

## Board of the National Museum of Ireland

### Minutes of Meeting

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at 9am  
via videoconference  
(Approved on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

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<b>Present:</b>	Cathal O'Donoghue Ambrose Loughlin Helen Shenton Rowena Neville Suzanne Costello Barra O'Donnabhain Susan Rogers	Ciaran Byrne Beatrice Kelly Iseult Dunne John Bowen Geraldine Sheridan Claudia Kinmonth Marianne Doyle
<b>Apologies:</b>	None	
<b>In attendance:</b>	Lynn Scarff (Director) Dr Éimear O'Connor (Director of Collections & Access)	Mark Sherry (Head of Finance & Procurement) Jade Dillon (Secretary to the Board)

- 1.0 Opening of meeting, apologies if any and adoption of the agenda**
- 1.1 The Chair of the Board opened the meeting and no apologies were conveyed. The Chair welcomed NMI's Head of Finance & Procurement to the meeting. The Director conveyed her apologies in advance for the need to leave at 10:30am and thanked the Board for accommodating the change of start time from 10am to 9am.
- 2.0 Disclosures of conflicts of interest, if any**
- 3.0 Adoption of agenda**
- 3.1 The agenda was formally adopted.
- 4.0 Previous minutes dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024**
- 4.1 The minutes were approved with the exception to minor amendments.
- 4.2 Matters arising  
Any matters arising to be dealt with under agenda.
- 5.0 Chair of the Board and Director updates**
- 5.1 We Make Our Own Histories exhibition  
The Chair congratulated NMI and Artist-in-Residence, Anthony Haughey on the successful launch of *We Make Our Own Histories* exhibition, at which the Chair spoke at. The Board were in agreement that the exhibition succeeds in speaking

to the values of the NMI and the areas of focus outlined in the current strategic plan.

## 5.2 Meetings

The Chair updated the Board on recent meetings including fellow chairs of national cultural institutions and the DTCAGS&M.

## 6.0 **Executive Report**

6.1 The Executive Report and the coverage on the Murmur of the Bees were taken as read. The Director highlighted a number of key updates including the following:

- NMI is working on improving its LinkedIn presence.
- The launch of the Mincéirí Archive website will be taking place at the end of the month.
- Recruitment updates.
- Updates on all capital projects.

## 6.2 Visitor numbers

The cumulative visitor footfall figure was noted. NMI/s annual visitor footfall of 1.5. million should be communicated as an overall figure as well as per site, the Board was of the view that this figure should be communicated more widely.

## 7.0 **Special Discussion Topic: Governance Review**

7.1 The Director provided insights into key areas of focus for NMI in the context of developing further best practice governance.

The Board advocated for enhanced visibility of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations within the Board's Terms of Reference.

## 8.0 **Governance Audit & Risk Committee**

### 8.1 Financial Report and Governance Calendar

**The Board reviewed and formally noted the documents.**

### 8.2 Systems of Internal Control audit report 2023

The Board noted the report and the Chair of the Governance Audit & Risk Committee summarised the internal audit.

**Upon reviewing the internal controls audit report and considering the Governance Audit & Risk Committee's approval of the report, the Board formally confirmed that it was satisfied on the basis of the Statement on compliance with Provision 1.8 of the 2016 Code in respect of ensuring effective systems of financial control.**

### 8.3 Draft Financial Statements 2023

The Board noted the draft Financial Statements for 2023 and the Chair of the Governance Audit Committee provided an overview of the document. **The Board formally approved the draft Financial Statements for 2023 and it was agreed that the final draft would be reviewed by the Governance Audit & Risk Committee prior to being brought to the attention of the Board.**

### 8.4 Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies

The Director thanked R. Neville and M. Doyle in particular for their proposed amendments to the policies. **It was agreed that the suite of draft policies**

would be updated and re-circulated to the GAR Committee prior to Board approval.

8.6 Committee reports

The following Committee reports were formally approved by the Board:

- General Public Advisory Committee report
- Governance Audit & Risk Committee report
- Capital & Estates Committee report
- Communications & Development Committee report

8.7 Collections Care & Conservation Strategy

Upon the recommendation of GPAC, the Collections Care & Conservation Strategy was formally approved by the Board.

9.0 A.O.B

9.1 Sustainability

It was agreed that cross-cutting issues related to ESG would be a standing item on the Chairs Committee to allow for discussions around Sustainability, Accessibility and Governance issues that span across the Board's Committees.

10.0 **Date of next meeting**

10.1 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 10am, online.

End of meeting.

APPROVED