



Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Held at: The Usual Place, Dumfries

On: 19th February 2018 at 2pm

Present: Cathy Agnew (**CA**), (Chair), Matt Baker (**MB**), Stephen Lacey (**SL**), Davie McMillan (**DMcM**), David Smith (**DS**), Katharine Wheeler (**KW**).

In Attendance: Harry Thomson (**HT**), Rebecca Coggins (**RC**), David McDonald (**DMcD**), Rebecca Giblin (**RG**)

1. **CA** welcomed all to the meeting, including **DS** who was attending his first board meeting. 1. **Apologies** were received from Anne Barclay (**AB**), Karen Ward Boyd (**KWB**) and Carolyn Yates (**CY**).
2. There were no declarations of interest.
RG to check that the register of declarations of interest is up-to-date and circulate.
3. **The Minutes from the last meeting** were approved following a discussion of the trustee recruitment process.

RG to check Minutes from meeting on 8th November re. skills audit and email everyone to identify their skills.

4. **Matters arising**

Creative Scotland RFO Awards. Concern had been expressed about the fact that only two organisations within the region had been successful in receiving RFO funding status. This was because there were, in fact, only two applications submitted. After a certain amount of discussion, it was agreed that a meeting should be held with Creative Scotland to raise issue of lack of funding south of the central belt. Other questions to address might include the threat to other funding streams e.g. VACMA as a result of previous strategic funds being diverted and also the impact on other funds e.g. LEADER projects now not being matched.

Karen Dick to be asked for a snapshot of funds coming into the region, including smaller funds.

It was also agreed that DGU's role should be to help enable other organisations in D&G to apply in the future and to try to find out what barriers are in place.

5. **Chair's Report**

CA reported that she had attended the Johnston School Open Day in Kirkcudbright. When complete, the building will contain a mix of enterprises.

She also attended the Galloway Strings concert, which is run by Cate Howard and was DGU funded.

She has held meetings with **DMcD** and **HT/RC**.

6. Arts Development Director Report and Communications

DMcD discussed his report with the Board, highlighting key areas.

Maggie Broadley has joined the team as Development Officer (East). She was previously Executive Director at West Kilbride Craft Town and is a practising ceramist.

Consortium bid – Maggie is currently working on a funding application to the Freelands Foundation (deadline 28th Feb). The fund supports regions where there's a bleed of talent to urban areas. If the bid is unsuccessful, the work can be used for future applications.

Youth Arts Commission – Articulate has completed the 2nd draft of the framework. The next near-final draft will be discussed with the pARTners Group. **CA** suggested that the Board and pARTners Group meet together. **DMcD** to let **RG** know details so that an invitation to the board can be sent.

GIGI/ICC – the final deadline is 25th Feb.

There have been fewer applications to GIGI. **Cate Ross (CR)** to talk to Third Sector. **MB** suggested presenting at their conference about working with arts organisations. **CA** asked if any unallocated funds might be vired to the RAF. **HT** confirmed that this could be done provided the project meets the criteria.

There was a discussion about the maximum amount available per group under GIGI (£500) and **DMcD** confirmed that this was due to the split of money per area (£2,000) and to maximise the number of groups that would benefit.

DMcD reported that a review would take place with the next round planned for May. **KW** suggested that it is worth persevering with this fund, ensuring that people have plenty of time to hear about the opportunity, rather than changing the criteria (e.g. changing it all to professional development). **MB** agreed, saying that community development is the future for arts provision.

It was suggested that groups need to know what was possible and ideas were put forward to aid this e.g. case studies for conference, funding roadshows with Third Sector.

As of 20th Feb

Get Involved Get Inspired (community arts projects - £12,440 available)

- 5 applications received
- 5 awards
- Total awarded £1,905 (Total requested £1,954)

Innovate Create Cultivate (professional development - £9,500 available)

- 14 applications received
- 1 withdrawn
- 5 Assessed (8 pending)
- £3,252.50 awarded (Total requested £8,417)
- £5,157 requests for funding pending

RAF -the RAF panel takes place on Wednesday 28th Feb. The panel consists of Mary Morrison (CABN), **RC**, **DMcD** and **CR**. **RG** will record decisions. Decisions were advertised as being reached by February on the guidelines and illness and workload has led to the date being later in February.

