



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Notes of Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021, 9.30 a.m.**

Zoom Call

Present: Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll, Cllr. Patricia Roe, Cllr. Dearbail Butler, Cllr. Claire Byrne, Adekunle Gomez, Ross Kean, Willie White, Ciaran Taylor, Sunil Sharpe, Anthony Flynn, Ray Yeates, Brendan Teeling, Michael Dempsey, Charles Duggan, Ruairí Ó Cuív.

Apologies: Barbara Dawson.

In Attendance: Paula Farrell

Chair: Cllr Cat O' Driscoll

Minutes of previous meeting held on 31st August, 2020

Matters Arising

Ciaran Taylor raised the issue of the diversity as a new criteria for the Arts Grants and the challenges it brought in terms of addressing this criterion in relation to making submissions for arts grants. Willie White commented that diversity also related to audiences and subject matter as well as artists. Adekunle Gomez concurred and spoke of the importance of not forgetting what different sectors of society have in common.

City Arts Officer Report:

The City Arts Officer updated the meeting on the following matters:

Arts Grants 2020

The Arts Grants were approved by Dublin City Council on January 11th. With level of funding for Arts Grants remaining static and new applicants being permitted for the Revenue stream, that this had impacted on the level of funding for some previous Revenue clients and that a small number had not received Revenue funding this year. Equally, as Project Funding was divided to include an increase in the number of Bursary awards, many regular high standard Project applicants were also disappointed. He reported that applications from the North West and North Central Areas were very low in number and that Councillors had asked that the Arts Office, Area Offices and the Dublin City Council Culture Company meet to address this deficit. A plan to build capacity for applications will be presented at the next ACAG and to Area Meetings.

Creative Campus Development

This study was being undertaken as part of a URDF Funded Feasibility Study. The study included City Council owned sites and buildings at Bridgefoot Street and 8/9 Merchants Quay, and these have been studied by a team of Consultants in a co-design process with artists and the local community. A campus housing artists' workspaces, a theatre, offices and flexible public spaces is being proposed. There has been strong agreement by community members and the artists consulted on the design principles required from public

access to private use and governance. The Feasibility Study will form part of a further application for funding to the URDF in the second half of 2021.

St Stephens Church (Pepper Canister)

This landmark church will shortly be licensed by Dublin City Council for cultural use. After an Open Call process, Selective Memory Music Producers and the RIAM will programme the space.

Dublin City Council & Arts Council Partnership Framework

Dublin City Council is working on a Partnership Framework with the Arts Council. This framework is based on *A Framework for Collaboration 2016* which is an agreement between The Arts Council and County and City Management Association (CCMA). Dublin City Council have asked The Arts Council that Dublin be considered differently to other local authorities due to its scale, local, municipal, national and international status. Work is progressing on developing this partnership.

Dublin City Development Plan

The formal review of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 commenced in December 2020. As part of the review process, the City Council issued a tender and selected Turley Associates Ltd. to produce a report regarding sustaining, developing and enhancing cultural infrastructure across Dublin City through the new City Development Plan. The purpose of the study is to advise on what city wide strategic measures and policy provisions will be required to ensure that the vitality and viability of the city's cultural offer - to artists and creative and cultural organisations; to visitors and tourists; to residents and communities over the time frame of the next City Development Plan.

A discussion took place regarding the need to identify deficits in arts infrastructure across the city and mechanism to address these.

Public Art Report

The Public Art Officer submitted an update on the Dublin City Public Art Programme confirming that the Public Art Programme has now been finalised and is ready for launch. The Programme is organised under three strands PUBLIC - ART - CITY.

Ciaran Taylor enquired about the pilot projects for Strand 1 under the title Citizen Commissioners. The Public Art Officer reported that through consultation with the Housing Department a pilot project was taking place with the Sarsfield Housing project in Ballyfermot. He also informed the meeting that the methodology was being trialled in Dolphin House where they had been engaged with for some time.

Regarding the best time for the launch of the Public Art Programme, he reported that this was a challenge of finding the right time to launch the programme under the present COVID-19 pandemic restrictions with a timescale where artists could hope to bring the selected commissions to the public and in the community under more normal circumstances.

