



Report to Arts, Culture, Recreation and Community SPC

13th April 2015

Item No. 10

Arts and Cultural Advisory Group Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2nd February 2015, 8.30a.m. Members Room, City Hall

Attending: Aine Clancy, Ray Yeates, Elaine Ryan, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Claire Byrne, Deborah Kelleher, Gerry Kerr, Barbara Dawson, Brendan Teeling, Rebecca Moynihan, Jonathan Ekwe.

Apologies: Simon O'Connor, Willie White

- 1. Minutes of previous meeting held on Friday 28th November, 2014.** Approved
- 2. Matters arising** – No matters arising.
- 3. Revision of Terms of Reference**

The Draft Terms of Reference were discussed by the Group.

- The Chair Cllr Áine Clancy enquired about the inclusion of Events and Tourism in the Terms of Reference. RY asked to Chair to raise this with the ACE Brendan Kenny.
- It was agreed that the Chair of the Group would be a City Councillor from the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group as elected by the SPC for Arts, Leisure, Culture and Youth Affairs. **The procedure for nomination and election of Chair to be clarified.**
- That the Dublin City Council Heritage Officer be included as a member of the Group.
- That the City Arts Plan, Policy and Procedures for Public Art and Decommissioning Policy would be appended to the Terms of Reference and that the latter two policies would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group.

4. Appointment of External Public Art Experts

A short report was presented by the Public Art Manager to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group which proposed that in view of the fact that there was already expertise in theatre, music and literature on the Group, the three external public art experts, would come from architecture and visual arts. This is especially in the context where the Group receives many proposals for permanent art and in the context of proposals relating to the decade of centenaries.

Therefore, the following nominations were proposed:

- John Tuomey, Architect. This nomination was agreed by the Toscaireacht of Aosdána.
- Cecily Brennan, Artist. Cecily Brennan was the nomination of Visual Artists Ireland.
- Paula Murphy, Senior Lecturer in History of Art, UCD. This nomination is appropriate as she is an expert in sculpture, having edited Art and Architecture of Ireland Volume III: Sculpture 1600 – 2000.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group unanimously agreed to the appointment of these members as full members of the Group.

5. City Arts Officer Report.

Ray Yeates presented the City Arts Officer Report.

City Arts Plan and Implementation:

Ray spoke about the great success and the huge public interest in the launch of the City Arts Plan. Another event named 'The Arts Plan in Your Area' will be crafted from this.

All arts officers meet once a week to work on implementing the Arts Plan, taking the priorities of the plan and coming up with projects based on them.

Arts Grants

Dublin City Council approved its annual Arts Grants awards distributing €530,000 to 109 arts organisations, neighbourhood groups and individual artists. Ray thanked the councillors who participated in the decision making process. Ray spoke about the Neighbourhood Grants which were not working as well as the Projects category as the challenge of artists and community engagement is difficult but very worthwhile.

Arts Officer Clinics

The Arts Office will host a series of free Arts Officer Clinics on Thursday 26th February which will offer advice for artists on a one to one basis.

The LAB Gallery's Current Exhibition - Welcome Disturbances – collaboration between the Lab Gallery and UCD saw over 300 people attend, this exhibition will feature talks each week which will take place at the Lab. In 2014, the Lab saw 27,000 people come through its doors.

Dublin Writers Festival – Martin Colthorpe was announced as the new director of Dublin Writers Festival and the renaming of the festival to the Dublin International Festival of Literature will be put before council this month.

Docklands Arts Fund

The Arts Office with Docklands Development Authority and Business to Arts are working together to establish a fund for the Arts in Docklands.

Dublin bids for the European Capital of Culture 2020

Arts Officer Jim Doyle has been appointed to act as the coordinator for the bid process until Oct 2015, more details will be announced as the plans progress.

Education and Learning Policy Statement

The Arts Office as per the Arts Plan are developing an Education and Learning Policy Statement that be the first of its kind in terms of a local authority / arts office policy.

6. Dublin City Gallery - Hugh Lane Report

Barbara Dawson presented the Hugh Lane report to the committee.

Exhibitions: 'Phoenix Rising: Art and Civic Imagination' marks the centenary of the 1914 Civic Exhibition was launched on 6 November by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Christy Burke and continues to 29 March 2015

A programme of events that explore the city and civic life have been programmed in conjunction with the exhibition. A series of films by Irish and international artists has been programmed on Saturday afternoons from 10 to 31 January.

Launch of new publication: Simon Critchley, Hans Jonas Professor of Philosophy at the New School for Social Research launched the new publication Sleepwalkers on 25th January 2015 with a reading from his text "Contemporary Art is an Easy Thing to Hate".

The Gallery has lent sixty-seven artworks to the exhibition Francis Bacon and the Art of the Past (6/12/2014 – 22/3/2015) at the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg. The exhibition will travel from St. Petersburg to the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art, University of East Anglia, England where it will be on display until July 2015.

The Eve of St Agnes stained glass window by Harry Clarke continues to be a firm favourite with Gallery visitors.

A Christmas Village – Community Project was on display for 4 weeks, which is in its third year running, to specifically target the local communities of the north inner city. The goal is to encourage social integration with the surrounding communities and emphasis our accessibility to all.

7. Dublin City Public Libraries Report

Brendan Teeling presented the Libraries report.

