

**Arts and Cultural Advisory Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 28th November, 2014
8.30a.m. Members Room, City Hall**

Attending: Aine Clancy, Ray Yeates, Elaine Ryan, Simon O' Connor, Ruairí Ó Cuív, Claire Byrne, Deborah Kelleher, Gerry Kerr, Willie White, Jonathan Ekwe,

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of previous meeting held on Monday, 10th March, 2014. Not present.

2. Matters arising – The Group now consists of mostly new committee members and the purpose of the ACAG Group was outlined to the new members.

3. Terms of Reference –

The need for revised terms of reference which reflect the changes which came about by the amalgamation of the Arts Sub Group and Public Art Advisory Group to form the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group was discussed.

Action: Ray Yeates. The City Arts Officer agreed to draft a purpose statement and draft Terms of Reference for the next meeting of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group.

It was agreed that in view of the representation of literature, theatre and music on the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group that the three external members to be nominated as provided under the *Policies and Strategies for Managing Public Art* should have professional visual arts or architectural experience.

4. City Arts Officer Report. Ray Yeates presented this Report.

The Launch of the Arts Plan is on Tuesday 9th December at 1pm in the Abbey Theatre, this venue was chosen to highlight the emerging Cultural Cluster around The Lab at Foley Street which includes The Oonagh Young Gallery, Dance House, Artists' Studios at James Joyce Street, The Talbot Gallery and Firestation Studios. The Arts Plan has been several years in the writing, 30,000 people and 70 artists and Arts organisations were consulted in the city in the draft of the plan. The document has been designed by Robert Ballagh and incorporates the launch of the cultural quarter around Foley Street and the launch of Dublin's bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020.

Implementation of the Arts Plan.

- Dublin City Council Community and Social Development Service are working with The City Arts Office to enhance existing local arts programming through pilot arts projects in Dublin City Council community centres. Three such projects to begin in 2015.
- Business to Arts is working with The City Arts Office to develop a philanthropic fund for Arts in Education.
- New criteria have been agreed with those arts organisations that are in receipt of annual Revenue funding from Dublin City Council to clarify the role they will play in achieving the priorities of the Arts Plan.
- New 'culture-led' initiatives are strengthening area development in the emerging cultural quarter around the Arts Office at Foley Street. Working cooperatively with the area office, Dublintown and most importantly local residents, these initiatives add to and enhance a cluster of organisations. The Central Area Office has met with City Arts Officer to help coordinate and support these objectives.
- Dublin Culture Night now plays a key role in National Culture Night and an important partnership for this annual national cultural showcase is ongoing between Dublin City Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- Arts organizations, non arts stakeholders, artists, and young people will coalesce to examine practice and provision needs for arts education and learning in the city to inform the Education and Learning Policy Statement for The City Arts Office.
- Partners at local level will support children and young people's access to the arts, with a focus on a strategic Local Arts in Education Partnership.

In line with the Arts Plan, we are developing an **Education and Learning Policy Statement**.

Children's Art in libraries and DCC/CDYSB Youth Arts Partnership: Film Fest were both a huge success.

There were 44 applications for **MusicTown** to take part in the MusicTown festival which is a multi-genre festival.

Opera in the Open celebrated its 15th year in the summer, there were four performances throughout the month of August and we were joined by members and former members of the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama during some performances. Christmas Opera, Hansel & Gretel will take place on 18th December at 1pm in the National Concert Hall.

The **LAB Gallery's** hosted a range of events for children and adults during Space Week, Science Week and Maths Week. Events including poetry readings, artists' talks, walks and workshops with Montessori children, schools and university visits.

There were 207 applications received for **Arts Funding 2015** which will be assessed by the 4 arts officers, they will then be sent to two external adjudicators and two councillors for assessment with final decisions being sent to Council for authorisation in the January Council meeting.

The LAB Gallery/ Dublin City Arts Office have a new partnership with the Ark centered on A Cultural Centre for Children which is a purpose-built cultural centre for children aged 2 to 12.

- 5. Dublin City Gallery – Hugh Lane Report** – The report was presented to the committee on behalf of Hugh Lane.

