



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Notes of Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 9.30 a.m.  
City Hall**

**Present:** Mary MacSweeney; Ray Yeates; Ruairí Ó Cuív; Charles Duggan, Ruth McGowan, Adekunle Gomez, Ross Keane, Ciaran Taylor, Sunil Sharpe; Willie White.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Cat. O'Driscoll; Cllr. Patricia Roe; Cllr. Hazel De Nortúin; Michael Dempsey.

**In Attendance:** Paula Farrell

**Chair:** Mary MacSweeney

**Minutes of previous meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were approved.**

**Matters Arising:** In response to the concerns expressed by Ross Keane in relation to city wide safety issues, the degeneration of Temple Bar and the invitation extended to representatives of Temple Bar Cultural Trust to the update ACAG, Ray Yeates confirmed that he spoke to David Kelly, of Temple Bar Cultural Trust, who confirmed that public domain and safety issues is a local area matter. RY will organise for RK to meet with Brian Hanney, the South East Area Manager and the City Recovery Manager to address security issues in the city. RK reiterated the need to action change in this regard in the city and suggested that the matter needed to be addressed in a united way at City Council, Garda and government departmental level. Willie White added that more attention needs to be paid to dereliction in the city, specifically to the derelict assets of Dublin City Council and the empty buildings in Temple Bar.

The request for broader interaction at a Council, Departmental and stakeholder agency level with regard to safety issues in Temple Bar and the city centre is to be brought to the SPC for consideration.

### **Hugh Lane Report**

Receipt of the Hugh Lane Report was noted.

The Gallery is currently presenting **Reconstructing Mondrian**, an exhibition based on John Beattie's filming of Mondrian's reconstructed Paris Studio and **Living through Paint(ing)**, a survey exhibition by Richard Groman in collaboration with the Contemporary Art Museum of Villa Croce and the Oriental Art Museum E. Chiossone, Genoa. Future exhibitions include **Andy Warhol's Three Times Out** which will exhibit at the Gallery from October 2023 – January 2024. The exhibition underlines how Andy Warhol explored the role of the individual in shifting and recurring social-political landscapes.

Visitor numbers to the Gallery for Quarter 1 2023 were: 39,289. The Gallery also conducted 189 Programmes and hosted 2,717 participants. Programmes included **Make and Be**, a programme of creative family workshops; **A fantastic Zine**, the Hugh Lane Transition Year student programme in collaboration with artist Helena Gouveia Monteiro; the **Cruthaí Beaga** programme which works with children under 5 years from creches, preschools and

parent and toddler groups in Dublin city; **Teen Culture Club** a programme for young people, which works with second level schools and youth initiatives on facilitating creatively stimulating encounters with the collection and exhibition; **Neuro-spectacular!** A creative workshop programme for children who are neurodiverse and monthly tours for people with a hearing impairment using specialist headsets provided by Arts and Disability Ireland.

### **Presentation: Conservation Management Plan**

A Presentation on the conservation management plan for Monuments and Public sculpture on O'Connell Street and College Green was presented by Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer. Focusing specifically on the works located on O'Connell Street and College Green, the aim of the CMP is to guide the conservation and management of the monuments and public sculpture in Dublin City Council's care, and to put in place a costed strategy for implementing conservation works over time. The plan will include the Parnell Monument, Fr Mathew, Joyce on North Earl Street, Sir John Gray, William Smith O'Brien, the O'Connell Monument, and Thomas Moore and Henry Grattan on College Green. The plan will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Public Art Officer representing the Arts Office and a steering group will be convened to guide the development of the plan which will include Roads and Traffic, City Architects, Planning, and the City Recovery team. Dublin City Council has received a grant of €15,000.00 from the Heritage Council's County Heritage Plan Grant Scheme for the production of the CMP this year. Once all the funding for the plan is in place a multi-disciplinary team led by a Grade 1 Conservation Architect will be tendered for via eTenders. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be produced by November 2023 and finalised by early 2024.

## **The Arts Office Report**

### **Dublin City Public Art Programme:**

The Public Art Officer provided an update on the commissions across all three strands of the Dublin City Public Art Programme. He also provided an update on proposals for the O'Connell plinth outside City Hall. There were three public art proposals submitted for consideration by ACAG.

### **The Giant – Submitted by the Giant Company Ltd.**

The Giant Company is seeking planning permission for the temporary display of *The Giant* on top of the portico at the Ambassador Cinema O'Connell Street. The Planning Department asked the Arts and Culture Advisory Group to offer its advice from an artistic / public art perspective. See attached proposal.

