



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Notes of Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022, 9.30 a.m.**

Zoom Call

Present: Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll; Ray Yeates; Ruairí Ó Cuív; Adekunle Gomez; Michael Dempsey; Willie White; Sunil Sharpe;

Apologies: Cllr. Claire Byrne, Tony Flynn, Ruth McGowan, Ross Keane.

In Attendance: Paula Farrell

Chair: Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll

Minutes of previous meeting held on 25th April 2022 were approved.

Matters Arising: Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that she would bring the information about the cultural data of the city which was recently collated by the Dublin City Culture Company, to the next ACAG meeting.

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

The Arts Office Report:

- **Local Live Performance Scheme 3 & 4** – a rollout of the Local Live Performance scheme 3 concluded at the end of June. 25 events were supported following an open call. The scheme also supported the artistic programme of the inaugural Smithfield Fleadh. Minister Martin recently announced a **fourth** strand of the LLPPS to assist local authorities to further support artists up to the end of October 2022.
- **Creative Hubs Summer programme** - Our free summer arts programme for children aged 2 – 12 and their families, will run for 6 weeks over July and August in the three Creative Hubs in Cabra, Coolock and Ballyfermot Libraries.
- **Creative Places / Made in Darndale Festival - 11 June – 18 June 2022** - 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. The end of the first year of the project was marked by a hugely successful festival *Made in Darndale* which took place from 16th - 19th of June.
- **Faoin Speir – Rockfield Park, Artane – 18 June 2022** - The Residents Associations of Rockfield Park with the support of Elected Members and the Area Office along with local professional Artists and curators secured €88K in 2021 from The Arts Council to build a community Arts fete in 2022. This fete, the Faoin Spéir project, worked with local community groups to develop creative projects. These were celebrated on 18th June in Rockfield Park.
- **Cruinniú na nÓg/Dublin City – 11 June 2022** - Over 30 sites all over Dublin City hosted creative activities for the annual Creative Ireland Cruinniú na nÓg Festival, many in local neighbourhood centres and venues. All the events were free and designed for ages 3-18.

The LAB Gallery - Deck, an exhibition by Claire Halpin and Em-bracing, group exhibition featuring Adam Gibney, Kate Fahey and Jonathan Mayhew continues until 4 July.

Idirlinn, shifting silence, an exhibition by Rosie O'Reilly, will open from July 14 - August 27 2022 with support from UCD Parity Studios. **Past, Present, Future, Iteration 3 by recent graduate Catherine McDonald**, also opens from 14th July to August 27th.

Public Art

Dublin City Public Art Programme:

- **Strand 2** - Letters of Agreement have been signed with the two artists invited to undertake a Research and Development phase to further develop their proposals. Rhona Byrne, visual artist has proposed a commission titled *Liffey Love Seats* and Maria Nilsson Waller, choreographer, has proposed a project titled *Millipede* in collaboration with multidisciplinary artist Stace Gill.
- **Strand 3 - 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. Contracts will be agreed and signed in early July. The intended date of installation is by the end of 2022.
- **Temple Bar Square** - Isabel Nolan, the artist selected for the Temple Bar Square commission has proposed a design for an artwork that will be integrated into the paving of the new square. Contracts will be signed in early July.
- **Per Cent for Art Funding** - The Public Art Officer is engaging with the DCC Dept. of Environment and Transportation with regard to implementing the Per Cent for Art Scheme for major transport infrastructure within the city.
- **Monument to the Women of the Revolutionary Decade (1913-1923)** - A Working Group was established to oversee the commissioning of the monument in O'Connell Street. The Group will focus on aspects of the brief which require clarification before the open competition is announced.
- **Portrait of Kathleen Clarke** - The commissioned artist Gareth Reid is working on the portrait of Kathleen Clarke. He is also liaising with the Deputy City Librarian, Director of the Hugh Lane Gallery and the Public Art Officer regarding the commissioning of an appropriate frame for the portrait.
- **Permission to make a copy of a DCC commissioned sculpture** - Kathleen Conlon, widow of sculptor Fred Conlon has sought permission for a new cast be permitted of his bronze sculpture of Brendan Behan (located in Dublin 12), with a view to it being installed in the campus of Atlantic Technical University to mark the centenary of Brendan Behan's birth on 9th February, 2023. Kathleen Clarke is in possession of the original moulds for the sculpture.

