

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

772nd Plenary Meeting

7 and 8 December 2022

Day 1

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Dónall Curtin (until 4pm), Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Melatu Uchenna Okorie (until 4pm), Teresa Buczkowska, Linda Coogan Byrne.

Day 2

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Mark O’Kelly (until 12pm), Jillian van Turnhout, Dónall Curtin, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Teresa Buczkowska, Linda Coogan Byrne.

In attendance:

Maureen Kennelly, Director, Martin O’Sullivan, *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Ciara Branagan, *Finance and Council Executive*.

Note: Meeting took place in person and via Zoom video conference.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda
Conflicts of Interest
Minutes 16 November Plenary Meeting
Plenary Action Tracker
Operational Matters for Decision
Director’s Report and Matters for Information
Workforce Plan


Aosdána

Climate Policy

Music Policy

Third Party Schemes

Safe to Create Code

Strategic and Arts Centre 2023 Funding Recommendations

Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Awards and Schemes

For Information:-

- Risk Register
- Policy and Strategy Committee – Minutes 7 September
- Communications Report

22 – 12 – 161 Apologies

Andrew Clancy.

22 – 12 – 162 Chair’s Introduction

Conflicts of Interest- The Chair **noted** that members had already declared their conflicts and requested members to declare any further conflicts that they may have with the agenda items and reminded members to advise him of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

22 – 12 – 163 Minutes 16 November Plenary Meeting 2022

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 16 November Plenary Meeting.

22 – 12 – 164 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members **noted** the improvements made to the tracker and thanked the Executive. Members asked that the item on budget amounts in the Director’s Report be progressed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 12 – 165 Operational Matters for Decision

New Director’s Report Approach

Members **agreed** this revised approach. Separately, Members **noted** that all MOU’s should come to the Council for approval prior to their finalisation.

Protocol for reaching decisions between regular meetings of Council

Members **agreed** the protocol. Members also **agreed** that recommendations already agreed at Plenary but subject to circulation of final documentation / clarifications will not be part of this protocol.

Proposal for support of theatre development in Cork

Members **agreed** the recommendation. Members also **agreed** that an update should be brought back to Council in Q1 2023.

Creative Associate Procurement Process 2023 Recommendations

Members **agreed** the recommendations. Separately, Members **agreed** that supports should be put in place to help artists with the tender process.

Art 2023 – Programme Management Service Provider Procurement

Members **agreed** the recommendation.

22 – 12 – 166 Director’s Report and Matters for Information

Arts Council Pavee Point Partnership - Members **noted** the update. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Arts & Health National Working Group - Members **noted** the update.

Review of Youth Orchestra Provision at National Level in Ireland - Members **noted** the update.

[REDACTED]

HR update - Members **noted** the update.

Highest Performing Arts Organisations - Members **noted** the update.

Department Liaison Meeting - Members **noted** the update.

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

Separately, Members **noted** the appointment of the following Council Champions:-

- *Touring*- Aoife Granville
- *Circus, Street Art and Spectacle*- Dónall Curtin

Members also **noted** that there is a vacancy for a champion on the Culture Night Working Group.

22 – 12 – 167 Committee Reports

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 1 December 2022

Dónall Curtin, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- The minutes of 13 October meeting were approved;
- Members discussed and approved the Communications Review Final Audit report; members noted that the recommendations will be reviewed again in Q2 2023 with the new Communications Director;
- Members discussed the Compliance with Codes module and noted that the final report should be available early in 2023 and will be tabled at the next ARC meeting;
- Members noted the C&AG Audit 2021 Management Letter and agreed that the reserves should be reviewed;
- Members agreed the Draft Workplan for 2023;

[REDACTED]

Members noted and **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee

Business and Finance Committee Meeting 1 December 2022

Philomena Poole, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:-

- The minutes of 13 October and 8 November meetings were approved;
- Members agreed Budget 2023 which included amendments discussed previously by council. Members recommended budget 2023 for approval;
- Members agreed the Salaries and Administration Budget 2023;
- Members agreed the Draft Workplan for 2023;

[REDACTED]

- Members noted the HR Update and noted the new appointment of Ciara Joseph to the HR Director role;
- Members noted the FOI Update;

[Redacted]

Members noted and **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Business and Finance Committee.

