



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC
27th February 2023
Item No. 21

**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Notes of Meeting held on Monday 30th January 2023, 9.30 a.m.
Hybrid Meeting**

Present: Cllr. Cat O’Driscoll; Cllr. Patricia Roe; Ray Yeates; Ruairí Ó Cuív; Michael Dempsey; Brendan Teeling, Charles Duggan, Ciara Dardis, Ruth McGowan, Adekunle Gomez, Ross Keane, Ciaran Taylor, Sunil Sharpe; Willie White.

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Paula Farrell

Chair: Cllr. Cat O’Driscoll

Minutes of previous meeting held on 24th October 2022 were approved.

Matters Arising: None

Hugh Lane Report:

Michael Dempsey reported that the Gallery is presenting ***Reconstructing Mondrian***, an exhibition based on John Beattie’s filming of Mondrian’s reconstructed Paris Studio which opens from 1st February 2023 until 6th August 2023. ***Andy Warhol’s Three Times Out*** will exhibit at the Gallery from October 2023 – January 2024. The exhibition will trace Andy Warhol’s unique eye in identifying the power of images and provide a context for understanding the diversity of subject matter in his practice.

The Gallery conducted 48 education and outreach programmes for adults and children with approx. **696** participants in December 2022. Quarter 4 2022 saw 288 programmes with approx. 5,276 participants.

Libraries Report:

Brendan Teeling and Ciara Dardis presented the Report for Libraries and relayed that the Creative Hubs 2022 programme will continue with a small expansion of it in the city. The association with the ARK for primary school children is also set to continue. The design building team for the new City Library in Parnell Square has been announced. The architects, Hawkins Brown, has a track record of designing libraries. The tender process for building is expected to take approximately 7 – 8 months with Phase 1 of the project expected to be complete by 2027.

The Arts Office Report:

Dublin City Public Art Programme:

The Public Art Officer reported on the Dublin City Public Art Programme including progress on the Citizen Commissioners in Darndale and plans to begin the second pilot of the commissioning programme in Dolphin House and the surrounding area. He also reported on

the proposal by Rhona Byrne titled *Liffey Love* for Strand 2 and the Strand 3 commissions, for Dublin Docklands, Temple Bar Square and Dartmouth Square.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Group discussed a number of proposals for public art. **Proposal from the Ukrainian Embassy to Ireland:** The Group approved the proposal to symbolically wrap with sandbags, the O'Connell Plinth outside City Hall as a gesture of support for culture and the arts in Ukraine. Consultation has taken place within Dublin City Council (planning, conservation architects and a civil engineer) and they have not raised any insurmountable objections to the proposal. The proposal is that this symbolic installation would be in place for six months. It was agreed that the proposal be submitted to the Protocol Committee for their consideration.

O'Connell Plinth – Temporary Commission: In response to the Protocol Committee and the Arts and Culture Advisory Group, consideration was given to commissioning a new temporary artwork for display on the O'Connell plinth. Funding has been identified and it is proposed that a two stage open competition be organised. It is proposed that a selection panel composed of City Councillors, city officials and external art experts be convened for the short-listing and final selection of proposals. It is intended that the sculpture be in place for 12 months subject to planning issues. If approved the commissioning opportunity would be advertised in the first quarter of 2023. It was agreed that the proposal be submitted to the Protocol Committee for their consideration.

O'Connell Plinth – Long-term commissioning opportunities: Consideration has been given to the potential of the O'Connell plinth for the display of temporary commissions in the long-term. It is proposed that a temporary commission be in place for one out of every three years, thus allowing for a balance between the display of temporary artworks while also allowing the City Hall and plinth to stand as it has for a century or more. It was advised by planning that submitting a Part 8 for use of the plinth on an ongoing basis might be the best way to proceed.

PACE – Proposal for the Donation of a Sculpture: PACE, a voluntary sector organisation that works with people with convictions for a wide range of criminal offences and that supports their safe integration into the community, has proposed that Dublin City Council accept the gift of a sculpture made by its clients to be displayed permanently on Moore Street. The sculpture is titled "Which direction are you headed?" The Group considered the proposal but agreed with concerns regarding the materials and shape of the sculpture, and that it would not survive the wear and tear of being placed permanently in the outdoor public realm. It was agreed that perhaps an indoor setting such as a shopping centre might be more appropriate and secure for the display of the sculpture.

Statues for Legends: Gillie and Marc Schattner are two Australian based artists who have a programme titled *Statues for Legends*. Their studio Project Director has written to Dublin City Council outlining the programme and offering to create a statue for someone that the city would like commemorate. The Group agreed that Dublin City Council had no specific commissions in hand for the installation of statues and that this PDF brochure will be placed on file.

The LAB Gallery:
Curated as part of the Brigit 2023, *A World of Appearances – Walking the Way* by Pauline Cummins and Frances Mezzetti opens at The Lab Gallery on 1st February and will run until 16th March 2023.

