

# The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

## 794<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting

### 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**In Person attendance:**

Maura McGrath, *Chair*, Philomena Poole, *Deputy Chair*, Jillian van Turnhout, Aoife Granville, Richard Yarr, Gaby Smyth, Caroline O’Sullivan, Rosaleen McDonagh, Andrew Clancy and Teresa Buczkowska.

**Virtual attendance:**

None.

**Executive in attendance:**

Maureen Kennelly, *Director*, Martin O’Sullivan, *Deputy Director & Company Secretary*, Ciara Branagan, *Council Secretary & Payroll Manager*.

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

**Documents before the meeting**

Agenda

Minutes of Plenary Meeting held on –

- 23 October 2024

Plenary Action Tracker

Director’s Report and Matters for Information

Matters for Decision

Strategic and Funding Process

Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations

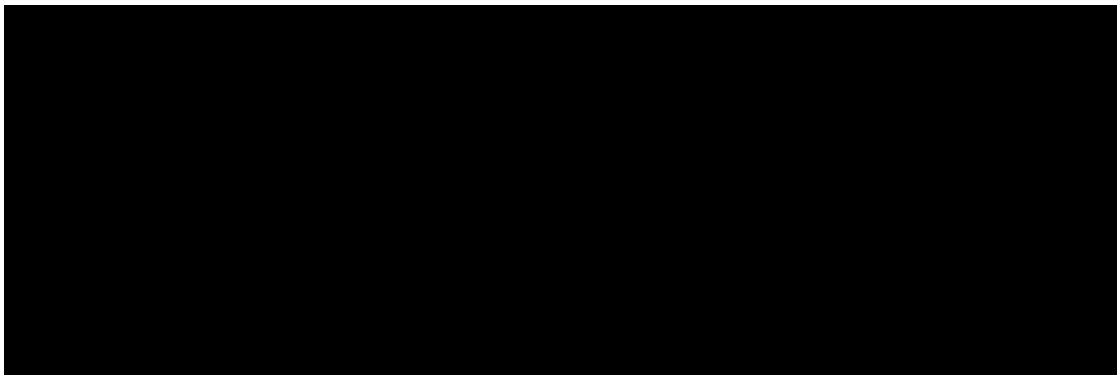
Awards and Schemes

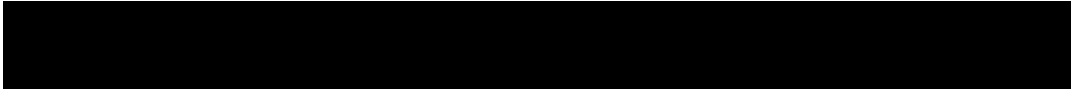
For information –

- Risk Register

**24 – 11 – 127 Apologies**

Brian Ó Gaibhín, Brian Lavery, Gary Granville.





**24 – 11 – 129 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 her of any conflicts that may arise during the course of the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed two new Members Dr Caroline O'Sullivan and Dr Rosaleen McDonagh. She also acknowledged the retirement of Teresa Buczkowska acknowledging her contribution and commitment to the work of the Arts Council, during her tenure.

**24 – 11 – 130 Minutes of meeting held on 23 October 2024**

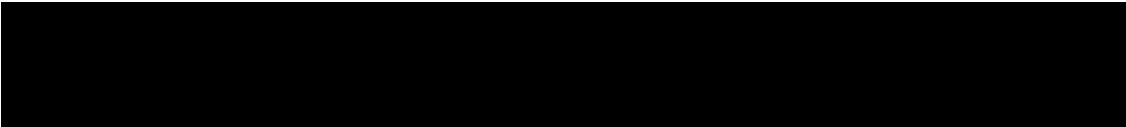
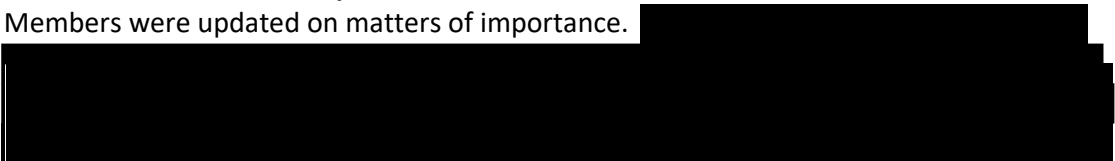
Members **agreed** the minutes of meeting held on 23 October 2024 subject to further agreed updates to minute no. 24 – 10 – 116 *Chair’s Introduction* and 24 – 10 – 118 *Matters Arising* being made.