Libraries Report – Libraries Report unavailable.

- 6. Report on Dublin City Public Art Programme:**

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

Things We Throw Away – Wide Open Opera

The success of the five operas commissioned under the Dublin City Public Art Programme and performed in July 2014 was noted. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group expressed a wish that these operas be performed in the city again at a suitable occasion.

Beyond Pebbledash

The *Beyond Pebbledash* project which was ongoing at the time of the meeting was noted and the success in the collaborations across City Council departments and sections, the partnership with the National Museum of Ireland and Redrawing Dublin and funding from the Arts Council and the Housing Agency was noted.

Dublin Ships

The intended launch of the *Dublin Ships* commission by artist Cliona Harmeay in January 2014 was noted.

Sven Anderson – Sound Art Commission

The success of Sven Anderson in receiving the European Soundscape Award, 2014 for his MAP commission with Dublin City Council was noted.

Flood

The decision to select, after an open call competition, the proposal by Peter Maybury and Tom de Paor for an installation in the River Dodder was noted. This commission is undertaken in association with the OPW

Public Realm

The continuing role which the Public Art Manager plays as a member of the Grafton Street Quarter Improvement Project Working Group was noted.

Luas cross City

The updates on the impact of the Luas Cross City on permanent art in the city were noted.

Public Art Commission – Mansion House 300th Year Anniversary

The Lord Mayor Christy Bourke has proposed a commission for an open call non permanent public art commission in any discipline to mark the 300th centenary of the Mansion House.

Recommendation

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group supported the idea of the Public Art Manager exploring how this commission could be developed and funded.

Proposals for Permanent Art

Statue of Luke Kelly

The Lord Mayor, Cllr Christy Burke announced on taking office that one of his key ambitions during his term of office was to have a statue of Luke Kelly commissioned. This proposal had been supported by the Dublin Docklands Development Authority in 2007 with a commitment to provide 50% of the funding. However with the collapse of the economy this level of funding is no longer available. A motion to commission a statue of Luke Kelly was put before Dublin City Council in 2013 and was passed. At the request of the Lord Mayor the proposal to commission a statue of Luke Kelly was presented to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group. If approved, it was proposed that the commissioning process would be managed by the Public Art Manager to search for a suitably skilled sculptor who would create an artwork worthy of Luke Kelly.

Recommendation

The Arts And Cultural Advisory Group decided to support the proposal on the condition that the statue is located in the linear park beside the Grand Canal (at the Convention Centre Dublin) which is named after Luke Kelly. This location was thought most appropriate as the singer was born and grew up nearby and in view of the fact that the north inner city does not have an abundance of public sculpture. The Group agreed that the commission should be managed by the Dublin City Council Public Art Manager to endeavour that a statue of high quality is commissioned which will capture the essence of Luke Kelly. In the context of seeking high quality and in view of the time constraints (to seek to have the commission completed by June 2015) it was agreed that a limited competition (as provided under the National Guidelines for the Per Cent for Art Scheme) would be a most appropriate commissioning process. The Group endorsed the proposal that a fundraising campaign take place to raise funds for the costs of commissioning the statue and thought that the idea of crowd funding was excellent.

Monument to the Abused in Artane Industrial School

A proposal has been received from Laura Moran to erect a statue to commemorate the 'thousands of children committed to Artane Industrial School'. Her proposal is to commission a 'statue of a young boy crying' which would be located beside Maryfield Crescent.

A motion No 4612 'That this committee agrees that a permanent public memorial be erected in the environs of the former Artane Industrial School to commemorate the victims of child neglect and abuse, and all who died in the institution' was proposed by Cllr Jane Horgan Jones at the North Central Area Meeting on the 20th May, 2014 and was agreed.

Recommendation

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group decided that while the intentions of the proposed monument were laudable that a statue of a boy crying would not encapsulate the complexities of the suffering and abuse in industrial schools and other institutions. In addition, it was noted that while Artane Industrial School was the largest such institution in the country, there are many such locations in the city which were linked to allegations of abuse. Furthermore the state has plans to erect a memorial in memory of those who were abused in institutions. The idea of remembering those who were abused was discussed and *The Blue Boy* by theatre company *Brokentalkers* which has toured internationally was cited as a good example. The proposal to commission the statue was not approved.

