



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

Present: Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll; Cllr. Dearbhail Butler; Cllr. Deirdre Heney; Cllr. Hazel Norton; Ray Yeates; Ruairí Ó Cuív; Sinead Connolly; Deirdre Scully; Charles Duggan; Michael Dempsey; Ruth McGowan; Ross Keane; Willie White; Ciaran Taylor; Sunil Sharpe; John Davison & Seamus Donohoe (Turley Strategic Communications).

Apologies: Anthony Flynn

In Attendance: Paula Farrell

Chair: Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll

Minutes of previous meeting held on 5th November 2021 were approved.

Matters Arising: None.

Presentation: A Presentation was made by Deirdre Scully – Deputy City Planner on the Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2022 -2028) with particular reference to Chapter 12: Culture. The closing date for submissions to the Draft Development Plan is 14th February 2022.

Following this presentation questions and comments were sought from the ACAG members. A discussion followed regarding the gap between the influence of the Development Plan and the implementation and preservation of cultural infrastructure in the city centre. Concerns were expressed about it being an aspirational document which looked to other stakeholders to provide venues in the city. Sunil Sharpe enquired about the success or otherwise of the 2016 – 2022 City Development Plan in terms of the implementation of its goals. Deirdre Scully clarified that the City Development Plan informs development management but, the capital programme and strategy of the Council is a separate matter. The Development Plan addresses how land is generated and it provides the legal background and statutory context for how development of the city is managed and shaped by both public and private investment.

Presentation: John Davison – from Turley Strategic Communications gave a presentation on the Background paper to the Culture Chapter – Dublin City Cultural Infrastructure Study.

The report and presentation was welcomed by members of the Group. Ray Yeates informed the meeting that the Artists Work Spaces Group was being reconvened. A wide ranging discussion took place regarding the provision of arts infrastructure across the city. This included a specific debate about the requirement for theatre and music venues in the city. The issue of multipurpose venues along Danish Kulture House Model was also cited. The idea of the Developers Tool Kit which is to enable better designed and mores successful translation from planning conditions to good arts infrastructure was also discussed. Ruth McGowan referenced the changing relationships of people in the city and the need to

reimagining it as a destination place and asked if the use of Pop Up spaces and temporary venues could be accelerated to accommodate this prospect. Willie White enquired if it would be possible for the members of the ACAG representing cultural sectors to communicate directly with City Council executives in the form of a CEO Forum about the new City Arts Plan, the Council's arts infrastructure policy. Sunil Sharpe asked why Night Clubs were not referred to in the Development Plan and reiterated the need for a variety of spaces to made be available to accommodate the Night Time Economy.

Motion by Sunil Sharpe

For this SPC to establish clear definitions for a cultural space, with the agreement of relevant government departments and stakeholders, in liaison with council management and planners. By identifying what a cultural space is, this will lead to a specific inclusion in the City Development Plan, protecting existing buildings of merit and enabling the creation of more cultural spaces in the new built environment. To be completed in advance of our first SPC meeting in 2022."

Cllr Cat. O'Driscoll enquired if the definition of cultural infrastructure as outlined in the Draft Plan was acceptable to the ACAG members. It was agreed that definition of use of space can be looked at in further meetings where the idea of 'soft' infrastructure and protecting the use of buildings will be discussed.

Cllr. O' Driscoll noted receipt of the ACAG Reports by all ACAG members.

The Arts Office Report

Review of Arts Grants (2022) which was conducted by a subcommittee of Elected Members met on December 14th 2021. Councillors have through their participation in the Subcommittee made observations and requests in this year's Report. The recommendations of the City Arts Officer for Arts Grants 2022 was accepted at the January meeting of Dublin City Council with a request by the Subcommittee for a comprehensive review of Arts Grants focusing on the following questions.

1. Are the available resources being allocated where they will have greatest impact?
2. How can there be a greater citywide distribution of Arts Grants?

