

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART at IMMA, KILMAINHAM, ON 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 13.15pm.**

Present: Ali Curran (Chair), Mary Apied, Margot Lyons, Sinead O'Sullivan, Eva Kenny, Jess Majekodunmi, John McLaughlin

On-line: Dermod Dwyer, Rhoda Lane-O'Kelly

Apologies : Mike Fitzpatrick, John Cunningham, Gerard Byrne

In attendance: Annie Fletcher, Fintan McDonald (Company Secretary), Dave Duff, Lucy Durack for selected items.

**1 Conflict of Interest**

All Directors confirmed that they had no conflict of interest in relation to the matters to be dealt with at this meeting.

**2 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 10<sup>h</sup> September 2024 were proposed by ML, seconded by MA and approved.

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 14<sup>h</sup> May 2024 were proposed by MA, seconded by JM and approved.

**3 Matters Arising**

None

**4 Director's Report**

- a. AF had a meeting with Shaffrey Architects who are drafting a Conservation Management Plan for the site. The work has been commissioned by the OPW and the draft report will be shared with IMMA when it is ready. The meeting included representatives of OPW and reviewed the progress of the project.
- b. A meeting will be held next week with the OPW, chaired by Rosemary Collier, to discuss the operating procedures for catering arrangements in the North Wing. The works have reconfigured some of the kitchen and public rooms and new protocols are yet to be agreed.
- c. The OPW is undertaking conservation work on the historic portraits from the Great Hall and they will be returned to their original position in due course. The Board has asked for a listing of those portraits to understand who is represented. The Board would also like the Executive to consider whether women are adequately represented on the walls of the North Range.
- d. The Museum Director and the Senior Curator, Exhibitions will tour a number of Baltic states in January-February 2025 to give a series of talks related to the recent Self-Determination Exhibition and Conference.
- e. There will be a meeting later in the week between the Directors of the NCI's and the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General. The aim is to promote a culture of

long-term planning for the NCI's rather than projects being contingent on annual budget allocations.

- f. The Department has verbally confirmed that funding has been allocated for the Global Learning and Research Centre. The funding is part of IMMA's NDP allocation, but it does not involve any building works. It will be a major project involving archives, digitisation and building on-line research resources. Written confirmation is expected shortly. The project will be headed by the Head of Research & Learning and the recently acquired archives will be integral to the research work.
- g. Hamad Butt exhibition – This is an exciting new exhibition of an overlooked UK artist. It will be opened by Adrian Searle of The Guardian.
- h. Ireland Invites. Culture Ireland have committed to on-going support for this project.
- i. Technologies of Peace – 2026 – Culture Ireland are very supportive of this planned exhibition and Tate Modern in the UK will be a collaborating partner.
- j. The commissioning of the IPUT screen continues to be delayed. It is now hoped to open before Christmas.

## **5 Fire Policy – DD**

- a. All systems are operating well.
- b. The main changes to the latest version of the policy are personnel changes.
- c. The new sprinkler system in the Chapel is a 'loaded' system and has been commissioned.
- d. There has yet to be a formal handover of the new fire and safety systems in the North Range.
- e. Some North Range contractors are still working on-site but all operating procedures should be handed over to IMMA's management shortly.
- f. The OPW will continue to maintain and repair these systems.
- g. The sprinkler system at the external warehouse should be installed by year end. This has been much delayed with understandable reasons but the commissioning is long overdue.
- h. The Risk Register should be reviewed in light of these developments.
- i. The Policy was unanimously approved.

## **6 Development - LD**

- a. Development income in 2024 is greater than 2023. €499k has been committed plus over €100k in non-financial support.
- b. Progress is being made but it is difficult to recruit and retain suitably qualified staff. The question of how to resource this area is a challenge. It involves up-front investment that demands short-term sacrifices in other areas of programming.
- c. Each element of the Strategy has a value proposition and different elements appeal to different potential donors.

d. A draft Ethical Policy is being written that will help inform decision-making.

## **7 Finance, Audit & Risk Committee update**

A meeting of the Committee was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

The Internal Auditor presented a report on Financial Controls where they found substantial evidence of a healthy control environment.

The next audit will be on Collections Management.

The FARC is looking at a 'Primer' to help their understanding of financial accounting.

A deficit is anticipated for 2024 due to the on-going high cost of electricity and gas. The Department has been asked for support.

The FARC reviewed the budget for 2025 and will be happy to recommend approval to the Board. The Committee has concerns about the medium-term risks to the Irish Economy.

The Department is discussing its 10-year strategy but, if this is to be realisable, long-term funding should be in place.

The Committee reviewed the Fire Policy and the Health & Safety Policy as part of its cycle of policy review. Both policies were found to be sound.

The Committee has asked the Executive to present the existing procurement procedures to consider whether specific policy is required.

The next meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

## **8 Finance**

The Management Accounts to August 2024 were presented with a result close to budget. The full year forecast remains under review.

## **9 Budget 2025**

The budget for 2025 was presented.

A small deficit is forecast for the full year 2025.

The budget was approved unanimously.

## **10 Climate Action Training**

A number of options for Climate Action Training for all Board members was reviewed. The training offered by the SEAI was the preferred option.

## **11 Risk Register**

The latest version of the Risk Register was discussed and the changes from the September version were noted.

12     **AOB**

An induction day is being planned for 13<sup>th</sup> December for the two new Board members. All other Board Members are to be invited to attend.

13     **Close**

The next meeting is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

14     **In Camera**

The executive left the meeting and discussions continued In Camera.

**Chair**