



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017,  
9.30 a.m. Members Room, City Hall**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Cllr John Lyons, Ray Yeates, Hugh Fahey, Róisín Kennedy, Shane de Blacam, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Brendan Teeling, Charles Duggan

**Apologies:** Cllr Claire Byrne, Willie White, Simon O'Connor, Elaina Ryan, Barbara Dawson

**In Attendance:** Vera Smyth

**1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017**

The minutes were approved, proposed by Ruairí Ó Cuív, seconded by Róisín Kennedy.

**2. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**3. City Arts Officer Report**

The City Arts Officer presented the report on the Arts Office activities. The events include *MusicTown 2017*, an initiative of Dublin City Arts Office, programmed through a curated open call process and by Aiken Promotions, running from 7-17 April; *IAWATST – Interesting and Weird At the Same Time*, a collaborative exhibition curated by the children of Central Model Senior School, was running February 17 - March 26 2017 together with *Astronomical Mashup* by Lucy McKenna.

A forthcoming exhibition *Trying to behave*, a solo show by artist Theresa Nanigian, will be running from the 6<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The exhibition will consist of photographs taken at the Royal Opera House, a short video projection of dancers from the Macushla Dance Club at DanceHouse, Dublin, as well as responses to the Twenty Statements self-concept survey. The exhibition is partially funded by the Arts Council as part of the Touring and Dissemination of Work Scheme award.

The City Arts Officer also reported on Erasmus<sup>+</sup> KA2 project with European partner countries. The project is designed to facilitate Learning with Visual Arts in Schools and in Cultural Institutions with a remit for arts education.

The Arts Office is supporting Neighbourhood Arts Partnership groups as part of the pilot initiative by offering additional support. Dublin's Culture Connects project includes partnering with Ballyfermot Community Civic Centre on The Passion Project.

There is also a call out to councillors and community groups to develop a 2017 National Neighbourhood engagement programme. The Cultural Audit is currently underway and an online “map” of city’s culture will be developed. A seminar on marketing for community organisations will take place on Tuesday 9 May 2017 as part of Dublin's Culture Connects' partnerships with Business to Arts on the Fundraising Fellowship Dublin programme.

#### **4. Public Art Report**

##### **Nomination for a new External Public Art Expert**

As agreed at the last meeting of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group, Visual Artists Ireland were invited to nominate two artists (one female one male). They are to revert with these names.

##### **Ongoing Commissions**

The Public Art Manager presented his report with updates on ongoing commissions.

##### **Proposals for Permanent Art**

###### **Statue of Liam Mellows**

The proposal to erect a statue of Liam Mellows made by the Liam Mellow Memorial Committee (a voluntary group based in Finglas) was approved by the Commemorative Naming Committee and presented to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group in November 2016 as per the Commemorative Naming Policy and the DCC Public Art Policy, 2009. The Advisory Group considered the matter but sought further information including:

- Detailed visualisations or model of the statue.
- C.V. of the artist, Willie Malone and three relevant examples of previous statues the artist himself has sculpted.
- Technical details including structure, foundations and care and maintenance of the work.
- Detailed breakdown of costs including, artists fees, bronze casting, stone plinth, foundations, transport, installation, costs of plaque, technicians, etc.

###### **Supplementary Information**

The Group discussed the supplementary material provided by the Liam Mellow Memorial Committee and the issues of wishing to support the work of voluntary local groups while also maintaining quality appropriate to Dublin City Council including the long-term issues. It was agreed that commissioning permanent artworks and statues including financing, design, fabrication and installation, is a particularly challenging and complex process. While the intentions of this voluntary group are those of total commitment and belief, there are still a number of issues which are of concern as follows:

###### **Policy for the Decade of Commemorations**

The Group discussed concerns about how commissioning a statue dedicated to one person killed in the Irish Civil War could impact on how Dublin City Council could be perceived in the wider context of the Decade of Commemorations. The Group understands the intentions of the proposal as put forward by the Liam Mellow Memorial Committee in the context of the park and streets in Finglas being named after historic figures from the Easter Rising, War of Independence and Civil War.

