



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2016, 9.30 a.m.
Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall**

Present: Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Cllr Christy Burke, Ray Yeates, Gerry Kerr, Róisín Kennedy, Barbara Dawson, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Brendan Teeling, Cecily Brennan, Willie White, Shane de Blacam

Apologies: Charles Duggan
In Attendance: Hugh Fahey and John Conlon
Presenting: Sheena Barrett and Mary Cremin

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 16th May 2016

The minutes were amended to note that Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane was also part of the Dublin City Council National Cultural Institution Neighbourhood Projects.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising

3. Welcome to Róisín Kennedy, Lecturer in History of Art, UCD

Dr Róisín Kennedy was welcomed onto the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group as a temporary replacement for Dr Paula Murphy while the latter is on a fellowship to the Smithsonian Institute, USA.

4. Presentation by Sheena Barrett and Mary Cremin on *Dublin Treeline Project*

Mary Cremin and Sheena Barrett (Assistant Arts Officer Dublin City Council) presented the project to the Group. *The Treeline Project* won a prestigious Arts Council Award under the scheme *Making Great Art Work*. It is an arts project intended to enhance the environment in the Foley Street and James Joyce Street area of the north city centre. It was developed by Oonagh Young Gallery with Mary Cremin as artistic director. The City Arts Office and Parks and Landscape Services in Dublin City Council will be closely involved in the design and roll out of the project. The Group welcomed the project though Cllr Christy Burke raised the potential problems of antisocial behaviour in the area and its impact on the potential of the project. It was agreed that Gardaí should be consulted with in order to allow for the proper management of events and installations.

5. Presentation of City Arts Office Report

The City Arts Officer, Ray Yeates presented the City Arts Officer report which reported on the extensive process of reform and external consultation that is ongoing and the policy review and new vision document that are being put into effect by the Arts Office. After twenty years since its founding, the office is now looking forward to meet its objectives until 2018.

The Children's Art in Libraries was described as a successful partnership scheme. The Opera in the Open event is to be tendered out and new suppliers found in order to help it survive. Cllr Clancy noted the decline in audience numbers for the event. Both agreed upon a need for more effective marketing of the event in order to address a changing modern audience. The City arts Officer mentioned the success of recent LAB gallery exhibitions like 'Would You Die For Ireland' by artist John Byrne, and stressed the office's commitment to neighbourhood initiatives through events like the Monto Picnic and the collaboration with local Gardaí in making the area a friendly area for children and visitors. The annual Culture Night was praised for its ten percent increase in size and reservation was expressed about the idea of extending the event over several days.

6. Presentation of Public Art Report

The Public Art Manager presented the Public Art Report noting the success of the new sound art commission *Voices of Memory* by Christina Kubisch commissioned in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Ireland at the Irish National Memorial Gardens. He proposed that the installation be temporarily taken down for the winter but be reinstalled from the Spring 2017 and again in 2018 with the installation being finally closed after the 11th of November, 2018, to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. He also reported that the artist proposed to make a CD and Book relating to the sound work. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group unanimously approved the proposals.

The City Arts Officer and Public Art Manager informed the Group of the reading of the play *The Memory Stick* by Donal O'Kelly, during the Dublin Theatre Festival. The commission related to the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising and is a partnership between Dublin and San José Stage.

Report on the Robert Emmet Statue

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group discussed the Report by Dr Paula Murphy and the Public Art Manager into the proposal to relocate the statue of Robert Emmet to St Catherine's Church, Thomas Street or to have a copy of the Jerome Connor statue made for this location. The group accepted the fact that a copy of the sculpture would not be considered an original artwork and noted that the OPW was not willing to lend the statue for display at Thomas Street. The Group proposed that the Public Art Manager work with the South Central local area office and City Councillors to examine how the historic site at St Catherine's Church could be enhanced.

A Commemorative Statue relating to 1916

The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs approached the Chief Executive of Dublin City Council, with a proposal to commission a permanent sculpture to 'commemorate the role of women in the events of 1916'. This included an allocation of capital funding for the commission and the establishment of a proposed steering group to include representatives of the Department, the Arts Council and Dublin City Council. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group supported the proposal to work with the Department to further develop the proposal as an open competition.

