



Festival House
12 Essex Street East
Dublin 2, D02 EH42 Ireland

info@performingartsforum.ie
+353 1 677 8779
www.performingartsforum.ie

Theatre Forum CLG trading as Performing Arts Forum

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Date: 26 September 2025

Time: 11:00 am, Online

Present:

Bernie Bourke, Ollie Breslin, Mary Boland, Gemma Bodinetz, Helen Collins, Caoimhe Connolly, Mary Conlon, Sinéad Cormack, Clare Creely, Tom Creed, Siân Cunningham, Andy Currums, Janice de Bróithe, Aoife Demel, Elaine Donovan, Clíona Dukes, Eoghan Doyle, Orla Flanagan, Natalie Hans, Paul Johnson, Cate Kelliher, Fiona Keller, Anthony Kinahan, Catherine Lee, Niamh Lawlor, Ben McCabe, Fergal McGrath, Helen McGrath, Louise McGrath, Alison McKenna Liepmann, Orla Moloney, Lynnette Moran, Pauline O'Driscoll, Geoff O'Keeffe, Christian O'Reilly, Kelly Phelan, Matt Rafter, Anja Terpstra, Jonathan Walsh, Rachel West.

Proxies:

Sinéad Bolger, Maria Auletta, Mona Considine, Veronica Coburn, Susan Coughlan, Ann Davoren, Paul Hayes, Julie Kelleher, Davey Kelleher, Louise McGrath, Patricia McBride, Lisa Nally, Sophie Motley, Will O'Connell, Sile Penkert, Heather Rose, Carla Rogers, Gemma Reeves, Helena Tobin, Elizabeth Whyte, Mel Wright.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed members. The minutes of the previous AGM (2024) were reviewed and approved.

2. Resolution 1 – Adoption of Financial Statements

It was proposed to adopt the company's 2024 Financial Statements together with the report of the statutory auditors. Members voted by proxy and live.

Resolution: Adopted unanimously.

3. Resolution 2 – Appointment of Statutory Auditor

It was proposed to authorise the Directors to appoint the statutory auditor and to fix their remuneration. Members voted by proxy and live.

Resolution: Adopted unanimously.

4. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

The Chair outlined the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Resolution 3 – Article 35 (Voting Rights)

The proposed amendment removes the existing weighted voting system and provides that all individual and company members have one vote, while affiliated members may attend and speak but not vote. Members voted by proxy and live.

Resolution: Adopted unanimously.

Resolution 4 – Article 50 (Number of Directors)

The proposed amendment increases the minimum number of directors from six to nine and the maximum from nine to twelve. Members voted by proxy and live.

Resolution: Adopted unanimously.

Resolution 5 – Article 21(b) (General Meetings Online)

The proposed amendment allows general meetings to take place wholly or partly online, in compliance with Section 176A of the Companies Act. Members voted by proxy and live.

Resolution: Adopted unanimously.

5. Election of Directors

The five candidates standing for election presented their statements. Members were invited to vote.

Result of the Election:

The live votes were added to the proxies post-meeting and verified by Paul Johnson, Secretary. Katherine Murphy was elected. Mary Boland and Orla Moloney were re-elected.

6. Chair's Review

The Chair provided an overview of the company's affairs in 2024. The report appended to these minutes.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

No additional items were raised.

8. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting.

Chair's Report

Report on January–December 2024 Activities

This report accompanies the 2024 Directors' Report and Financial Statements, presented at the AGM on 26 September 2025.

This is the company's 22nd AGM and my first report as Chair. I am delighted to share highlights from 2024, a landmark year in which the organisation formally transitioned from *Theatre Forum* to *Performing Arts Forum*. This transition, supported by a new strategy and identity, has strengthened our role as a key point of connection for the performing arts sector in Ireland.

While 2023 was pivotal in laying the groundwork, 2024 was a year of implementation, launching our new name and website, expanding our membership base, and deepening our role in supporting artists, arts workers, and organisations.

Financial Overview

Details of the organisation's financial performance are set out in the Financial Statements. In 2024, membership income grew significantly, reflecting the relevance of the organisation's work and the increased value members place on its resources and programmes.

Programme of Activities

Launch of Performing Arts Forum

In May 2024, *Theatre Forum* officially became *Performing Arts Forum*. This milestone was celebrated with the launch of a redesigned website and the unveiling of our new tagline: *Where Connection Creates Change*. These developments reflect our mission to strengthen networks, foster collaboration, and provide practical resources for members.

The Gathering, Sligo

Also in May, the Sligo Gathering marked the first major event under our new name. Over two days, artists, producers, and organisations came together for keynotes, conversations, and an artistic programme. Supported by local authority bursaries, independent artists were enabled to attend in significant numbers. Attendance rose by 14% compared to 2023, a clear indication of our expanding reach and resonance across the sector.

Members' Meetings

Regular members' meetings took place across the year, tackling pressing sectoral issues such as funding challenges and resource development, while also providing spaces for peer learning and knowledge exchange.

Working Groups

2024 saw the establishment of two new working groups, Producers and Festivals, adding to the existing Arts Centre Working Group. Selected through open calls, these groups bring together members and board representatives to address shared challenges and opportunities. In 2025, the organisation will introduce an Independent Artists Working Group and an Arts Centres Visual Arts subgroup.

Artist Development: MAKE & Next Stage

The MAKE residency took place at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in December, where 15 artists collaborated with renowned mentors.

In partnership with Dublin Theatre Festival, the Next Stage programme was delivered during the festival period, offering participants professional development and networking opportunities.

Audience Insights

Building on research presented in 2023, we published further findings in 2024, comparing aggregated audience data from 2019 and 2023 and presenting the results at the Sligo Gathering. Insights from post-show audience surveys informed a series of marketing forum events, helping organisations adapt audience engagement strategies.

Green Arts Initiative in Ireland

With support from Creative Carbon Scotland, our Green Arts Initiative expanded in 2024, supporting venues and companies to take action on climate change. Work also began on the Irish adaptation of the *Theatre Green Book*, to be launched in early 2025, an important step towards embedding sustainability in Irish arts practice.

Membership

Membership growth was a defining achievement of 2024. Total membership increased by 52%, rising from 205 in 2023 to 312 in 2024.

- Individual memberships almost doubled (+96%), from 95 to 186.
- Arts Centre memberships grew by 13%, from 55 to 62.
- Production Company memberships rose by 36%, from 22 to 30.

This growth reflects a broadening constituency of members across disciplines and roles, further positioning *Performing Arts Forum* as a central, trusted network for the performing arts sector.

2024 Year-End Outlook

As we reflect on 2024, it is clear that this was a year of growth, transition, and consolidation.. With our strategy, vision, and values guiding our work, we are committed to supporting members, enabling change, and building a stronger, more sustainable arts ecosystem. The momentum of this year provides a strong foundation for the next stage of development, particularly as we look to deepen sectoral engagement through new working groups.

Closing Remarks

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to our members, partners, and sponsors, as well as to the Arts Council, our principal funder, for their continued support.

On behalf of the Board, I also want to acknowledge the commitment of our executive team. Irma, as Director, together with Eileen, Paul, and Mary, has led the organisation through this transformative year with dedication and vision.

Finally, I thank my fellow Board members for their leadership and support. Together, we look forward to building on the progress of 2024 and ensuring that *Performing Arts Forum* remains a place where connection creates change.

Thank you,
Mary Boland
Chair, Performing Arts Forum CLG
Date: 26 September 2025