



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 9.30 a.m. Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Ray Yeates, Elaina Ryan, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Gerry Kerr, Iseult Byrne, Maolíosa Boyle, Willie White, Barbara Dawson, Shane DeBlacam, Cllr John Lyons, Cllr Mannix Flynn,

**Apologies:** Cllr Claire Byrne, Hugh Fahey, Brendan Teeling

**In Attendance:** Vera Smyth

**1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The minutes were approved, proposed by Shane DeBlacam, seconded by Maolíosa Boyle.

**2. Matters Arising**

Willie White enquired about the situation regarding Mr Screen by Vincent Brown. The Public Art Manager explained that he was still pursuing the matter of reaching agreement with the Dublin Cinema Group that it be returned to display in the public realm preferably displayed outside a cinema in the City Centre. Councillor Mannix Flynn stated categorically that Dublin City Council had ownership of the statue as this was one of a series of works commissioned to celebrate the Dublin Millennium. The Public Art Manager agreed to write to the Cinema Group in this regard.

**3. Establishment of Dublin Culture Company**

Gerry Kerry raised the issue of why the report by the Chief Executive on the formation of Dublin Culture Company had not been brought before the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group before presentation to the SPC. This viewpoint was also endorsed by Cllr Mannix Flynn. Members of the Advisory Group requested more detailed information about the formation and operation of the company. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group and to invite the Chief Executive to attend.

**4. City Arts Officer Report**

The City Arts Officer gave updates on the Creative Ireland Programme and in particular on the programme with schools. He gave a progress report on the Arts Office Grants Assessment which included external assessors as well City Councillors. He also reported on plans for artists work spaces. Six locations that are not suitable for housing have been proposed by the Housing Department. He also explained how he had hosted a seminar in the LAB on Workplace Harassment in the Arts and about policies to address this issue.

The City Arts Officer also presented the report on the Arts Office activities including the exhibition in the LAB Gallery *Future Proof* which brought together the work of eight artists collaborating with scientists. He also reported on the winter programme for *Children's Art in Libraries* concentrated on two Creative Hubs: Coolock and Ballyfermot. *I Am Baba* a new theatre work for babies ages 0 -12 months, was commissioned under the Exploring and Thinking initiative of the four Dublin Councils.

He also reported that the Arts Office team of Liz Coman, Hugh Fahey and Maura Carty are involved in *Permission to Wonder*, a 3-year project funded by the EU's Erasmus+ programme which aims to support educators from local arts and education communities to test the Visual Thinking Strategies method to enhance learning with visual arts.

## **5. Public Art**

The Public Art Manager presented his report on ongoing commissions under the Public Art Programme.

He also gave verbal updates on the work of the Luke Kelly Working Group and the Liam Mellows Working Group. He also gave an update on progress on the commissioning of the National Monument to mark the role which women played in the foundation of the state, a commission which is being funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Group was informed that BEL, the Environment and Energy Agency in the Brussels-Capital region contacted Dublin City Council to request permission to reproduce photographs of Sven Anderson's sound installation *Continuous Drift* in Meeting House Square and the (as yet) incomplete sound environment in Smithfield as part of BEL EXPO, a permanent exhibition for the general public.

### **Kevin's Street Library Public Art Commission**

Cllr Mannix Flynn requested a report from the Public Art Manager on the process leading to the appointment of artist Alan Phelan for the Kevin Street Library Public Art Commission. The Public Art Manager agreed to provide this without delay.

## **Proposals for Permanent Art**

### **Statuette of Thomas Dudley – 'Bang Bang' by Joey Honan**

Artist and magician Joey Honan made a proposal to the Lord Mayor to commission a bronze statuette of the Dublin character Thomas Dudley known as Bang Bang. Ard-Mhéara Micheál MacDonncha referred the matter to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group for a recommendation.

### **Recommendation**

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group unanimously recommended not to commission the statuette of Thomas Dudley as a life size statue had been rejected in January 2010 on the grounds that not many people remembered 'Bang Bang' any more and that the notion of commemorating 'eccentrics' is not necessarily sensitive to the person'. A further consideration was that there was no obvious context in which the statuette could be displayed and no city collection wished to add this work to their collection.

## **Temporary Decommissioning**

### **A Fallen Bouquet by Thomas Duffy**

This pavement based sculpture on Sackville Place was commissioned in 2004 by Dublin City Council with support from CIÉ. The artwork commemorates those killed and wounded in the two bombings on the street in 1972 and 1973. Dublin City Council is planning public realm improvement works on the street and in addition, planning permission has been granted for a hotel beside the location of the work. It is therefore planned to temporarily remove the artwork and to reinstate it at the same location or very close to it, after the public realm works are complete. The Public Art Manager has met with the artist Thomas Duffy, who is a son of the bus conductor Thomas Duffy who was killed by the 1973 bomb, and a strategy has been agreed in principle that while the work is removed, he will clean and restore the bronze in preparation for the sculpture's reinstatement. The artist will be paid a fee for the work undertaken.

### **Recommendation**

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group unanimously agreed to support the temporary decommissioning of *A Fallen Bouquet* by Thomas Duffy on the terms set out above.

## **6. Dublin Culture Connects Report**

Iseult Byrne presented the Dublin Culture Connects report. It covered the many projects that are being carried out, including Community Engagement programmes, Tea & Chats, Culture Club, Engage the City, The National Neighbourhood, EU Lab, The Cultural Map, Fundraising Fellowship Dublin, Dublin City Council's sections currently planning projects with Dublin's Culture Connects, The National Neighbourhood, Fundraising Fellowship, Culture Night Café, Irish Sign Language Awareness Week workshop, Zeminar, ConneXions, Broom Bridge Mural, The Knowledge Information Exchange Workshop.

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

The Gallery Director reported on projects and events in the gallery including capital works programme, Sheriff Street Project Walk with Light, Eithne Jordan Tableau and The Ocean after Nature exhibitions, Dublin Gallery weekend and Christmas activities.

## **8. Public Libraries**

The report on public libraries reflected statistics for quarter 3 of 2017, new City Library and Parnell Square Cultural Quarter, Commemorations – Historian in residence, Creative Ireland/UNESCO City of Literature, Dublin North Inner City Project, Dublin Festival of History, SWIFT350, Science Week and projects update.

## **9. A.O.B.**

- Next meeting will take place on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall at 9.30 a.m.