The City Arts Office is proceeding to the Review of Arts Grants requested and will consult with Artists, Arts Organisations and Communities in each Administrative Area to discuss their views and input into the Review and the direction of research. Interim findings to be presented at the June 2022 ACAG and SPC with recommendations to be implemented in whole or part as appropriate for Arts Grants 2023 by approval at ACAG, SPC and the September meeting of Dublin City Council. If delay is encountered this timetable to be adjusted by Agreement in June 2022. It is expected that a new emphasis on geographic distribution and impact will lead to an increase in the resources allocated to this funding scheme in 2023.

- **Sing a Song of Docklands** - Dublin City Council, through the City Arts Office and supported by Creative Ireland, are in the process of commissioning musicians, composers and writers living or working in Docklands to co-write a song with people living or working in their locality that celebrates the Docklands areas of Irishtown and Ringsend; Grand Canal Docks/ Pearse Street/ City Quay; Sheriff Street/North Wall and East Wall. The final awards are expected to be announced in March 2022 with the final songs presented in May 2022.
- **North Central Administrative Area Projects in 2022: - Creative Places** - With support from the Arts Office, the Area Office and local organisations with Elected Members, Sphere 17 secured 150k per year for three years from the Arts Council to build a programme of Arts Practice and Participation in Darndale.

- **Turley/Thrive Research - Arts Council Partnership Funding for research into the Arts:** The Arts Council and the Dublin City Council signed a partnership agreement through the LGMA in 2021. Through this initiative the Arts Office has proposed to the Arts Council that the Arts provision and engagement in the North Central Area be studied professionally with a view to identifying areas of strength, deficit and development both in soft infrastructure (People and organisations) and hard infrastructure (buildings and facilities). The Arts Office and Axis Ballymun have engaged Turley Research.
- **A NEW PUBLICATION** on the first female councillor for Dublin Corporation, Sarah Cecelia Harrison (Ed. Margarita Cappock), a collaboration with Dublin City Libraries, is due for publication in February 2022
- **Creative Climate Action Crumlin** – The Climate Action Coordinator Dublin City Council in collaboration with The Dublin Regional Climate Action Resource Office (CARO), Artists Aoife Raleigh and Niamh Shaw and The Clean Up Crumlin group of volunteers made a successful application to Creative Ireland under the Local Authority closed call for Creative Climate Action Funding.
- **Creative Hubs** – is an initiative of Dublin City Arts Office and City Libraries which sustains high quality arts experiences for children, schools and families to access in their Library and locality. 2022 brings the second year of an Early Years (2 – 4 age) programming and development partnership with The Ark informed by local consultation along with regular public and school programming for children in 5- 12 age group.
- **Cultural Infrastructure** - In 2022 work will begin on devising a Cultural Infrastructure Policy and associated Toolkit to guide future development and address areas of infrastructural deficit in the city.
- **Erasmus+ ‘Looking to Understand Inclusion’** - Dublin City Arts Office began its second European Union funded project with five European partners on 15th November 2021. “Looking to Understand Inclusion” is a 2-year project funded through the European Union’s Erasmus+ programme which aims to support educators from local arts and education communities to use the Visual Thinking Strategies method to promote social inclusion with children and young people.
- **Creative Ireland: Cruinniú na nÓg 2022** – Dublin City Council will be part of Cruinniú na nÓg taking place on Saturday, 11th June at which work across all art-forms through online and live activities, performances, developmental workshops or creative projects for/by young people aged 0-18 in Dublin. The Arts Office will have an Open Call looking for innovative ideas and projects for the day.
- **Faoin Speir:** The Residents Associations of Rockfield Park with the support of Elected Members and the Area Office along with local professional Artists and curators secured 70K in 2021 to build a community Arts fete in 2022. Consultation continues with local groups and there are plans to have a joint event with Creative Places as part of the fete summer 2022.
- **Artane Place (formerly Butterly Park)** – Following an Open day for Artists and Arts Organisations at the Artists Workspaces in Artane Place, 19 applications were received. A panel made up of local representatives, Xestra Management and the Arts Office will assess the applications by the end of January 2022. A further 10 spaces are being explored with Xestra Management.
- **Dublin Lunar New Year** of the Tiger, returns for its 14th edition in 2022. This year’s programme, from 28th January – 6th February, features a mix of in-person and online events. Buildings across Dublin will be lit up red to mark the occasion.
- **The Lab Gallery 2022** - Rory Tanquey the winner of the **Experiment Award at the LAB Gallery** is creating an exhibition of new work to be showcased at the LAB in February 2022. This initiative supports sculpture as an art practice and represents a significant investment in an emerging artist in the City. **Michelle Malone** a recent graduate of TU Dublin will present an autobiographical narrative of growing up in a variety of socioeconomically disadvantaged urban areas, mainly Oliver Bond Flats in Dublin’s inner city.

