

Document 3.1

The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon

743rd Plenary Meeting

15 July 2020

Kevin Rafter, Chair, Fearghus Ó Conchúir, Deputy Chair, Paddy Glackin, Mark O’Kelly, Loughlin Deegan, Helen Shaw, Martina Moloney, Melatu Uchenna Okorie, Dónall Curtin, Sinead Moriarty, Teresa Buczkowska, Jillian van Turnhout.

In attendance:

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

Note: Kevin Rafter, Maureen Kennelly and Martin O’Sullivan were in Merrion Square; other members participants via Zoom video conference.

Documents before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 17 June

Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 24 June

Director’s Report

Digital Content and Access Recommendation- Survive Adapt Renew

Advance Budgetary 2021 Allocations

[REDACTED]

Awards and Schemes

Business and Finance Minutes 18 May

20– 07– 108 Apologies

Pádraig Ó Duinnín.

20 – 07– 109 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.

Meeting with New Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht

Members were informed that that an introductory letter had been sent to Minister Catherine Martin and also that a good meeting, attended by the Chair and Director, had taken place.

Committee Membership

Members were informed that committee membership positions will be reviewed and addressed with an update going to the September Plenary Meeting.

20 – 07– 110 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 17 June

The Minutes of the 17 June Plenary meeting were **agreed**.

20 – 07– 111 Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 24 June

The Minutes of the 24 June Plenary meeting were **agreed**.

20 – 07– 112 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

20 – 07– 113 Director's Report

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tradition Now Partnership with the NCH: a new approach for 2020

Members **agreed** to invest €40,000 in the *Tradition Now* initiative for 2020.

Proposal by Local Authority Arts Offices to the Arts Council

Members were updated on a proposed pilot initiative between the Arts Council and the Local Authority Arts Offices to support 31 artists, one in each county/city, with bursaries worth €8,000 during the COVID-19 crisis. Members welcomed the proposal and **agreed** to allocate €160k towards the initiative.

Arts Advisers tender update 2020

Members were informed that a number of arts advisers contracts needed to be retendered. Members **agreed** that the tender process could be progressed.

Stability Fund Update

Members **noted** the update.

Consultation with Resource Organisations Update

Members were informed that very good informative and encouraging exchanges had taken place. Members **noted** the update.

Communications Working Group

Members were informed that three Members of Council had agreed to join the Working Group with Helen Shaw agreeing to act as Chair of the Working Group. The Chair, Director and two other staff members will also be involved in the Working Group.

Members **noted** that the purpose of the Working Group was to explore and develop protocols around how communications can best work to tell the Arts Council's 'story' to artists and the public by looking at best practice both nationally and internationally. Members also **noted** that

draft terms of reference will be developed and brought to the September Plenary meeting for

agreement. Members welcomed the update and **agreed** the approach outlined.

Public Affairs and Communication Report Update

Members deferred discussion on this agenda item.

Peer Panels Update

- *Remote Panel Process*- Members **noted** that a remote working process for panels (covering operation and decision making) is currently being developed and **agreed** to have it circulated and operational for the next panel rounds.
- *Master List of Panel Members*- Members **noted** the need to add to the existing master list of panel members particularly for certain artforms. Recognising the urgency, members **agreed** that a paper should be prepared and circulated, by email, for agreement.

Equality, Human Rights and Diversity (EHRD) Update

Members **noted** the success of the EHRD Week and that the EHRD theme will be a key feature of Culture Night. Members were also informed that the Arts Council is now being recognised for national leadership role in the area. However, there is an ongoing need to communicate more widely about what Arts Council is doing in relation to EHRD. Members thanked Monica Corcoran, SDD Manager, and Olwen Dawe, Project Lead EHRD.

Update on Expert Advisory Group Report

Cultural Task Force- Members **noted** that the Department Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht see this as a Department initiative with the Arts Council playing a role in its implementation and operation. Members recorded their view related to the urgency with which the establishment and work of the Task Force needs to progressed.

Expert Advisory Group- Members **noted** that the Arts Council's Expert Advisory Group will remain in place to review the implementation of the Report – 'Survive, Adapt, Renew'*National*

[REDACTED]

Open Call 2021

It was **agreed** that the current position in relation to Open Call 2021 would be reviewed.

Capacity Development Scheme

Members **noted** that this new initiative will launch shortly.

20 – 07– 114 Digital Content and Access Recommendation-Survive Adapt Renew

Members discussed the proposed recommendation. Members suggested a need to develop digital capacity in the sector rather than just for organisations. Members **agreed** that the Chair together with Helen Shaw, Council Member, and the Director will further refine the proposed approach and thereafter revert to Members with the final proposed approach. Members were also encouraged to feedback their comments to the Director.

