

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

692nd Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square

Tuesday 23 March 2016 at 14.00-17.00

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, Chair, John McAuliffe, Mark O'Regan, Miriam Dunne, John Fanning, Eimear O'Connor, Joan Sheehy, Brian Maguire, Ciaran Walsh.

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 24 February 2016

Directors Report

Appeals Panel Recommendations

IPA Board Performance Review

RAISE review Report

Bursaries (Round 1) 2016

Cnuas Recommendations

Appeals Panel Report

16 – 03 – 014 Apologies

Monica Spencer

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16 – 03 – 015 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.

The Chair referenced a good meeting held with Joe Hamill, Secretary General, Department Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht since the last Plenary Meeting.

Members were updated on the new Chair of Poetry. Members were informed that details were not yet public and that a public launch, to make the announcement, is to be arranged over the coming weeks. Members welcomed and **noted** the appointment. Separately Members **noted** that a launch of a selection of, outgoing Chair, Paula Meehan's poems will take place at the Royal Irish Academy in May.

Members **noted** that planned meetings with both the Gate Theatre and #WakingTheFeminists had taken place.

Members **noted** that the unveiling of the Seamus Heaney Bust, by Paul Durcan, will now take place in May.

Members were asked to put the evening of May 23 in their diaries for the past Council Members event.

16 – 03 – 016 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting: 24 February 2016

The Minutes of the 24 February Plenary meeting were **approved**.

16 – 03 – 017 Matters Arising

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

16 – 03 – 018 Director's Report

Board Memberships for Staff Members

Members were asked to agree in principle that staff members be allowed to hold Board / Committee memberships. Members **agreed** the recommendation and asked for management to draft an appropriate protocol to manage such applications and that such protocol should be brought to the Council for final approval.

First Thought – Galway International Arts Festival

Members were informed that an integral part of Making Great Art Work (MGAW) is the connection between the arts and other aspects of Irish life as well as other sectors such as enterprise, technology and the creative industries. In this regard the Arts Council identified the 'First Thought' element of the Galway International Arts Festival as being a 'project partner' in the context of the new strategy. Members **agreed** that on a 'pilot basis' and subject to full transparency on costs that it would allocate €10k for 2016 towards the initiative which would provide a platform to specifically identify potential synergies or new conversations that might position the Arts Council in a different space.

Art:2016 events at festivals

Members were informed that as part of the Arts Council's Art: 2016 programme many of the Open Call projects are to be included in festivals over the course of 2016 and that the intention is to host a series of receptions during these festivals to both recognise and celebrate the individual projects. Members **noted** the update.

Laureate na nÓg: Update

Members were informed that following a competitive selection and evaluation process the [REDACTED] (FOI Section 35) had been selected as the fourth Laureate na nÓg (2016 – 2018). Members were informed that the appointment is confidential and that the Laureateship will be announced at a special ceremony in the Arts Council on 17 May to be attended by President Michael D. Higgins. Members welcomed the appointment and **noted** the update.

Cork Film Festival: Update

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director, joined the meeting and update Members on on-going discussions which both the Arts Council and Cork City Council are having with Cork Film Festival. Members **noted** the update.

Members sought clarity as to whether the findings and recommendations of the 2012 review had been implemented. It was confirmed that assurances had been received that the findings had been implemented.

Diary Report

The Diary Report was **noted**.

16 – 03–019 Reports

Audit Committee 22 March Meeting

The Finance Director updated Members on the meeting highlighting the following:

- 1) a changed approach in relation to the approval of both the Financial Statements and the Statement on internal Financial Control (SIFC);
- 2) a revised process for identifying risks;
- 3) a more accelerated approach to following up on internal audit recommendations.

Members were informed that the following were agreed:-

- The Minutes of the 30 November meeting were agreed;
- Members discussed and agreed the Workplan for 2016;
- Members also agreed to defer discussion and agreement on the Internal audit Plan for 2016 until the June meeting;
- *Internal Audit Reports*- It was agreed that the Internal Auditor would go through all outstanding and partially implemented recommendations and 1) assess how many can be discarded and 2) assess the remainder against paragraph 5 and thereafter issue a supplementary report to the Audit Committee on the effectiveness or otherwise of the system of internal financial control;
- *ICT Security Audit*- It was agreed that CrowleysDFK should liaise with BH Consulting & ICT management to ensure that the supplementary report should reflect the effect of the ICT Security Audit;
- *Report on the Effectiveness of Internal Financial Controls 2015 & Draft SIFC*- Members agreed to defer discussion on these matters pending receipt and review of the internal auditor's supplementary report & the C&AG's audit findings report;
- *C&AG Letter of Engagement*- Members agreed that the C&AG should be notified that the draft Financial Statements will not be approved until the "Report on the Significant Findings of the Audit" has been received and discussed;
- Members agreed on the merits of revaluing *Works of Art* to fair value.

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

Policy & Strategy Committee 23 March Meeting

Eimear O'Connor, Committee Chairman, updated Members on the meeting highlighting the following:-

- The Committee agreed the high level priority objectives and actions as presented at the meeting.
- The Committee agreed that the next stage of development for the three-year plan 2017-2019 would focus on outcomes and structures, and that the executive would report on this at the next meeting scheduled to take place on 19 April 2016.

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

16 – 03–020 IPA Board Governance Review

Members **agreed** the Governance Review undertaken by the Institute of Public Administration as evidence that the Council reviewed its own performance for 2015.

16 – 03 – 021 Awards

Bursaries (Round 1) 2016

Members **noted** the Bursaries (Round 1) 2016 recommendations for Architecture, Dance and Film. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

16 – 03 – 022 Cnuas Recommendations

Brian Maguire, Council Member, declared a conflict and left the meeting. Members **agreed** to award the Cnuas to Elaine Agnew and to [REDACTED]. A Financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

16 – 03 – 023 Appeals Panel Recommendations

The Appeals Panel met on the 21 March and considered one appeal. The recommendation of the Panel was as follows:

Robert Gallagher-Funding Scheme: Visual Arts Bursary, Round 1, 2016- No failure in process was identified. Appeal not upheld.

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

16 – 03 – 024 RAISE Review

Representatives from 2into3 joined the Meeting. A presentation was made on the key findings and recommendations from the Report.

Following a detailed discussion Members welcomed and **noted** the Report.

16 – 03– 025 Any Other Business

Strategic Development Director Recruitment Process

Members were updated on progress.

There were no other matters for consideration.

Summary of Decisions

- The Minutes of the 24 February Plenary meeting were **approved**;
- *Board Memberships for Staff Members*- Members **agreed** the recommendation and asked for management to draft an appropriate protocol to manage such applications and that such protocol should be brought to the Council for final approval;
- *First Thought – Galway International Arts Festival*- Members **agreed** that on a 'pilot basis' and subject to full transparency on costs that it would allocate €10k for 2016 towards the initiative;
- *Audit Committee 22 March Meeting*- The report and recommendations of the Audit Committee were **agreed**;
- *Policy & Strategy Committee 23 March Meeting*- The report and recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee were **agreed**;
- *IPA Board Governance Review*- Members **agreed** the Governance Review undertaken by the Institute of Public Administration as evidence that the Council reviewed its own performance for 2015;
- *Aosdana Cnuas* - Members **agreed** the recommendations;
- *Appeals Panel Recommendations*- Members **agreed** the recommendation of the Appeals Panel;