

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

769th Plenary Meeting

14 September 2022

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir (until 3.30pm), Mark O’Kelly, Jillian van Turnhout, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Dónall Curtin, Teresa Buczkowska, Aoife Granville, Brian Lavery, Philomena Poole, Róise Goan, Andrew Clancy, 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 via Zoom video conference and in person at 70 Merrion Square.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes 22 and 23 June Plenary Meeting

Plenary Action Tracker

Director’s Report

Dance Policy

Awareness Campaign for Arts Sector

Artists’ Workspaces Update

[REDACTED]

Property Update

HR Update

Appeals Panel Recommendations

Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

Touring Round 1 2023 Recommendations

Awards & Schemes

For Information:-

- Policy and Strategy 24 May 2022 Minutes
- Risk Register
- Communications Report

22 – 09 – 104 Apologies

None

22 – 09 – 105 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 – 09 – 106 Minutes 22 and 23 June Plenary Meeting 2022

[REDACTED]

22 – 06– 089 Director's Report- HR Update - Members **agreed** that the Minute needs to be further refined to fully record meeting discussion.

Members **agreed** the Minutes of the 22 and 23 June Plenary Meeting.

22 – 09 – 107 Matters Arising

Members **noted** the action tracker. Members **agreed** the following additional matters:-

- Dance Policy- that a budget commensurate with the proposed implementation plan should be brought back to Council for agreement;
- Action Tracker Format- bring uniformity to updates provided

22 – 09 – 108 Director's Report

New Reporting Protocol- Members **noted** that the new protocol around presentation of matters for decision & matters for noting will be in place from October Plenary meeting onwards.

Forward Commitment: Festival Investment Scheme 2023- Members noted the update and **agreed** the forward commitment of €2.5m for 2023.

Culture Night additional Funding- Members noted that the recommendation had been previously circulated to Members, by mail in August and while all Members apart from Dónall Curtin, who objected for governance reasons, had approved the recommendation it was felt that it would be appropriate for the Council in Plenary session to again ratify the recommendation. Members **agreed** the recommendation.

Members **agreed** that an updated protocol in relation to ratifying recommendations outside of Plenary Meetings (by email) should be prepared for consideration.

Members noted the late confirmation of related Department funding and **agreed** that a letter should issue requesting that all sources of Departmental funding should be made known to the Council, as early as possible in the year. Members asked that issues of concern around late provision of additional funding be relayed to the Department in particular in the context of an event that had been in planning since in the early months of 2022.

SDD procurement - Social Impact and Outcomes Measurement Advisory & Support Services- Members **agreed** that the services can be procured.

SDD Procurement - Research Advisory and Support Services
Members **agreed** that the services can be procured.

Forward Commitment: University Residencies

Members **agreed** to maintain its 2022 level of funding commitment. Members noted that the Arts Council is not getting sufficient recognition for its investment. Members noted that the contribution from the participating universities is too low. Members **agreed** that the inclusion

of Technological Universities in the residency programme needs to be addressed. Members **agreed** that this matter must be addressed in advance of any further consideration of this scheme.

[REDACTED]

Art 2023: A Decade of Centenaries Programme

Members noted the update and **agreed** the budget provision of €500,000 for the Art 2023 – Participation Award.

Profiling and Mapping Research of Resource Organisations- Member **noted** the contract award.

HR Update- Members **noted** the update

Siamsa Tire Update- Members **noted** the update

Arts Council Pavee Point Partnership update

Members **noted** the update. In relation to the national coordinator role not being filled & the need to advertise again Members suggested the following additions to the published guidance 1) take out reference to academic qualifications 2) reference that a budget for training will be available and 3) confirm that a member of the traveller community is on the selection panel

International Arts Funding Programmes update- Members **noted** the update

Update on Laureate for Irish Fiction- Members **noted** the update

Update on Gare St Lazare Ireland- Members **noted** the update. Members asked for the recommendation text to be uploaded to Diligent.