Proposals for Permanent Art Installations:

A proposal by Bernard Romain that Dublin City Council commission an artwork by him titled **Peace Wall** was discussed. The Group unanimously agreed not to support this proposal on the basis of its potential costs, that there is not an obvious location or funding in place for it and due to a lack of clarity regarding the celebrity aspect of the proposal. A further proposal for a commission by **Eddie Naughton** of an installation of an **Electronic Version of Ulysses by James Joyce** in Dublin's City Centre to coincide with the centenary of the book's publication was also discussed. The group unanimously agreed not to support this proposal on the grounds of the potential costs of the digital display and the fact that *Ulysses* is not visually suited to such a public display.

Hugh Lane Gallery Report:

Michael Dempsey reported that visitor numbers to the Gallery for May were **12,545 which is 95% of pre covid figures**.

- **Collection Displays - Corot and Constable: Landscape Pioneers:** Opened on 9th April. This display celebrates the return of *Avignon from the West*.

- **Current Exhibitions - Patrick Graham - 17 March – 10 July 2022.** *Transfiguration*, an exhibition by Irish artist Patrick Graham. This exhibition showcases a selection of his collage drawings alongside the monumental paintings and triptychs from the 1980s to the present. **Eva Gonzales is what Dublin needs - 1st June – 18th September 2022.** Presents the first joint exhibition organised by the National Gallery, London and HLG as a result of the new Sir Hugh Lane Bequest Agreement.
- **Future Exhibitions - Bones in the Attic, 11 August – 30 October 2022,** is an inter-generational exhibition with eleven Irish artists, each exploring the recurring and ongoing societal issues affecting women.
- **Education - Portrait of a Nation: Art, Politics and the Anglo-Irish Treaty,** a conference organised jointly by the education departments of the HLG and the National Museum of Ireland which explored the intersection between art and politics at the birth of the new Irish state. **Partnership with Mother Tongues,** is the pilot of a new cultural mediation programme in partnership with Mother Tongues, a social enterprise working to promote multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in Ireland.
- **Foundations Project – Bright Light and Nature’s Delights –** 25 artist led workshops with children were programmed for the Foundations Project in 2022. This is a CDET and HSE initiative for people using homeless services.
- **Children’s Art Competition –** The ‘Art and the Outdoors’ art competition for all primary schools in DCC area received submissions from 468 students in 28 classes from 19 schools submitted work.
- **Forthcoming events:**
- **Zoom @Hugh Lane Gallery** is the HLG citywide outreach project for primary schools. Its objective is to create imaginative creative connections between primary school children, teachers and the HLG. Phase IV saw **19 schools** (598 students), **14 of the schools were Deis** with **5 Non Deis**, participate in the project.

Ray Yeates updated the group on the work of the **Artist Workspace Committee** which included updates on Eden and Filmbase. Over 100 hundred people attended a recent open day at Filmbase and 37 applications (half from organisations and half from individual artists) were received following this open call. The assessment panel will be constituted in September. Those who are successful in the first round will proceed to a second round of interviews. The process of moving in to the premises will begin in late 2022 / early 2023. The goal is to secure good, stable, long term occupancy. There are currently access, egress and safety issues pertaining to Eden. The building requires remedial work in order to allow meanwhile use. It could facilitate PODS for short term use but would require significant capital works for long term use. TBCT will be reporting on the budgetary requirement and availability. Artane Place consists of 12 units which are scheduled to be ready for occupancy by visual artists/illustrators, dance and theatre artists by autumn / winter 2022. Selected artists are exploring the possibility of becoming a collective. RY confirmed that Siobhan Maher in the Planning Department is the contact for any enquiries relating to the Fruit Market in Smithfield which is now open to Meanwhile Use.

