

Minutes

Meeting of Toscaireacht at Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2

2pm – 4pm 16 January 2020

Present

Vincent Woods, Michael Holohan, Thomas McCarthy, Geraldine O'Reilly, Samuel Walsh, Anne Haverty (Chair)

Apologies

Cathy Carman, Bob Quinn, Rhona Clarke, Eamon Colman

In attendance

Karen Hennessy (Aosdána Registrar)

Minutes and Matters arising

The Aosdána Pin was discussed. Sam was asked to try and see if there was a maker's mark on his pin. Registrar to ask Archivist in Arts Council for any file reference internally. Anne Haverty proposed the Dec minutes and Geraldine O'Reilly seconded them. No matters arising.

General Assembly 2020

It was proposed that the Registrar arrange to visit UCD with Michael Holohan, Anne Haverty and Geraldine O'Reilly mid-February. Preferably on a Tuesday or Thursday morning when Michael in UCD. This meeting could also involve Ben Mulligan, Arts Council Collection. Registrar to discuss with Arts Council collection if it would be possible to have works from the collection on view in O'Reilly Hall during the Assembly and possibly for a short period of time afterwards.

A number of suggestions were made for the General Assembly in UCD including: having work from the Arts Council collection by Aosdána members on display; having work by current and former Aosdána members who are alumni of UCD included in some way. It was suggested that an A3 screen print could be made of a poem by Anthony Cronin. Mary Plunkett in Belgrave Press was mentioned as a reference for this. This could be a limited edition print. It is estimated there are approximately 30 Aosdána alumni.

It was proposed to discuss with John Hannigan Head of UCD School of English, Drama and Film about involving the School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore and also the Poetry Archive. The UCD Creative Fellows and UCD Ad Astra Academy were discussed as worth exploring. Items for discussion with UCD also include an event the evening prior to the Assembly and how to facilitate parking. It was agreed that the senior students from the School of English, Drama and Film should participate as part of the afternoon public session for approximately 90 minutes, similar to the programme in UCC.

It was clarified that it is the new incoming Toscaireacht who will sit at the top of the room at the General Assembly and deliver the Toscaireacht report. The outgoing Toscaireacht can feed into this report in relation to the period May 2019 – Jan 2020.

Mary Loughlin

Mary Loughlin had written a heartfelt letter of thanks to Aosdána and it was proposed that this should be read out at the General Assembly.

Aosdána Origins

There was discussion on the short text required for the 'About' Section of the Aosdána web site. Anne proposed asking a fellow Aosdána member to work with a Council member on merging the two descriptions. Anne will approach the member when free in a couple of weeks' time. The registrar will follow up accordingly.

New Toscaireacht

It was proposed that the new Toscaireacht should meet early March after the meeting at UCD takes place and developments are made on the General Assembly Agenda.

Nidhi Zak Mentoring Proposal

The proposal by Nidhi Zak was discussed. It was outlined that members of Aosdána are always mentoring and being approached by artists and that this is on-going and happens in many ways. It was felt that the proposal is one which should be further developed. Aosdána is not a funding body so could not fund any proposal. It was suggested that Nidhi be advised to look to a local arts office or to the Arts Council for funding and that perhaps she needs a partner organisation like Poetry Ireland. The Registrar to make contact and advise Nidhi accordingly.

Annual Artistic Report Forms

The Annual Artistic Report Form will be issued mid-January to all members for a return date 19th February. This is optional for non Cnuas recipients and a requirement for Cnuas recipients. It was clarified that the Revenue document that is required is the Revenue self-assessment letter and not the entire Form 11 that members submit online. Members can submit the acknowledgement of the online Form 11 they submit in advance of the self-assessment letter if they have not received this notice of self-assessment back yet.

Discipline Ballot Vote

The Discipline Ballot papers will be issued on 3 February accompanied by the letter drafted with the Toscaireacht encouraging members to vote. Voting will end early March. A member of the new Toscaireacht will oversee the Ballot count with the Registrar at their first meeting in March.

Outgoing Toscaireacht

Chair and Registrar thanked the outgoing members of the Toscaireacht for all their hard work and commitment across the last two years as well as their warm welcome. The new Toscaireacht was named and it was outlined that there will be continuity on the new Toscaireacht with 4 current members continuing.

Ends