Arts Grant Funding 2023- Members **noted** the update

Aosdána Publication- Members **noted** the update

Director's Diary Report

Members **noted** the update. [REDACTED]

22 – 09 – 109 Awareness Campaign for Arts Sector

Catherine Griffin, Communications Director joined the meeting for this item.

Members discussed all options and **agreed** that Option C should be progressed by the Executive. Members **agreed** in doing so the level of budget commitment to content development needs to be increased together with further refinement around the distribution across media channels.

22 – 09 – 110 Dance Policy Implementation

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Lisa McLaughlin, Head of Dance joined the meeting for this item. Members **noted** the update on the implementation of the Dance Policy.

22 – 09 – 111 Committee Reports

Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 07 September 2022

Jillian van Turnhout, Committee Chairman, updated Members as follows:-

- The minutes of 24 May meeting were approved;
- Update on facilitation and insights for Three Year Plan;
- Proposed approach around Funding Framework;
- Update on EDI Implementation Plan;
- Update on context & process findings + priorities for Climate Action Policy Development;
- Presentation on Irish language Literature Policy & Implementation Plan;
- Music Policy update on proposed approach;
- Discussion on YPCE Draft Policy;
- Noted Creative Production Supports Review;
- Noted review of Circus Infrastructure Report;
- Discussed Public Art sectoral overviews on Per Cent for Art Scheme;

Members noted and **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Policy & Strategy Committee.

22 – 09 – 113 Artists’ Workspace Update

Stephanie O’Callaghan, Arts Director and Alan Mee, Infrastructure Advisor joined the meeting for this item.

Members were updated on progress across a number of areas. Members congratulated the Executive on their recently signed MOU with Dublin Port. Members **noted** that guidance will be made available to entities that are interested in providing workspaces for artists.

Members **agreed** that a formal protocol should be developed for 1) private developers and 2) public bodies that want to engage with the Arts Council.

22 – 09 – 114 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 09 – 115 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

22 – 09 – 116 Property Update

Aidan Burke, Corporate Services Director joined the meeting for this item. Members **noted** the property update.

22 – 09 – 117 HR Update

Members **agreed** to defer the HR update until the next meeting.

22 – 09 – 118 Appeals Panel Recommendation

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was an unfair application of the published process. The appeals panel recommends that as the application had been deemed ineligible, by way of remedy the team should assess the application in the normal process and communicate the assessment decision to the applicant. The appeal was therefore upheld.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Having reviewed all the paperwork submitted and following a discussion the panel found that there was an unfair application of the published process. The appeals panel recommends that by way of remedy the team should reassess the application in the normal process noting the points raised by the artist in the letter of appeal and communicate the reassessment decision to the applicant. The appeal was therefore upheld.

[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 recommendations of the Appeals Panel.

22 – 09 – 119 Cnuas Recommendations

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

22 – 09 – 120 Touring Round 1 2023 Recommendations

Liz Meaney, Arts Director, Imelda Dervin, Head of Key Performing Arts Organisations joined the meeting for this item.

Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair left the meeting while Ceol Connected recommendation was discussed. Teresa Buzckowska, member left the meeting while Phillida Eve recommendation was discussed.

Members **agreed** the recommendations.

22 – 09 – 121 Awards

Next Generation Awards 2022

Members **noted** the Panel decisions.

Commissions 2022 Panel

Members **noted** the Panel decisions.

Projects Round 2 2022

Members **noted** the Panel decisions.

22 – 09 – 122 Matters for Information

Policy and Strategy Committee Minutes 24 May 2022- Members **noted** the Minutes.

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

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

22 – 09 – 123 Any Other Business

[REDACTED]

Council & Committee Evaluation- Members noted that an external evaluation will be required for 2022. Members **agreed** that TOR should be brought to a subsequent Council Meeting.

Business of Council- Members **agreed** that the Standing orders around the Business of Council should be reviewed and that a recommendation should be brought back to Council for consideration before the end of 2022.

Private Session

There were no other matters arising.