



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Notes of Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 9.30 a.m.  
Zoom Call**

**Present:** Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll; Cllr. Patricia Roe, Ray Yeates; Ruairí Ó Cuív; Tadhg Kenehan; Adekunle Gomez; Michael Dempsey; Ruth McGowan; Ross Keane; Willie White; Sunil Sharpe;

**Apologies:** Cllr. Dearbhail Butler, Cllr. Claire Byrne, Tony Flynn, Ciaran Taylor.

**In Attendance:** Paula Farrell

**Chair:** Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll

**Minutes of previous meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 were approved.**

**Matters Arising:** Willie White asked for an update on the Eden and Film Base sites in Temple Bar.

Receipt of the Hugh land Gallery report was noted. The Libraries report was not received.

**The Arts Office Report:**

Ray Yeates updated the group on the work of the Artist Workspace Committee, a subcommittee of the SPC. The minutes of the recent Artists Workspace Committee meeting will be distributed to the Group.

- **Turley/Thrive Research - Arts Council Partnership Funding for research into the Arts:** The research and development focus on the North Central Area with Turley and Thrive has reached the midway point. The next phase of the research will see Thrive host focus groups in the NCA with local groups. The Arts Office will review the report with a view to replicating it in other administrative areas. The aim is to further enhance the strategic partnership between Dublin City Council and the Arts Council.
- **Faoin Spéir - 5 Residents' associations' in the Rockfield Park area have invited artists to inspire local people to collaborate and create a fete showcasing the creativity of the area.** Following a successful funding application in 2021, programme curators Louise Osborne and Gary Keegan have been working with local communities to develop an outdoor showcase. Performances and screenings will be programmed throughout the day on 18<sup>th</sup> June in Rockfield Park.
- **Dublin City Local Live Performance Scheme 3 – May/June 2022:** Dublin City Council has recently concluded an open call process under Dublin City's Local Live Performance Programme 3, funded by the Department of TCAGSM. Events will take place during May and June, both indoors and outdoors, across the city. 25 producers will receive support through the scheme.
- **Smithfield Fleadh -** The LLPS (3) scheme has also enabled the Arts Office to partner with Dublin City Events unit to initiate a new **Smithfield Fleadh**. This free week-end family event will be held on June 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> in Smithfield Square. It is hoped that this celebration of traditional performance will be a pilot for future programming in the Square.

- **International Literature Festival Dublin** - recently announced the full line-up of events for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition which will run from 19-29 May. The new festival home will be a Literary Village which will be set up in Merrion Square Park. The festival will present a programme of over 150 events featuring a diverse mix of 175 authors, creatives, and performers from over 30 countries.
- **Musictown 2022 May 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**: This year's sees an eclectic mix of musical styles and experiences for a family-friendly event of storytelling and music making.
- **Sing a Song of Docklands** - The City Arts Office, supported by Creative Ireland, are in the process of commissioning musicians, composers and writers living or working in Docklands to co-write a song that celebrates their neighbourhood. Following two rounds of an open application process artists and community organisations have been successful for East Wall and Sheriff Street/ North Wall. Each area will ultimately perform collectively in an event proposed for October 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 under the guidance of artistic Director Muirne Bloomer. The Arts Office is currently supporting the Artistic Director to develop an evaluation strategy for the 3 year Creative Places Darndale initiative and generate plans for sustainability.
- **Artane Place** (formerly Butterly Park): Over 45 people attended two open days for 10 more units in Artane Place that have been negotiated between Xestra and the Arts Office. It is expected that at least 10 artists and/or collectives will occupy these units. The process is expected to be completed by August 2022.

### **Public Art**

#### **Proposals for Permanent Art: Dartmouth Square Public Sculpture:**

- The Upper Leeson Street Area Residents Association (ULSARA) has approached Dublin City Council with an offer by Carmencita Hederman, former Lord Mayor of Dublin, to provide funding towards a sculpture in Dartmouth Square Park to celebrate the life of Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) who lived on Leeson Street as a boy. The Embassy of Japan have expressed an interest to participate in the project. In accordance with the Dublin City Council public art procedures, approval was sought from the ACAG to proceed with this commission in partnership with ULSARA. It was unanimously agreed to support this proposal.
- **Dublin City Public Art Programme: Strand 2 – Art**: Thirty six proposals were received under Strand 2 open-call. Three artists' proposals were short-listed for stage two of this commissioning process. The final selection panel met on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April and agreed by consensus that none of the proposals was ready for commissioning. The artists will be offered a fee to undertake Research and Development to see if they can address unresolved issues relating to their proposals. The selection panel will convene to assess the reports provided by the artists.  
**Strand 3 – City - Dublin Docklands Light Commission**: The Arts Office and Dublin Docklands with funding from Fáilte Ireland, are working on commissioning a permanent light installation for City Quay. The selection panel open call two stage competition selected a proposal titled *Pulse* by artist Alva Gallagher. Dublin City Council has been liaising with the artist and her technical team to undertake site investigations so that the final proposal can be signed off on and contracts agreed. It is intended that the installation will be in place by the end of December, 2022.
- **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 panel including City Councillors from the Temple Bar Cultural Trust, City Officials from the Engineering and Environment Department and Arts Office and one external art expert selected visual artist Isabel Nolan. This commission will be integrated into the design and construction of the new square.

