

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

710<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

5-7 December 2017

## **Present:**

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe *Deputy Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Helen Shaw, Brian Maguire, Eimear O'Connor, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Joan Sheehy, Martina Moloney, Monica Spencer, Miriam Dunne.

## **In attendance:**

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

## **Documents before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 22 November

Grants Recommendations 2018

Abbey Touring Recommendation

Director's Report

Third Party Schemes 2018

Appeals Panel Recommendations

## **17 – 12– 115 Apologies**

None

## **17 – 12– 116 Chair's Introduction**

*Conflicts of Interest*- The Chair **noted** that Members had already declared their conflicts and requested Members to declare any other 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.

### *Grants contingency*

Members **noted** that an additional €100k contingency had been made available to support the grants decision process.

### *Grants 2018 approach*

Members **agreed** the approach whereby each recommendation would be reviewed in the first instance with final decisions deferred to the end of the process. Members **noted** that staff would update members on how recommendations were arrived at including the internal sign-off process for each art form / practice area. Members **noted** the confidential nature of all discussions.

## **17 – 12 – 117 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 22 November**

The Minutes of the 22 November Meeting were **agreed**.

## **17 – 12– 118 Matters Arising**

Members asked for Anne Bonnar's grants moderation presentation to be uploaded to Board Pad.

## **17 – 12– 119 Grants Recommendations 2018**

Stephanie O'Callaghan Arts Director, Liz Meaney Arts Director, Aidan Burke Corporate Services Director, Kevin Healy Officer, joined the Meeting.

It was **agreed** that John McAuliffe and the Chair, Sheila Pratschke would share the chairing of deliberations on the various art form / practice discussions. Members congratulated the Executive on the comprehensive nature of the recommendation texts. Members **noted** that recommendation texts would be circulated to all organisations.

Members **noted** that a number of funded organisations were maintaining significant reserves. Members **agreed** that a reserves guidance policy should be developed and brought back to Council for agreement.

In relation to conflicts it was agreed that as per the adopted process as conflicts arose members and staff would leave in advance of discussion on the recommendation including the decision taken. A full list of registered conflicts is attached as an Appendix to the Minutes.

#### *Venues Funding 2018*

Val Ballance, Head of Venues, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which Members' clarifications were responded to.

*An Táin Arts Centre-* Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** to allocate €20,000 towards their artistic programme.

*The Garage Arts Centre-* Following detailed discussion it was **agreed** to reduce the recommendation by €20,000.

*Rua Red-* Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** to allocate €20,000 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency.

*Smock Alley Theatre-* Members **agreed** to offer additional funding of €20,000. Members **agreed** that €18,250 of the allocation should come from contingency.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Partnership Funding 2018 & Ealaín na Gaeltachta*

Sinead O'Reilly, Head of Local Authorities, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to. Members **noted** that five Local Authorities were not included as these are to form part of the separate 2018 pilot partnership funding agreements.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Arts Participation*

Sinead O'Reilly, Head of Arts Participation, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Arts & Disability Ireland-* Members **agreed** to nominate the organisation for multi-annual funding.

*Waterford Healing Arts Trust-* Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate an additional €2,500 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency. Members also **agreed** to nominate Waterford Healing Arts Trust for multi-annual funding.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

*YPCE*

Seona Ní Bhriain, Head of YPCE, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which Members' clarifications were responded to.

*Youth Theatre Ireland-* Members **agreed** to nominate Youth Theatre Ireland for multi-annual funding.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

*Visual Arts*

Claire Doyle, Head of Visual Arts, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Visual Artists Ireland-* Members **agreed** to nominate Visual Artists Ireland for multi-annual funding.

*NIVAL* – Members **agreed** to offer Strategic Funding to NIVAL.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

*Architecture*

Claire Doyle, Head of Architecture, briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

The recommendation was **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

*Traditional Arts*

Paul Flynn, Head of Traditional Arts, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy-* Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate an additional €2,000 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency.

*Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí* – Members **agreed** that *Cairdeas na bhFidiléirí* be offered Strategic Funding.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

*Theatre*

Rachel West, Head of Theatre, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

[REDACTED]

*ANU Productions*- Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate €140,000 towards their artistic programme.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

Members also **agreed** that a Theatre Working Group should be set up in 2018 to progress the Theatre Policy.

#### *Opera*

Niall Doyle, Head of Opera, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Irish National Opera*- Members **agreed** to nominate Irish National Opera for multi-annual funding.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Music*

Niall Doyle, Head of Music, briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Louth Contemporary Music* - Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** to allocate an additional €20,000 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency.

*The Journal of Music*- Following detailed discussion it was **agreed** to reduce the recommendation by €1,000.

*West Cork Music*- Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate an additional €10,000 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency.

*Westport Festival of Chamber Music*- Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate an additional €2,000 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that €1,000 of the allocation should come from contingency.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

Sarah Bannan, Head of Literature, and Marcella Bannon, Acting Head of Literature, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Writers' Week*- Following detailed discussion Members **agreed** to allocate an additional €5,000 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency.

*Munster Literature Centre* – Members **agreed** that Munster Literature Centre would be offered Strategic Funding.

International Literature Festival Dublin - Due to the nature of its organisational structure, Council agreed that ILFD would be more appropriately funded under Arts Grants Funding. The organisation should be advised to apply under Arts Grants Funding for 2019.

*Cúirt* - Due to the nature of its organisational structure, Council agreed that *Cúirt* would be more appropriately funded under Arts Grants Funding. The organisation should be advised to apply under Arts Grants Funding for 2019.

