

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

709<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

70 Merrion Square, Dublin

22 November 2017

## **Present:**

Sheila Pratschke, *Chair*, Loughlin Deegan, Paddy Glackin, Helen Shaw, John McAuliffe, Brian Maguire, Eimear O'Connor, Pádraig Ó Duinnín, Joan Sheehy, Martina Moloney (via conference call until 3.20pm).

## **In attendance:**

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

## **Documents before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of Meeting held on 22 October

Director's Report

Private Investment Programme 2018-2020

Council Evaluation 2017

Title by Title 2018

Travel & Training

Cnuas Recommendations

Appeals Panel Recommendations

## **17 – 11– 102 Apologies**

Miriam Dunne, Monica Spencer.

## **17 – 11– 103 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.

### *Strategic Funding & Partnership Funding Plenary Meeting*

Members **noted** that the Chair will oversee Day 1 and that John McAuliffe, Deputy Chair, will take the chair for Day 2.

### *Council Members away day without the Executive*

Members **noted** the requirement under the Code of Practice for the Council to meet without the Executive being present. Members **agreed** to hold a half day away meeting and the Chair **agreed** to circulate Members with some suggested dates.

## **17 – 11– 104 Discussion with the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

Katherine Licken, Secretary General and Fergal Ó Coighligh, Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht joined the meeting.

A detailed and very positive exchange on a number of matters including the role of Creative Ireland took place and how working together on this national programme will strengthen the role of the arts, culture and creativity across Government. Members **agreed** on the need 1) to

involve the Minister in Arts Council activities/initiatives in 2018 and 2) for a strong collective effort, with the Department, around advocating for Budget 2019 funding.

### **17 – 11 – 105 Minutes of Plenary Meeting 22 October**

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

### **17 – 11– 106 Matters Arising**

Members were informed that a presentation on the 'Project Awards' spatial analysis exercise would be made to the February 2018 Policy & Strategy Meeting in the interim it was agreed that a copy of the completed exercise would be put up on Board Pad.

### **17 – 11– 107 Director's Report**

*Arts Council's Collection Administrative Matters*

Members noted that while the fifty three pieces listed as unaccounted for had now been adjusted for in the financial and collection records they also needed to be formally de-accessioned from the Collection. Members **agreed** the deaccession.

Members **noted** the appointment of Eamonn Maxwell for the provision of Art Collection Services on a three year basis.

*Acquisition of Works for the Collection 2017*

Members noted the recommended approach and **agreed** to proceed on this basis and that a report from the acquisitions committee should be brought back to a Council Plenary meeting in the New Year. Members also **agreed** to give delegated authority to the acquisitions committee to approve individual works up to €20,000 noting an available budget of €100k.

*Venice Architecture Biennale 2018: Grafton Architects*

Further to the approach agreed at the October Plenary Meeting Members **agreed** to allocate €123,000 towards the Venice Mentoring Initiative.

██████████ *Advance*

Loughlin Deegan, Council Member, declared an interest and left the meeting for this item. Members raised the matter of process, given that the 2018 funding decision had yet to be made, following clarifications from the Executive. Members **agreed** the recommendation to advance €150,000 to ██████████

Section 36, Commercially Sensitive Information

██████████ *Advance*

Members **agreed** the recommendation to advance €30,000 to ██████████

Section 36,

Commercially Sensitive Information

*John Broderick Trust- three year residency proposal*

Members considered the recommendation. Following a detailed discussion Members **agreed** the recommendation subject to review of the writer's fee and submission of a revised budget by Westmeath County Council to include living expenses as well as less on administration costs. Members also **agreed** to allocate €66k from the John Broderick Trust towards the initiative.

*Update on approach to supporting sector to develop best practice in the area of harassment and bullying*

Members welcomed and **noted** the update.

Members also took the opportunity to congratulate the Director on her various media performances in relation to these matters.

Separately Members **noted** the possible reputational damage to the Gate Theatre brand noting that the matter must be closely monitored.

#### *Director's Diary Report*

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

#### **17 – 11– 108 Private Investment**

Kieran Mac Sweeney, Private Investment Adviser, joined the meeting.

Members were updated on progress against the agreed work-plan. Members **noted** the update. In addition Members **agreed** to:-

1. re-activate the Council's Advisory Group on Philanthropy;
2. roll-out a capacity building plan (including mentorship) for large, medium and small organisations- subject to the exact nature of the scheme being fully developed and brought back to Council for final approval; also ensure that a measurement system is put in place;
3. a three year budget (2018-2020)- subject to agreement on the exact nature of the scheme;
4. Implement a MOU with Philanthropy Ireland;
5. progress a MOU with Business to Arts- suggested that both Directors should sit on the management/liaison group;

#### **17 – 11– 109 Council Evaluation 2017**

Members considered and **agreed** the recommended approach.

