

Meeting of the Toscaireacht 6 November (and continuation on 16 December).

Meeting 6 November:

Present: Brian Maguire (chair); Anthony Cronin (AC); Theo Dorgan (TD); MaryFitzGerald (MF); Alice Hanratty (AH); Shelley McNamara (SMN); Jane O'Leary (JOL); Mary O'Malley (MOM); Colm Tóibín (CT).

In attendance: Liz Powell, Registrar; Orlaith McBride, Director of the Arts Council

Agenda

- 1) Welcome
 - a. Discussion with Orlaith McBride, Director of the Arts Council
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of previous meeting
- 4) Matters arising
- 5) Public Service Education Dividend
- 6) Correspondence
- 7) General Assembly - deferred from 6 November to 16 December
- 8) Discipline nominations – deferred from 6 November to 16 December
- 9) Toscaireacht nominations – deferred from 6 November to 16 December
- 10) AOB

- 1) Welcome
 - a. Discussion with Orlaith McBride, Director of the Arts Council

Discussion with Orlaith McBride, Director of the Arts Council, in advance of the meeting on 6 November.

The value of the relationship and the benefit of regular meetings between Arts council and Aosdána was acknowledged.

The Director outlined the Arts Council's own financial situation and confirmed that, while the level of the cnuas and threshold would remain as is for 2014, the ongoing reductions in the Council's budget mean that this might not be the case in 2015 in the context of reducing resources. The Director confirmed that any proposed savings would be discussed with the Toscairí and that a partnership approach would be the preferred option.

AC welcomed the Director's presence and honesty, but pointed out that the cnuas had been subject to a 'de facto' freeze as the original commitment had been to increase the cnuas to €20,000. TD noted, in addition, that the introduction of USC and PRSI was impacting on the value of the cnuas.

The Director also confirmed that the Arts Council would conduct a strategic review in 2014 to ensure that it is fit for purpose going into the future and that the cnuas would form part of that review.

The Toscairí welcomed the review process and offered to assist, stating the importance of having an artist on the review group. OMB confirmed that Aosdána would have an opportunity to contribute to the review process.

The members thanked The Director who then left the meeting.

BM led tributes to former Saoi, Seamus Heaney, who died in August. It was agreed that a note of condolence should be sent to Marie Heaney.

2) Apologies:

Seoirse Bodley (SB)

3) Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.

4) Matters arising

None

5) Arts and Education Charter / Public Service Education Dividend

BM and TD reported on the meeting with Minister Deenihan which was very cordial and productive. It was agreed that Aosdana would be consulted to make contributions to the working group.

6) Correspondence:

Correspondence from Mannix Flynn regarding the Toscaireacht election process was considered. A response was agreed, noting that all procedures had been followed correctly to be sent by the Chair of the Toscaireacht:

Due to time constraints, the meeting ended after this item. It was agreed that the meeting would be reconvened to discuss items not discussed.

Meeting 16 December, being a continuation of the meeting of 6 November:

Present: Brian Maguire (chair); Seoirse Bodley (SB); Theo Dorgan (TD); MaryFitzGerald (MF); Alice Hanratty (AH); Shelley McNamara (SMN).

In attendance: Liz Powell, Registrar

Apologies: Jane O'Leary, Colm Tóibín, Mary O'Malley and Anthony Cronin.

Agenda continued from 6 November 2013

- 7) General Assembly
- 8) Discipline nominations
- 9) Toscaireacht nominations
- 10) AOB

7) General Assembly

Proposed dates for the General Assembly dates were 28, 29 or 30 April. It was requested that the room layout should be, if possible, in boardroom style.

General Assembly presentations: It was agreed that members of Aosdana be asked to make proposals for presentations at the 2014 GA. Call for proposals to be issued alongside call for motions in early 2014. It was suggested that the theme should be 'The role of the artist in contemporary Irish society'.

8) Discipline nominations

It was clarified that in order for discipline nominations to be considered, they must include, at the least a nominators' letter, cv of artist and statement of agreement from artist being nominated. Registrar to contact those members whose nominations did not meet these requirements to inform them that their nominations would not be considered for 2015.

It was confirmed that 13 nominations would go to the membership for consideration at the discipline stage. A further 6 nominations will be carried over from the previous General Assembly.

9) Toscaireacht nominations

The Registrar confirmed that the process for the appointment of a new Toscaireacht was underway and that a new Toscaireacht would be in place by February 2014. BM paid tribute to all members of the Toscaireacht and thanked them for their contribution over their time on the steering committee.

BM agreed to act as overseer for the counting ballots for the election of the new Toscaireacht.

10) AOB

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.