding should be allocated. Following a detailed discussion the following was **agreed**.

- Making Great Art Work- Open Call- €800k- Members also **agreed** to delegate authority to the Jury for selection of the applications to be funded;
- Additional Agency Hire budget to support the Finance Department- €100k;
- Additional allocation to Contingency- €100k.

16 – 02–009 Reports

Business and Finance Committee 23 February Meeting

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

- The Minutes of the 7 December meeting were approved;

- *Draft 2015 Management Accounts*- Following a detailed discussion on the various expenditure line items Members agreed the Draft Management Accounts for 2015;
- *High Level Budget 2016*- Members noted the update and it was agreed that the presentation should be put up on Board Pad;
- *Arts Audiences for 2016*- Members were informed that the priority is to control the audience development strategy and the need for an internal resource to be procured
- *Committee Performance 2015*-Members agreed that the Committee had satisfactorily discharged its responsibilities for 2015;
- *Committee Workplan 2016*- Members agreed its workplan for 2016;
- *Premises Update*- Members were updated on ongoing lease negotiations for No 69 & No 70;
- *Arts Advisers Update*- Members agreed to the proposed procurement approach which should include a targeted media campaign; 2) Members agreed that Council should set aside time for discussion on what the current Arts Adviser service means for the Arts Council; 3) Members also agreed to extend the current Music adviser contract to 31 December 2016, to bring it in line with the main tendering process;
- *HR Update*- Members noted the report;
- *FOI Update*- Members noted the report;
- *ICT Update*-Members noted the update.

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

Policy & Strategy Committee 14 December 2015 Meeting

The Committee Chairman updated Members on the meeting highlighting the following:-

- The recommendations arising from the Communications and Dialogue report to inform the future deliberations of the Policy and Strategy Committee as it continues its work of developing the first three-year plan were reviewed.
- The Opera Production Award was reviewed and it was agreed that a preliminary meeting to discuss future opera policy would be held in January 2016;
- The updated Child Protection and Welfare Policy and Procedures were agreed.

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

Policy & Strategy Committee 24 February Meeting

The Committee Chairman updated Members on the meeting highlighting the following:-

- The Committee supported the next phase of work to develop the critical research area around the 'spillover' effects of public investment in arts and culture. This second phase would focus on a number of in-depth case-studies;
- It was agreed to lead a significant re-shaping of New Music Dublin, ideally through working in partnership with RTÉ and the NCH and underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with clearly expressed outcomes relating to audience and artform development. It was agreed to commit in principle to the festival in 2017 and 2018 subject to review in 2017. The executive would bring a draft MOU to the Committee for their consideration;
- It was agreed to reconvene the drafting team from *Making Great Art Work* to work on the first three-year plan (2017-2019). The team would include: John McAuliffe; Sheila Pratschke; Éimear O'Connor; Orlaith McBride;
- The Committee agreed the project plan as presented, comprising four corporate projects for year #1 of the implementation of *Making Great Art Work*.

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

North South Working Group 22 February Meeting

Eimear O'Connor, working group Member, updated Members as follows:-

- *Heaney Legacy Programme(s):* [REDACTED]

FOI Act 2014 Section 35 Information obtained in Confidence

- There was discussion in relation to the joint N/S Public Art proposal with both Arts Councils appointing an overall commissioner to oversee the project and ensure coherence between the two pieces north and south of the border. A further update will be provided at the Joint Plenary meeting in May.
- *Jointly Funded Organisations:* ACNI will meet this week to agree their recurring funding with an update being brought to the Joint Plenary in May.
- *North South Touring:* The scheme was proving successful for organisations and audiences but also as a positive way of both Arts Council executives working together. ACNI staff suggested some changes to the ACE approach to budgeting.
- *Audience Development:* ACE reported that audience development is now embedded in its new strategy, *Making Great Art Work*. With the conclusion of Arts Audiences in December 2015 and the commissioning of a report looking at a future approach to audience development, an internal (via an Audience/Public Engagement Adviser) and external (via an independent agency) solution was being considered.

