

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht

Date 15 January 2010

Time 1pm

Venue No 70 Merrion Sq

Present

Seóirse Bodley, Theo Dorgan, Dermot Healy, Mannix Flynn, Hugh Maxton, Nick Miller, Macdara Woods

In attendance

Toby Dennett (Registrar) and Katie Lowry (International Arts and Artists' Supports Officer)

Papers before the meeting

Agenda

- Election of Chair
- Apologies
- Viewing of trailer for Aosdána documentary
- Previous Minutes and Matters Arising
- Outstanding Nominations
- General Assembly
- AOB

1. Election of Chair

Theo Dorgan was elected to chair the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Anthony Cronin, Brian Maguire and Jane O'Leary.

3. Viewing of trailer for Aosdána documentary

The Toscaireacht viewed a 15 minute trailer for the upcoming documentary on Aosdána to be broadcast on RTE.

The Chair thanked Fintan Connolly and Fiona Bergin for the opportunity to see the trailer.

It was suggested that it would be useful for the Toscaireacht to see a rough cut of the film when available in order to identify any potential issues that may arise regarding the public's perception of Aosdána.

4. Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

Previous minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. The Chair signed a copy of the minutes for the record.

The Registrar was asked by the Toscaireacht if a copy of the previous minutes had been passed on to Council Member Alan Stanford.

The Registrar informed the meeting that he had been instructed not to forward on the minutes until the Arts Council Director had had an opportunity to view the correspondence.

After a lengthy discussion the Toscaireacht agreed that the most appropriate action was to await the outcome of the Directors deliberations.

The Toscaireacht welcomed Jane O'Leary warmly to the Toscaireacht

5. Outstanding Nominations

The Registrar informed the meeting that Olwn Fouéré's nominator and seconder had requested the nomination stay within the visual arts discipline as originally proposed.

The Registrar reported that all other requested amendments had been received and complied with.

The Toscaireacht reviewed the amended material and approved all nominations to go forward to the discipline ballot.

6. General Assembly

The Registrar updated the members on the invitation put to Aosdána to hold its General Assembly in Armagh.

The Registrar outlined the anticipated costs associated with such an event and confirmed that in light of the proposed offers of in kind support from Armagh City and District Council and from the North South Ministerial Council that the Arts Council would be able to facilitate such an event within a modest budget.

There was an extended discussion on the pros and cons of the proposal with members presenting a range of views.

Following discussion it was decided that Aosdána would accept the invitation to hold its meeting in Armagh on condition that -

- the meeting could be held in mid April
- suitable accommodation and transport arrangements could be put in place
- a suitable venue could be secured that would allow for members to be seated at tables (conference style)
- the event did not present an excessive cost to the Arts Council

It was agreed that the Registrar would prepare more detailed proposals in advance of the next meeting.

7. AOB

Mannix Flynn drew the meeting's attention to Dublin City Council's Decommissioning Art Policy document which proposes permission to remove visual arts and public art from the streets of Dublin

ENDS