



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Notes of Meeting held on Monday 31st August 2020, 9.30 a.m.
Zoom Call**

Present: Ray Yeates, Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll; Cllr. Claire Byrne, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Sunil Sharpe, Adekunle Gomez, Ross Keane. Willie White, Ciaran Taylor, Logan Sisley

Apologies: Tony Flynn, Cllr Lawrence Hemmings, Barbara Dawson, Brendan Teeling

In Attendance: Maura Carty

Chair: Cllr Cat O' Driscoll

Minutes of previous meeting held on 9th March, 2020

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Appointment of External Expertise to ACAG

Ray Yeates pointed out that within according to Standing Orders external expertise can be sought if certain Arts Form experience is required

Nominations from the Arts Office to be considered at the next meeting.

Review of Arts Grants

Discussion took place around Arts Grants report. Cllr Keane commentated that he was happy Revenue Grants are now proposed to be open to other applicants

Reassurance was also given that funding would not only be for Bursary applicants. The Project Grants will now be for 50% Bursaries (developmental work) and 50% for presentation of actual work (albeit with a developmental purpose). It was also requested if Arts Grants applications could be aligned with Arts Councils application timing to make it easier for applicants. Consultation with Arts community welcomed.

Discussion that increasing the lower thresholds for Grants helps put pressure for Arts Grants Budget to go up. Any increase in funds has would be by City Council as Arts Grants are a reserved function of the council.

Willie White asked what is the mechanism now needed to get the Arts Grants increase. Chair said she will contact the people preparing budget and request the increase.

Report to be presented at next SPC.

Dublin City Council Partnership Agreement with The Arts Council

DCC & Arts Council Partnership Agreement.

While Arts Council funding to DCC Arts Office is relatively small, Arts Council contribution to the Arts in Dublin is very significant €30 million.

DCC (CRES Dept) Arts Revenue funding approx. €8 million, while DCC's Capital investment in Arts infrastructure buildings etc. brings DCC Arts funding on a par to that of Arts Council.

Arts Office believes this is a new opportunity for all of City Council particularly CRES to have a relationship with Arts Council.

Draft framework to be prepared.

Presentation of this to be made at next SPC.

City Arts Officer Report

Discussion took place around the report. Ray said a strategic approach is needed as the future is partnership with local government and the Arts Council. Attention was given to the world city forum questions.

The debate then moved on to DCC's Development Plan.

Sunil Sharpe enquired if we can develop a policy to protect venues. In order for them to survive we need to help them become self-sustainable type co-operatives models as seeing in other countries.

Cllr Byrne noted the possibly of vacant spaces becoming available for artists and if we should set up a Covid response group.

Ray stated need to start thinking about other ways of doing things Artists already coming up with great ideas, for example Fringe Festival, posting out packets of seeds and how local areas, such as Ranelagh, doing better.

Cllr Keane said city centre is very quiet and DCC needs to have a broader sphere to manage the capital city due to its strategic importance.

Discussion took place around the night time economy / night time mayor.

Cllr Byrne & Sunil to join Economic SPC Group on Nighttime Economy.

Sunil said that night time economy task force 6 x months duration is a long time, also he was surprised they are on the Economic SPC.

Cllr Byrne noted Economic SPC is responsible for night time markets and Dublin Town.

Willie White asked how can we get arts policy actions into the Development Plan. That the Arts community should not be too passive if we look to numbers in Supermarkets & schools that are allowed during pandemic why not in theatres

From the above discussion the Chair suggested the following actions:

- (i) Invite someone who is putting together the development plan to the next ACAG
- (ii) Engage with night time economy work
- (iii) Follow up on Night time Mayor
- (iv) Chair to follow up on any DCC Budget Developments for 2021.
- (v) Chair to bring up the idea of Cultural Covid response group at SPC

Acquisitions Policy for DCC

Discussion took place around the report. Everyone agreed this made absolute sense.

Logan Sisley requested that Hugh Lane's own acquisition policy on this be cross referenced with this one.

Draft policy to be shown to ACAG.

Public Art Report

Discussion took place around the report.

Ruairí Ó Cuív pointed out the below 3 x main things:

1. Public & communities more involved
2. Increased Art Sector involvement
3. Partnerships with other agencies

Discussion took place around diversity and working with immigrant community and people in direct provision.

ACAG supported the proposed Timothy Schmalz sculpture.

New Public Art Programme recommended to SPC.

City Libraries Report

Report noted.

Hugh Lane Report

Discussion took place on report.

Logan said dramatic increase in online Gallery activity, which still helps to give some employment to Arts Sector.

The next exhibition will be at the end of September 2020.

A.O.B

Luke Kelly statue to have flood light.

Actions

The Chair to talk to Budget Groups and people working on Development Plan and possibility of future Cultural Covid-19 Action Group.

Members to forward their suggestions for this. Ray pointed out that Action plan cannot have unintended consequences.

Discussion took place re best practice abroad. New York was mentioned and Sunil will communicate with the New York representative.

A request that Simon Clarke from the Events unit could attend next ACAG Meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

ACAG 9th November 2020.

Development Plan Meeting 5th October. Ray will check with the 2 Planners.

Cllr Cat O'Driscoll
Chairperson