KPIs

Brendan listed the KPIs for 2014 which included 2,610,008 visits, 2,574,370 items were loaned and 7,514 events with 30,000 people attending events and exhibitions in branch libraries.

Kevin Street Library

The enabling works in **Kevin Street Library** are now completed. The remaining works tender will be published at the end of March and the tender for the fit out (counters, shelving, etc.) will be published before mid-2015.

New City Library and Parnell Square Cultural Quarter

Following a series of design development workshops, DCC stakeholders submitted a Stage 1 report to the Steering group in December. Following approval by the Steering Group, work will continue to bring the project to planning later in 2015. Public consultation will continue in Spring 2015.

Going Places with Books – Summer Reading Buzz

The summer reading challenge for children will return in July and August 2015. Branded merchandise, colourful promotional materials and summer-time events will support this reading initiative.

History & Heritage

Lord Mayor's Certificates

The presentation of certificates and prizes to graduates of the inaugural Lord Mayor's Certificates in Oral History and Local Studies 2013-14 took place on 10th December, 2014. The 2014-15 courses continue on Monday and Tuesday evenings in Dublin City Library & Archive, Pearse Street.

Dublin Festival of History

The third Dublin Festival of History will take place from 25th September to 3rd October 2015 in various Dublin locations. Once again the festival will feature lectures on significant historical anniversaries such as the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa, the sinking of the Lusitania, the Gallipoli campaign, and other "Decade of Centenaries" anniversaries.

Dublin UNESCO City of Literature

Citywide READING Promotion for Children

The annual Citywide READING promotion for Children featuring *Danger is Everywhere* by David O'Doherty and illustrated by Chris Judge was launched in the Natural History Museum on Friday 16th January.

The promotion will be from January to March, there will be a major presence at the St. Patrick's Festival with a tent at the Big Day Out and a standalone event with the author and illustrator during the SPF.

Reader in Residence

As provided for in the 2015 budget, the Reader-in-Residence project will continue in 2015. The Reader works with children and their families in inner city libraries and schools to promote reading for pleasure. She will also link in with the Citywide Reading Promotion.

'Mind Yourself'

'Mind Yourself', takes place in libraries throughout the City from 21st January to 18th February. The 'Mind Yourself' programme complements national, local government and library policy supporting wellbeing and a healthy Ireland. The programme will include talks and workshops on positive psychology; stress management; self-esteem and wellbeing; singing for wellbeing; poetry; yoga; healthy eating, and meditation.

Digitise the Nation

From February – March, four libraries will offer computer learning via the *Digitise the Nation* initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

Training adults on everything they need to know about connecting, discovering and dealing with the day-to-day of online world of news, jobs, deals, saving and shopping, securely!

Other programmes in the Spring include Chinese New Year; the Festival of Russian Culture; International Women's Day, and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

8. Dublin City Public Art Programme Report

The Public Art Manager, Ruairí O' Cuiv presented his report on Public Art.

Public Art Programme

The Public Art Manager reported on the Public Art Programme including the launch of *Dublin Ships* by Cliona Harmey, the Sven Anderson commission *MAP for Acoustic Planning and Urban Sound Design (MAP)* and his installations in Smithfield, and the conclusion of the *Beyond Pebbledash* project.

It was also reported that the short-listing of the five artists for the statue of Luke Kelly had taken place and it was re-iterated that the funding for the statue would be raised through fundraising. The call for proposals for the public art commission relating to the development of the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter will be launched in February and a process to undertake a commission with Dolphin House and Theresa Gardens has commenced with the formation of an arts group to advise on the commission.

Alfie Byrne Memorial by Andrew St Ledger

The issue of the condition and future of the Alfie Byrne Memorial was discussed in detail.

The correspondence from the artist Andrew St Ledger was discussed and in particular his request that the memorial be 'restored and relocated in an accessible place in the same community'. It was also agreed by the Group that it was unfortunate that the condition of the memorial had deteriorated so much over the years it had been in situ and that in retrospect the location was not suitable for a work made of timber. The Parks and Landscape Services representative reported on the present condition of the memorial and their concerns about public safety. It was agreed that for safety reasons the memorial would be dismantled and placed into storage while a decision regarding its future was made. It was requested that the Central Area Committee and the North Central Area Committee be consulted regarding the issue. The Public Art Manager was asked to report back on the issue at the next meeting.

Proposals for Permanent Art

The proposal by Aleana Egan artist, who created the sculpture for the temporary exhibition *Vestibule* in Merrion Square (curated by Aoife Tunney) that Dublin City Council acquires the artwork for a city park was considered by the Group. The Public Art Manager explained that if the work was to be acquired, a suitable location would have to be found in another city park as there was a policy of de-cluttering Merrion Square Park. The Public Art Manager was asked to report back to the Group on issues relating to the condition of the work, future maintenance, a possible location, funding, and that with the appointment of the three external public art experts, the Group would make a decision at the next meeting.

9. Future Meeting Dates

The meeting dates for the next two Arts & Cultural Advisory Group meeting were agreed. The next meeting will take place at the Lab on 30th March and the following meeting will take place in Hugh Lane on 25th May.

10. A.O.B - none

The date for the next Arts & Culture Advisory Group meeting is Monday 30th March at 8:30am in **The LAB, Foley Street.**