



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016,  
9.30 a.m. Members Room, City Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Áine Clancy (Chair), Ray Yeates, Gerry Kerr, Róisín Kennedy, Shane de Blacam, Elaina Ryan, Ruairí Ó Cuív,

**Apologies:** Charles Duggan,  
**In Attendance:** John Conlon

**1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

The minutes were approved

**2. Matters Arising**

No matters arising

**3. City Arts Officer Report**

The City Arts Officer presented plans for enhancing the Neighbourhood Grants as part of the City council Arts Grants in a proposed partnership with local area offices. He reported on the Review of the City Arts Office which had taken place through 2016.

He presented the new *Purpose Statement for the City Arts Office*:

***Dublin City Council recognises the unique and transformative role of the arts in the life of its residents, businesses and visitors. The arts are a critical component of Dublin City Council's cultural strategy and a key pillar of Dublin's cultural identity and international reputation. The City Arts Office is a developmental unit within Dublin City Council. It supports quality, access, participation, learning and innovation in the arts through collaboration and strategic partnership at local, regional and international levels.***

He concluded the report by updating the Group on other Arts Office initiatives including the tour of *Stór*, a bi lingual play by Ciarán Taylor commissioned by the Arts Office as part of the 1916 centenary and which is touring primary schools in Dublin.

**4. Public Art Report**

**Luke Kelly Sculpture Review Group**

The City Arts Officer presented the Terms of Reference for the Luke Kelly Working Group to consider the various issues relating to the offer from Gerry Hunt of a statue of Luke Kelly by artist John Coll and the sculpture selected through the Dublin City Council process initiated by the then Lord Mayor Christy Burke, which selected the proposal by artist Vera Klute. The proposed working group is Cllr Áine Clancy, Chair of Arts and Cultural Advisory Group, Cllr Rebecca Moynihan Chair of the Arts and Culture SPC, The City Arts Officer, Community Representative, external art expert, Anna O'Sullivan, Director of the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny and the Public Art Manager. The appointment of the community representative will take place through the PPN process.

## **Statue of Robert Emmet**

Gerry Kerr raised the report on the proposal to relocate the statue of Robert Emmet to St Catherine's Church and requested that the Public Art Manager make further enquiries from the OPW as to why they would not support its relocation.

## **Commissions**

The Public Art Manager presented updates on commissions including: *Voices of Memory* by Christina Kubisch; Kevin's Street Library commission awarded to Alan Phelan, the Dublin City Council San José partnership of the play *The Memory Stick* by Donal O'Kelly; The Liberties Art Commission awarded to artists James Hayes and Kirstie North; DCC OPW Dodder Flood Defence Commission *Ark* by Tom de Paor and Peter Maybury and the Wolfe Tone Street commission in partnership with the Arts Council, Children's Book Ireland and Laureate na nÓg.

## **Proposals for Permanent Art**

### **A statue of Liam Mellows (1892 – 1922)**

Gerry Buckley, Chairperson of the Liam Mellows Memorial Committee submitted a proposal on their behalf to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group and Commemorative Naming Committee to commission 'a life size statue of Liam Mellows' in Mellows Park, Finglas. The proposed sculptor for the work is Willie Malone of Kilmainham Art Foundry. The stone work would be supplied by James McKeon of Stone Source and landscaping by Plan Design Associates. The proposers suggest that the National Graves Association become custodians of the sculpture on completion. Estimated costs supplied are €50,000 and it is intended to fundraise for the cost of the artwork.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group concluded that:

- Not enough detail had been provided about the actual artwork, the proposed artist (including previous work) and detailed costing and that the Liam Mellows Memorial Committee should be requested to provide more detailed information in this regard.
- If commissioned Dublin City Council should be given ownership and responsibility for its care and maintenance.
- While there is a context for commissioning a statue of Liam Mellows, as a park has already been named after him, consideration has to be given to the Commemorative Naming Policy which states 'In considering proposals for naming of infrastructure or erection of civic monuments or plaques, consideration will be given to what other infrastructure; monuments or plaques exist in honour of the person/s or event.'
- In addition, as agreed at the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group meeting in March 2016, a policy should be developed relating to the War of Independence and specifically in this case to the Civil War

### **Offer of Gift from the Government of Georgia**

The Ambassador from Georgia has offered Dublin City Council a wine Kvevri clay jar which is used in ancient traditional Georgian winemaking. This method of wine making has been added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List. The Ambassador is flexible as to where it could be displayed but suggested a Park.

## **Recommendation**

- That while this beautiful and valuable cultural object might be robust in many ways, it is probably too fragile to place in a public park, where it could be subject to vandalism or theft.
- In the absence of a Civic Museum and a collections policy, there is no other internal location which is easily identifiable for the permanent display of the gift.

### **Offer of Gift from the Government of Croatia**

The Ambassador from Croatia has offered Dublin City Council a gift of a Decorative Easter Egg for display indoors or externally. The painting of eggs at Easter is a tradition in Croatia and these gifts have been displayed in cities across Europe and further afield.

### **Recommendation**

- There is no obvious location for the permanent display of such a gift in the public realm in a city which is offered so many gifts on a regular basis.
- In the absence of a Civic Museum and a collections policy, there is no other internal location which is easily identifiable for the permanent display of the gift.

### **Recommendation**

- At the suggestion of the City Arts Officer, the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group agreed that policy and procedure should be developed relating to the offer of major gifts which are not necessarily public art.

### **Care and Maintenance of Permanent Public Art**

The Public Art Manager reported on issues relating to the care and maintenance of public artworks including: the statue of Philip Lynott damaged by a truck; the reinstatement of the statue of Fr Mathew by Mary Redmond; the sculpture *Trace* by Grace Weir on St Stephens Green and *Inverted Oil Rig* by Alan Phelan in Fr Collins Park .

**Next Meeting: To be scheduled in January 2017**

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**Áine Clancy,  
Chairperson**