This 20 metre humanoid structure will be covered in LEDs and is capable of displaying a myriad of different images on its form. The proposers wish to have the sculpture in place for duration of three exhibitions that they are scheduling in the Ambassador Theatre. They expect each exhibition to last 12 months. See attached proposal.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Group discussed the proposal and had the following observations and advice:

- That this was not first and foremost an artistic proposal. While a list of artists who had expressed interest in working with the sculpture was provided with the proposal no actual proposals by them have been submitted.
- There were concerns at the scale of the proposed structure at 20 metres on top of the portico of the Ambassador and its impact on the surrounding area and in particular O'Connell Street including the historic buildings, monuments and statues.
- There were concerns about the impact of the proposed work in terms of light pollution.

### **Proposal to Commemorate the Children of 1916**

Broadcaster, Joe Duffy has submitted a proposal to commemorate the children killed during the 1916 rising. He has submitted a design for the monument created by Orla de Brí. He has no specific location in mind but had suggested St Stephens Green. The Commemorations Committee has referred this matter for consideration by ACAG. See attached proposal.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Group discussed the proposal and had the following observations and advice:

- That there were already two locations of commemoration for the 40 children killed during the 1916 Rising including the An Post commissioned permanent memorial by Barbara Knezevic located in the courtyard of the GPO and the commemorative garden in St Audeon's Park commissioned by Dublin City Council in partnership with the Department of Children inspired by Joe Duffy's book *Children of the Rising – the Forgotten Casualties of 1916* in which each child killed in the 1916 was commemorated and named.
- The Group also believed that it was not a good approach to present completed proposals but to work in collaboration and partnership with the City Council.
- That St Stephen's Green is owned and controlled by the OPW.

### **Commemoration of Christy Brown**

The Crumlin Community Clean Up submitted a proposal to the Commemorations Naming Committee to commemorate writer and artist Christy Brown. The Commemorations Committee has referred this matter for consideration by ACAG. See attached proposal.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Group discussed the proposal and had the following observations and advice:

- That there is no doubt that Christy Brown is worthy of commemoration.
- That a feasibility study be undertaken of this proposal which will include liaison with the Local Area Office; Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services; Roads and Traffic, and that the results of this study will be presented to the Commemorative Naming Committee.

**Sing a Song of Docklands** - In 2022, 4 songs were commissioned through an Open competition. Dublin City Council has partnered with Sing Ireland to produce the Gala Concert to showcase these works which will take place on May 21st 2023 at the Bord Gais theatre. The four new commissions will be performed alongside Sing Ireland affiliated choirs King's Hospital School Choir, Maryfield College Choir, Cor na nÓg and Guinness Choir. Musical director David Hayes will direct the show and the MC for the night will be David Brophy. A PR and social media campaign is currently underway for the show.

**Artane Place Artist Workspaces** – The Arts Office has been working with Xestra management to convert unused spaces into artist workspaces. Two singular units are due for completion in June 2023. Works on the larger unit are expected to begin imminently with an estimated time of 6-8months for completion. The Department has now agreed to fund these capital works. The City Council will recoup costs through subsidised rents over the course of the lease with Xestra.

The **International Literature Festival Dublin 2023** (ILFD) will take place from 19th -28th May. Now in its 26th year, ILFD returns to its Literary Village home in Merrion Square Park with its biggest ever programme of over 180 events, including over 36 for families and children featuring authors, speakers, creatives, and performers from over 28 countries.

Ray informed the Advisory Group that the feedback from Developers on the 5% for art initiative indicates that it is not achievable. There is an ongoing debate as to the viability of this provision. Developers expressed concerns that they would not achieve a good covenant and yield. A strong capacity response is required from Dublin City Council with the various sections of the Council working together to show that this provision is a critical part of creating sustainable neighbourhoods. RY will consult with Arts Resources Agencies and Revenue clients on how to build that capacity and to begin the process of briefing their members on the new thinking that is required to secure new Arts infrastructure. WW added that the management of these spaces will also be challenging while SS noted that the conversation should include local retailers and the joining up of the night time and day communities.

RY confirmed that an update on the Feasibility Study 500 seater will be provided by Turley for the next SPC on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023. The study will look at potential sites and make comparisons to other theatres of a similar size in other European cities. The potential conflict of uses for such a venue be it theatre, concert hall, late night dance space should form part of the discussion of this item.

**AOB:**

Adekunle Gomez reported that he will be putting together a summary of the recent meeting he had in City Hall regarding Africa Day. The programme for the event was not agreed. AG would like the story of Africa in Ireland also be told through the arts and asked if the Arts Office could become involved in organising this event. RY confirmed that the Arts Office would usually become involved if asked by the LCDC to do so but said that he would get in touch with the Section to follow up on AG's request.

Mary MacSweeney confirmed that Dublin is one of nine city councils that is part of a Pilot Project for the Night Time Economy and suggested that collaboration between the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC and the Economic, Development and Enterprise SPC could take place going forward with a view to the ACAG getting feedback from this collaboration in due course.

The next ACAG meeting will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 9.30am in the Council Chamber.

.