

# Minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 11.00am. via Microsoft Teams

## Members in attendance:

Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council
Cllr. Ivan Canning (Cathaoirleach)	Galway County Council
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Galway County Council
Cllr. Padraic Mac an Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	Galway County Council
Helena McElmeel	Business Representative
Megan Flynn	PPN Representative

## Staff in attendance:

Alan Farrell	A/Director of Service
Kieran Coyne	A/Senior Executive Officer
Sharon O'Grady	Arts Officer
Bernie Kelly	A/County Librarian
Claire Connolly	Clerical Officer
Ruth Gordon	Project Manager Creative Ireland

## Apologies:

Máirtín Davy	PPN Representative
Mary McGann	Administrative Officer

Cllr. Ivan Canning welcomed everyone to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Community and Culture SPC (Strategic Policy Committee) in 2021 and thanked everyone for attendance online and he noted apologies.

### 1. Minutes of Community and Culture SPC meeting held on 3/12/ 2020

Cllr. Ivan Canning asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of that Meeting.

No queries arose. On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Carroll seconded by Cllr. Ivan Canning, the Minutes were agreed and adopted.

### 2. Creative Ireland 2021

Ms. Sharon O'Grady, Arts Officer gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation under the following headings:

**Funding for 2020:** 22 projects were completed with a total claim of €156,774. Key projects included CAOIN, imagine a Castle, People Place and Pace, Baile Heart of Gort, Carrying the Songs, Eilis Dillon-

Galway's Great Read, ComicCon@Home, Reading the Landscape, The Barn Owl Project, Le Chéile and the many bursary projects.

**Funding for 2021:** Core funding available to Galway County Council under Creative Ireland is €145,161 with the aim of delivering collaborative projects of scale, innovation and ambition in 2021. Additional specific funding includes €15,000 for Cruinniú na nÓg events and €11,500 under the Creativity in Older Age 2021 Fund, under which a number of Covid Care Concerts are being funded at Nursing Homes, in collaboration with the Age Friendly Programme.

**Bursaries 2021:** Deadline for Expressions of Interest has been extended to Thursday 29th April 2021, to date there are 21 expressions of interest. These will be shortlisted and assessed by a panel.

**Cruinniú na nÓg:** Taking place on 12th June 2021 with up to 20 events in English and Irish being held online including collaborations with Youth Work Ireland and Comhairle na nÓg.

**Programmes for 2021:** Some events confirmed to date include Comicon, The Mighty Ocean (TG4), and other projects will be integrated through engagement with members of the Culture Team

**Creative Climate Fund:** National call out with 2 strands of funding available through open and closed calls for applications, and it is intended to fund between 10 – 20 projects until the end of 2022 with budgets of between €30,000 – €200,000, however this will be determined by the number and scale of applications received.

Following the presentation, Ruth Gordon was welcomed as the Creative Ireland Project Manager for 2021. Ms. O' Grady was thanked for the comprehensive presentation and for breadth of work, including delivering key cultural policies which were adopted in December 2020. Cllr Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, Cllr Andrew Reddington, Cllr I van Canning, Cllr Shelly Herterich- Quinn, Cllr Peter Keaveney, Cllr. Liam Carroll also thanked the Arts team for ongoing work during Covid 19 to ensure events happened in the communities.

Ms Bernie Kelly stated that Creative Ireland funding gave the libraries opportunities to complete projects that otherwise wouldn't occur. Cllr. Liam Carroll stated the importance of the events in the Oranmore library during summer 2020 and hoped that last year's events will be repeated this year. He was encouraged by the level of interest for bursaries.

Mr. Alan Farrell stated that a Creative Ireland national interim review was completed in 2020, and commitment exists from Government to funding in the coming years. Climate change will be one of the priorities in the next few years, however it will need significant resources to deliver the many opportunities that have come available.

Ms Helena McElmeel commented on the value of Creative Ireland funding for the public realm projects in Headford which embeds ongoing engagement in the Arts.

### **3. Any Other Business**

Cllr Shelly Herterich-Quinn thanked the Council for funding and support for the mural by Shane O'Malley in Athenry as part of a Galway 2020 legacy project in conjunction with Ríonach Ni Neill. The mural lifts spirits and highlights the importance of public art.

Mr Alan Farrell noted that the Public Art Management Group will be formed shortly, and work will begin on developing a programme within available budgets and the SPC will be updated on progress at a later date. He acknowledged the work and reach to the communities from the Community Support

Schemes with €239k announced yesterday at the Plenary Meeting. He stressed that this funding is part of an annual discretionary budget. Unsuccessful applicants will have the opportunity to get feedback on their applications.

Cllr. Peter Keaveney advised that a local theatre group weren't successful with CSS 2021 scheme. Ms Sharon O'Grady advised that there is new funding available from the Arts Council for amateur drama/musical groups for unsuccessful CSS 2021 amateur groups and forwarded the supporting link. This has been a challenging time for the sector, no guidelines are available in terms of reopening Theatre venues and their total reliance on box office income has been devastating for the sector.

Mr Kieran Coyne advised that following a regional meeting of Chief Officers of LCDCs it was suggested that we may have to look at an exit strategy in relation to the Covid Community Response initiative. While there is no official guidance on this yet, it is something that will have to be looked at in the Galway County from the appropriate forum.

Mr. Alan Farrell advised of the upcoming Cathaoirleach Awards and is expecting a large demographic spread to recognise work done in the community. There are several categories with nomination closing date 21/05/2021 and online awards expected by 9th June 2021.

Next SPC Community & Culture meeting to be advised, envisioned to be late June 2021.  
Meeting concluded at 12.30 pm.