

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Public minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held virtually via MS Teams on Monday 29 March 2021 at 1330hrs.

Present:

Benny Higgins (Chairman)	
Alistair Dodds	Lynn Richmond
Audrey Carlin	Chris Sibbald
Edward Green	Hannah Rudman
Tari Lang	Andrew Wilson
Rucelle Soutar	Nick Pearce
Willie Watt	

In Attendance:

Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Jo Coomber
Jacqueline Ridge
Bryan Robertson
Line Clausen Pedersen
Valerie Urquhart (items 9-11)
Leanne Mabblerley (item 8.3.1)
Siobhan McConnachie and Kathryn Farrell (item 9)

Secretariat: Elaine Anderson

Open Business

1 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman noted that he had some changes to his list of interests. This would be updated on the website in due course. It included a new position as Chairman of the Edinburgh Fringe Society Board.

2 Chairman's Business

Nothing to report.

3 Minute of the meeting of 25 January 2021

The minute of the meeting of 25 January 2021 was approved as a correct record, with minor amendment.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Reserved Business – items 5-7 redacted

Open Business

8 Reports

8.1 One Collection

Ms Clausen Pedersen summarised the collection report. There were eight new works coming in from Sylvia Grace Borda. The photographs had been gifted by the artist and were in line with the current collecting policy. Mr Wilson asked whether the photographs would be on display any time soon.

Colleagues continue to be active, despite not being able to work on-site.

Mr Green queried the movement of the Moore sculpture. It was noted that it was moving to a more prominent position outside Modern Two. The Paolozzi sculpture, currently in the grounds of Modern Two, was moving to the Gardens entrance at the SNG. There were no plans to change the Paolozzi focus at Modern Two. Colleagues noted that his centenary was forthcoming and there would be an opportunity to celebrate this in due course.

8.2 Public Programme 2021-22

Ms Clausen Pedersen outlined the planned programme for 2021-22. It was noted that the Harryhausen exhibition had been extended to February 2022 to make up for the time lost due to the recent closure.

There are several excellent shows planned, including Thomas Joshua Cooper, Joan Eardley and Isaac Julien. Social distancing brought additional challenges for all shows.

It was noted that the programme had not yet been publicly announced.

8.3 Public Engagement Quarterly Report

Ms Coomber shared the latest updates from the Public Engagement team. A huge amount of work had been undertaken to keep audiences engaged.

The Harryhausen digital content had been launched and was starting to generate income. It incorporated additional content which was not available in the exhibition.

There had been a number of changes to the booking system which would improve the visitor experience, primarily in relation to walk-ups.

Ms Coomber shared the latest research findings on visiting galleries and museums.

Ms Coomber was thanked for sharing the initial benchmarking data. Mr Wilson considered that it would be useful to know what “brilliant” looks like, to understand what we wanted to work towards. Mr Wilson asked also if we were considering accessing the STV Growth Fund, which allowed organisations which would not normally advertise on TV to access un-used advertising slots. Mr Wilson agreed to provide the contact details.

AW

Ms Rudman queried how we ensure that we tie into LGBTQI themes. It was noted that the Social Media Officer was building connections and potential in this regard. Further opportunities may arise through the research being carried out through the equalities work.

Trustees were very positive about the energy being portrayed online.

It was noted that the marketing team was focusing on cross-selling with a view to boosting sales and income.

8.3.1 Brand Launch Plan

Leanne Mabberley in attendance

Ms Coomber explained the approach to take the branding launch forward. A separate session had been set up in June to discuss visual identity.

Discussion redacted.

The session on branding in June may provide a platform for further discussion. Trustees were asked to contact Ms Coomber in advance of the next meeting if they had anything further to add to the discussion.

All

9

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

Siobhan McConnachie and Kathryn Farrell in attendance

9.1 Biennial Reporting against the Equality Duty

Ms Farrell explained the requirement to produce a set of public reports to meet the Equality Duty. The latest reports were due for publication on 30 April and would be circulated in draft later this week for comment. Reports

relating to employee-related data were shared at this meeting.

Ms Rudman asked if we have accreditation for equalities in relation to NGS as an employer. It was noted that we don't, but we could begin to look at this. KF agreed to take this forward.

9.2 **Development of the EDI Commitments: Update on Progress**

Ms McConnachie presented the update on the development of the draft EDI commitments. There had been a number of internal listening sessions, which had assisted in developing the commitments. An external session with relevant representation from the public and organisations had also taken place. The commitments had been refined following those discussions and those were shared today.

An action plan was being developed to take this forward.

Ms McConnachie explained the changes since the last draft was shared with trustees in the autumn.

It was noted that this work connected to our statutory purpose and was closely aligned to the biennial reporting above.

Trustees were very supportive of the approach and approved the commitments as developed so far.

Ms Farrell shared the two equality outcomes which had been drafted to meet this element of the statutory obligation. Further outcomes would be set in due course. The outcomes were approved.

Reserved Business – items 10-11 redacted

Open Business

12 Compliance & Risk

12.1 Performance Management 2020-21: Q3

The results for Q3 were noted.

12.2 Risk Registers

12.2.1 **Strategic Risk Register**

Noted. Ms Lang commented that there was little emphasis on reputational risks in the register. The Chairman considered that most risks in the register should fall into financial and reputational categories.

12.2.2 **Coronavirus Risk Register**

Noted.

12.3 **Safeguarding (Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults)**

Nothing to report.

13 **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The Chairman noted that he hoped that trustees may be able to meet in the summer months in an outside gathering.

14 **Dates of Next Meetings**

Risk Management Training, Tuesday 20 April 2021
Session on Branding, Tuesday 1 June 2021
Board of Trustees, Monday 14 June 2021