

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht

Date: 26 March 2012
Time: 13.00 – 17.00
Venue: Offices of the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Present

Seóirse Bodley, Theo Dorgan, Mary FitzGerald, Alice Hanratty, Brian Maguire, Shelley McNamara, Mary O'Malley.

Apologies

Anthony Cronin, Jane O'Leary, Dermot Healy, Toby Dennett (Registrar)

In attendance

Catherine Boothman, 60th Anniversary Project and Artists' Supports Officer

Agenda

- Apologies
- Previous minutes and matters arising
- Discipline Ballot update
- General Assembly
 - 2011 minutes
 - Proposed motions
 - Agenda items and schedule
 - Toscaireacht report

1. Apologies

Apologies were given to the meeting on behalf of Anthony Cronin, Jane O'Leary, Dermot Healy and Toby Dennett.

Shelley McNamara apologised that she had to leave the meeting early at 14.30.

2. Previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the Toscaireacht meeting held on 5 December 2011 were reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising:

It was noted that a meeting between the Arts Council and the Toscaireacht was due to be scheduled, and that it would take place after 23 April 2012 (date of General Assembly).

3. Discipline Ballot update

It was reported that the Discipline Ballot 2012 had resulted in the following nominations going forward to the General Assembly 2012

Architecture

Ronnie Tallon: Nominated by Shane de Blacam; seconded by Patrick Scott.

Literature

James Harpur: Nominated by John F. Deane; seconded by Mary O'Malley.

Patrick McCabe: Nominated by Dermot Healy; seconded by Neil Jordan.

Music

Tommy Peoples: Nominated by Dónal Lunny; seconded by Theo Dorgan.

Visual Arts

Rita Duffy: Nominated by Pat Murphy; seconded by Paul Muldoon.

Frances Hegarty: Nominated by Brian Maguire; seconded by Maud Cotter.

Joe Walker: Nominated by Nick Millar; seconded by Patrick Hall.

It was also noted that the following nominations from previous years would be carried forward to the General Assembly 2012:

Choreography

Mary Nunan: Nominated by Nigel Rolfe and Cindy Cummings.
Passed discipline ballot in 2010

Music

Ciarán Farrell: Nominated by John Buckley and Michael Holohan

Elaine Agnew: Nominated by Eibhlís Farrell and Eric Sweeny

Passed discipline ballot in 2011

4. General Assembly – Minutes 2011

The meeting reviewed the minutes of the 2011 General Assembly and suggested a number of minor amendments.

Re: JSTOR: The Toscaireacht noted that it had agreed at its meeting on 5 December 2011 that the level of interest among members would be ascertained before exploring the cost and IT steps involved in establishing access for members to JSTOR. It was agreed that the post out of papers to members in advance of the General Assembly 2012 would include a sheet inviting members to indicate their interest or not in JSTOR. Members would be asked to return the sheet to the Artists' Support team in the Arts Council or the registration desk at the General Assembly.

5. General Assembly 2012 – Proposed motions

The member's discussed motions that had been proposed for the General Assembly. The following motions were approved for the General Assembly agenda:

To be discussed during Private session -

- Proposed by: Theo Dorgan
Seconded by: Mary FitzGerald

That this assembly requests the Toscairí to engage with the Arts Council with a view to streamlining procedures and roles within Aosdána, and between Aosdána and the Arts Council.

- Proposed by: Mannix Flynn
Seconded by: Alice Hanratty
This assembly resolves that sympathies and condolences may be offered for non-members, but that the minute's silence be reserved for those who were members of Aosdána.
- Proposed by: Bob Quinn
Seconded by: Cathal Black
That Cinematography be considered to be in the category of Visual Arts appropriate to Aosdána.

To be discussed during Public session -

- Proposed by: Mannix Flynn
Seconded by: Alice Hanratty
That this assembly calls on the current government to delay proceeding with a monument to victims of abuse as recommended by the Ryan Commission to inquire into Child Abuse, until such time as the many unresolved, uninvestigated and outstanding issues concerning the abuses for which Irish society has been responsible, in particular those affecting the Magdalene women, those who endured abuse in Bethany children's homes and the many children who suffered horrendous abuse in day-schools throughout the Republic of Ireland, are resolved.
- Proposed by: Margaretta D'Arcy
Seconded by: John Arden
Aosdána calls upon the Arts Council and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht to insist that all publicly funded arts and cultural venues be fully accessible to wheelchair users.
- Proposed by: Theo Dorgan
Seconded by: Paula Meehan
Aosdána calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, to give a full public explanation of the rationale behind the proposed merger of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, The National Gallery and The Crawford Gallery, Cork.
- Proposed by: Margaretta D'Arcy
Seconded by: John Arden
Aosdána calls upon the Office of Public Works and the Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to make many of the historic buildings in public care into a focus for local schools, local historians, artists, IT practitioners, etc., to allow for the creation of relevant illustrative and informative manifestations – as on many similar sites on the Continent where Son-et-Lumiere is frequently employed – in order to enhance the appreciation and understanding of our historic heritage for the benefit of cultural tourism.

- Proposed by: Theo Dorgan
Seconded by: Paula Meehan
Aosdána calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin to give a full public explanation of the rationale behind the proposed merger of The National Archive, The Irish Manuscripts Commission and The National Library.

It was agreed that the Registrar would write to proposers of motions to inform them of the decision of the Toscaireacht.

6. General Assembly 2012 – Agenda items and schedule

The meeting discussed and agreed upon the schedule and running order of the Agenda of the General Assembly 2012.

The Toscaireacht agreed to invite the Director of the Arts Council to attend the General Assembly.

7. General Assembly 2012 – Toscaireacht report

It was agreed that the Chair and the Registrar would draft the Toscaireacht's report, and that a draft would be circulated to the Toscairí for their input.

The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting ended.

END