



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 25th February 2019, 9.30 a.m.
Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall, Dublin 1**

Present: Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Gerry Kerr, Barbara Dawson, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Paula Murphy, Brendan Teeling, Charles Duggan, Shane de Blacam, Willie White, Elaina Ryan, Sarah Costigan, Maolíosa Boyle,

Apologies: Cllr Claire Byrne, Cllr John Lyons, Ray Yeates,

In Attendance: Maura Carty, Paula Farrell

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 3rd September 2018

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. City Arts Officer report

The Public Art Officer presented the City Arts Officer report on his behalf. The meeting was given an update on the success of the first round of URDF Category B Application for Artists Workspaces and the strategy for the next phase. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Arts Council and Dublin City Council (Planning and Arts Office) will be invited to be the Governance Structure for the new URDF Application. The meeting was also informed of the Lab Gallery exhibition by Marielle MacLeman, the EU /Erasmus 'Permission to Wonder' Visual Thinking Strategies project in visual arts in education taking place across Europe with five other partners. He also reported on strategic reviews and development which the Arts Office is supporting in St Agnes' Community Centre for Music and the Arts, Phizzfest, Ranelagh Arts Centre and Finglas. Music Town taking place from the 5th – 21st April was highlighted. The Call for Expressions of Interest to Manage St Stephen's Church (also known as the Pepper Canister Church) was the subject of comment from members of the Group with regard to the architectural importance of the Church and that it was on the Record of Protected Structures. It was advised that the Architecture Conservation Officer be consulted on any plans for changes to the church or church furniture which might be proposed.

4. Public Art

The Public Art Officer presented his report. The success of the launch of the two Luke Kelly sculptures and the concert in Liberty Hall on the 30th of January was acknowledged. He gave updates on ongoing commissions including the LBGTQI commission, An Urgent Enquiry (Art and Biodiversity with Wexford and Fingal County Councils) the Liam Mellows Statue, *Dublne Public Art Commission* and the documentation of *Voices of Memory* by

Christina Kubisch. Members of the Group raised concern about the proposal to commission a statue of Countess Markievicz (voted through by Dublin City Council) in terms of the challenges of placing a new statue on O'Connell Street, the fact that there is already a statue and two busts of Countess Markievicz in Dublin, and why this one figure was chosen to epitomise the women involved in the struggle for independence.

Proposal for Permanent Art

The proposal from Angel Ricardo Dente for a Peace Sculpture in Dublin was reviewed by the Arts and Sculpture Advisory Group who unanimously agreed not to recommend the acceptance of this proposal as there were policies and procedures in place for the commissioning of new work and that this proposal did not adhere to them.

Decommissioning

The proposal by DHB Architects working on behalf of Dublin City Council to relocate the sculpture *Meeting Place* by artist Jackie McKenna to a nearby location on Liffey Street was supported subject to the recommendations below.

Recommendation

It was recommended to support the proposal to temporarily move *Meeting Place* by Jackie McKenna into safe storage and to re-locate it on Liffey Street as proposed in the attached plan. This temporary decommissioning should only be undertaken in consultation with the Public Art Officer and should adhere to best practice standards. A condition of this should be that the opportunity will be used to clean and conserve the artwork in consultation with the artist, Jackie McKenna.

Public Art Collection

The Group welcomed the work to place the Public Art Collection on the TMS cataloguing system and extolled the potential for public access to the online catalogue when completed.

5 City Libraries Report

The Acting City Librarian informed the group that the City Council was expecting a planning decision on the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter in May and that An Bord Pleanála would not be holding an Oral Hearing. He presented his report particularly highlighting the fact that the *Players Theatre Archives* founded by Ernie O'Malley and Helen Hooker had been donated to the City Archives and the History in Residence Programme and that the local history book *On Your Doorstep* was being re-printed due to popular demand. He also reported on the Unesco City of Literature, Music in Residence (Central Library), and *Getting Citizens Online* and the exhibitions programme in Pearse Street Library and the Central Library.

6 Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane Report

The Director of the Hugh Lane Gallery presented her report. She explained that much of the work in the Gallery was focusing on the imminent refurbishment of the 1930s galleries and that this had involved removing many artworks and placing on display highlights from the collection in the new galleries. Visitor numbers in 2018 had risen slightly on those from 2017. She highlighted the *Zoom@* project which sees children from 26 schools across with the five administrative areas in the city taking part in artist-led workshops. Members of the Group expressed particular support and interest in this project. She also highlighted the Mark Dion exhibition which is opening in April 2019 to coincide with the UNESCO EoroMab (Man and Biosphere) conference being hosted by Dublin City Council Parks and Landscape Services. Gerry Kerr raised the issue of the name of the gallery and the Director explained that the Board was seeking expert advice on this matter but that many people knew the gallery as the Hugh Lane Gallery.

AOB

There was a request that Dublin City Council Culture Company submit a report to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group and attend meetings in the future. Willie White specifically wanted to highlight the work of Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer in producing the second volume of *More Than Concrete Blocks*.