**24 – 11 – 131 Matters Arising**

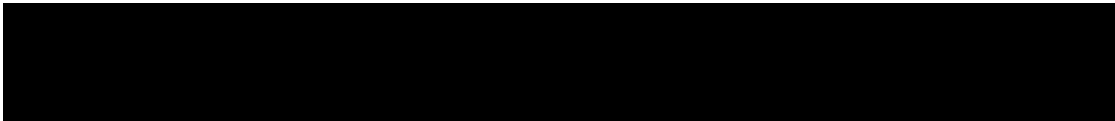
Members **noted** the action tracker. In addition, the Director highlighted all material changes since the October update. Members **noted** and welcomed the updates to the Manifesto documents. Members **agreed** that a shorter 4 page version of the full document should be prepared and **agreed** that an Inclusion section should also be added. Separately in relation to the ongoing Budget 2025 process the Business and Finance Committee Chair reminded Members to communicate directly with her or the Deputy Director on any final budget matters, noting that no communications had been received to-date.

**24 – 11 – 132 Director’s Report**

Members were updated on matters of importance.



Matters for Information

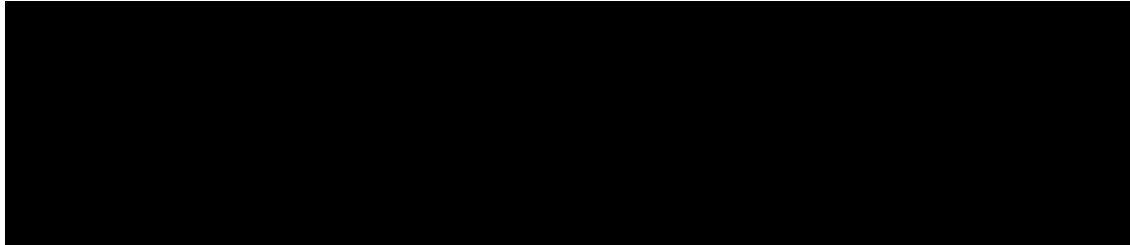


*FIS Decision Making Process update*- Members **noted** the update

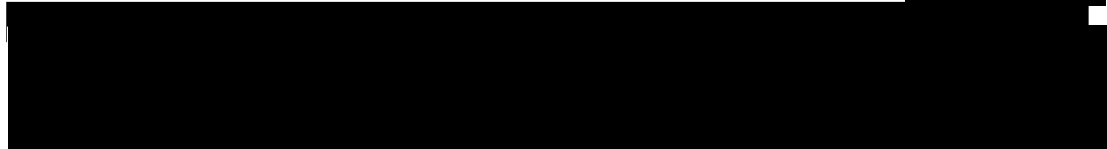
*Ireland at Venice Irish representation at 61st Venice Art Biennale in 2026*- Members **noted** the update

*Appeals Panel Recommendations overview 2022 to 2024*- Members **noted** the update

*Funding Framework Update*- Members **noted** that it is a senior management initiative.



Director's Diary Report- Members noted the Directors Diary Report. Members acknowledged the commitment of the Director to activity attendance across the Country. Members noted that such attendance is well regarded by the arts sector.



Matters for Decision

*RAISE 2025 programme*- Members **approved** the recommendation to continue investment in the RAISE programme to the value of €100,000 in 2025.

*Venice 2025 Tour- change of curator*- Members **approved** the recommendation.