16 – 02 – 010 Awards

Travel and Training

Members **noted** the Travel & Training Awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

Members **agreed** that the demand together with the decision making process should be reviewed for Travel & Training. It was also agreed to generate more interest in the award using social media and other communications platforms.

Programme Activity Fund (YPCE) 2016

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

The Chair, who chaired the panel, noted the beneficial and welcome presence of young people on the Panel and that the presence of the YPCE adviser was most useful.

Members suggested that it might be useful to revisit the current protocol regarding advisers' attendance at Panel meetings. Members **agreed** that the matter should be considered again at the next Council Meeting.

16 – 02 – 011 Cnuas Recommendations

A Financial appendix is attached to the Minutes. Members **agreed** the recommendations for the following:

- Felim Egan
- Gerald Barry

- Cathal Black
- Nigel Rolfe
- Michael Mulcahy
- Brian Lynch
- Ian Wilson
- Tony Curtis

Members **agreed** to suspend the Cnuas for the following:



Members **noted** the decision of [REDACTED] to suspend.

FOI Act 2014 Section 37 Personal Information

16 – 02 – 012 Appeals Panel Recommendations

The Appeals Panel met on the 11 February and considered five appeals. The recommendations of the Panel are as follows:

- Skerries Traditional Music Weekend-Application Number: A084176- Festivals and Events Scheme Round 1, 2016, Strand 1- No failure in process identified, appeal not upheld;
- Custom House Studios-Application Number: A083756--Visual Arts Project Award, Round 1, 2016, Strand 2- No failure in process identified, appeal not upheld;
- Pallas Studios- Studio Workspace Scheme 2016-: No failure in process identified, appeal not upheld;
- Custom House Studios- Application Number: A084302- Annual Programming Grant 2016- No failure in process identified, appeal not upheld.
- Patrick Byrne-Application Number : A084597- Touring Music round 2 2016- No failure in process identified, appeal not upheld;

Members **agreed** the recommendations of the Appeals Panel.

16 – 02– 013 Any Other Business

There were no other matters for consideration.

Summary of Decisions

- The Minutes of the 9 & 10 December Plenary meeting were **approved**;
- *#wakingthefeminists*- Members **agreed** in principle to a delegation from the Council meeting with the group;
- *Remembering Brian Friel*- The Gallery Press **agreed** to a one-off grant of €10,000;
- *Remembering Brian Friel*- MacGill Summer School **agreed** to offer €18k towards the initiative;
- *Association of Local Authority Arts Officers*- Members **agreed** to provide €6,700, from the Local Arts budget allocation;
- *Touring Round 2 2016 Recommendations*- Members reviewed and **agreed** the recommendations;
- *Touring Advance Planning 2016 (tour to take place January to December 2017)*- Members reviewed and **agreed** the recommendations;
- *Advance Planning 2016 Dance*- Members **agreed** to review as part of the budgetary process for 2017;
- *Touring*- **agreed** that, for all future rounds (incl. Advance Planning), applicants should be made aware of the budgetary allocation available;
- *Additional Resources Proposal*- **agreed**

- Making Great Art Work- Open Call- €800k- Members also **agreed** to delegate authority to the Jury for selection of the applications to be funded;
 - Additional Agency Hire budget to support the Finance Department- €100k;
 - Additional allocation to Contingency- €100k;
- *Business and Finance Committee 23 February Meeting-* The report and recommendations of the Business & Finance Committee were **agreed**;
- *Policy & Strategy Committee 14 December 2015 Meeting-* The report and recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee were **agreed**;
- *Policy & Strategy Committee 24 February Meeting-* The report and recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee were **agreed**;
- *Travel and Training-* Members **agreed** that the demand together with the decision making process should be reviewed for Travel & Training;
- *Advisers' attendance at Panel meetings-* Members **agreed** that the matter should be considered again at the next Council Meeting;
- *Cnuas Recommendations-* Members **agreed** the recommendations;
- *Appeals Panel Recommendations-* Members **agreed** the recommendations of the Appeals Panel;