

Minutes

Meeting of Toscaireacht

230pm – 430pm, 27 June 2019 at The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Present

Anne Haverty (Chair); Cathy Carman; Michael Holohan; Thomas McCarthy; Samuel Walsh; Bob Quinn; Rhona Clarke, Geraldine O'Reilly

In attendance

Karen Hennessy (Aosdána Registrar)

Apologies

Eamon Colman, Vincent Woods,

Previous minutes and matters arising

Minutes of meeting 21 May were reviewed. Registrar to clarify detail regarding a number of items on the minutes and re-issue.

General Assembly

Bob Quinn updated that a letter had been sent to Galway2020 outlining that Aosdána could not have General Assembly in Galway in 2020 for practical reasons. Galway2020 had acknowledged the letter.

It is decided that the venue should be in Dublin for ease of access after being out of Dublin in 2019. However which venue should be considered. A great reception and Assembly was had in UCC. IMMA is considered a terrific venue however if there was another venue which could invite Aosdána much the same way as UCC did then it could open up the Assembly for a similar programme of events as in 2019. The National Convention Centre was proposed as an alternative to IMMA and as a tribute to Kevin Roche who passed away in March 2019. Registrar to look into this and other alternatives.

Dates were looked at. Easter Sunday is 12 April in 2020 with Good Friday falling on 10 April. This would leave 3 April as a Friday for the Assembly if aiming to do before Easter. IMMA is not available on Fridays so if in IMMA it could be 1 April. This is early in April and some members had expressed a desire to have the Assembly later in April than was the case in 2019. The Assembly could take place after Easter and be during week of 20 April or 27 April.

The Registrar is to draft a letter to members to encourage nominations across art forms and gender to accompany the call for nominations in 2019. This letter should also remind members of their responsibility in relation to nominating artists, voting on nominees and attendance at the General Assembly.

The Registrar is to draft Guidelines for nominators also as new members are not as familiar with this process.

The Toscaireacht will oversee these drafts and Registrar will issue to members in the Autumn 2019 when call for nominations opens.

It was noted that the General Assembly in 2021 will mark the 40 year anniversary of the founding of Aosdána.

The Statistical Research presented at the General Assembly continues to gather discussion. Some members had fed back to the Toscaireacht their thoughts on gender and the statistics. It was suggested that anyone who would like to put forward their thoughts should be encouraged to do so by way of a PDF document that could be circulated to all.

It was noted that 5 of the new members elected in 2019 were female and that there was a sense that we are embarking on a Golden Age of Female Creativity in the 2020s.

Toscaireacht letter to Arts Council Chair Kevin Rafter

Anne Haverty outlined that she had written to the new Chair of the Arts Council Kevin Rafter to welcome him to his new role and discuss the Cnuas. Anne read out the letter. The letter had been acknowledged by the Arts Council.

The Oireachtas Committee was discussed. Kevin Rafter had appeared before the Oireachtas committee as is standard practise. It was thought a good idea for Aosdána to make a presentation to the Oireachtas committee at some stage. It was outlined that the Committee is gathering information all the time and that it would be relevant to go in and appear when there is a specific point to make. The process is to make a submission and then a request is issued to appear. Peadar Toibin has now resigned as Chair and is replaced with Aonghus O'Snodaigh.

Saoi Update

Roger Doyle will celebrate his 70th Birthday on 17th July 2019. This information has been communicated to the President's office.

Anthony Cronin Award

A celebration to mark writer Dermot Bolger as recipient of the Anthony Cronin Award will take place at 5pm 27 June 2019 with the Toscaireacht and Arts Council Director Orlaith McBride. A news item on the Award will issue after the event.

Culture night

Culture Night takes place on 20 Sep 2019. It would seem too short a timeframe to plan for this year the type of event which was being proposed consisting of readings; performances; exhibitions. Aosdána should look to plan for Sep 2020. The Arts Council opens downstairs only of 70 Merrion Square. This space considered too tight for the type of activities Aosdána could propose. A building in Henrietta Street was mentioned as a possible location. Bob Quinn to investigate further.

Follow up

Registrar to look into other alternative Dublin venues for the General Assembly 2020 and suitable dates.

The Registrar to draft a letter to members to encourage nominations across art forms and gender to accompany the call for nominations in 2019. This letter should also remind members of their responsibility in relation to nominating artists, voting on nominees and attendance at the General Assembly.

The Registrar to draft Guidelines for Nominators.

Bob Quinn to investigate further the use of a building on Henrietta Street for Aosdána Culture Night programme.