

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Held Virtually via Zoom:

On: Monday 14th December 2020 at 12noon

Present: Stephen Lacey, Chair (**SL**), Anne Barclay, Treasurer (**AB**), Julian Watson (**JW**), Catriona McGhie (**CM**), Davie McMillan (**DM**), Frank Hayes (**FH**), Lucy MacLeod (**LM**), Mandy Green (**MG**),

In attendance: Rebecca Coggins (**RC**), David McDonald (**DMcD**), Tabitha Mudaliar (**TM**), Maggie Broadley (**MB**), Katie Nairn (**KN**)

Apologies: Karen Brownlie (**KB**)

1. Welcome and Apologies

SL welcomed the meeting and brief introductions were made. A warm welcome was extended to the new Directors.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed to be a fair and accurate record with one or two typos to be amended. Proposed by DM seconded by JW

3. Matters arising

No matters arising that are not covered by the agenda.

4. Declarations of Interest

AB - Wigtown Festival Company are looking to make an application to the RAF

KN to circulate the current register of interests to the Board to update.

5. Chair's report

RAF – D&G Council are making a short film to promote RAF 8, SL was interviewed on Friday for the film.

There has been a request to extend the deadline for applications to the RAF. RC confirmed the request had been discussed with the Council Grants Team and an extension would be possible. After discussion all present agreed to an extension of the deadline. RC and DMcD will agree a revised timeline to accommodate a deadline of Monday 18th January 2021.

SL noted some things to think about for 2021:

- The second-year application to Creative Scotland for Creatives Unlimited
- Developing a relationship with South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)
- The Together Again Season
- Review and revision of the strategic plan: DISTIL

6. Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report had been previously circulated. The current bank balance was healthy, there were no payments outstanding and no cash flow issues to report. The 2019/20 accounts have now been submitted to OSCR. The second instalment from Creative Scotland for Creatives Unlimited is expected this week.

7. Arts Development Director's report

- DM welcomed the new Directors and offered the opportunity to discuss the work of DGU on a one-to-one basis.
- **RAF 8:** Five people had been in touch with DMcD to discuss potential projects for the RAF so far. An E-shot would be sent this week to announce the extended RAF deadline.
- **AGM:** Feedback from the AGM and Circuit has been excellent.
- **Creatives Unlimited:** A downloadable resource which is still to be finalised will replace the funding school, an e-book is still to be created. Due to some cost savings and robust project management there an anticipated positive variance in the budget. DMcD will work with SL to finalise the details on the allocation of remaining funds.
- DMcD attended the TSDG Chief Officers group recently which was focussed on leadership. It highlighted how well the current DGU team has worked together via virtual platforms since the pandemic began. DMcD and SL thanked the Board and the Team for their positive contribution during 2020.

8. Elected members seminar

RC reported that Dumfries and Galloway Council would like to invite DGU to be the subject of an Elected Members Seminar, to give a better understanding of the work DGU undertakes. The seminar is a platform for discussion, held via Teams open to all Elected Members. DMcD and RC will discuss approaches to delivering the seminar. SL and DMcD will select a date from the options for a seminar in April 2021.

9. Creatives Unlimited

MB provided a brief overview of the Creatives Unlimited programme for the new trustees and will share some further background information electronically after the meeting. Overall feedback has been positive about all elements of the programme and the DGU team has worked effectively and collaboratively to overcome the challenges of moving the whole programme online due to Covid-19.

James Alcock, a film maker has been appointed to produce 'Platform' which is one of the final elements of the programme to be completed.

Looking to the next phase of Creatives Unlimited MB thought it would be good to include more Trustees and pARTner's group members in a blended online and in-person

programme. TM highlighted the value of the panel discussions for improving the DGU network and position in the region.

10. Membership and Communications

- There had been new individual and associate members join as a result of the AGM and Circuit.
- A press release on the changes and additions to the Board will be published in the next few days.
- Any Trustees who also had connections with cultural organisations were encouraged to become associate members of DGU – it is free to join.

11. pARTners Group

DMcD introduced the work of the group to new Trustees and briefly outlined the background. DGU originally had four regional co-ordinators and regional sub-groups, from which representatives came together to form the Regional Arts Hub Working group. The pARTners group evolved from this group, working under its own Terms of Reference. The pARTners group is a good platform for testing ideas, scanning the horizon, collating responses to national and regional consultations. Members work well together and support each other. AB commended the openness of the group and the benefits of partner collaborations and exchanges.

12. Report from D & G Council

- RC fed back that KB and herself enjoyed the AGM and the Circuit.
- The Council are currently looking at the new budget, RC reported that at this stage in proceedings there were no proposed reductions to the cultural budget.
- Creative Scotland fund VACMA fund is now open to applications with a deadline of 02 February 2021.
- The Cultural Strategy will be revisited in the spring.

13. AOCB

KN shared information on the kick-start scheme which is a way of organisations employing young people aged 16 to 25 for 6 months work experience. Participating organisations must be registered as a charity or company and have more than one Director/Trustee. The grant covers all associated costs. KN is co-ordinating this work for TSDG and happy to discuss further with anybody who might be interested.

14. Date of next meeting

A Doodle Poll will be circulated for the next meeting, to be either the end of January or start of February 2021.

15. Reserved Items