**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**

**Held at**: The Usual Place, Dumfries

**On**: 20th August 2018

**Present**: Cathy Agnew (**CA**, Chair), Anne Barclay (**AB**), Davie McMillan (**DM**), David Smith (**DS**), Karen Ward Boyd (**KWD**), Stephen Lacey (**SL**), Katharine Wheeler (**KW**)

**Apologies**: Rebecca Coggins

**In attendance**: Maggie Broadley (**MB**), David McDonald (**DMcD**), Maureen Smyth (**MS**)

1. **CA** welcomed all to the meeting. There were apologies from Rebecca Coggins.
2. **Declarations of Interest –** There were no declarations of interest.
3. **The Minutes from the last meeting** were approved.
4. **Matters Arising –** There were no matters arising.
5. **Chair’s report**

Chair reported recent positive communications with the council over recruitment and procurement issues. **DMcD** and **CA** had a meeting with Karen Dick from Creative Scotland and also had a site visit to Moat Brae.

1. **Arts Development Director Report**

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

Recruitment – Recently recruited a temporary role of Admin and Comms person. 7 applications received. Process was quick and straightforward. Role will be put out to tender within the next month. **SL** confirmed DGU doesn’t have to go through council recruitment process for this.

Community Choices Fund – Recent application to Community Choices Fund was unsuccessful, although DGU was placed on reserve list. **Cate Ross** will check what this means, for example how many are on the list. Will also ask for some feedback, for example what could we do to improve our application for next time.

**DM** asked what the potential impact would be of not getting the money. **DMcD** confirmed there shouldn’t be too much impact, as it was a speculative application. **DMcD** confirmed that the GIGI fund will now reopen in the next week or two – the money there had been ring-fenced as part of the community choice application.

Creative Champions Proposal – DGU has received some initial feedback from Louisa McDonnell at The Scotland Office on the DGU-led proposal to the Borderland Initiative. This was shared with the Scottish Government and DCMS in London. Positive signs so far. It is hoped full feedback will come in the next few weeks. DGU keen to ensure creative industries are represented in Borderlands strategy.

SOSEP – **DS** mentioned recent SOSEP meeting, which discussed strategies for encouraging the creative sectors in southern Scotland. Discussed economic potential to region if creatives relocated here.

Katherine Wheeler mentioned that Aileen Campbell had visited The Stove to discuss Scottish Government funding a creative model for engagement in communities. These issues had also been discussed with Derek Rankine of SURF.

DGU’s open consultation event on the draft cultural strategy for Scotland – 4th September at 11 am at Kirkcudbright Galleries.

14 bookings to date. Full participation expected. Reserve list may be required. CA and SL agreed to attend on behalf of DGU.

DMcD confirmed Scottish Government had been approached to provide some funding for the event.

COSLA – DGU has been invited to attend a joint Creative Scotland COSLA consultation event in Perth on 6th September. **DMcD** and **RC** to attend.

**KW** asked for DGU support in promoting The Stove’s consultation event on 6th September, to be hosted by Gwilym Gibbons.

DMcD confirmed he shared DG council draft cultural strategy report with trustees and the pARTners group and provided feedback to RC

DMcD reported on the recent Creative Aberdeenshire Network event at which DGU was invited to present. CABN and Creative Scotland also attended.

**MS** confirmed plan to increase DGU social media posting.

1. **2018 Conference (Maggie Broadley)**

**MB** presented slideshow on themes and possible venues and dates for conference. Looking at 8/11, 15/11 or 6/12, and at GGs Yard, Moat Brae, and Threave.

**KW** mentioned possible clash, with rural parliament on 15 November.

Board agreed to broad themes of roots and routes.

**MS** to provide marketing and comms support for the event.

DMcD had suggested having a civic reception at Moat Brae the evening prior.

Board discussed if a weekend date would work, but agreed midweek was better.

1. **Treasurer’s report**

Healthy balance. Internet banking now available, **AB** to arrange authorisation for **DMcD** to undertake Internet banking. 17/18 accounts are with accountants for signing off.

1. **Budget**

Board discussed recent £25,000 cut to the Council strategic arts budget. DGU has borne the brunt of the cut this financial year. **DMcD** to ask the Council if cuts will be applied the same way over the next two years.

**SL** reported that as budget now devolved to DGU, so too has recruitment.

DGU is close to finalising its service level agreement with the council.

1. **Fundraising**

Possible Creative Scotland funding opportunities.

Trustees support and guidance required to make progress with fundraising.

CA suggested more clearly defining what DGU actually needed and planned to do with any additional funds. DS suggested importance of using funds to capacity build and help creative practitioners access opportunities.

1. **DGC report**

No report tabled.

1. **Trustee recruitment**

Board discussed policy around and recruitment of new trustee, and agreed to create advert. Ideas to be passed to **CA**.

**DMcD** to create advert for trustee recruitment.

1. **DGU Commissioning Policy**

SL tabled a policy statement for a commissioning policy, which was approved.

**SL** will draft a full policy and share with trustees for comments.

1. **AOCB**

There were no other items.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The **next meeting** will be held at 2pm on Monday 29th October at The Usual Place.

1. **Reserved items**