



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday the 05th of April 2018, 9.30 a.m.
Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall**

Present: Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Ray Yeates, Paula Murphy, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Charles Duggan, Tara Robertson

Apologies: Cllr Claire Byrne, Barbara Dawson, Cllr Rebecca Moynihan, Maolíosa Boyle, Hugh Fahey, Gerry Kerr, Iseult Byrne

In Attendance: Vera Smyth

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 17th January 2018

The minutes were approved.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. City Arts Officer report

The City Arts Officer presented his report. He particularly reported on the Artists Work Spaces and explained that there was a Sub-Group of the SPC established for this purpose. He reported that he was liaising with the Housing and Development Department on this matter and that a number of potential sites had been identified which he and an architect were going to evaluate at the end of April. The Chair noted that there was a lot of space in Ballymun which she thought would be suitable for the development of studios and artists workspaces. She referred to the London experience of ACME, and that such developments could be used to invigorate the area.

The City Arts Officer also reported on attending a conference at Liberty Hall on bullying in the world of theatre.

The City Arts Officer highlighted two exhibitions in the LAB Gallery: *Illusions of Love Dyed by Sunset* by Bassam Al Sabbah and *Forward Slash* by Emma Roche, both exhibitions continue to 3rd of June. In addition, The Dublin City Arts Office team lead a two-day meeting with six European partner organisations on the Erasmus+ programme in Copenhagen. This also included a Visual Thinking Strategies Beginners Practicum for 24 educators. This is an EU funded programme.

MusicTown, a ten-day musical celebration, taking place from April 13th to 22nd, aims to unify the city by making its music relatable and accessible, featuring a host of artists from fields of traditional, folk, classical, rock, visual art and film. Children's Art in Libraries programme provides high quality performances in the libraries.

The City Arts Officer also reported on Crinniú na nÓg – the National Day for Childrens' Culture which is to take place on the 23rd of June. This day is an initiative of Creative Ireland. The aim of the day is to encourage children's participation in cultural activities. A Steering Group has been established by the Assistant Chief Executive with the City Arts Officer, Libraries and Dublin Culture Connects. An open call programming to artists and cultural practitioners for programming activities and ideas and has been announced. The intention for Dublin is that programming will take place across the five city areas.

4. Public Art

The Public Art Manager presented his report. In addition to a discussion on the progress of the Luke Kelly sculpture by Vera Klute and the offer of the seated statue by John Coll, the issue of how and when they should be launched was discussed. It was agreed that the best outcome would be to launch the two sculptures at the same time in order to give them parity of esteem. If possible this would occur in November to coincide with the birth date of Luke Kelly (17th November) and during the proposed new Luke Kelly music festival, an initiative of the North East Inner City Initiative.

The Public Art Manager reported that the Liam Mellow Memorial Committee had agreed to invite four artists to make proposals for the statue of Liam Mellows to be located in Finglas and that the Committee was drafting the artist's brief which would be presented to the next meeting of the Liam Mellows Working Group.

The sculpture *Eyes for You* by artist Eileen MacDonagh, commissioned by Cairn Homes with advice and support from the Dublin City Council's Arts Office and the Parks and Landscape Service has been installed in a new housing scheme Parkside, Belmayne. The artist drew inspiration from the name of a nearby road *Hole in the Wall Road*. The sculpture will be donated to the Dublin City Public Art Collection on handover of the public realm to the City Council.

Proposals for Temporary Art

Three Bears by Patrick O'Reilly

Harry Crosbie has offered on temporary loan to Dublin City Council the sculpture titled *The Three Bears* by Patrick O'Reilly as an interim measure before they are permanently put on display elsewhere. This sculpture used to be located outside the Three Arena (formerly the Point Depot). He has proposed a site in the South Docklands on the Martha Swartz Designed landscape on the 'jetty' extending into the Grand Canal Docks.

Issues

Grand Canal Plaza Management Company, who manage and maintain the plaza have advised that they are not in a position to locate this sculpture in the plaza for the following reasons:

- 1) The section of the 'Red Carpet' which is cantilevered out over the water is required by Waterways Ireland to service boats and other water based activities using Grand Canal Dock.
- 2) The location of such a sculpture may have structural implications on the 'Red Carpet', for which it may not be designed for.
- 3) The siting of such a child-friendly sculpture at the end of the 'Red Carpet' would attract young children to the waters edge, where currently there is no barrier protection, and would have obvious health & safety implications.
- 4) The 'Red Carpet' forms an integral component of Martha Schwartz's design for the plaza which connects the Grand Canal Theatre to the open expanse of water in Grand Canal Dock. The design did not envisage a sculpture or other feature to be located at the end of this 'Carpet', hence the original design intent for the plaza should be respected and retained in its current form.

Recommendation

Based on the information from the Management Company, the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group recommended not to accept the offer of the temporary loan of these artworks.

Care and Maintenance of the Public Art Collection

The Public Art Manager informed the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group that he had not received a response to his letter written in December 2017 to the Dublin Cinema Group regarding the shared ownership and display of the sculpture *Mr Screen* by artist Vincent Browne which used to be on display in the public realm at Hawkins Street / Townsend Street. The Group once again reiterated its belief that the joint ownership of the sculpture be acknowledged by the Dublin Cinema Group and that a commitment be made to return it to the public realm. It was suggested that the Dublin Cinema Group be asked, as an interim measure, to transfer the display from the foyer of the Savoy Cinema to the public realm outside on O'Connell Street. The Public art manager is to examine this possibility.

5. Dublin Culture Connects

The Board of the newly formed Dublin City Council Culture Company held its first meeting in the Tenement Museum in Henrietta Street.

It was noted that the building was brought from a state of near collapse to a museum of a high quality.

6. Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane

Capital works are expected to start in January 2019. Artworks have been moved offsite to facilitate the refurbishment. These storage facilities are of high quality. Sunday concerts will be scaled down and will be held in Sean Scully Room. The full closure of the gallery is expected at some stage during the work.

The five year strategic plan for the Gallery was adopted by the Council in December 2017. Fundraising is an important element of the plan's implementation. A fundraising strategy is currently being devised. A fundraiser and the Board will be involved in the process.

Amanda Dunsmore's exhibition *Keeper* opens on 9th of April. Senator George Mitchell will deliver an address *The Good Friday Agreement: A Personal Reflection* on the same day.

Foundation Project is a series of workshops aimed at 5-7 and 7-10 year olds. It and is an initiative for people using homeless services. The project is funded by Dublin City Council's NEIC Programme Office.

The Fulbright Education Project will see children exploring details in artworks in the collection for primary schools through the five areas of Dublin City Council in 2018.

7. AOB

Proposed dates for the meetings to the end of the year are:

- Wednesday the 30th of May in the Tenement Museum, Henrietta Street, at 9.00 a.m.
- Monday the 3rd of September in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall at 9.30 a.m.
- Tuesday the 16th of October in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall at 9.30 a.m.