20 – 07– 115

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 – 07– 116 Reports

Business and Finance Committee 24 June

Martina Moloney, Committee Chair, updated members on the meeting and recommendations made:

- *Minutes of 18 May 2020* were agreed;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- *ICT Transformation Project Update* – Members noted the report;
- *HR report* – Members noted the report;
- *FOI report* – Members noted the report;
- *Artform Panels* - Members asked that the Executive should ensure greater consistency in the procedures regarding the running of panels.

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

20 – 07– 117 Advance 2021 Commitments

Members **agreed** advance budgetary approval for Arts Grants Funding 2021(€8m) and for the Visual Artists Workspace Scheme 2021(€350k).

20 – 07– 118 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 – 07– 119 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 – 07– 120 Awards and Schemes

Dance Artist Residency Scheme 2020 Panel

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

Theatre Artist Residency Scheme 2020 Panel

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

20 – 07– 121 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

20 – 07– 122 For Information

Business and Finance Committee Minutes 18 May- Members **noted** the Minutes.

20 – 07– 123 Any Other Business

Music Policy Review Update

Following a progress update the Executive **agreed** to review and see whether it is possible to put back on the music workplan agenda for 2020.

Comptroller & Auditor General Report 2019 Audit

Members **noted** that the C&AG issued their report on 29 June.

Collections Policy Temporary Amendment for 2020

The Collections Acquisition Committee recommended two changes to the current Collection Policy for remaining 2020 acquisitions only. The two proposed temporary suspensions were as follows:-

1. Temporarily suspend: 'Focus on acquiring recent works'
2. Temporarily suspend: 'Only acquire work by artists who have not previously been purchased by the Arts Council, with the exception of work which demonstrates a significant shift in an artist's practice.'

Members **agreed** the recommendation.

Council Members' Conflicts Policy Review

Members **agreed** that the Arts Council's current policy should be reviewed against what other Arts Councils have in place for Member conflict management.

Miriam Murphy RIP

Members **agreed** to express the Arts Council's sympathy to the family of Miriam Murphy.

Mick Cullen RIP

Members **agreed** to express the Arts Council's sympathy to the family of Mick Cullen.

There were no other matters.

[REDACTED]

Summary of decisions

- *Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 17 June -were **agreed**;*
- *Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 24 June- were **agreed**;*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- *Tradition Now Partnership with the NCH: a new approach for 2020-* Members **agreed** to invest €40,000 in the *Tradition Now* initiative for 2020;
- *Proposal by Local Authority Arts Offices to the Arts Council-* Members welcomed the proposal and **agreed** to allocate €160k towards the initiative;
- *Arts Advisers tender update 2020-* Members **agreed** that the tender process could be progressed;
- *Communications Working Group-* Members welcomed the update and **agreed** the approach outlined;
- *Remote Panel Process-* **agreed** to have it circulated and operational for the next panel rounds;
- *Master List of Panel Members-* noted the need to add to the existing master list of panel members and **agreed** that a paper should be prepared and circulated, by email, for agreement;
- *National Covid19 Protocols for the Arts Sector-* Members **agreed** that the Arts Council would explore what organisation/body needs to be identified to broker sector (or art form specific) guidelines with the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET);
- *Open Call 2021-* It was **agreed** that the current position in relation to Open Call 2021 would be reviewed;
- *Digital Content and Access Recommendation-Survive Adapt Renew-* Members **agreed** that the Chair together with Helen Shaw, Council Member, and the Director will further refine the proposed approach and thereafter revert to Members with the final proposed approach;
- *Business and Finance Committee 24 June-* Members **agreed** the report and recommendations of the Business and Finance Committee;
- *Advance 2021 Commitments-* Members **agreed** advance budgetary approval for Arts Grants Funding 2021(€8m) and for the Visual Artists Workspace Scheme 2021(€350k);

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- *Music Policy Review Update-* the Executive **agreed** to review and see whether it is possible to put back on the music workplan agenda for 2020;
- *Collections Policy Temporary Amendment for 2020-* Members **agreed** the recommendation;
- *Council Members' Conflicts Policy Review-* Members **agreed** that the Arts Council's current policy should be reviewed against what other Arts Councils have in place for Member conflict management;
- *Miriam Murphy RIP-* Members **agreed** to express the Arts Council's sympathy;
- *Mick Cullen RIP-* Members **agreed** to express the Arts Council's sympathy;