



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022, 9.30 a.m.
Zoom Call**

Present: Cllr. Cat O’Driscoll; Ray Yeates; Ruairí Ó Cuív; Adekunle Gomez; Michael Dempsey; Ruth McGowan, Ciaran Taylor, Charles Duggan; Sunil Sharpe;

Apologies: Cllr. Dearbhail Butler, Anthony Flynn, Willie White.

In Attendance: Paula Farrell

Chair: Cllr. Cat O’Driscoll

Minutes of previous meeting held on 4th July 2022 were approved.

Matters Arising: Due to Cllr. O’Driscoll being the sole Councillor present, this meeting did not meet Quorum.

Hugh Lane Report:

Michael Dempsey reported that visitors’ numbers to the Gallery in July were 16,083 and have now returned to 100% of pre-covid figures. The current Exhibitions, *Eva Gonzales is what Dublin needs*, ends on the 18th September and *Bones in the Attic*, an inter-generational exhibition with eleven Irish artists, each exploring the recurring and ongoing societal issues affecting women finished on 30th October. *Art and the Outdoors*, a two-day family art event, took place outdoors on Parnell Square North on July 30th and 31st and was a great success.

The Arts Office Report:

Dublin City Public Art Programme:

The Public Art Officer presented the public art report. He highlighted the fact that the first pilot Citizen Commissioners process has commenced in Darndale. Darndale was selected as the location for the first pilot project as the City Arts Office has been engaged in a developmental way with communities in the area through the Creative Places initiative.

Updates and progress reports were provided for ongoing commissions including the portrait of Kathleen Clarke for the Council Chamber, City Hall, Docklands Light Commission, Temple Bar Square, and the research and development phase of two proposals under Strand 2 of the public art programme.

Proposal for Art Installation:

The proposal by the Museum of Literature Ireland (MOLI) submitted to Dublin City Council Arts Office and Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services was discussed. MOLI’s proposal is to celebrate the centenary of the publication of *Ulysses* by James Joyce. MOLI invited Grafton Architects to engage with Chapter 3: Proteus - Sandymount Strand. Grafton Architects have proposed to install a temporary social sculpture on Sandymount promenade. The Arts and Culture Advisory Group recommended that MOLI also bring the proposal to the South

East Area Committee, in addition it was recommended that relevant sections of the City Council, including the Public Art Officer, are invited to review the feasibility of the proposal.

The 4th strand of the **Local Live Performance** Scheme assisting local authorities to support artists through the provision of live performances will continue until October 2022. Set in the historic Fruit and Veg Market, **Night Moves**, a celebration of Dublin's cross-generational club culture will take place as part of Culture Night 2022. **The Children's Art in Libraries Creative Hubs** Summer Programme at Ballyfermot, Coolock and Cabra Libraries, recently attracted over 650 children in July and August. Plans for the roll out of the autumn programme for schools is currently underway.

Feasibility for New 500 Seat Venue

At the request of the SPC for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation, a Tender for a Single Party Framework Agreement to develop the Feasibility of a new 500 seat venue in Dublin city was composed and advertised on the eTenders website between 12th April 2022 and 9th May 2022. Under this Framework the first contract awarded will be the €30k Feasibility Study for a New 500 Seat Venue in Dublin City.

The LAB Gallery –

O, To have little house, the first major solo show by recent graduate Michelle Malone, will preview at the Gallery on September 9th and will run until November 5th 2022.

Culture Night 2022

Culture Night Dublin returns on Friday, 23rd September with over 300 participating venues and more than 360 free events across Dublin City and County. This year a new outdoor location has been added to the Culture Night Dublin map at Spencer Dock. The evening will feature an eclectic programme of events.

Arts Grants Review and the interim Arts Plan:

Ray Yeates updated the group on the review of Arts Grants and the new Interim Arts Plan that is currently underway at the Arts Office. The Arts Acts 1973 that created Arts Offices asks the Local Authorities to 'develop the Arts in their administrative areas' but the Arts Plan specifically sets out the priorities of each Local Authority. The provision of Arts services is embedded in the Development Plan and Planning with Area Offices supporting local Arts initiatives. The interim Arts Plan in development for November 2022 is the context for the Arts Grants review by Arthur Lappin. The considered interim provisional view emerging from this review is that new Arts funding in underserved areas in the city is both required and would be supported by the Executive and Elected Members. Arts Grants in 2023 will not change (except perhaps by piloting some test cases based on initial findings). However in 2024 based on a new Arts Plan and on extensive consultation, the new Arts Grants Scheme will be rolled out in the hope of securing support to increase Arts Grants from the current €550K to 1M (budget allowing). There would be the potential for each Administrative Area to have a budget of 100,000. Anyone could then apply for a top up fund. Cllr. O'Driscoll suggested that emphasis should be placed on artist participatory development. Councillors would have capital and local responsibility. RY confirmed that Arts Grants (2023) will not change except perhaps by piloting some test cases based on initial findings. Adekunle Gomez confirmed that he would canvas arts groups he works with to find out what they expect from the Arts Office.

In the discussion that followed, Sunil Sharpe highlighted the lack of dance venues in Dublin. Ruth McGowan agreed that there is a need for investment in 'after dark' spaces in the city in order to help remove barriers to access the arts. Ciaran Taylor reiterated that local implementation is key and needs to be heavily resourced in order to make impacts. Cllr. O'Driscoll emphasised the need to champion Dublin's identity adding that the city council has a role in protecting Dublin's culture. With regard to the 500 seat venue proposed for Dublin city, RY confirmed that Turley have been awarded the contract to conduct the feasibility study for it. Cllr. O'Driscoll added that flexibility should be part of the venue plan in terms of its size and use.

AOB:

Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that the next ACAG meeting will take place in person in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall, on Monday 24th of October. The SPC will however continue to take place in hybrid mode, both by zoom and in person as required.

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