

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

702nd Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

22 March 2017

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe, *Deputy Chair*, Brian Maguire, Joan Sheehy, Miriam Dunne, Monica Spencer, Martina Moloney, Damien Downes, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Pádraig Ó Duínnín, Helen Shaw.

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 22 February 2017

Director's Report

Update Reports on Grant Funding Decisions

Abbey Theatre Funding Options & Scenarios

Local Authority & Ealain na Gaeltachta Additional Funding

Cnuas Recommendations

17 – 03 – 014 Apologies

Eimear O'Connor.

17 – 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.

Members **noted** with regret the passing of the Company Secretary's father.

17 – 03 – 016 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting 22 February

The Minutes of the 22 February Plenary Meeting were **approved** with one amendment to now read as follows:-

17 – 02– 010 Aosdána Cnuas- The Council **agreed** that the Chair would write to the members of the Toscaireacht inviting them to enter a mediated process about Aosdána procedures.

17 – 03– 017 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

17 – 03– 018 Director's Report

Colleges of Education Residencies

Members were updated on the proposed residency programmes with Higher Education Institutions.

Members **agreed** the following residencies:-

- Marino Institute of Education- one visual arts residency- €15,000 for 2017/18

- Mary Immaculate College- three residencies (theatre, traditional music and visual arts) €45,000 for 2017/18
- Maynooth School of Education- one story maker residency- €15,000 for 2017/18

National Architects in Schools Initiative 2017-2019

Members were updated on the National Architects in Schools Initiative 2013-2016 and were informed that the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) had submitted a request for funding towards the continuation and development of the Scheme for a two further years 2017-19. Members noted that the scheme delivers on the aims set out in *MGAW* in respect of public engagement and young people.

Members **agreed** to renew the partnership for a further two years (at €15,000 per annum) and to providing a once-off grant of €3,333 towards the development of a resource tool. Members noted that the funding will come from within the existing architecture budget.

Co-funding Award – Creative Europe Co-operation Projects

Members were informed that the introduction of the award in 2016 is starting to address a significant barrier for Irish organisations in meeting match-funding requirements of the Creative Europe Culture Sub-programme.

Members **agreed** to offer the co-funding award in 2017 with eligible organisations being able to apply for up to a maximum of 50% of the Irish costs associated with their projects (capped at €50,000 for lead co-ordinators and €25,000 for partners). Members **noted** that an allocation of €100K, for the award, had been made in the international budget.

2023: Future Retrospectives - A symposium reflecting on the Arts Council/ An Chomhairle Ealaíon's ART:2016 Programme

Members **noted** the event.

Director's Diary Report

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

17 – 03– 019 Reports

Policy & Strategy Meeting 23 March 2017

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

- The Audience Strategy was presented to the Committee for discussion. It was agreed, subject to further consideration being given to the title of the strategy to ensure that it represents as wide a definition as possible under our commitment in *Making Great Art Work* to public engagement. The risk of such a strategy being more biased towards the performing arts was noted. It was **agreed** that it would come back to the Committee again before final sign-off attending to these concerns.
- The funding review paper was presented to the members and agreed.

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

17 – 03– 020 Update Reports on Funded Organisations

Members were updated on the general reaction of the arts sector to the 2017 grant funding decisions and were also provided with specific updates on a small number of organisations.

In relation to Cúirt and Galway Arts Centre it was **agreed** to get further clarity on the role of the Arts Centre as Producer.

Additionally the visual arts sector has indicated its desire for more guidance from the Arts Council on artists' remuneration.

Under literature, Members **noted** that the re-focusing of the Title by Title Scheme towards new and emerging artists might be considered as part of the funding review.

Members welcomed and **noted** the update.

17 – 03– 021 Local Authority & Ealaín na Gaeltachta Additional Funding

Miriam Dunne and Martina Moloney declared a conflict and left the meeting.

Members were informed that additional funding of 4.4% was being made available to local authorities and Ealaín na Gaeltachta with all being asked to:-

- Identify a strategic action within their application to avail of the additional 4.4%
- Submit a revised plan outlining greater detail of that proposal
- Outline the how this action meets the priorities of *Making Great Art Work*

Members were informed that 22 Local Authorities and Ealaín na Gaeltachta were recommended for funding.

Members **agreed** additional funding to the Local Authorities of €55,749 & 13,500 to Ealaín na Gaeltachta. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

17 – 03– 022 Abbey Theatre Funding

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, joined the meeting.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOI Act 2014 Section 30

17 – 03– 023 Aosdána Cnuas

[REDACTED] joined the meeting. FOI Act 2014 Section 37

Members considered the two Cnuas renewal applications before the meeting. Members reviewed the eligibility criteria and the additional briefing notes provided.

Following detailed discussions and after receiving legal advice, Members **agreed** not to award a Cnuas to [REDACTED] FOI Act 2014, Section 35 Confidential Information

Brian Maguire, Council Member, asked for his dissent to be recorded.

Separately following detailed discussions and after receiving legal advice, Members **agreed** not to award a Cnuas to [REDACTED] FOI Act 2014, Section 35 Confidential Information

Additionally Members **agreed** that a Working Group comprising Council members would be established to review Aosdána procedures in line with the recommendations from the Internal Audit Report 2013. It was **agreed** that Members would write to the Chair to express their interest in joining the Working Group. Additionally it was **agreed** that the Toscaireacht should be written to and informed of Council's approach.

Members **agreed** that a communications briefing should also be prepared.

17 – 03– 024 Ciste Cholmcille

[REDACTED] Beauchamps Solicitors, briefed Members on Ciste Cholmcille and its statutory background. Members were informed that the fund was established to recognise artists who had made a significant contribution to the arts in Ireland but for reasons of age or ill-health were no longer able to fend for themselves or their dependents.

Members were updated on the current value of the fund. Members also **noted** that provision exists in legislation whereby Oireachtas funding may be transferred into Ciste Cholmcille.

Members **noted** the eligibility criteria under Ciste Cholmcille and **noted** the circumstances under which an award can be made by the Council.

Following detailed discussions Members **agreed** in principle to make two awards under Ciste Cholmcille to [REDACTED]

FOI Act 2014, Section 35 Confidential Information

17 – 03– 025 Creative Ireland

John Concannon and Kevin Lonergan, Creative Ireland, joined the meeting and made a presentation.

Following detailed clarification on the various proposed initiatives Members **agreed** that the Executive should engage with Creative Ireland and consider how best to collaborate together.

Members welcomed and **noted** the presentation.

17 – 03– 026 Any Other Business

There were no other matters for consideration.