- **Portrait of Kathleen Clarke** - The commissioned artist Gareth Reid is working on the portrait of Kathleen Clarke. Quotations have been sought to install the work in the Council Chamber in time for the official launch on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2022, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kathleen Clarke's death. Dublin City Council is commissioning a film documentary about the portrait commission.
- **Monument to the Women of the Revolutionary Decade** - The Working Group established to oversee the commissioning of the new monument to the Women of the Revolutionary Decade (1913-1923) is meeting every six weeks to oversee the project to commission a monument for O'Connell Street. Work is ongoing in defining the brief for what will be an open call competition for this significant commission.
- **Art Collection in the Civic Offices** - Facilities Management engaged professional art auctioneers to undertake a valuation of all the artworks on display in the Civic Offices. This valuation has been completed.

### Hugh Lane Gallery Report:

Michael Dempsey reported that visitor numbers to the Gallery have been growing steadily since reopening. The total figures for March was **11,923**, which is **82%** of pre-Covid visitor numbers. Q1 visitor numbers were 27,358.

- **Collections: - Studio and State: The Laverys and the Anglo-Irish Treaty**, continues at Collins Barracks to November 2022. The gallery's collection of portraits of Treaty signatories from the centrepiece of the exhibition alongside historic objects and documents from the NMI collections
- **Corot and Constable: Landscape Pioneers:** This display celebrates the return of *Avignon from the West* (pictured) by Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, which is one of the paintings from the Sir Hugh Lane Bequest shared with the National Gallery, London. **Patrick Graham** - one of Ireland's most respected contemporary painters continues until 10th July 2022
- **Forthcoming Exhibitions: Re-Discover Eva Gonzales - 1<sup>st</sup> June-18<sup>th</sup> September 2022.** This is the first joint exhibition organised by the National Gallery London and HLG as a result of the new Sir Hugh Lane Bequest Agreement (February 2021).
- **Education: Partnership with Mother Tongues** - Is a new pilot cultural mediation programme in partnership with Mother Tongues. This collaborative project is facilitated by artist Nasrin Golden and Cultural Mediator Siber Habib.
- **Portrait of a Nation: Art, Politics and the Anglo-Irish Treaty** - is a significant conference organised jointly by the education departments of the Hugh Lane Gallery and the National Museum of Ireland and aims to explore the intersection between art and politics in the context of the birth of the new Irish state.
- **NEIC Try it Out!** – a programme of discussions about sketching, art and printmaking as part in collaboration with the NEIC. Children from St Lawrence O'Toole and Gardiner Street primary schools are visiting the gallery and participating in artist-led workshops exploring artworks in the Gallery's collection.
- **Art and the Outdoors: Photography and Urban Living Landscapes:** Led by artist Helena Gouveia Monteiro, this is a project of practical art classes with students from St Beneavin's, Finglas; Youthreach, Parnell Square; as well as adults from the CDETB
- **Bloomsday** - Artist Amanda Coogan is performing a new work which will be performed by the artist at the Hugh Lane Gallery on Bloomsday 16 June.
- **Hugh Lane Gallery and Create Socially engaged / collaborative arts commission** - In 2022-24 the Hugh Lane Gallery's education department and *Create*, are partnering on a socially engaged / collaborative arts commission focusing on cultural diversity. A call out for this commission will take place in May 2022.
- **Upcoming programmes:** In addition, upcoming programmes include Drawing Day, Cruinniú na nÓg, *Re-discover Eva Gonzales*, Summer camps for children and teenagers, Summer School, adult education, art talks and art appreciation courses.

With regard to the enquiry from WW about Eden and Filmbase, RY confirmed that Temple Bar Cultural Trust has taken on the 'meanwhile' or temporary use of these premises. Eden is currently not in a good state of repair and will need substantial refurbishment. It is hoped that following its renovation an open day will be held and applications sought with a view to it being used in the short-term as an artistic space. Meanwhile use can be availed of for 6 months however with regard to its long term use, capital funding will be required for its conversion in to longer term use which is envisaged to be in place by the end of 2023.

Film Base was confirmed as being in a good state of repair. It is a large, clean space which also has office spaces on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. An Open Day will be held by the end of June with a view to having a first round of applications to be assessed by an independent panel. This would be followed by a second round of applications with a view to the building being licenced to use for 1 year initially an up to 3 years potentially. This space can be used as an artistic hub or head office. All potential artistic uses will be considered by the panel.

WW was pleased with the progress reported on both Eden and Filmbase and enquired as to whom the contact person in TBCT is going forward. Ray confirmed that John Bourke and Richard Shakespeare are the contact points for TBCT. In response to a question by Adekunle Gomez about the Crown Alley premises on Fleet Street, WW confirmed that this building is in use and is owned by Eir. WW also welcomed the recent tender announcement for the feasibility study of a 500 seat venue in Dublin city and added that the process for the Chatam Row building should have been a public one.

