



## Minutes of the Board of Trustees

Held at: The Usual Place, Dumfries

On: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 at 1pm

Present: Cathy Agnew (**CA**) Chair, Davie McMillan (**DM**), Stephen Lacey (**SL**), Carolyn Yates (**CY**)

In attendance: David McDonald (**DMcD**), Maggie Broadley (**MB**), Lynn Anderson (**LA**)

1. CA welcomed all to the meeting. There were apologies from Katharine Wheeler (**KW**), Karen Ward Boyd (**KWB**), Anne Barclay (**AB**), Rebecca Coggins (**RC**) and Harry Hay (**HH**). CA formally said farewell and thanked Maureen Smyth and welcomed Lynn Anderson. Flowers had been sent to Maureen from the Board and team. CA also added congratulations to Anne Barclay on the award of her MBE.
2. Declarations of Interest – There were no **declarations of interest**.
3. The Minutes from the last meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May were **approved**.
4. Matters Arising – **There were no matters arising**.
5. Chair's report  
CA: Since the last Board Meeting, CA had been at various meetings with DMcD and D&G Council. CA also attended Harry Thompson's retirement celebration and the first anniversary celebrations for Kirkcudbright Galleries, at all of which CA felt her attendance on behalf of DGU was appreciated. There had also been the RAF photo call.
6. Arts Development Director Report:  
CA gave congratulations and thanks on behalf of the Board to DMcD on the successful **Creative Scotland** bid. DMcD thanked the Board and said it had been a joint effort which, although laborious, was well worth spending the time on. DGU had been invited to reapply for further funding. CY noted the tight timetable involved and thanked DMcD on meeting the deadline. DMcD is meeting Karen Dick on Friday to firm up details and go through advice on submission of an application for year 2 funding. There was to be a brief DGU team meeting after this Board meeting to go through a few of the outstanding matters. CA asked when the announcement will be official? DMcD is to respond to some of the questions on conditions and we will do a press release and push out through networks as soon as possible. CY suggested that we could produce a leaflet containing information for the creative community on what tangible benefits the funding will bring.

**Hollywood Trust application:** MB had a meeting on Friday and had spent time looking at and preparing the budget for our application in more detail. It's a very competitive fund, but is worthwhile submitting. MB reported there's also an application going into Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company's Organisation's Fund.

**Membership Officer:** DMcD reported on a successful recruitment campaign. Board agreed future recruitment should be kept to the same format. CY asked about Membership Strategy. DMcD reported LA had prepared a draft strategy, which would be ready for the next board meeting. CY asked if the Board could have access to this prior to next meeting electronically and DMcD agreed.

**DGU funds:** MB had prepared an Annual Review Report. GIGI was extremely beneficial in terms of funding creative practitioners and would be great to do again. ICC is slightly less budget and a very necessary fund for artists and creative development. MB wished to refresh the application to simplify the process and be more supportive to the applicants.

**RAF 6** It's a time consuming process and the conditions difficult to fulfil, therefore applicants require a lot of assistance. Quality should be a large part of the criteria. MB is offering support to applicants and helping them fulfil the application criteria. CA felt DGU could be recognised more for our support across the fund. CY has asked RC for access to final reports as summaries and outcomes would be a big assistance.

MB suggested that attendance at events could be shared across the Trustees as this would be extremely beneficial when putting flesh behind reports. Any reports on attended events could be shared with LA, who would then funnel them through.

**Membership Survey:** Thanks were given for from the Board for the Report. MB noted it will be used for regional funds and the membership strategy, comms strategy. LA and MB were having a meeting in the near future to go through some ideas. MB had circulated the Survey and it was now accessible on the DGU website. CY suggested that it could be a useful document for any organisation with a membership structure to use as a reference document.

**Cultural Strategy:** DMcD reported that this was now live and engagement is good across the sectors. DMcD is meeting Kirsty Peden, D&G Council's Engagement Officer, to discuss the Facebook campaign. DMcD was to offer to help manage the social media side. The consultation has been extended to 8<sup>th</sup> September and additional sessions are in the process of being set up. There will be a press release when the new focus groups are all confirmed.

**pARTners:** MB had attended on behalf of DMcD. The draft terms of reference were now signed off. There was a further meeting this Thursday and DMcD will push out across the group for expressions of interest. CY asked for the terms of reference to be shared with the Board and DMcD will do so. CA suggested that possible Trustee recruitment could also come from within the pARTners group.

**ESSAM 2019:** MB had attended for DGU. It had been an interesting experience and MB has submitted a report to DMcD. There was a surprise throughout the attendees that the event was free. Cultural and language barriers were experienced and worked through. MB suggested possible business and other sponsorship could be a way to fund creative leadership programmes, with a cross-fertilization from business to culture. One of the biggest values was promoting the enormous potential of Dumfries & Galloway.

**Arts Funding Enquiry:** DMcD had been invited by the Committee to give evidence. It had been challenging. A plus point is that DGU is on Parliamentary process records now. The enquiry was extremely robust and very high level and it was beneficial to be involved. David reported to the committee how positive and important Creative Scotland's place partnership programme is.

**DG Life awards:** The Board agreed to sponsor D&G Life award of Cultural Champion again. DMcD will liaise with D&G Life.

**Membership:** LA reported there had been an increase of 20 new members. There had been a surge via social media and MB had been recruiting members who had been asking for funding advice. CA stated and the Board agreed that DGU will only offer funding advice to members in future.

**Social Media:** LA reported that engagement was up by large numbers across all platforms. Twitter had seen the largest percentage growth, but this was mainly due to low previous use.

**E-bulletin:** the numbers had remained roughly the same, with good engagement and opening (around 45%) of the e-bulletin being maintained.

**Website:** the website had a large increase in traffic, partly due to hosting the Cultural Survey landing page, but an article written about funding received by 2 DGU members had been viewed many times via the newsletter.

CA thanked the DGU team on behalf of the Board for the useful update.

7. Treasurer's report and Budget:  
AB had emailed the Treasurer's Report updated to 22<sup>nd</sup> July. There were no cash flow concerns.
8. DGC report  
Apologies had been received from RC and HH.
9. Trustee Recruitment:  
SL reported he had received no direct contact from the call-out and it was agreed to be more proactive. Again, the pARTners group call-out was suggested and it was also suggested that a call-out could be made at the Circuit event in September. CA stated there was 1 vacancy, possibly 2 and a creative practitioner would be desirable.

10. AOCB

CY and DM had attended an event at Stranraer Football Club Bar. Wigtown Festival Company had received Heritage money for a political debate for young people under 26 years old. It was a very well supported event. The attendees had been particularly scathing about social media's use for political manipulation.

The next SOSEP meeting was in the near future. DMcD was attending for DGU. MB was also attending (for Applied Arts). It was a good opportunity for sharing purposes for creative industries in the South of Scotland. DMcD will report back. It was agreed it was good to be invited. DMcD asked the Board to submit their thoughts to him prior to the meeting on what the new enterprise sector could do for creative sector.

DM had attended the book launch of Heather Molloy's book. This had been greatly appreciated and Heather had sent an email via LA thanking DM for his attendance.

CY reported she is working with local practitioners with reference to Performance Collective Stranraer to develop high quality content for workshops and mentoring to retain home grown talent locally.

11. Date of next board meeting: CA proposed either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Kircudbright Galleries at 1.30pm. CA asked LA to Doodle Poll Members and DGU Team to find out preferred day.

12. Reserved items. The Board met in private.