



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Approved Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
9.30 a.m. Council Chambers, City Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Richard Shakespeare, Cllr Claire Byrne, Gerry Kerr, Sarah Costigan, Shane DeBlacam, Paula Murphy, Barbara Dawson, Brendan Teeling, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Iseult Byrne, Cllr John Lyons, Cllr Mannix Flynn, Hugh Fahey

**Apologies:** Elaina Ryan, Maolíosa Boyle, Willie White, Ray Yeates, Charles Duggan

**In Attendance:** Vera Smyth

**1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The Minutes were amended to note that Paula Murphy had sent her apologies for the last meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr. Mannix Flynn, seconded by Gerry Kerr.

**2. Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**3. Establishment of Dublin Culture Company**

Assistant Chief Executive Richard Shakespeare made a presentation on the Dublin City Council Culture Company. He informed the meeting about the history of Dublin Culture Connects and the future functions of the new Company.

Cllr. Mannix Flynn expressed his concern about the following:

- The company will be based in Henrietta Street Tenement Museum
- Could create a duplication of activities conducted by other departments/organisations of Dublin City Council
- Budget to provide salaries for up to 30 staff could consume the funds allocated for activities

Gerry Kerry noted that he discussed the issue with Richard Shakespeare at a previous meeting and that many of his concerns have been allayed. He also noted that his understanding was that Dublin City Council Culture Company will create good conditions for its staff and that workers would be protected from issues of deterioration in the labour market. Gerry Kerry also suggested having a Public Partnership Network representation on the company Board.

Richard Shakespeare addressed the comments of Cllr. Mannix Flynn and Gerry Kerr:

- That the branding and name of the company as Dublin City Council Culture Company was to have it overtly identified with the City Council.
- That the policy for the company is being developed in the right direction.
- That he wanted to hold onto the Advisory Group for the Tenement Museum and also the Advisory Group for Dublin Culture Connects

- That the location of the company at the top of Henrietta Street museum would benefit the museum
- That there is an opportunity to work with the libraries and ACAG
- A wish to spend more on events than on the process
- That the Public Partnership Network has a possibility to influence the company work

Cllr. Mannix Flynn noted that a serious consideration and a number of workshops would be required prior to the company creation.

Cllr. Claire Byrne expressed her concerns regarding:

- The source of funding for the company
- Whether there will be a remit to deliver studio spaces
- What is the next step

Richard Shakespeare addressed these concerns:

- Funding will be provided by DCC, Creative Ireland and through sources not available for DCC
- There is no remit to deliver studio spaces
- The next step is to get the best possible outcome for the company guided by specialists

Cllr. Áine Clancy noted that a lot of work had already been done, workshops have been held and suggested to have a meeting with HR and Finance Department to discuss the issues raised at this meeting.

Cllr. Mannix Flynn noted that he was concerned about a rushed decision to establish this company and that he had no confidence in branding.

Cllr. Áine Clancy invited the external experts to share their opinions on the issue. Shane deBlacam noted that the restoration of Henrietta Street had been a significant achievement. Paula Murphy expressed her concern for the company's future beyond 2018 and its ability to last.

#### **Recommendation:**

It was recommended that Richard Shakespeare will meet with Cllr. Mannix Flynn between the SCP and next meeting of the City Council to discuss the concerns and give a feedback.

#### **4. A.O.B.**

- To work out the schedule of meetings for the rest of the year as requested by Paula Murphy.
- Cllr. Mannix Flynn requested that the Public Art Manager report on the Kevin Street library commission to the next meeting of the South East Area Committee.
- Brian Teeling informed the meeting that the Kevin Street library building is back in a possession of the library and the library is planned to open in April 2018.
- Gerry Kerr reported on the Passport for Leisure initiative and how it has evolved. The cultural aspect would be separated from leisure. He expressed an idea of connecting Dublin City Council Culture Company with the cultural side of this initiative.

- Brendan Teeling reported that the Commemorative Name Committee had received an application from the Oriel Gallery to install a plaque dedicated to the painter Markey Robinson on the façade of the gallery and that the Committee had requested the consideration and advice of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group. The criteria for historical plaques were discussed and it was noted that the artist had been born and also died in Belfast and that his connections to Dublin were not as strong as other artists.
- In addition, it was noted that this was still an operating commercial gallery and that Markey Robinson was only one of many artists who exhibited in the gallery and that this could set precedence for a number of plaques been placed on the building. Therefore, it was recommended not to support this proposal for a Dublin City Commemorative Plaque
- Cllr. Mannix Flynn requested a report from the Heritage Officer on the built Heritage of Dublin City Council. It was recommended to include the reports of Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer at the next meeting.
- The next meeting will take place on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2018 in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall at 9.30 a.m.