- **Living Canvas** an outdoor digital art project aimed at showcasing the work of Irish and international artist. The project has been developed by IPUT Real Estate in partnership with Dublin City Council with curatorial support from the LAB Gallery, the RHA Gallery and MoLI. February 2022 will see the launch of the first major commission developed for the screen by artist Aoife Dunne.

Public Art

Proposals for Permanent Art – a proposal by Noreen Quinn that Dublin City Council commission a sculpture of a two headed wolf for Dublin city centre was discussed. The Group unanimously agreed not to support this proposal as while worthy it did not have strong enough connections with Dublin City.

Dublin City Public Art Programme

- **Strand 1 – Public:** Development of Strand 1 has continued since the launch of the Public Art Programme in July 2021. The next step is to devise a call to local areas to propose their consideration for the location of a Citizen Commissioners pilot project.
- **Strand 2 – Art:** Thirty six proposals were received under Strand 2. Three artists / teams have been short-listed for stage two of this commissioning process. The deadline for proposals is on the 24th of February.
- **Strand 3 – City - Dublin Docklands Light Commission:** The City Arts Office and Dublin Docklands are working on commissioning a permanent light installation for City Quay with funding from Fáilte Ireland. The open call two stage competition is nearing completion.
- **Temple Bar Square** - In December 2021, Dublin City Council Engineering and Environment Department allocated €23,000 to commission a permanent artwork as part of the redesign of Temple Bar Square. The selection of the artist will be made by a panel of City Councillors from Temple Bar Cultural Trust, City Officials from the Engineering and Environment Department and City Arts Office, and one external art expert.
- **Public Art Collection - *In the Footsteps of Leopold Bloom*:** A plaque from the series *In the Footsteps of Leopold Bloom* by Robin Buick which was removed from the public realm without permission has been returned to Dublin City Council.

Hugh Lane Report:

- **Collections:** Joseph Beuys: From The Secret Block to Rosc display marking the centenary of the German artist has been extended to 24 April 2022
- **Studio and State:** The Laverys and the Anglo-Irish Treaty exhibition continues at Collins Barracks, until November 2022.
- **Conservation: Heritage Council Conservation Internship Programme** The Conservation Department joined the 2021-2022 Heritage Council Conservation Internship. The Department is also undertaking a Condition Survey of the paintings and sculptures in the permanent collection.
- **Hugh Lane Gallery and Create Socially engaged / collaborative arts commission 2022-23** will partner on a significant socially engaged / collaborative arts commission with a particular focus on cultural diversity.
- **Hugh Lane Gallery City-wide project with primary schools Zoom@HughLaneGallery:** In 2021, 14 primary schools and 319 children engaged with the project. Of these 14 schools 11 were DEIS designated disadvantaged schools. Initiated in December 2018, the participating schools are located throughout the five administrative areas of Dublin City Council.
- The Gallery hosts a series of **Study Mornings and Programmes of Talks and Arts Appreciation courses** and **Programmes for families** which includes Sunday Sketching weekly sketching artist-led sessions and the Dublin Lunar New Year and an **Online Audio Description for people with a visual impairment.**

AOB:

The date of the next ACAG meetings was confirmed as taking place on Monday 25th April.