

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 17 July 2006

Time: 11.30

Venue: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Present:

Seirse Bodley

Roger Doyle

Michael Kane

Alice Maher

Anthony Cronin

In attendance:

Siân Cunningham (Acting Registrar)

Ciara Timlin (Artists' Services Officer, minutes)

Mary Cloake (from 11.40 to 12.15)

Papers before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of meeting, 4 April 2006

Correspondence

1. Election of Chairperson

Anthony Cronin was nominated to chair for this meeting.

2. Apologies

Theo Dorgan, Paul Durcan, Cecily Brennan, Jennifer Johnston.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

Subject to agreed changes, the minutes were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting.

3.1 Matters Arising

The Toscaireacht expressed their sympathy over the deaths of their colleagues Clare Boylan and Noel Sheridan.

4. Election of New Toscaireacht

The Acting Registrar confirmed that the current Toscaireacht started their term in September 2004 and that Toscaireacht elections take place every two years. The Toscaireacht discussed the timing for the election of a new Toscaireacht and it was agreed that with the number of matters still to attend to in the near future, that the current Toscaireacht would continue until spring. It was agreed that it would be more timely to announce the election of the new Toscaireacht at the General Assembly in early 2007.

It was also agreed that a schedule of Toscaireacht meetings would be agreed at the next meeting.

5. Meeting with Arts Council

A discussion was held with the Director, Mary Cloake, in order to prepare a common agenda prior to the Council/Toscaireacht meeting to be held on the 18 July.

It was agreed that among the items for discussion would be: the issue of choreographers; value of the Cnuas, membership numbers, performing artists.

A number of suggestions were put forward to Mary Cloake with regard to how the Arts Council and the Toscaireacht could work together on the issue of choreographers.

It was also agreed that there was a need to review the level of the Cnuas. The Toscaireacht believe that it is an insufficient fund and no longer meets the objective for which it was originally set up. The Toscaireacht also agreed that the income threshold for Cnuas recipients should be reviewed. A discussion was also held on the possibility of introducing a suitable incremental formula to revise the membership numbers of Aosdána on an ongoing basis.

The Toscaireacht agreed that meetings with Council should be held on an annual basis and a fixed date should be negotiated with Council. The Director suggested that this meeting could take place in advance of the Council's annual policy meeting in June. She will suggest this as a schedule at the next Council meeting.

6. FAQ Document

A number of alterations were suggested for the document but it was agreed that this item be deferred until its author, Theo Dorgan is present. In the mean time, the Toscaireacht were invited to make note of any further changes that may be required.

ENDS