

Arts & Culture Recovery Taskforce

1st Meeting

Tuesday 22nd September (via Remote VC)

Record of Meeting

1. Introductions

The meeting commenced with introductions from the Chair and all members of the taskforce.

The Chair set out the challenge facing the taskforce, namely the short timeframe available and the scale and complexity of the problems currently faced by the arts, culture, audio-visual and live events/entertainment sectors. However, she stated that she wanted the taskforce to focus on its recommendations from the start, and to strive for unanimity in making recommendations. She believed that with such an approach, it could produce a short powerful set of recommendations which, if implemented, could make a real impact on sectors which are currently in difficulty. All agreed that it was important to always remember the individuals who were struggling, across all the sectors under consideration.

Catherine Martin T.D., Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht joined the meeting. Minister Martin thanked everyone for their participation on the taskforce and spoke of her own background in the Arts and how our Arts and Culture define us. Minister Martin spoke about the affect the pandemic has had on the Arts & Culture Sectors, in particular, live public performances and how she is looking forward to when the sector can return to normal. The Minister concluded by welcoming any proposals the taskforce may have to bring forward in the short term and looked forward to receiving the final report of the taskforce.

2. Terms of Reference of Taskforce

The Terms of reference were discussed and agreed. The taskforce agreed to-

- adopt a solution-focused approach;
- seek sector-specific expert input and consult with stakeholders;
- invite additional individuals or expertise to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis, as it deems necessary;
- focus on providing intelligence and recommendations for an expected on-going and varying impact of COVID-19 restrictions;
- identify immediate and medium term goals for recovery and sustainability in the sector;
- identify possible policy initiatives or impediments to a robust sustainable recovery in the sector;
- recommend whole of Government policy initiatives and actions to support the sector;

- report to the Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht by the 31 October 2020 in order to provide the Government with an action-plan for the sector.

3. Approach of the Taskforce

The Chair spoke of the need for transparency in the work of the taskforce, with a reminder that all submissions, reports and recommendations will be published on the website of the Department. She also reminded members that the deliberations of the taskforce at its meetings would remain confidential.

The taskforce will aim to provide a list of recommendations that all of its members can support and argue on behalf of. All of the members of the taskforce were in agreement.

4. Round Table Discussion

All members of the taskforce had been requested in advance of the meeting to focus on key asks/recommendations that would like to see addressed in the final report. Any subsequent asks/recommendations would also be considered but this would provide a framework for the discussions that would ensue in the following meetings. Members agreed to work in subgroups between meetings as requested by the Chair, in order to progress the drafting of recommendations as quickly as possible.

The key asks/recommendations outlined by members focused mainly on assisting and sustaining the Arts & Culture, AV and Live Events sectors and their practitioners through the period of the pandemic, and ensuring that the sectors survive to thrive in the uncertainty of the medium-term future .

5. AOB

There was no further business. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th September 2020.