

Minutes

11am – 1230pm 14 June 2023

Meeting of Aosdána Toscaireacht

Present

Gerry Smyth, Anne Haverty, Cathy Carman, Vivienne Dick, Michael Holohan, Theo Dorgan Chair, Mary O'Donnell, Vivienne Dick

Via Zoom: Anne Tallentire, Grainne Mulvey, Karen Hennessy

Apologies There were no apologies

Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 12 January meeting were approved with no matters arising. The draft minutes of the General Assembly have been corrected as per the Jan meeting and can remain on file now until circulation to all members prior to the next General Assembly.

Welcome of new Toscaireacht member

Mary O'Donnell was officially welcomed as the new Toscaireacht Member

Promotion of Publication

The Registrar outlined that the promotion of the publication is ongoing. See distribution list below. Third level institutions and libraries outside of Dublin are currently being targeted. The Press Release is issued with each copy of the publication. The Toscaireacht requested seeing the press release. It is on the web site and was approved by Anne Haverty and Theo Dorgan. The Registrar will circulate copies of it. It was outlined that the Author is currently working on a summary for the 'About' section of the website. The Registrar will circulate this when it is ready. It was recommended that the Wikipedia entry on Aosdána be updated. The Registrar will look in to this.

Distribution to Date (excluding Aosdána members)

General Public – 103

Contributors – 9

Arts Sector - 25

Council Members and Arts Council Staff– 30

Arts Publications – 5

Authors/Researchers – 46

Media – 55

Libraries – 50

Arts Officers - 30

It was requested that the Registrar circulate the publication to Embassies, the Dept of An Taoiseach and the Dept of Arts. It was suggested that international packages are marked as 'gift' to prevent any custom issues.

Nominations 2023

There are 18 carried over nominations.

There are 10 new nominations.

Altogether 13 male and 15 female candidates.

All nominations were accepted and a date will be arranged to review the papers. It was recommended that a nominator nominate only one candidate. They can nominate more than one but this is not recommended. The Registrar will inform a nominator of this.

General Assembly 2023

It was recommended by the Toscaireacht that in place of a General Assembly in Nov 2023 that Aosdána would have a day long 'Gathering' of members to discuss issues of concern and look at Aosdána presently and in to the future. This would then push the General Assembly and election of new members in to March 2024. The Registrar agreed that this was a good idea as there is a desire amongst the membership to discuss and contribute and would consider that there would be support for this from the Arts Council. It would cost approximately the same as a General Assembly and would require a similar venue. The venue research done to date would still apply. It is possible that IMMA might now be free for the General Assembly if it is in March 2024.

It was recommended that the Toscaireacht look to secure a date for the General Assembly in March at the same time as emailing members with this idea. This would help all nominators who would have to attend to speak for their candidate plan their diaries. The Toscaireacht will devise an email to members which the Registrar will circulate. It will outline the reasons for the proposal and how members can get involved and contribute their ideas. This can be done with members replying anonymously.