Street Art

Sunil Sharpe and Ciaran Taylor raised questions regarding Street Art in the city. The City Arts Officer informed the Group that the Arts Office had held a Street Arts Forum and that he had requested a list of spaces and sites that could be available for Street Art. He confirmed that no planning permission is required for hoardings.

Dublin City Libraries Report:

The report submitted by Brendan Teeling outlined the libraries new strategic policies:

- Due to COVID 19, all Dublin City Library branches closed to the public on 24 December 2020. The Home Delivery Service continues to support older members in the community and those who are long-term isolating.
- Dublin City Libraries continue to provide increased access to online resources.
- In order to facilitate access to our online resources, libraries have carried out bulk renewal of library memberships to ensure ongoing access for library members

- The 'Ask a Librarian' service which allows the public to ask and get answers to their questions online and in real time continues.
- The Healthy Ireland at your Libraries and Children's Arts in Libraries Programmes continue to be departmental priorities.
- Dublin UNESCO City of Literature: Dublin One City, One Book has been rebranded as One Dublin One Book, see <http://www.onedublinonebook.ie>.
- The International Dublin Literary Award 2021 nominations list will be revealed on 4 February.

Sunil Sharpe enquired about the possibility of opening up the Pod Cast studios in Libraries and if hand held instruments could also be made available. A recent meeting with the Night Time Economy Taskforce discussed the gender gap in the teaching of STEM subjects in schools. Making hand held instruments available to girls in Libraries and encouraging girls in other creative industries would be very welcome.

Hugh Lane Report

Michael Dempsey represented the Hugh Lane Gallery at the meeting. He reported that despite been only open from the 2nd December to 24th December 2020 due to COVID Restrictions, the Gallery had 1818 visitors during this short time.

Education – The Hugh Lane continues to curate innovative and engaging online education programmes connecting with a variety of audiences and age groups, including the six day online Transition Year course in Jan-Feb 2021 which will offer twenty four participants opportunity to gain insights into the operations of the gallery through illustrated online talks with gallery curators, artists and lecturers. On completion of the course an online exhibition highlighting work made by the students during the course will take place.

Other Online events include:

- **'Exploring the Collection' lectures series in collaboration with UCD Adult Education**
- **Online Audio Description for People with a Visual Impairment** A new online programme of live online audio descriptions for people with a visual impairment.
- **Online: Exploring Sculpture through VTS**
- **Online Coffee Conversations and Online Culture Clubs**
- **Online Art Activity Ideas** where Imaginative art idea films for children, teens and adults are newly commissioned from our panel of artists.
- **Online: zoom@hughlanegallery** - City-wide project with primary schools 2020-21
- **Online Teen Culture Clubs and Leaving Cert Resources**
The facilitation of live online discussions and art activity ideas for teens as well as specific focus online discussions on the Gallery Question for Leaving Cert students.
- **Collaborative Study of Online Programmes of Cultural Engagement**
As part of Dublin City Council's Creative Ireland programme, a collaborative study led by the education department of the Hugh Lane Gallery is looking specifically at digital programmes of cultural engagement across departments in Dublin City Council.
- **Online: Portfolio Preparation Course Led** by artist Elaine Leader, the purpose of this online 16 week course is to instruct students in the preparation and production of a portfolio of work that will cater for the entry to third level colleges.
- **Online: Avenues into Modern and Contemporary Art** in conjunction with Peoples College 24 week course continuing live online on Saturday mornings.

Cllr. Cat O' Driscoll complimented the work and engagement of the Gallery and enquired about the 1930's wing which was due to open in May 2021. Michael Dempsey confirmed that the project has gone to tender but is likely to be delayed due to COVID restrictions. The work was scheduled to take 18 months in total from commencement.

AOB:

COVID Recovery Group:

Cllr. O'Driscoll informed the Group that she intended to establish a COVID Recovery Group at the next SPC which will address issues relating to the broad arena of arts, culture and

events in the city with a view to coming up with an action plan involving the Council and other partners to come up with a unified approach to bring arts and cultural events back to the city in a post COVID environment. There was a discussion with many of the Group welcoming the proposal.

Date of Next Meeting

26th April, 2021