

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht, 1.00pm 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

**Present:** Mary FitzGerald (Chair), Seóirse Bodley, Paddy Bushe, Rhona Clarke, Shane de Blacam, Michael Holohan, Brian Lynch, Tom McCarthy, Geraldine O'Reilly.

**Apologies:** Christine Dwyer Hickey

**In attendance:** Audrey Keane, (Acting) Registrar

### **Previous minutes and matters arising**

The Toscaireacht met on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 without the presence of the Registrar who was abroad on other business. It was agreed that the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> April would be considered and minuted as the second of a two-part meeting, the first part being the meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.

MF will follow up with the letters of condolence as outlined in the previous minutes. MF wrote to Shelley McNamara and Yvonne Farrell asking how the Toscaireacht might assist them in raising funds for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2018. It was agreed that this offer of support should be reiterated.

MH joined the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were proposed by GO'R and seconded by RC as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

### **Toscaireacht election process for new term**

AK updated the meeting on the Toscaireacht nominations. 41 nominations have been received as follows: architecture 3; choreography 1; literature 14; music 3; visual arts 20. It is expected that the discipline ballots will go out during the week of 20<sup>th</sup> November once all nominees have been contacted for confirmation that they wish to go forward. The deadline will be set for the week of 11<sup>th</sup> December.

At this point MF declared that should she be nominated that she intends to decline to go forward for the Toscaireacht. Members thanked MF for her hard work and dedication carried out with accuracy, truth and passion at a very difficult time. They also acknowledged that she had always strived to protect the spirit of the membership.

MF invited nominations for Chair and, as no other candidates were proposed, she then nominated MH as Chair and this was enthusiastically seconded by SB. MH was elected unanimously and will act as Chair until such time as the new Toscaireacht is in place.

### **New member nomination – review of nomination letters**

Seven artists have been nominated for membership of Aosdána in the recent nomination process. Nomination and seconder letters were reviewed and it was confirmed that all seven nominations had been submitted according to rule and will go forward to the membership for consideration.

A short discussion regarding the issue of nominators and seconders availability to speak to a nomination on the day of the General Assembly and the impact for the nominee ensued. It was agreed that the existing rule would remain in place.

A further ten nominations are carried over from the previous General Assembly and will go forward in 2018.

**A.O.B.**

MF tabled a letter from Jane O’Leary informing her of her resignation from the Toscaireacht which had been presented at a meeting of the Toscaireacht on 11th April 2017.

AK will follow up with an update on the number of members that have returned consent forms for sharing their contact details with the Toscaireacht. As approximately 80 members have not returned consent forms it was agreed that forms could be brought to the General Assembly and completed by members that wish to share their contact details but that have not yet returned forms to the Arts Council.

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Ben Mulligan for his work as Aosdána Assistant. They wished him well in his new role with the Visual Arts team.

Brian Lynch then joined the meeting for a private session.

**Date of next meeting**

TBC