Creative Hubs: The winter season of Creative Hubs saw 250 children and families taking part in the multi-disciplinary Arts programme. **The Ark** have been contracted to deliver coordination of the programme for the next 18 months in the three libraries. This year's **Brigit Festival**, will run from February 1st – 6th. The programme is currently being finalised, and will include: light projections, outdoor performances, an Imbolc Fair in Meeting House Square, literature events (with Irish Writers Centre, Poetry Ireland and International Literature Festival Dublin).

Sing a Song of Docklands - In 2022, 4 songs were commissioned through an Open competition. Each song will be showcased locally before a coming together for a Gala concert on May 21st 2023. Dublin City Council has partnered with Sing Ireland to produce the Gala Concert. **Artane Place Artist Workspaces** – The Arts Office has been working with xestra management to convert unused spaces into artist workspaces. Two single units and a unit comprised of ten individual spaces are currently undergoing change of use planning applications. Construction will start early this year.

Residential Spaces Award 2023 - There were 28 applications in total for the Residential Spaces Awards 2023. The applications were assessed by Arts Office staff and an external assessor. Residencies will begin from February 2023 to January 2024. Two short term residencies at 9 Wooden Buildings, Temple Bar include the **International Literature Festival Dublin** and **Max Margles Residency, Canada** (Literature).

Arts Office Report

Ray Yeates submitted the Dublin City Council's draft Interim Arts Plan to ACAG. The completed version of the Plan will be submitted to the SPC at the end of February 2023 from which Ray will receive feedback. The Interim Arts Plan sets out priorities, objectives, and actions for the development of the Arts in Dublin. It shows how the Arts Office works in partnership with other City Sections and within the Culture Recreation and Economic Services Department to establish priorities for the Arts in Dublin City. Following a period of consultation with the Arts Community and the public, this Interim Plan will become the new City Arts Plan 2023-2028

RY acknowledged the historical deficit for the Arts in budgetary and networking terms within the City Council. The new City Development Plan (and Developers) now recognise this. To this end, The **Developer's Toolkit**, that will demonstrate how arts infrastructure can be addressed and how it adds value to new City Developments and the planned **Developers Symposium** to be hosted in the final quarter of 2023 by Dublin City Council, in partnership with other agencies, will demonstrate the significance and direct contribution of arts infrastructure to regeneration, local placemaking and the creation of destination value to private property developers and owners.

Willie White emphasised that the sustainability of infrastructure should be a priority for the City Council and cautioned against the overreliance on Developers. Arts infrastructure in the city needs to become a priority for the Executive. Currently the only arts infrastructure in the city centre managed by the City Council is in Temple Bar. RY suggested that the experiment within the North Central Area in terms of improving its arts infrastructure needs to be expanded to other City Council areas. A Young People's Forum would also be an important step towards inclusion.

Sunil Sharpe reiterated the need to impress on Developers that the provision of more spaces with stages for both day and evening use would be good for business and suggested that Meanwhile Use of buildings also needs to be discussed with Developers. The Arts Plan needs to be about the city, what it can offer and what can be used in the city with a percentage of the cultural infrastructure being used for sound spaces with a focus on music.

Cllr. Roe asked if it was the responsibility of the City Council to provide arts infrastructure in the city as opposed to in local communities. WW countered that he believed it is the job of the City Council to provide some cultural infrastructure as Councillors also represent the city as well as local areas. Cllr. Roe enquired as to whether Developers might diminish their 5% obligation in future and suggested that the Arts Office work closely with the Planning Section to monitor this. Following up on this, RY confirmed that it would not be possible for Developers to avoid their 5% obligation as any proposal from them would have to satisfy the Arts Office and the Planning Section following their completion of a cultural audit of the area

to be developed and consultation with relevant stake holders. Cllr. O'Driscoll referenced the establishment of a European Support Office. Projects will be pitched to funders within this context and a new Common Bank has been earmarked for the arts community.

RY updated the Group on the progress of Filmbase, confirming that short listing of applicants took place on the 27th January. He confirmed that the budget for Merchants Quay has been increased to 1 million euro. Ross Keane asked if more emphasis could be placed on supporting arts organisations and said that more transparency is needed on the use of these buildings. RY confirmed that Filmbase is managed by but not owned by the Arts Office. WW reiterated the need for immediate results in the progress of Temple Bar citing the Eden building in Meeting House Square as an example of particular degeneration and emphasised the need for urgent to be taken by the Council and expressed the need to Temple Bar to be a priority for the City Council. This requested was noted by Cllr. O' Driscoll who also confirmed that issues around safety in the city are being discussed at the Women's Committee, the City Recovery Task Force and Dublin Town. A Bristo Safety Audit is also currently underway.

AOB:

Following on from the concerns expressed by WW in relation to the degeneration of Temple Bar and upon the suggestion of Cllr. O'Driscoll it was agreed to invite representatives of Temple Bar Cultural Trust to the next ACAG meeting.

Following an enquiry regarding the progress of the new 500 seater venue for the city, RY confirmed that John Davidson from Turley will give a report on this to ACAG at its next meeting.

Following a proposal from Cllr. O'Driscoll, it was agreed by ACAG members that upcoming ACAG meetings should now take place in person in the Richard O'Carroll room in City Hall.

The next ACAG meeting will take place on 24th April 2023 at 9.30am.