*Poetry Ireland*- Members **agreed** to nominate Poetry Ireland for multi-annual funding.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Film*

Fionnuala Sweeney, Head of Film, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.



Section 30, FOI Act 2014, Functions and Negotiations of an FOI body.

*Irish Film Institute*- Members **agreed** to nominate the Irish Film Institute for multi-annual funding.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Artists' Supports*

Stephanie O'Callaghan, Arts Director, briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Festivals*

Karl Wallace, Head of Festivals, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Clifden Community Arts Week*- Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate an additional €13,730 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that €10,730 of the allocation should come from contingency.

*Kilkenny Arts Festival*- Following detailed discussion it was **agreed** to reduce the recommendation by €3,000.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Dance*

Daive Terlingo, Head of Dance, joined the meeting and briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Dance Theatre of Ireland*- Following detailed discussion it was **agreed** to reduce the recommendation by €52,500. Members **agreed** that the 2018 allocation of €17,500 was being made towards their programming activities in the area of participation and older people.

*United Fall*- Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate €120,000 towards their artistic programme.

*Dublin Dance Festival*- Members **agreed** to nominate Dublin Dance Festival for multi-annual funding.

*Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre* – Members **agreed** to nominate Fabulous Beast Dance Theatre (Teác Damsa) for multi-annual funding.

*Irish Modern Dance Theatre* –Council **agreed** that IMDT would be more appropriately funded under Arts Grants Funding. The organisation should be advised to apply under Arts Grants Funding for 2019.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

#### *Circus, Street Arts and Spectacle*

Davide Terlingo, Head of Circus, Street Arts and Spectacle briefed members on the recommendation process following which members' clarifications were responded to.

*Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network* - Following detailed discussion members **agreed** to allocate an additional €10,520 towards their artistic programme. Members **agreed** that the allocation should come from contingency.

All recommendations were **agreed** as set out in the financial appendix to these minutes.

### **17 – 12– 120 Abbey Touring Recommendation 2018**

Following consideration of the Abbey's touring strategy for 2018 members **agreed** to allocate €200k.

### **17 – 12– 121 Director's Report**

#### *John Broderick Residency Series*

Members were briefed on the proposed three-year residency programme in partnership with Westmeath County Council. Following detailed discussion members **agreed** a total three year investment of €66k (€22kpa) from the John Broderick Trust towards the initiative.

#### *Panels Update*

Members **noted** the Peers Panel update.

#### *Venice Architecture Biennale 2018*

Members **noted** the update and the €70k financial commitment for 2018.

#### *Director's Diary Report*

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

### **17 – 12– 122 Reports**

#### *ARC Committee 4 December Meeting*

Joan Sheehy Committee Member briefed Members highlighting the matters agreed as follows:-

- *Minutes of Meeting held on 23 June 2017* were approved;
- *Outstanding Internal Control Recommendations update*- agreed that an update should be brought to the next ARC meeting;
- The members reviewed and approved the Internal Audit plan for 2018;

- *Risk Register*; Members agreed that the register should consider external stake holders in more detail and for a risk appetite statement to be put in place. Additionally members agreed that a risk planning meeting should be scheduled early in 2018.
- Members noted that the C&AG will undertake the 2017 audit;
- Members noted and agreed the Financial Statements 2017 Issues paper;
- Members agreed the Work Plan for 2018;
- Members agreed to nominate Joan Sheehy to report on their behalf to the plenary meeting;
- Members noted that the next meeting will be held on 13 February 2018 at 2pm.

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

#### *Business & Finance Committee 4 December Meeting*

The Committee Chairman briefed Members highlighting the matters agreed as follows:-

- *Minutes of 12 October 2017*- were agreed:
- *Trusts report* – was agreed;
- *Budget 2018* –agreed as follows;
  - to increase the subvention to the Chair of Poetry to £12,500;
  - not to hold a second round of theatre projects for 2018 & that the available funding should be allocated to Arts Grant Funding;
  - the detailed Salaries & Administration budget of €6.653m;
  - the overall 2018 budget allocation of €72.027;
- *HR report* – was noted;
- *FOI report* – was noted;
- *ICT report* – was noted;
- *Premises Update* – was noted.

Members further discussed the recommendation to not hold a second round of theatre projects for 2018. Members however agreed that a second round should be offered in 2018. It was **agreed** to allocate a budget of €250k and that the matter of which strands to run should be delegated to the Executive. It was also **agreed** that the remaining funds should transfer to Arts Grant Funding for theatre.

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

#### **17 – 12– 123 Third Party Schemes 2018**

Members **agreed** the third party schemes and initiatives for 2018. Members **noted** that while committed to the Creative Documentary Scheme for 2018 a decision will need to be made on how it will be delivered in 2018. Members **agreed** that a recommendation should be brought back to Council for consideration.

#### **17 – 12– 124 Appeals Panel Recommendations**

The recommendation from the Appeals Panel was **agreed** as follows:-

Doolin Writers' Weekend- Application Number: A278777- Festival Investment Scheme- No failure in process identified. Appeal not upheld.

#### **17 – 12– 125 Any Other Business**

##### *Council Away Day*

Members **agreed** that Council would meet without the Executive being present on 25 January at 2pm.

*Grant recommendations communications strategy 2018*

Members **agreed** that the proposed approach should be circulated by email to members.

*Council Diary 2018*

Members **agreed** that an up to date diary for 2018 should be uploaded to Board Pad.

There were no other matters.