#### **17 – 11– 110 Reports**

##### *Abbey Working Group Meeting 14 November*

Members were updated on the meeting of 14 November Members **noted** the update.

##### *Policy and Strategy 22 November Meeting*

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

- a new programme, Arts Grants Funding under Projects and Programmes was agreed;
- a presentation on the Creative Schools Initiative
- a presentation by Anne Bonnar on the moderation process for Strategic Funding

Members noted the report and **agreed** the recommendations also **agreed** that the Anne Bonner presentation be uploaded to Board Pad.

#### **17 – 11– 111 Awards**

##### *Title by Title 2018*

Members **noted** the Title by Title 2018 decisions. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

##### *Travel & Training*

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

#### **17 – 11– 112 Cnuas Recommendations**

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

Separately Members **noted** that Sheila Pratschke, John McAuliffe and Paddy Glackin are to be the Council representatives on the Aosdána Working Group.

It was proposed that a way of honouring the late Anthony Cronin be discussed with the Toscaireacht working group.

### **17 – 11– 113 Appeals Panel Recommendations**

The recommendations from the Appeals Panel were **agreed** as follows:-

- Cléa van der Grijn, Application Number: A278095, Visual Arts Project Award, Strand 1, Round 1, 2018. Appeal Outcome: Appeal not upheld. No failure in process nor unfair application of procedures.
- Mick Davis, Application Number: A278163, Visual Arts Project Award, Strand 1, Round 1, 2018. Appeal Outcome: Appeal not upheld. No failure in process nor unfair application of procedures.
- Mark Cullen, Application Number: A278637, Travel & Training Award. Appeal Outcome: Appeal not upheld. No failure in process nor unfair application of procedures.
- Fastnet Film Festival, Funding Programme: Festival Investment Scheme. Appeal Outcome: Appeal not upheld. No failure in process nor unfair application of procedures.

### **17 – 11– 114 Any Other Business**

#### *RTÉ Orchestras*

Members **noted** that a submission is being made in support of the RTÉ Orchestra's. Members asked to be kept updated on progress.

There were no other matters.

#### *Summary of Decisions*

- *Council Members away day without the Executive-* Members **agreed** to hold a half day away meeting and the Chair agreed to circulate Members with some suggested dates;
- *Discussion with the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht-* Members **agreed** on the need 1) to involve the Minister in Arts Council activities/initiatives in 2018 and 2) for a strong collective effort, with the Department, around advocating for Budget 2019 funding;
- *Minutes of Plenary Meeting 22 October-* The Minutes of the 22 October Meeting were **agreed**;
- *Arts Council's Collection Administrative Matters-* Members agreed the deaccession;
- *Acquisition of Works for the Collection 2017-* **agreed** to proceed on this basis and that a report from the acquisitions committee should be brought back to a Council Plenary meeting in the New Year also **agreed** to give delegated authority to the acquisitions committee to approve individual works up to €20,000 noting an available budget of €100k;
- *Venice Architecture Biennale 2018: Grafton Architects-* **agreed** to allocate €123,000 towards the Venice Mentoring Initiative;
- *██████████ Advance-* **agreed** the recommendation to advance €150,000 to ██████████

██████████ **Advance- agreed** the recommendation to advance €30,000 to

██████████ Section 36, Commercially Sensitive Information

- *John Broderick Trust- three year residency proposal-* **agreed** subject to review of the writer's fee and submission of a revised budget by Westmeath County Council also **agreed** to allocate €66k from the John Broderick Trust towards the initiative;
- *Private Investment-* Members **agreed:-**
  - re-activate the Council's Advisory Group on Philanthropy;
  - roll-out a capacity building plan (including mentorship) for large, medium and small organisations- subject to the exact nature of the scheme being fully developed and brought back to Council for final approval; also ensure that a measurement system is put in place;
  - a three year budget (2018-2020)- subject to agreement on the exact nature of the scheme;
  - Implement a MOU with Philanthropy Ireland;
  - progress a MOU with Business to Arts- suggested that both Directors should sit on the management/liaison group;
- *Council Evaluation 2017-* **agreed** the recommended approach;
- *Policy and Strategy 22 November Meeting-* **agreed** the recommendations also **agreed** that the Anne Bonner presentation be uploaded to Board Pad
- *Cnuas Recommendations-* Members **approved** the Cnuas recommendations;
- *Aosdána Initiative to honour Tony Cronin RIP-* Members proposed that this should be progressed with the Toscaireacht;
- *Appeals Panel Recommendations-* The recommendations from the Appeals Panel were **agreed**.