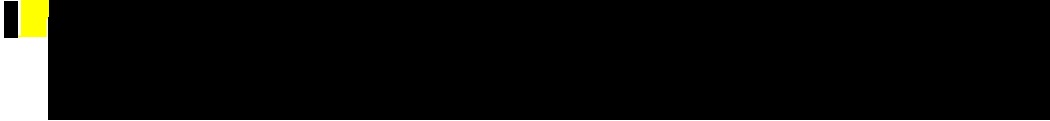
**24 – 11 – 133 Committee Reports**



*Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting 20 November 2024*

Jillian van Turnhout, Committee Chair, updated Members as follows:

- Members agreed Minutes 18 September
- Members noted the Action Tracker
- Funding Framework Update – Members noted appointment of lead resource & urgency of project highlighted
- Children & Young People Arts Update on Policy Implementation- Members noted and welcomed the progress.
- Draft Circus Policy – Members recommended to Council for approval

- Research Log & submission tracker were both noted
- Draft MDA Policy Statement- Members recommended to Council for approval
- Draft Arts Participation Policy Statement- Members asked for the artform context to be set out more explicitly in the Statement's ' Introduction' and recommended to Council for approval subject to changes being incorporated
- Digital Arts Policy Implementation Update- Members noted and welcomed the update



- Policy Implementation overview- agreed that a policy grid template should be prepared using RAG status to track progress
- Aosdána – examination of international comparators- presentation by Counter Culture welcomed and noted and agreed that the presentation should be uploaded to the Reading Room.   

- Workplan 2025- noted engagement session on strategy needs to be prioritised for 2025 and agreed that workplan needs to be agreed at first meeting in 2025.

Members **approved** the report and recommendations of the Policy and Strategy Committee and noted that a written report will come back to the December meeting for noting.

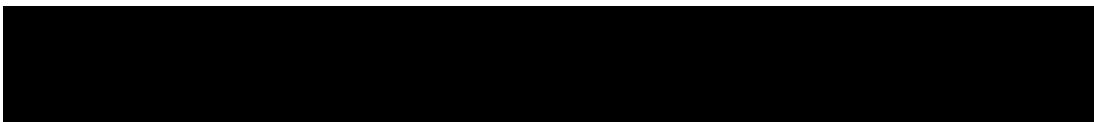
In addition, Members **noted** that policy champions had been identified and that these had now been approved for their nominated art form.

#### **24 – 11 – 134 Open Forum Discussion including Council Planning**



#### *Draft 2025 Council Calendar*

Following discussion Members **agreed** that that all Council Meetings should be scheduled in the morning with meetings to commence at 10.30am. Members agreed that the calendar should be circulated to Members subject to these changes being incorporated. Members also noted that the Strategy Governance, including required meetings, remains outstanding and once finalised dates will need to be added to the calendar.



**24 – 11 – 136 Strategic and Art Centre Funding Process**

Liz Meaney, Performance Arts Director, Stephanie O’Callaghan, Creative Arts Director and Sinead O’Reilly, Combined joined the meeting for this item.

Members **noted** and welcomed the report.

**24 – 11 – 137 Aosdána Cnuas Recommendations**

Rosaleen Mc Donagh declared an interest with this item and left the meeting.

Members **approved** the Cnuas Recommendations.

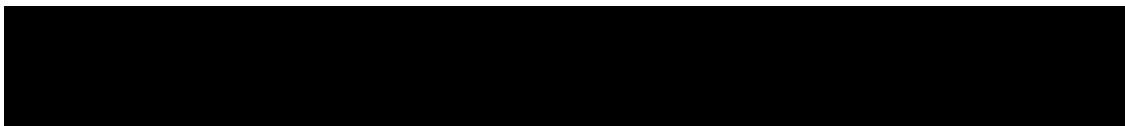
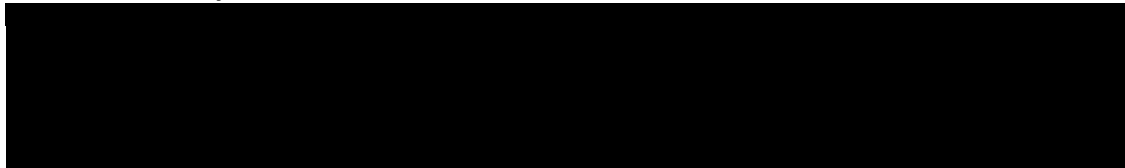
**24 – 11 – 138 Awards and Schemes**

Members **noted** the awards.

**24 – 11 – 139 Matters For Information**

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

**24 – 11 – 140 Any other business**



There were no other matters arising.