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The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

714th Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin
21 May 2018

Present:

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, John McAuliffe, *Deputy Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Helen Shaw, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Miriam Dunne, Paddy Glackin, Martin Moloney, Monica Spencer.

In attendance:

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

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 25 April 2018

Director's Report

Code of Governance Framework

Orchestral Provision in Ireland

Cnuas Recommendation

Appeals Panel Recommendations

18 – 05– 041 Apologies

Joan Sheehy.

18 – 05– 042 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.

Financial Statements 2017

Members **noted** a change to the agenda with confirmation that the consideration of the Financial Statements and related reports was being deferred. In this regard Members also **noted** that a further Plenary Meeting would be scheduled over the coming weeks.

Section 35, information received in confidence

18 – 05 – 043 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 25 April 2018

18 – 04– 034 Strategic Funding Update- it was **agreed** that the minute should read:-
Members acknowledged that being funded as a strategic organisation has certain minimum reporting requirements, with which organisations are obliged to comply. However, Members noted the onerous reporting requirements for small organisations and the need for scaling requirements so that all artforms, especially in areas which are dominated by smaller organisations, will identify the opportunities available in Strategic Funding.

18 – 04– 035 The Abbey Theatre Funding Agreement- It was **agreed** that the minute should now read:-

Members also **agreed** that the budget allocation for 2019 -2020 [REDACTED] should remain for planning purposes and that a recommendation should be brought back to the plenary meeting. It was also agreed that all multi-annual funding commitments would be aligned. *Section 29, Deliberations of an FOI body*

18 – 04– 036 Culture Fox- It was **agreed** that the minute should read:-
Following consideration of all matters, members particularly noted that artists and arts organisations are using social media and more sophisticated digital platforms to identify and reach audiences.

The Minutes of the 25 April Meeting, including the above changes, were **agreed**.

18 – 05– 044 Matters Arising

Culture Fox

Members were informed that Culture Fox will not be in use after June 1. Members suggested that when accessing Culture Fox after this date users should be directed to an Arts Council website page with appropriate information.

Peer Panel Listing

Members **agreed** that a mechanism needs to be developed to ensure it is a dynamic list whereby names from Council or Executive can be added on a rolling basis.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Section 37, Personal Data

18 – 05– 045 Director's Report

Opera Projects and Production Award 2019

Members **agreed** a budget of €740,000 for the Opera Projects and Production Award 2019 and also **noted** that these recommendations would be delegated to a Peer Panel for approval.

Open Call 2019

Members **agreed** a budget of €800,000 for the Open Call Award 2019. Members also **agreed** that a review of outcomes and purpose should then take place and a decision should be made as to whether it can in future be incorporated as part of Arts Grant Funding.

Anthony Cronin Travel Award

Members **noted** the primary purpose being to support a mid-career established writer to enable them to develop further work and to develop the international dimension of their practice. Members **agreed** to a €10,000 bursary award plus up to €3,000 for travel costs.

Curved Street Building (formerly occupied by Filmbase)

Members noted that the cultural use requirement for the Curved Street building formerly occupied by Filmbase has expired. Member noted that the building is situated on a prime site in Temple Bar and its loss as a cultural space would have a detrimental effect on Temple Bar as a 'cultural quarter'. Members **agreed** that the Arts Council should seek to have the building retained for non-commercial cultural use and that the Arts Council executive enters discussions with Dublin City Council to this end.

Director's Diary Report

Member **noted** the report.

18 – 05– 046 Draft Code of Governance Framework 2018

Members reviewed and **agreed** the Arts Council's 2018 Code of Governance Framework. Separately Members **agreed** that further discussion should take place around the current membership criteria for Members of Council with the possible intent of making a submission to Government on the matter.

18 – 05– 047 Reports

ARC Meeting 21May 2018

- Minutes of Meeting held on 24 April 2018 were approved;
- Members noted that the C&AG was in attendance and briefed Members of the ARC on their Draft Report.
- Members of the ARC agreed to defer consideration of the 2017 Financial Statements and related reports until the C&AG had cleared the 2017 Financial Statements for signature

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

18 – 05– 048 Ireland's Orchestral Provision

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, and Niall Doyle, Head of Music and Opera, joined the Meeting.

Members received a briefing on the matter from the Head of Music and Opera. Following detailed consideration Members **agreed** that a revised paper based around four options should now be prepared and brought to the June Plenary Meeting for final agreement. Members emphasised the need for the Arts Council to remain neutral in relation to the options and to be positive and willing to offer our advice and assistance to the Department on the matter. Members thanked the Executive for their informative and helpful briefing.

18 – 05– 049 Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the recommendations. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

18 – 05– 050 Appeals Panel 16 May 2018

Vince Hannon- Application Number: A280195- Visual Arts Bursary Award – Round 1 2018- No failure in process or unfair treatment was identified- Appeal not upheld.

Fiona Cashell- Application Number: A282423- Travel & Training Award 2018- No failure in process or unfair treatment was identified- Appeal not upheld.

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

18 – 05– 051 Galway 2020

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, joined the Meeting. Hannah Kiely, Chief Executive Galway 2020, joined the meeting and made a presentation and updated Members on progress since June 2017. Members were also informed of an upcoming Creating the Legacy Conference and a request issued as to whether an Arts Council representative would be able to attend.

Members welcomed and **noted** the presentation.

18 – 05– 052 Any Other Business

PAS Closing Date for New Council Members

Members **noted** Friday 25 May as the closing date for new Member applications.

Creative Ireland

Members **noted** that Creative Ireland had launched its first funding process. Members expressed concern in relation to an increased risk around dual funding. It was agreed clarification would be sought from Creative Ireland.

Meeting with Aosdána

Members **noted** that a meeting took place with the Toscaireacht of Aosdána.

There were no other matters.

Chairman: _____

Date _____