

Encountering The Arts Ireland

CONSTITUTION

1. Name

Encountering the Arts Ireland (abbreviated as ETAI).

2. ETAI

2.1 ETAI, as an alliance¹ of organisations and individuals committed to arts and education in Ireland, is informed by the following current understanding of arts and education:

2.2 The arts² develop children's and young people's imagination and creativity, their capacity for empathy, self-expression, civic and social engagement and entrepreneurship—all of which are attributes needed to function in a rapidly evolving society. Education facilitates learning processes and involves the nature and quality of our perceptions of self and the relationships we have with others. Personal and group identities emerge³ through the expression of these processes and relationships as we create meaning, make art, develop skills and participate in economic, social and political life, thereby nurturing human life. ETAI, in line with current national and international policy and practice,⁴ recognises 'arts and education' as encompassing:

2.2.1. 'Arts Education' – the teaching and learning of arts disciplines within and outside the curriculum;

2.2.2. 'Arts *in* education'- the arts as a medium for expression and a vehicle for wider learning across the school community.

2.3. 'Arts and Education' practice involves bringing artists, arts organisations and cultural institutions and teachers together so that learners enjoy a rich and productive experience of the arts.

3. Purpose and Aims

3.1 Purpose:

3.1.1. To broaden and deepen children's and young people's access and participation in the arts by using the combined strength, resources and expertise of the alliance;

3.1.2. To contribute to the strategic alignment of arts and education policies.

3.2 Aims:

¹ Alliance here is understood as a union or association formed for mutual benefit based on similarity of interests, nature, or qualities.

² "Arts" means any creative or interpretive expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, in particular, visual arts, craft, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture, and includes any medium when used for those purposes. Within this understanding, ETAI recognises the importance of heritage within all these forms.

³ Lave, J. (1996). Teaching, as learning, in practice. *Mind, Culture, and Activity*, 3(3), 149-164. doi: 1074-9039/96/149-164.

⁴ Barnard, I. (2011). *Encountering the Arts: A report on the Encountering the Arts conference held at The Irish Museum of Modern Art, 5 November 2010*. Dublin: IMMA.

- 3.2.1. To enrich and develop access to and participation in the arts for all learners drawing on existing resources and good practice, by:
- 3.2.1.1. Ensuring that children and young people engage with and in quality arts experiences inside and outside school;
 - 3.2.1.2. Deepening artists' and teachers' understanding of how children and young people learn;
 - 3.2.1.3. Working with artists, teachers, organisations and institutions to broaden and deepen learners' arts experiences;
 - 3.2.1.4. Integrating and embedding the arts into a wide range of learning experiences inside and outside of school.

3.3 Objectives:

- 3.3.1. To advocate quality arts and education practice for all children and young people;
- 3.3.2. To advocate the establishment of an *Arts and Education Advisory Committee* at governmental level to inform and implement national policy;
- 3.3.3. To seek representation of ETAI on the *Arts and Education Advisory Committee* and other relevant committees;
- 3.3.4. To inform the development of joint arts and education policies;
- 3.3.5. To initiate and support targeted arts and education research;
- 3.3.6. To stimulate increased action in arts and education;
- 3.3.7. To raise the public profile of arts and education at a local, national and international level;
- 3.3.8. To establish networks to promote partnership amongst the arts and education sectors within and outside of Ireland;
- 3.3.9. To support and promote the continuous professional development of artists, teachers and other partners engaging in arts and education;
- 3.3.10. To establish criteria and a code of practice for ETAI membership;
- 3.3.11. To develop the membership of ETAI;
- 3.3.12. To publish a list of ETAI members to facilitate effective networking;
- 3.3.13. To continue to formalise the activities of the ETAI;
- 3.3.14. To respect the autonomy of individual/ organisational members of ETAI;

4. General Membership:

4.1 Membership of ETAI shall be open to all persons or organisations who are committed to the aims of ETAI and are prepared to adhere to the aims, objectives and practices of ETAI as outline in the Constitution. Interested organisations or individuals are welcome to register as members by completing a registration form. Registration of members will be considered throughout the year by the current Steering Committee.

4.2 Officers

4.2.1. ETAI shall have the following Officers: a Convenor, a Minutes Secretary, a General Secretary, and a Treasurer. The roles are defined as follows:

Convenor:	Convenes meetings of the Steering Committee.
Minutes Secretary:	Takes minutes of all meetings and circulates them to the relevant members.
General Secretary:	Communicates developments of ETAI to members and the wider public.
Treasurer:	Oversees ETAI's finances and identifies funding possibilities.

