

## **Minutes**

### **First Meeting of New Toscaireacht**

**10am – 1130pm, 21 March 2022**

**At**

**The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2**

#### **Present**

Anne Haverty, Gerard Smyth, Grainne Mulvey, Theo Dorgan, Michael Holohan, Anne Tallentire, Cathy Carman, Enda Wyley

#### **Apologies**

Eamon Colman, Vivienne Dick

#### **Chair**

Theo Dorgan proposed Anne Haverty to continue as Chair of the Toscaireacht. Enda Wyley seconded. Anne accepted to remain as Chair. The new members of the Toscaireacht were welcomed. Recognition was given to the out-going Toscaireacht as well as the work of the Registrar during the previous term.

#### **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Michael Holohan proposed the minutes and Anne Haverty seconded. There were no matters arising.

#### **General Assembly**

It was thought that returning to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham would be a good idea as members have not seen each other in a few years and this venue is so familiar. Karen will check if it is open for bookings. An Oct date was discussed. Preferably before the mid-term break. It was thought that UCD could be a venue for the following year. The Toscaireacht reiterated the invitation to the Chair of the Arts Council and to the Director to attend and address the General Assembly. The Toscaireacht outlined that a focus on new art-forms and the disciplines would be part of the Assembly as well as part of the on-going work of this new Toscaireacht.

#### **Publication Update**

The Arts Council and the publisher are currently working through the publishing contract. It was thought that the President could be invited to launch the publication. This invitation issue might also help to confirm the date of the launch.

#### **Call for Nominations for New Members**

The Toscaireacht will issue a letter with the call for nominations outlining the **Statement of Values** as per the Toscaireacht response document to the draft *Future Proofing Aosdána*. It will be proposed as a motion at the General Assembly.

## **“AOSDÁNA, A STATEMENT OF VALUES**

### **WHEREAS**

*Aosdána is an independent affiliation of artists that, when places become available, elects to its membership, by peer selection, artists who have by the quality of their work made a significant contribution to their art form*

### **AND WHEREAS**

*Members nominating and seconding candidates for election to the honour of membership do so free from constraint and in accordance with their own independent best judgement*

### **WE STATE AND CONFIRM**

*That members have made, make and will continue to make every effort to inform themselves fully when identifying suitably qualified artists deserving of the honour.*

### **WE FURTHER STATE**

*Our unswerving commitment to undertaking that duty in a spirit of principled commitment to demonstrable equity, informed by a lively and inquiring sense of new and emerging art forms, an awareness of inherited historical imbalances in the representation of women artists and embracing the obligation to inform ourselves in particular of how questions of class, gender and ethnicity can act to obscure significant achievements by individual artists.”*

The Chair asked about Aosdána headed paper and if it could be sourced. This letter and others similar should go on Aosdána headed paper.

### **Arts Council/Aosdána working group**

Anne Haverty as Chair will continue on the Arts Council/Aosdána working group. Enda Wyley proposed Theo Dorgan to also remain on the working group and Anne Haverty seconded this proposal. Enda Wyley proposed Gerry Smyth to sit on the working group and Anne Haverty seconded this also. Enda will be on a reserve list if a member cannot make a meeting. There will also be new members of the Council on the working group as there were new appointees to the Council in recent weeks.

### **Saoi Vacancy**

It was highlighted that there are currently 6 Saoi and so there is a vacancy for 1 Saoi. This should be addressed as a matter of urgency now that COVID restrictions have lifted.

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

It was thought that a photo of the member who has passed way could be shown. There are 18 in total who have passed away since the last General Assembly in April 2019. This should take place before new members are welcomed. New members from 2020 and 2021 elections could be invited to stand.