



Building a stronger
performing arts
community in Ireland.

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Theatre Forum Company Limited by Guarantee Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held on Thursday 26 September, Fringe Lab, Dublin Fringe Festival, Sycamore Street, Dublin 1.

The Annual General Meeting of the company was held at Fringe Lab, Dublin Fringe Festival, Sycamore Building, Sycamore Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2 on Thursday 26 September 2019 to consider and, if agreed, pass resolutions as to the ordinary business of the company.

Previous AGM minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM held on 13 September 2018 at the offices of Fishamble: The New Play Company, 3 Great Denmark Street, Dublin 1 and those minutes were approved by the members for signing by the Chair.

Directors' Report and Financial Statements

The Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2018, previously circulated to the members and filed with the CRO in July 2019, were presented to the members. The audit had been carried out by BCK Audit, Accounting & Tax Ltd. On behalf of the directors, the Chair pointed to another year of careful financial management which had produced a surplus of €10,549 in unrestricted funds after allowing for depreciation. Combined with the surplus of €1,810 in 2017, the 2018 surplus allows the company to build reserves in line with its policy, adopted in 2019, which set the target of building operational reserves of 3-6 months over 5 years. The Chair invited questions to the Auditors and other than a summary of their own report in the Financial Statements and clarification on reserves, there were no questions. Elizabeth Whyte proposed and Patricia McBride seconded the resolution that the 2018 Financial Statements were adopted by the members.

Remuneration of the Auditors

The resolution to authorise the Directors to appoint, fix their term at one year and confirm the fee for the 2019 audit of the company's statutory auditor BCK Audit, Accounting & Tax Limited was proposed by Julie Kelleher, seconded by Neil Murray, and adopted by the members.

Chair's Report

Report on January 2017-2018 activities

To accompany the 2018 Directors' Report and Financial Statements, retiring Chair Peter Daly presented his third and final Chair's Report. Peter thanked the other retiring directors for their contributions. He briefly reviewed the company's many partnerships and activities as well as noting new initiatives such as the Green Arts initiative. From his own perspective as an accountant, Peter was happy to report that surpluses in 2017 and 2018 made it possible for the company to build its reserves. As the retiring Chair, Peter emphasised the importance of supporting members to sustain their careers and organisations and highlighted the agility and adaptation required to do so effectively.

Election

The elected directors retiring by rotation were Peter Daly and Jen Coppinger. Co-opted director Louise Lowe also retired and co-opted director Patricia Mc Bride was standing for election. The retiring Chair thanked the retiring directors for all their work on behalf of members and contributions over their terms of office and welcomed the newly appointed Chair, Julie Kelleher.



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Four candidates stood for election:

Candidate Name	Interest and organisation	Proposer
Sara Cregan	Freelance Producer and Associate Producer at Landmark Productions	Sarah Baxter
Patricia McBride	Director, An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny	Daithí Ramsay, An Grianán Theatre, Letterkenny
Kim Mc Cafferty	Director, Cavan Arts Festival. Co-Director Fanzini Productions. Co-Director National Circus Festival of Ireland	Lucy Medlycott, Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network
Elizabeth Whyte	Executive Director, Wexford Arts Centre	Lucy Medlycott, Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network

Election result

Three candidates Sara Cregan, Patricia McBride and Elizabeth Whyte were elected by the members.

Members Forum

Members were invited to raise topics of concern. Peter Duffy asked to address the members about the cancelled screening of the short film, *Unfinished Revolution*, directed by conference speaker Oisín Kearney at the Theatre Forum and TheatreNI conference in Wexford in June 2019. Following Peter's overview of the issues of concern to him regarding the decision to screen this documentary as well as the decision taken to cancel it, Theatre Forum confirmed that a statement would be issued on the company's website had been agreed by the board. Members commented that they noted Peter Duffy's concerns though with the publication of a short statement on the website, they considered the matter to be closed.

Governance

The Chair updated the members on company governance issues. At the board meeting prior to the AGM, Marketa Dowling agreed to undertake the role of Company Secretary. At the same board meeting, an Arts Centres sub-Committee was established. It will be led by board director Patricia McBride with support from Elizabeth Whyte and Marketa Dowling. Other directors of Arts Centres will be invited to join this Committee to highlight common concerns and issues to their organisations and networks.

With no other business, the AGM concluded.