However, in taking a wider perspective of the city, the Group suggested that a more inclusive approach to these historic events would be appropriate. Therefore, it advises that the statue should not be commissioned until Dublin City Council has had an opportunity to consider how the War of Independence and Civic War are to be commemorated. In this context the Group understands that the Government's Advisory Group for the Decade of Commemorations is preparing a policy document on the commemoration of these events.

### **Recommendations for the Commissioning Process**

There are a number of complex issues which will have to be resolved if this statue is to be commissioned, especially in the context that it is proposed for Dublin City Council property.

- If this proposal is to proceed, some mechanism should be devised whereby Dublin City Council has direct involvement in every step of the process to devise, curate and sign off on this statue before it is commissioned.
- Planning Permission will have to be sought for the statue and plinth.
- There are still concerns that adequate and satisfactory visualisations of the proposed statue have not been provided, as it is essential that Dublin City Council maintains a high quality of art in order to pay due respect to the subject (Liam Mellows) but also for maintenance of standards across the entire city. There is no evidence of how a likeness of Liam Mellows will be achieved.
- The total costs as provided for the entire memorial would seem very modest for a high quality life size statue on a stone plinth of this scale. Therefore, further analysis is required.
- While it is understandable that a community project is undertaken as a phased project, this is not appropriate for a City Council adopted project. It is essential that evidence of the funding be in place for the entire project, before it is permitted to go ahead.
- The design and wording of texts for the plaques, etc, will have to be provided in Irish and English (as proposed by the Committee) and would have to be agreed and approved in writing by Dublin City Council.
- The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group has already proposed that if commissioned Dublin City Council would take on care and maintenance of the memorial rather than the National Graves Association. Questions still arise about what level of costs and attention which would be required to maintain the statue and memorial.

### **Care and Maintenance of Permanent Public Art**

#### ***Trace by Grace Weir***

This matter has been ongoing since the sculpture was removed in 2013, to allow for reconfiguration of the traffic junction at the north east corner of St Stephens Green. However, when contractors went on site at Gulliston Terrace, where the work was in storage, to do a 'dry run' to assemble the various elements of the sculpture they discovered that four of the 'blocks' which made the sculpture were missing. The Public Art Manager advised the artist who is considering what to do about the matter.

**Recommendation:**

A policy on storage of public art needs to be adopted. Public Art Manager to report back on this matter.

**5. Dublin Heritage Projects 2017**

Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer, made a presentation on Dublin Heritage Projects 2017. It covered the many projects that have been carried out since 2011, such as More than Concrete Blocks, Decorative Plasterwork, Built to Last – Increasing Efficiency in pre 1945 buildings, Medieval Dublin on-line project, a free on-line resource for schools.

**6. Dublin City libraries report**

Deputy City Librarian reported on *Dublin: One City One Book 2017 - Echoland* by Joe Joyce, Pilot national delivery Service for Inter-Library Loans, Dublin City Creative Ireland workshop in early May, the Home Energy Saving Kits are now available to borrow in all Dublin City branch libraries, proposed New City Library, Parnell Square, refurbishment of Kevin Street Library, commemorations programme 2017 – historians-in-residence.

At the request of the Minister for Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and under the Government's national Creative Ireland plan, a City Council Creative Ireland Team has been convened. The Team is led by City Librarian, Margaret Hayes and the members include staff from the Arts Office, the Heritage Office, Archaeology, the Hugh Lane, Council Events and planning.

Dublin City Libraries are delivering two new initiatives Readers in Residence & Coder Dojo under the Dublin North East Inner City Project, aimed at providing programmes of reading for pleasure in primary schools and youth clubs, and digital skills to children and young people of the North East Inner City area. Both are being managed by a dedicated project librarian based in Charleville Mall library.

**7. Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane**

Report noted.

**8. A.O.B.**

- Next meeting – Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May at 9.30.