

Toscaireacht Meeting

Minutes

Date: 5 December 2006

Time: 1pm

Venue: The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square

Present:

Theo Dorgan

Cecily Brennan

Alice Maher

Roger Doyle

Anthony Cronin

Michael Kane

Jennifer Johnston

Seoirse Bodley

In attendance

Diego Fasciati (Acting Deputy Registrar)

Ciara Timlin (Artists' Services Officer, minutes)

Papers before the meeting

Agenda

Minutes of meeting

1. Election of Chairperson

Cecily Brennan was nominated to chair the meeting.

2. Apologies

Paul Durcan

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

The minutes were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting with the following addition:

Alice Maher suggested that the number of Saoithe be increased from 5 to 7 to reflect the increase in the membership of Aosdána. She further suggested that this be presented as a motion at the next General Assembly.

3.1 Matters Arising

Cnuas

Following on from previous discussions on the review of the current Cnuas level, the Toscaireacht agreed this would need to be examined using monetary and statistical information.

The Deputy Registrar agreed that figures will be ascertained based on the following measures: 1) the percentage of Arts Council funding allocated to Aosdána in 1983 in comparison to the current percentage in 2006 for the same; 2) the current value in Euros of the original Cnuas of £4,000 in 1983, based on the rate of inflation over that 23 year period.

The Toscaireacht decided these figures are necessary in order to further the case for an increase in Cnuas and the income threshold for the Cnuas.

The Toscaireacht also agreed that factual statistics need to be calculated in relation to the possibility of introducing an incremental formula to revise membership numbers for Aosdána on an ongoing basis. The Deputy Registrar agreed to collate figures based on the following: 1) the population of Ireland and Northern Ireland in 1983 in comparison to the 2006 figure for the same; 2) where possible, a figure for the number of working artists in 1983 compared with the same figure for 2006.

The Toscaireacht expressed their preference for a regular and fixed meeting with Council as discussed previously. The Deputy Registrar suggested the Toscaireacht should meet the Council twice a year; once prior to the General Assembly and again before budgetary decisions in autumn.

Theatre Forum

Following on from the previous discussions on Theatre Forum, the Toscaireacht agreed on reflection that as no formal request had been made by Theatre Forum to meet with the Toscaireacht, no action will be taken on this matter in the interim.

Roger Doyle stated his objection to this decision by the Toscaireacht.

FAQ Document

Subject to agreed changes the Toscaireacht agreed the FAQ document should be sent to all members of Aosdána, uploaded on the website and also made available at the General Assembly.

4. Nomination 2007

The Deputy Registrar updated the Toscaireacht on the current nominations and notified the Toscairí that all the nominations would be sent to them before the next meeting. The Toscaireacht agreed the date of 17th January for their next meeting to review the nominations.

5. Nomination of Choreographers

Following on from the Toscaireacht meeting with the Council, a meeting took place between Mary Noonan (Arts Council), Diego Fasciati, Paul Johnson (APDI) and Roger Doyle to discuss the matter of choreographers being nominated to Aosdána. As had been suggested, a document was prepared for the Toscaireacht which outlines choreographers and dance practice in Ireland. This was distributed to the Toscairí.

The Toscaireacht decided that increased nominations of choreographers need to be made and agreed that actions would be taken to encourage this.

The question of whether free tickets could be made available to members for dance events as a long-term initiative was raised. The Deputy Registrar agreed to put this suggestion to the Arts Council.

6. General Assembly 2007

The Toscaireacht agreed to discuss the structure for the General Assembly at a future meeting.

7. Open Day/ Discussion Day

Further to previous discussion on the possibility of an open/ discussion day for Aosdána members, the Toscaireacht agreed this matter should be put to the membership in writing. The Deputy Registrar and Cecily Brennan agreed to draft a letter inviting members to raise potential topics for discussion.

8. Pension Scheme

The Deputy Registrar distributed a document of frequently asked question on the Aosdána pension scheme. The Toscaireacht agreed the scheme needs further review to establish its value to the membership. The Deputy Registrar assured this matter would be given further examination.