Sunil Sharpe noted that the process of instigating Meanwhile use was lengthy. He enquired what process the College of Music went through and if this could be replicated for other organisations too. Ray confirmed that this building did not fall under the remit of the Arts Office or Dublin City Council and he was not aware of the process around its use. SS asked if the City Council could purchase permanent sound technology for use in Meeting House Square Temple Bar. RY confirmed that this request can be tabled.

Cllr. Roe welcomed the update on Eden and Film Base asking what time frame is envisaged for the completion of Eden and suggested that the process involved in the creation of temporary and longer term use for these premises could act as a template going forward. RY confirmed that the exact date for the completion of Eden was dependent on the how soon the maintenance issues being carried out by TBCT were complete. The aim is for it to be cleaned out by the end of June with a view to it ultimately being used as a well-managed arts space. It would be desirable for a co-design process to be utilised with tenants of Temple Bar in terms of its long term use.

Ross Keane spoke about the barriers that are contributing to preventing people from visiting Temple Bar the city centre such as anti-social behaviour, the lack of suitable venues and vacant buildings. He suggested that Meeting House Square needs a dedicated manager and that the time to tackle the problems related to the site is now, reiterating that the city is in trouble culturally. With regard to the use of Film Base he asked if the process would be transparent or if, following the application process, the City Council could offer the building to another party. RY confirmed that as a city official he is putting a process for the use of Film Base in place. If however he received instruction to change course on this he would be obliged to carry out it out and would report any such development to the ACAG. He hopes that a proposal for its use would be in by end of summer 2022. A solution based collaborative approach to fulfilling the goal of it being up and running by 2023 is desirable.

With regard to the Bridgefoot street site, RY confirmed that the feasibility study had been completed. Capital funding will now be sought. It remains a city owned building. A co-design process will get underway between artists and local residents for the design of the site and a manager will be sought to execute the project in due course.

Ruth McGowan spoke of the needs of the city and of artists and the urgency with which these needs should be addressed. She enquired if a framework for the temporary use (in the form of Pop-Up shops at a weekly rate) of buildings before its Meanwhile use is confirmed could be created. RY confirmed he would support this concept and asked that Ruth make a proposal in this regard to Mary Conway in the Planning Office. Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that she will also bring a motion for a framework for temporary use of buildings to the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. WW confirmed that he can also do this. Cllr. O'Driscoll also said that she would talk to Cllr. Clare Byrne who sits on the TBCT with a view to looking at the city as a whole.

In respect of an enquiry from WW about occasional non-commercial use of the Round Room in the Mansion House, RY confirmed that it was not possible as the space has been tendered out to a commercial operator with the oversight of the city. WW can follow this up with Tony Flynn should more information on it be required. Tadhg Kenehan also suggested that contact can be made with the Lord Mayor's office regarding the dates it has been allocated for its own use of the room.

Following an enquiry from Adekunle Gomez asking if Health & Safety and liability were part of the problems relating to numbers of vacant buildings in the city, Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that there were a myriad of obstacles and challenges relating to housing / vacant buildings and confirmed that a list of vacant buildings as well as the possible 'meanwhile' Meanwhile use of buildings will be looked at in upcoming ACAG meetings.

SS called for a more pro-active approach from the City Council regarding vacant buildings and also for an online resource for the public to use to report vacant buildings to be established saying that the ACAG should have access to a list of all vacant buildings in the city. He asked what had been achieved in this regard so far and called that a fast-track approach with deadlines in place be created in order to speed up the process. SS called for a cultural leader in the city in order that there be someone to report back to on this matter. He questioned what he sees as a conflict of interest of the head of the CRES section with the Planning and Properties section of the City Council.

In answer to questions from SS, RY said that some derelict buildings in the city are in private ownership. RY confirmed that the Parnell Square site development was under the remit of the Libraries. Mairead Owen and Brendan Teeling can be contacted for more information on this project. He also confirmed that Eden House on Eden Quay has been purchased by the Abbey Theatre as part of the development of the National Theatre. Cllr. Roe said that the vacant site register is not full and that current legislation is not strong enough to have a robust vacant site register. Referring to a motion tabled regarding the artist's studio spaces on Richmond Road, Cllr. Roe confirmed that it was unsuccessful.

**AOB:**

Cllr. O'Driscoll tabled a motion for discussion at the next ACAG in relation to the use of the cultural data of the city. Dublin City Culture Company have conducted a cultural audit of the city that fed in to the City Development Plan. This audit provides rich cultural data that can be used by other sections of the City Council. Cllr. O'Driscoll also referred to a presentation on cultural infrastructure and vacant buildings that was presented to the City Councillors. The Councillor will bring the presentation to the attention of the ACAG members as soon as possible.

A proposal has been made by City Councillors in relation to the use of retail establishments / sites on O'Connell Street. The current rules are in place since 2003 and require updating. Feedback will be sought from the public on the Dublin City Council online Hub. This will be circulated to members of the ACAG.

With regard to the arrangement of Council meetings going forward, Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that a hybrid model is planned for but is not yet up and running. Meetings will move to face to face when the hybrid model is confirmed. This also pertains to the meetings of the SPC's.

The date of the next ACAG meetings was confirmed as taking place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.