4.2.2. Officers are nominated by existing members of the Steering Committee. The Officers will normally be nominated for three years and are eligible for re-nomination, except the Convenor who shall not normally be eligible for re-nomination on more than two successive occasions. Two Officers shall be retained when two are replaced on the Steering Committee.

4.3 Steering Committee

4.3.1 The Steering Committee consists of the Officers and up to 15 General Members who have been nominated by the existing General Membership. Nominations for membership to the Steering Committee will be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

4.3.2. Responsibilities of the Steering Committee:

- 4.3.2.1. Review registrations submitted to ETAI;
- 4.3.2.2. Develop the organisation;
- 4.3.2.3. Animate ETAI's objectives;
- 4.3.2.4 Establish a code of practice;
- 4.3.2.5 Whatever other activities as may be deemed by the membership to be appropriate to the aims of the association.

4.4 Steering Committee meetings require the attendance of a minimum of 6 individuals, whose presence will constitute a quorum.

5. Annual General Meeting of ETAI:

5.1. ETAI shall hold an Annual General Meeting called by the Convenor. The Annual General Meeting shall have the following activities:

- 5.1.1. To receive a report on the work of ETAI in the preceding year;
- 5.1.2. To receive financial report and/ or audited accounts for the preceding year;
- 5.1.3. To announce the results of nominations, where appropriate;
- 5.1.4. To consider any matter referred to them by the Committee.
- 5.1.5. To consider any motion submitted by any member in writing to the General Secretary within 14 days prior to a scheduled meeting. Urgent and pressing matters may be raised and

considered at the meeting. They must be seconded by a member present at the meeting in order to be considered.

5.2 The Governing Body of ETAI will be a General Meeting of members in good standing.

5.3 Papers summoning the Annual General Meeting will be made available to members at least twenty-eight days before the meeting is due to take place; when possible the Annual General Meeting will be combined with a public ETAI event.

5.4 Other General Meetings may be called at other times, with normally not less than two week's notice to all members, by the Steering Committee or the Convenor at the request of not less than 5 members, with two of those members being representatives of the Steering Committee (representing a quorum).

5.5 The Steering Committee is authorised to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at the request of two-thirds of members or two thirds of the Steering Committee.

6. ETAI year

ETAI's year will be January—December.

7. Schedule of Elections to Executive Committee

7.1 Elections will take place at ETAI's AGM at two-yearly intervals at the AGM.

7.2 The officers will normally be elected for three years and are eligible for re-election.

7.3 If an Officer resigns, the Steering Committee may delegate his/ her duties to another member of the Steering Committee.

8. Nominations

8.1 The Convenor and five other Committee members.

8.2 Nominations should be made both for (a) the Convenor and for (b) Membership of the Committee up to 15 members. (The officers to be chosen from within the elected committee include the Minutes Secretary, General Secretary and the Treasurer and 2 Members).

8.3 Nominations must be made for and by individuals who are members in good standing of ETAI and with the consent of the nominee. Each nominee must have two proposers. Candidates may supply a short biographical statement. Candidates may nominate themselves. Nominations signed by the nominee and two proposers may be made prior to the AGM by email with electronic signature to arrive to the General Secretary of ETAI at least one day before the AGM. They may also be made at the AGM. Those present at the AGM may vote in the elections. Votes WILL also be accepted by proxy if a member cannot attend. Proxy votes must be submitted by a member who is present at the meeting and authenticated by the member (be electronic mail, written form or by text message).

8.4 The result of the election shall be declared at the Annual General Meeting. A simple majority of those present will decide the elections. If more than the required number of candidates is proposed, voting will be by secret ballot.

9. Amendments to the Constitution:

The general Meeting of ETAI may amend the Constitution by a majority of two thirds of the members present and that written notice of the amendment has been given to all members by the General Secretary not less than 28 days before the General Meeting. Amendments to the Constitution can be tabled by existing members.

10. Review of the Constituion

The Constitution shall be reviewed within one year from its adoption.

11. Dissolution

ETAI may be dissolved by the agreement of not less than three-quarters of those members present at a General Meeting specifically summoned for this purpose. Any funds existing at the time of dissolution shall not become the property of any member or members but shall be devoted to furthering the aims of ETAI defined above.