

Meeting of Toscaireacht, via Zoom.

12 – 130pm 3 February 2022

Present

Anne Haverty (Chair), Enda Wyley, Geraldine O'Reilly, Gerard Smyth, Grainne Mulvey
Mary O'Donnell, Theo Dorgan, Eamon Colman, Michael Holohan, Deirdre Kinahan

Zoom Host

Karen Hennessy (Registrar Aosdána)

Welcome

Gerard Smyth assumed the role of Chair for the meeting for the purpose of visibility as the video camera of the Chair did not work.

Minutes and Matters arising

The October minutes were proposed by Geraldine O'Reilly and seconded by Mary O'Donnell. There were no matters arising.

How to commemorate members who have died over the past two years

This item was deferred for the new Toscaireacht to discuss at their first meeting.

Update on the history of Aosdána publication

The Registrar gave an update. The Peer Review process is now complete and the peer reviews received. The next step is for the Registrar to circulate to the Selection Committee and the Author. It was thought that it might be June before the publication is published. It was suggested that September might be a good time. The images for the publication were discussed and it was reiterated that Saoi should feature and that there would be good images to represent the work of the Saoi and that images should be present for all Saoi and not just visual artists. Former Saoi could also feature. It was suggested that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] could be consulted on images.

Annual General Meeting

It was suggested that Sep could be a good time to host an actual assembly and that this could tie in with the book launch. The month of May, as was suggested by a member, might be too early. Others thought Oct a better month. At any rate it was decided that it should not take place before Sep and that it could be an actual Assembly. A postal vote could run alongside with votes gathered before the Assembly date. The Registrar pointed out that when an actual General Assembly takes place heretofore postal votes were allowable only in the case of a member being unable to travel; overseas or ill. If it was allowable this year not to attend due to personal preference and that a postal vote was offered to all members instead of attendance that it would need to be indicated if this was for 2022 in response to

Covid concerns or if this was a move away from the current process in place. Allowing a postal vote could greatly reduce attendance at General Assemblies moving forward.

It was suggested that Michael D.Higgins as Patron of Aosdána could be invited to launch the publication. The invitation to the Chair of the Arts Council and the Director to attend and address the Assembly still stand. Any invitation to the President in relation to launching the publication should be mindful of this.

Clarity of language in the Annual Artistic Report

'The Arts Council reviews the level of the cnuas and cnuas threshold annually and may alter either or both with effect from January of the following year. For 2022 the cnuas is €20,180 and the threshold is €25,770.'

It was suggested that this sentence be re-written as

'The Arts Council reviews the level of the cnuas and cnuas threshold annually and may alter either or both with effect from January of the following year. For 2022 the cnuas is €20,180 and the threshold of non-Cnuas income is €25,770.'

The Cnuas threshold

Members would like the Cnuas threshold to be discussed at the Working Group. The Registrar outlined that the next meeting would be end March and that once the new Toscaireacht was in place that she would issue the dates to the Toscaireacht for the members of the Working Group. The Cnuas threshold would be an item on the Agenda.

Passing on relevant info to incoming new Toscaireacht, to ensure continuity

It was outlined that passing on information to new Toscaireacht is very important. The Registrar outlined that all members receive minutes of Toscaireacht meetings. However in the event that the members have not read the minutes it was thought useful if the Registrar could send on a briefing pack to the new members of the Toscaireacht and include the paper prepared by the Toscaireacht in response to the discussion document *Future Proofing Aosdána* as well as the document *Reflecting on Aosdána in a Changing World* along with minutes from 2021 meetings.

AOB

It was highlighted that there is a vacancy for Saoi and that this should be addressed by the new Toscaireacht.

It was suggested that this Toscaireacht have a photo taken at the General Assembly as this has not happened to date and would be important for archival and web site purposes.

The Toscaireacht members concluded the meeting by remarking on how well the Toscaireacht had worked together and that it was a shame that there had only been one actual meeting with all others via zoom.