Proposed Gift of a Statue of Luke Kelly by artist John Coll

Gerry Hunt, a private individual, has on his own initiative commissioned a statue of Luke Kelly by artist John Coll. The statue is of a seated Luke Kelly singing and playing banjo. Gerry Hunt now wishes to donate the statue to Dublin City Council and has made a formal proposal in this regard. He does not have a specific location in mind other than that he would prefer 'a city centre location'. Dublin City Council will have to pay for the costs of foundations, plinth and installation.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group discussed at length, the offer by Gerry Hunt in relation to the proposed sculpture of Luke Kelly by Vera Klute which was selected after a limited competition initiated in 2015 as a response to an initiative of the then Lord Mayor Christy Burke. Cllr Christie Burke advocated for the acceptance of the gift of the John Coll Statue especially as this was favoured by the Kelly family. However, many of the Group's members highlighted the sensitivities in abandoning the proposal by Vera Klute which had been selected by a panel including the then Lord Mayor and after a formal process approved by the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group. In the end it was agreed by the Group that a small working group be established by the City Arts Officer to examine all the issues relating to the proposals in relation to the Vera Klute and John Coll sculptures of Luke Kelly.

Commission for Jervis Lane

The Housing and Residential Services Department in Dublin City Council has offered a budget to commission an artwork for a large scale curved wall on Wolfe Tone Street, Dublin, as this unsightly wall and area in front of it is a location for anti-social behaviour. This is potentially a wonderful site for a wall based artwork. By coincidence, The Arts Council approached the Dublin City Council Public Art Manager with a proposal by the Children's Laureate P J Lynch (children's author, artist and illustrator) who wishes to undertake a major mural for Dublin and Belfast. The Arts Council have also invited Laureate na nÓg and Children's Books Ireland to advise. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group supported further development of this proposal in terms of agreeing a concept, process, required budget, materials and durability, time-frame and final artistic proposal. The developed proposal is to be brought before the Arts and Cultural Group for consideration.

Proposal for a sculpture of a Giant Irish Deer by artist Paul Ferriter

Dublin City Council's Parks Superintendent submitted a proposal by Brian and John Manners for the city to commission a 'life size' sculpture of a Giant Irish Deer to be located in one of the city's parks. The artist is a well known sculptor, Paul Ferriter. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group noted that this same proposal had been submitted in 2012 and had been rejected by Dublin City Council. The Group reiterated the position of that time that the proposal, while well intended, should not be supported as the proposed locations and contexts for the sculpture were incongruous and would not make a suitable setting for this sculpture.

Proposal for *Talking Statues Dublin*

Talking Statues Dublin is a proposal by Sing London, an independent company led by Collette Hiller whereby using mobile device technology a statue is 'able to call you with a narrated script as if the statue was talking to you'. Similar initiatives have been successful in the city of London, Manchester, Leeds and more recently in Chicago, USA.

The Group discussed the temporary project and highlighted issues relating to the project which were friendly to the visually impaired but also noted the preponderance of tech-based products and programmes. It was decided that Fáilte Ireland be given approval for a pilot project.

Proposal from the Science Gallery, Dublin

The Science Gallery wishes to install an artwork called "Drone Shadows" by James Bridle as part of their upcoming exhibition "Design and Violence" which is a co-production with the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The exhibition is an extension of their online curatorial experiment. However, in this case, the Science Gallery wishes to install the actual artworks, products and design. The installation is the outline of various drones painted/chalked (in removal materials) in public spaces. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group supported the proposal subject to approval from the Events Unit, Local Area Offices (Public Domain Officers) and any other relevant Council officials.

7. Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane Report, delivered by Barbara Dawson

The Director of Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, Barbara Dawson presented her report. She drew attention to the opening of the Sven Augustijen exhibition on the 7th of September. She made reference to the new strategic plan for 2016-2021 and the plan for the gallery to become one of the top five destinations in the city for tourists. She said that these plans required more work around branding and title of the Gallery's name and to bolster the image of the institution. She mentioned the new acquisitions and offsite storage facilities that have been sourced and the tenders for procurement that have been implemented. The Director also noted the gallery's education partnership with CREATE and their current consultation with city architects and designers. The recent developments at the gallery were commended and the need for new marketing ideas addressed.

8. Report on Dublin City Public Libraries

The Deputy City Librarian, Brendan Teeling reported on the *Festival of History* taking place at the end of the month and recent developments at Kevin St. Gerry Kerr singled out the positive role of the libraries in developing new interfaces with the public using smartphone technology and the positive access provided from a disability perspective. He also praised the impact that the libraries were having as a result of Sierra and their co-ordination of projects on a national basis.

9. AOB

The chair apologised for the long duration of the meeting.

Cllr Áine Clancy
Chairperson.