Ray confirmed that he will be meeting with the Land Development Agency in due course in relation to the Digital Hub in Dublin 8. The LDA have indicated that the area could be designated for long term art use. Sunil Sharpe reported that he recently had a site visit to the Digital Hub and suggested that it has the potential to offer partitioned spaces for artists. He enquired about what would be replacing the Tivoli Theatre in Dublin 8 and asked if it could become part of Digital Hub. The Tivoli Theatre has a capacity for approximately 500 upstairs with capacity for more on the ground floor. To this end he enquired if the planned new 500 seat venue for Dublin city is limited to 500 capacity and if it could be pitched as a community venue emphasising that how it is put to potential investors will have a bearing on how much funding it attracts. He hoped it could be used by as many communities in Dublin as possible for multi-disciplinary purposes.

Willie White confirmed that the new 500 seat venue will not be strictly limited to 500 capacity and that it would be thought of as a civic space more than a community space. He also suggested that the site of what was to be the white water rafting facility in Dublin 2 could also potentially be used for the new venue. Following an enquiry from WW about what the process for assessing applications would be, RY confirmed that they would be assessed by the Arts Office, the Property Section and an external assessor likely to be from outside Dublin. SS said that the new venue should not be a usual licenced venue with only a modest offering. Transport links would also need to be examined to accommodate more access for the public at different times of the day. SS agreed and reiterated that locations of the new venue should also be considered along new transport routes. While the site of the white water rafting venue is a central location and would be a good potential site for the venue, the outskirts of Dublin city should also be considered. Ideally it should be serviced by 24 hour transport routes. Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that the input from the ACAG would feed in to the feasibility study for the venue.

SS opened the discussion about the possibility of using containers in the city for use as spaces for rehearsals, production facilities or offices. Such containers could be used for up to 2 or 3 years and could be purchased for approximately €3,000. They can cost between €5,000 - €10,000 to kit out, treat and soundproof. The option for joint ownership of a container would also be a possibility. The challenge is to find suitable locations. Locations such as IMMA, the National Concert Hall or Collins Barracks might be considered. Developers who may have land available to house containers could also be approached. While containers could be considered for Mean While use they could also be considered for permanent use as they are a cheap and effective way to supply artist's workspaces in various locations around the city going forward.

Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that containers like this are used by the Cork Institute of Technology. They are situated in a building and as such are adaptable and protected. They are also currently being used as part of a project in the Food Market in Cork. They can be finessed and finished using upcycling materials. RY said that containers were an interesting idea and sited the use of them in Copenhagen during its time as European capital of Culture. These containers now form a permanent village. He noted that developing the use of containers in the city would require a lot of work. A mechanism for implementing it would have to be developed. This would include identifying suitable sites. RY confirmed that SS could request the Arts Office to identify one suitable site for container use and confirmed that the Bridgefoot site in Dublin 8 could be looked at as a possible site for this purpose in due course. RY recommended that any proposal relating to the use of containers should be grounded and practical. WW suggested that Dublin Port could be approached as a possible site for containers but questioned if the potential cost of containers would be a worthwhile investment in the longer term. SS confirmed that the containers could be lifted from an original site to use elsewhere if necessary. Cllr. O'Driscoll suggested that using containers for Meanwhile Use could provide one solution for artist workspaces in the short to medium term and asked SS to reflect more on the matter of container use for artists in the city with a view to putting it on a pilot basis footing initially. SS confirmed that he will begin the process of approaching people who may be interested in this idea.

AOB:

Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that the next SPC meeting will take place by zoom and that the ACAG would continue online for the moment with a view to moving towards in person meetings or hybrid meetings in the future.

Following an enquiry from SS regarding the timeframe of the Development Plan, Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that a Council meeting would be taking place that evening at which 500 motions for the Plan would be discussed. All motions that are passed will amend the Development Plan. It will then go back to the public. Feedback from the public at that point will not change the Plan. The final agreement of the Plan will occur in December 2023.

Anyone submitting to the Development Plan from New Year 2023 will not be in this current iteration of the Plan.

The date of the next ACAG meeting is Monday 24th October 2022.