



Draft Minutes for the meeting of the Board of Trustees
Held on: Wednesday 2 February 2022 at 10.00AM via Zoom

1. Welcome and Apologies

- **Apologies** – Julian Watson, Lucy MacLeod, Maggie Broadley
- **Present** - Mandy Green (MG); Frank Hayes (FH); Stephen Lacey, Chair (SL); Davie McMillan (DM); Catriona McGhie (CM); Yvonne Barber (YB).
- **In attendance** – Rebecca Coggins, Principle Officer Arts and Museums, Dumfries and Galloway Council, David McDonald, Arts Development Director (DMcD), Tabitha Mudaliar, Creative Producer (TM), DGU freelance team.

SL welcomed Yvonne Barber to the Board of DG Unlimited and thanked her for putting herself forward to undertake the role of Treasurer. SL reiterated the thanks and tribute he made at the recent AGM for the work undertaken by Anne Barclay in her role as Treasurer. Anne's tenure on the Board has come to an end and has resigned from the Board.

2. Minutes of last meeting

- Minutes circulated in advance of the meeting.
- DM to circulate draft Communications Strategy for reference. Further work has been paused until the Members Survey has been undertaken.
- Proposed as an accurate minute of the meeting by FH and seconded by CM.

3. Matters arising

- None

4. Declarations of Interest

- None tabled

DG Unlimited (Dumfries & Galloway Chamber of the Arts) – Registered Charity SC044658



5. Dumfries and Galloway Council: Cultural Strategy

- SL informed the meeting of an approach from Dumfries and Galloway Council on 20 January seeking support from DGU with writing the Cultural Strategy for Dumfries and Galloway. The cultural strategy project team has made good progress on initial drafts but felt that an external eye would bring a 'helicopter' view on the work done to date and bring a fresh approach to complete the task.
- Specifically the Council are asking DGU to prepare a final draft of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy for consideration by the Cultural Strategy Project Team prior to consultation with the Cultural Strategy Reference Groups and other stakeholders.
- DMcD will be taking this work forward

6. National Covid Memorial Project: DGU involvement

- Dumfries and Galloway Council asked if DGU would join them in a meeting with greenspace scotland (GS). GS have been commissioned by the Scottish Government to deliver a national memorial programme which will support COVID-19 Community Memorials projects across all 32 local authority areas.
- The Council approached DGU as the project is aligned with the purpose of our Service Level Agreement with the Council which is to *'provide advice, proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Council when commissioning arts services in the region.'*
- DGU will support greenspace scotland and the Council in facilitating the process of selecting a delivery partner for the project through an open call seeking an organisation(s), lead artist, creative practitioner(s) or creative consortium.
- DGU will also provide ongoing support throughout the 2 phases of the project.
- There is no pre-determined outcome for the COVID memorial, with the brief open to interpretation by communities and those commissioned to work with them.

- The outcome of phase 1 will be a presentation of the co-created concepts and ideas that have arisen through community engagement work.
- The outcome of phase 2 will be a Memorial which could be, for example a garden, structure, film, piece of music, object, permanent, temporary, online, in person, process or event based.

7. Revisions to the remit for the pARTners group

- It was acknowledged that the unorthodox approach of the 4 organisations circumnavigating the pARTners group forum and making a direct approach to the Chair of DGU has brought into focus the need for a wider review of how DGU seeks its mandate, including from our membership, the pARTners group and other key stakeholders.
- A wide ranging conversation took place touching on the discussion paper from the 4 organisations, DGU's response and the pARTners group terms of reference.
- It was agreed that the discussion needs to be brought back into the pARTners group and a meeting to be convened at a time when current pressing priorities have been delivered.

8. Review of DGU Strategic Plan, Distil

- The informal note of the away day in November 2021 was circulated in advance of the meeting
- It was agreed that the immediate priorities should be met by the team before work can begin on the review of Distil
- Proposed that the main item for the next meeting of the Board will focus on Distil and specifically reflecting on performance against its 4 strategic aims.

9. AOB

- DMcD will arrange a meeting with YB to go through the accounting process and current management accounts
- DMcD thanked FH for volunteering his time to contribute to the forthcoming Regional Arts Fund Panel.
- 20 applications have been received
- Total request for funding £105,000 with £50,000 available

- The date of the panel meeting will be towards the end of March
- Decisions will be communicated to applicants before the end of March