Ballymun Memorial to the 1916 Leaders

A proposal by Willie Abbott to commemorate the 1916 rising and its links to Ballymun through the naming of the tower blocks after the seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation in 1966 was presented. His design envisages a sculptural monument representing each of the seven signatories and inscription of the poem *Ballymuners* written by the proposer.

Recommendation

This proposal was presented to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group in September 2013 and was not supported.

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group endorsed the decision of not to support the proposal as it was not of high enough quality to commission. The recovery of a wall painting by well known Irish artist Muriel Brandt from the Towers Pub in Ballymun and its proposed restoration and installation in a prominent location such as the Ballymun Civic Centre was thought to be a fitting memorial to the link between Ballymun and the 1916 leaders.

Statue of Molly O'Reilly

Artist Stuart Dunne invited Dublin City Council to become involved in the commissioning, funding and placement of a sculpture which he has devised. Stuart Dunne writes "The project, based on the Mná na hÉireann, is created around the character of Molly O'Reilly. Molly was a young girl when she raised the flag representing the Irish Republic; this is a central context to my practice and the piece. I am currently creating is a representational life size model based on Molly. The sculpture depicts the central character (Molly) raising the flag and becomes representational of the strength and tenacity of The Mna na hEireann, an aspect of our history that can go unnoticed within our history."

Recommendation

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group decided that the quality of the proposal is not thought suitable for a permanent memorial and therefore it was recommended not to support this proposal.

Monument to the 1916 Leaders for O'Connell Street

The following correspondence was received by the Lord Mayor Christy Burke and forwarded to the Executive Manager in the Planning and Economic Development Department in Dublin City Council who requested that it be referred to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group.

Tomas MacCormaic, Cathaoirleach of Eirí Amach na Cásca writes "I am involved with a cultural society 'Eirí Amach na Cásca' and we are hoping to erect a monument in memory of those who fought during the 1916 Rising by the GPO in Dublin. The monument will be considerable in height and will include bronze statues of the 16 executed leaders. I would greatly appreciate if you could help me with regards the procedures for planning for monuments on O'Connell Street in Dublin. Is this the remit of the planning office or Dublin City Council? Who is the person who could deal with our planning application most suitably? Thanking you in advance, and I look forward to your response."

Recommendation

The Commemorations Naming Committee established to consider proposals naming of infrastructure, monuments and plaques, in 2014 decided a policy that the area around the GPO on O'Connell Street would remain free of any memorials and monuments, allowing scope for focus on the GPO and space to accommodate audiences / gatherings for such events as the Easter Rising Commemorations, St Patricks Day Parade and other city and national occasions.

In view of the Government and Dublin City Council's stated policy that the commemoration of the 1916 rising be reflective of the complexity and shared history which surround the events of the rising it is proposed that a permanent monument of this scale does not embody this ambition. Therefore the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group did not to support this proposal.

AOB

Then issue of the condition of the Alfie Byrne Memorial by Andrew St Ledger was presented as Any Other Business. A decision to decommission the memorial was approved by the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group in 2013 but was postponed after media coverage of the issue and while the artist was consulted. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group were informed of concerns which the Parks and Landscape Services have about the deteriorating state of the memorial and the toll which the stormy and wet winter of 2013 -2014 has have on the memorial.

Recommendation

The Arts and Cultural Advisory Group proposed that the City Arts Officer and Public Art Manager along with representatives of the Parks and Landscape Services meet with the artists to discuss the issue.

7. AOB

Proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Group in 2014

SPC dates will have to be chosen first in order for the members to work around dates for the Arts & Culture Advisory Group meeting dates.

The Chair Cllr Áine Clancy proposed that future meetings of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group could be held in different city council buildings such as The LAB, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane and Pearse Street Library. This was agreed.

The date for the next Arts & Culture Advisory Group meeting is Monday 2nd February at 8:30am in the Members Room, City Hall.