



## **SMOCK ALLEY THEATRE (SAT) TRANSITION TO DUBLIN MUNICIPAL THEATRE (DMT)**

### **Background:**

In 2003, Temple Bar Properties Ltd (changed to Temple Bar Cultural Trust in 2005) sought proposals from cultural entities for the vacant SS Michael and John's Church & School on Essex Street East. Following a process, TBCT entered into talks with Patrick Sutton (Director, Gaiety School of Acting (then a tenant of TBCT in Sycamore Building) to redevelop the building as a theatre. A new vehicle, Smock Alley Theatre Ltd (SAT), was set up to oversee the project.

Planning Permission granted on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2007 for the redevelopment and on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 Smock Alley Theatre Ltd signed a 35 year commercial (FRI) lease on the property from 1st July 2008.

Following the opening of the Theatre it has operated with some success, however, over the years the theatre has struggled on & off with its finances and more recently it began to run into significant difficulty in discharging its liabilities, in particular, its rent to TBCT.

Since 2020, TBCT has been actively engaging with the Board and Executive of SAT with a view to an orderly wind up of the Company on the basis that TBCT in partnership with DCC would turn the building into a Municipal Theatre (DMT).

Significant progress has been achieved during 2023 and as a result, it is now proposed that SAT will begin the final stages of their orderly wind up with a target date of 31/12/2023 for this to take effect. DMT will then take over control of the building and its operation on 01/01/2024.

Dublin City Council via the Arts Office will provide financial support to DMT going forward and a SLA will be put in place to ensure that the theatre is operating in line with the needs of the City. It is proposed that €250,000 will be provided for in the Annual Revenue Budget going forward.

TBCT and SAT have a number of items to bring to conclusion between now and the end of the year. All items are in hand and I see no significant obstacles to our target date being achieved.

Some of the key items to be actioned over the coming months are as follows

- Execution of the triparty settlement agreement as between Temple Bar Cultural Trust (TBCT), Smock Alley Theatre (SAT) Ltd and Singman CLG T/A Gaiety School of Acting (GSA)
- Transfer of Assets between SAT and TBCT
- Renunciation of Lease by SAT
- Dropdown of Lease from TBCT to DMT
- Licence to GSA for use of Classrooms and Studios
- TUPE of existing SAT staff to DMT

In addition, TBCT will be establishing a new Board for Dublin Municipal Theatre Company who will oversee operations of the new Theatre and ensure the corporate governance responsibilities of the new entity are adhered too. It is envisaged, at this time that the board will have the following Structure in the first instance.

Independent Chair (Selected by DCC Chief Executive in consultation with the Lord Mayor)

2 x DCC Officials (Officials not to be current Board members or CEO of TBCT)

2 x Elected Members (Members not to be current Board members of TBCT)

2 x External members

1 x Existing SAT board member (to ensure continuity for the first 12 months)

**Derek Kelly**  
**CEO Temple Bar Cultural Trust**  
**25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**