CIWG – **RC** said that there were major opportunities for the CIWG, such as connecting with economic development and to be involved in the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency (SSEA). **DS** stressed the importance of practical pathways for people in the creative industries and **RC** agreed saying that these would focus on business development, skills development and creative development. **MB** asked if there could be initiation funding for projects in the south of Scotland and expressed concern that there was no one creative on the current board of the SSEA. **RC** said that it was crucial to have the creative industries represented at any future Business Weeks.

Team Away Day – this will be in late March. **DMcD** to let **CA** know the date.

Website – the new website is now live and a number of membership applications have been received via the online form. **RG** to change the typeface. **RG** asked the board to continue to give feedback as it continues to evolve.

D&G Life Column – **DMcD** asked the board for suggestions of themes for future columns. Suggestions included exhibitions outside the region and Stuart Macpherson's project (initially funded by DGU). **RG** asked the board to continue to send her items of interest.

7. DGC Report (HT)

Kirkcudbright Galleries – there has been a delay to the proposed opening date. This will now be May, making the first exhibitions (WASPS, Monarch of the Glen) shorter than planned.

Gracefield Review – quotes are being sought from consultants for the options appraisal. **RC** asked for a volunteer to join the working group as Bea Last has stood down from DGU. **KW** agreed to take this on.

DGC Budget – the Council's Budget meeting for 2018-19 on 27th Feb is likely to propose a reduction in the DGU budget of £25k (17%). However, this should then be fixed for three years so that would allow a certain amount of security. It was felt important to consider identifying other sources of funding.

Cultural Strategy – some resource has been identified to take forward the cultural strategy. **MB** asked that DGU be involved.

8. Treasurer's Report

The contents of the Treasurer's Report were noted.

DMcD presented a projected expenditure until the end of the financial year and reported that there was still money to be drawn down against the SLA. There are unspent funds for the DO (East) commission and there is a case for this to be carried forward to the next financial year.

The draft budget is based on what is expected as a result of proposed DGC cuts.

HT to look into the possibility of DGU managing the DO commissions. **HT**, **RC** and **DMcD** to discuss. **CA** asked if this could be in place by 1st April with a revised SLA in place.

DS asked if an application could be made to Creative Scotland Open Funding for capacity building, enabling CS to achieve things in D&G it couldn't otherwise. **MB** added that this is the first generation of post-Place Partnership with nothing in place for taking things forward.

MB asked if there was an ambition to raise additional funds. **DMcD** said that the intention to expand DGU's revenue is included within the strategic plan – Distil.

Financial operations – It was agreed that **DMcD** should become a signatory. **CA** to get the forms from the bank. **AB** to investigate online banking.

9. **AOCB**

MB attended the Place Partnership Meeting in Aberdeen. Forres presented on their Day of Culture, which was an interesting way of forwarding the cultural strategy. Hull and Paisley also presented on their bids for European City of Culture. **RC** added that the cultural strategy takes heritage, health and wellbeing into account. **HT** confirmed that DGU would be key in progressing the cultural strategy and a discussion will be arranged with key partners.

HT reported that allocation Major Events Fund has been agreed by the communities committee and that £166,000 was awarded to cultural events.

CA reported that she is involved in an international bid with Adrian Turpin of Wigtown Festival Company around literary tourism. The decision is in June.

MB reported that Tom Pow is holding a Year of Conversation in 2019, where he will add to existing activities. **RG** to contact Tom and get further details.

10. The **next meeting** will be held at 2pm on Monday 16th April. **RG** to book venue.

11. **HT, RC, DMcD** and **RG** left the meeting for the Board to discuss reserved items.