Separately, Members **agreed** Budget 2023.

22 – 12 – 168 Workforce Plan Update

Ciara Joseph, HR Director joined the meeting for this item. Members welcomed Ciara Joseph to the Arts Council as the new HR Director. Members discussed the update and congratulated the HR team on their work to-date in progressing the plan.

[Redacted]

22 – 12 – 169

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

22 – 12 – 170 Paying the Artist

This agenda item was deferred.

22 – 12 – 171 Aosdána Update

Karen Hennessy, Aosdána Registrar joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** the update [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 12 – 172 Climate Policy

Deirdre Behan, Strategic Director joined the meeting for this item. Members discussed the paper and highlighted the need to also place focus on engagement and putting creativity to work. The policy was **approved**.

22 – 12 – 173 Music Policy

Liz Meaney, Arts Director and Niall Doyle, Head of Music and Opera joined the meeting for this item.

Members noted that consultation re the policy is ongoing with the Department and there may be a need to make some final refinements. Noting this outstanding step, members **approved** the Policy.

[REDACTED]

22 – 12 – 174 Third Party Schemes

Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director joined the meeting for this item.

Members discussed the paper and **agreed** that 2022 figures should be added to the table & for the updated schedule to be circulated to Members. Members also noted that a review of the university residency scheme needs to be undertaken in 2023. Members **agreed** the Third Party Schemes for 2023.

22 – 12 – 175 Adoption of Safe to Create Code

Members welcomed completion of the Code and **agreed** that the Arts Council should adopt the Code. Members **noted** that it will also be mandatory for 2023 strategic and arts centre funded organisations to adopt the Code. Members also **agreed** that the Arts Council should put in place practical support steps to ensure its effective rollout.

[REDACTED]

22 – 12 – 176 Strategic and Arts Centre Funding (including Ealaín na Gaeltachta) 2023 Recommendations

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director, joined the meeting for this item. Managers joined the meeting for each of their individual artforms as recommendations came before Council.

A context setting presentation was made to Members, agreed that the presentation should be uploaded to the Reading Room. The following additional matters were noted and **agreed** as required:-

- Review artform budgets and how they are currently shaped & do so as part of the budget framework discussion in Q1 2023;
 - Upload the moderation assessment reports to the Reading Room;
 - Standardise language around EDI and how it is articulated for all future such assessments and reports;
 - Ensure that a cross artform collaborative approach is applied to the preparation of the recommendation texts going forward;
 - Ensure that the EDI and Pay the Artist policies are fully embedded across our strategic and arts centre funded organisations, with compliance to be similar to that of their annual financial audit obligations;
 - Develop approach to support new YPCE type work coming up across artforms which is not directly in the current YPCE portfolio;
 - Include organisations' county location identifier in future;
 - Reduce use of acronyms;
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Value of the capacity scheme noted;

Members **agreed** the Strategic and Arts Centre funded recommendations for 2023.

[REDACTED]

The Chair extended thanks to all staff involved in the preparation and presentation of papers and to all Members for their time reviewing papers, all leading to a very successful approval process.

22 – 12 – 177 Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

22 – 12 – 178 Appeals Panel Recommendation

[REDACTED]

Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was no infringement or unfair application of the published process. The appeal was not upheld.

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

22 – 12 – 179 Awards and Schemes

Project Awards (Round 1) 2023

Members **noted** the awards. A financial appendix is attached to the Minutes.

[REDACTED]

22 – 12 – 180 Matters for Information

Risk Register- Members **noted** the Register.

Policy and Strategy Committee 7 September Minutes – Members noted the minutes

Communications Report- Members **noted** the report.

22 – 12 – 181 Any Other Business

There were no other matters arising.

████████████████████

Chair: _____

Date _____