



Policy statement for the governance of www.artsandhealth.ie

Waterford Healing Arts Trust January 2012

Background

In 2010, the Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT) and Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts, with funding from the Arts Council awarded through a tendering process, developed a new website entitled *artsandhealth.ie* to promote and support arts and health practice in Ireland.

Rationale

The need for a national website was conceived by the Arts Council as a means of building capacity in the sector through the development of a central point for information, advice and support.¹

Management

The Project Managers (WHAT and CREATE) established a fixed term Editorial Working Group to direct the content of the site during the development phase in 2011.

Through a partnership agreement between WHAT and CREATE, it was pre-agreed that the management of *artsandhealth.ie* would be taken on by WHAT at the end of the development phase at which point the website will be managed by the organisational and management systems put in place by WHAT. The day to day moderation and management of the site will be carried out by the Project Co-ordinator / Moderator, Claire Meaney, with support as required by the WHAT staff. Claire reports to the Arts Director of WHAT, Mary Grehan.

The Project Co-ordinator serves as Managing Editor for the site. She will develop and implement relevant policies, procedures and standards as well as a content strategy

¹ Arts Council Arts and Health Policy and Strategy 2010

for the website in consultation with the WHAT Arts Director and the Editorial Panel. She will also manage marketing and communications.

The job description, role, duties and hours of work of the Project Co-ordinator is separate to other activities undertaken at WHAT and will be understood as a stand alone assignment with appraisal and review conducted accordingly.

The Director of WHAT manages the *artsandhealth.ie* budget as part of the annual WHAT budget and assigns WHAT administrative resources to the website as needed. She supports the Project Co-ordinator in his/ her work as needed.

Editorial panel

During the development phase of *artsandhealth.ie*, independent arts consultant Sarah Searson was commissioned by the project partners to make recommendations for the future governance of the website to ensure long term, transparent and workable structures.

Further to these recommendations, an editorial panel will be established to support *artsandhealth.ie*. This panel is designed to ensure broad and fair representation of the range of stakeholders and interests.

Role

The Panel's role is advisory and strategic. It will make recommendations on the tactical direction of the site in terms of content so that it is open, fair and transparent in its editorial decision making. The managerial details and processes rest with WHAT.

The role of the Editorial Panel is as follows;

- To support the Project Co-ordinator in developing an annual plan and implementation strategy for the ongoing development of the site

- To make recommendations for site content

- To advocate for the site and represent its best interests

- To provide expert insight and information from their own fields of practice

- To identify opportunities for partners and funding opportunities

Terms of service

It is proposed that the Panel will meet up to three times in a year.

The Panel positions will work on a rolling/ rotation basis with the exception of the Director of WHAT. The recommended term of service for panel positions will be two years.

The meetings will be chaired by the Director of WHAT. The Project Co-ordinator will make progress reports.

WHAT will, funding permitting, pay the travel expenses of Panel members who attend meetings on a free lance basis.

Composition

The Panel brings together a range of expertise relevant to arts and health and provides for the following roles/ organisations.

HSE representation

Healthcare professional

Artists (x 2) with experience of arts and health practice

Representative of WHAT management committee

Representative of Arts and Health Co-ordinators Ireland (AHCI)

Representative of Association of Local Authorities Arts Officers (ALAAO)

Representative of the Arts Council

Representative of Create

WHAT Director

This composition will be reviewed prior to the end of the first two year period in line with developments in the field of arts and health to ensure transparency, reach and fair representation of all the stakeholders.

Relationship with the management of the Waterford Healing Arts Trust

The representative of the WHAT management committee will make regular reports to the WHAT management committee on the development of *artsandhealth.ie* to ensure a greater integration of the website into the overall management of WHAT.

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