



**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group  
Minutes of meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021,  
9.30 a.m. - Zoom Call**

**Present:** Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll, Cllr. Patricia Roe, Cllr. Dearbail Butler, Adekunle Gomez, Ross Kean, Willie White, Ciaran Taylor, Sunil Sharpe, 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 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved.**

**Matters Arising**

- Ciaran Taylor enquired if the Arts Grants 2021 feedback has been incorporated into the grant process. This was confirmed.
- Sunil Sharpe enquired about the Creative Campus in the Liberties particularly whether it would be a seated venue or one using retractable seating. It was confirmed that this enquiry would be fed in to the Development Plan as an access issue and a response will be sought.
- Cllr Cat O'Driscoll updated the Group regard the City Council Covid Recovery Group
- Ray Yeates confirmed that the members of the ACAG will be individually contacted for their input in to the City Development Plan.

**Children's Art in Libraries - Creative Hubs presentation**

Assistant Arts Officer Sinead Connolly gave a presentation on the Children's' Art in Libraries - Creative Hubs Project. This is a collaborative project between the Arts Office and Libraries. The Children's' Art in Libraries project has been taking place for 10 years. The Creative Hubs aspect of the project began 3 years ago and focuses on the 0 - 12 age group. Its aim is to sustain high quality arts experiences for children, schools and families.

**Hugh Lane Report:**

Michael Dempsey represented the Hugh Lane Gallery at the meeting and reported that:

- The gallery remains closed due to current Government Health Restrictions. The reopening of the gallery is planned for 4<sup>th</sup> May dependant on restrictions been lifted
- A new partnership agreement on the Sir Hugh Lane Bequest of 39 paintings has been successfully concluded between the Hugh Lane Gallery and the National Gallery, London.
- Instagram followers of the Gallery increase by 500 each month (minimum) and average approx. 12,000 likes across 20 posts each month.
- The Gallery continues to curate its popular online education programmes, including its Phase III online, Zoom @Hugh Lane Gallery, its city-wide project with primary

schools and its Programmes for Teens including its Teen Culture Club where students participate in online art discussion and art activity.

- The Hugh Lane will engage in a National Drawing Day on Saturday 15 May and with Cruinniú na nÓg in June.
- The online programme for people with a visual impairment are continuing to gain traction with new audiences.
- The popular series of online art talks and live discussions continues on a weekly basis with Coffee Conversations, Culture Clubs and In-conversations.
- Planning is currently underway for a programme of engagement for a variety of audiences from local communities, to schools, third level, national and international audiences and more exploring historical and contemporary themes arising from the *Studio and State John Lavery* exhibition.

### **Public Art Report:**

#### Dublin City Public Art Programme

The Public Art Programme has now been finalised and is ready for launch. The Programme is organised under three strands PUBLIC - ART - CITY. The key objectives are to place the community and neighbourhood at the centre of the commissioning process.

#### Eurocities

The Public Art Officer has been actively engaged with the public art group in Eurocities since 2020. He gave a presentation to the meeting of that group in March on the theme of *City Histories and Post Colonialism* along with the city of Lisbon.

#### An Urgent Enquiry

A public art commissioning process entitled An Urgent Enquiry took place between Dublin City Council, Wexford and Fingal County Councils and was funded under the Arts Council Innovation to Collaborate Scheme. Its focus was on biodiversity and climate change. The final commitment of the partnership was to produce a legacy document for the public.

### **City Arts Officer Report:**

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

#### International Literature Festival Dublin 2021

This will take place from 20<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and feature 80+ events featuring a line-up of 130+ international/Irish authors. Events will be streamed online. The Fringe strand includes self-guided audio walks with the aim of reconnecting audiences with their city space.

#### Creative Climate Action

Creative Ireland *Creative Climate Action* is looking for proposals which can use creative and artistic approaches, to transform connection and awareness into climate action and behaviour change. Closing date for applications Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. The Strand 2 proposals are sought from Local authorities individually, or in collaboration with other local authorities or with external partners, who can connect with creative and cultural practitioners.

#### Mapping Dalymount

The Arts Office is supporting artist, Dorothy Smith, with her publication, *Mapping Dalymount* on the ability of drawing and mapping to convey the soul and character of the football stadium and club. This project will be launched May 2021.

#### The Lab Gallery

The LAB Gallery is currently showing, 'A Consideration of All Bodies', a group exhibition of work by Declan Byrne, Philip Kenny, Paul Moore, Hugh O'Donnell and Áine O'Hara. All the artists and the curator, Róisín Hackett, have disabilities. An online programme of events and discussions is also being held in partnership with Arts & Disability Ireland with ISL

interpretation and captioning. 'Foreignments', is an online exhibition by Moran Been Noon, with a talks programme responding to ideas of citizenship and cultural diversity. 7<sup>th</sup> Sense by Aoife Dunne continues in the Cube and is available to view from the street.

- Ross Keane asked for an update on the progress with Street Art in the city. Ray confirmed a Street Art Forum was held and a Working Group was formed. A professional artist has been commissioned to conduct a survey of the legal sites and wall spaces in the city.
- Cllr. Cat. O'Driscoll confirmed that Dublin Canvas has opened up submissions for the painting of traffic boxes around the city.
- An enquiry was made regarding the intended use of the College of Music building specifically if it was intended for use as artist's space. The meeting was informed that a call for proposals on its use was made by the CEO of Dublin City Council. The process is currently underway.
- Following a question relating to the possible use of the vacant Hawkins House site in Dublin 2, Ray confirmed that proposals have yet to be submitted from developers regarding the potential use of this site.
- The Faoin Spéir application has focused on the North Central Area of the city. Five local residents associations were involved in the application process. The outcome of the application is awaited.
- Cllr. Patricia Roe enquired as to whether an audit of the cultural spaces that have been lost to the city in recent years can be completed. Ray confirmed that such an audit has already been undertaken.
- Ray suggested that an Arts infrastructure development Tool Kit be created for use with developers to assist with the implementation of artistic / creative spaces in developments going forward. This could include having an arts advisor on development projects as part of a co-design group that uses a common language that can be utilised in development projects going forward.

**AOB:**

Following a question from Sunil Sharpe regarding the number of Council run early intervention projects that cater for teenage youngsters, Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll confirmed that she will endeavour to link Sunil in with a contact in the Council on that issue.

Cllr. O'Driscoll confirmed that members of the ACAG can partake in the City Covid Recovery Working Group. This Task Group will have a broad scope and there will be no limit to the people wish to become involved.

Cllr. O'Driscoll invited Adunkle Gomez to do a presentation on cultural diversity at the next ACAG meeting

**Date of Next Meeting:**

30th August 2021.