

# National Galleries of Scotland

## Board of Trustees

Public minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom at Modern Two on Monday 27 March 2023 at 1330hrs.

**Present:**

Benny Higgins (Chair)	Rucelle Soutar
Audrey Carlin	Gemma Gray
Lynn Richmond	Hannah Rudman
Chris Sibbald	Jim McConville
Kate Sang	Apphia Campbell
Dawn Thomson	

**In Attendance:**

Sir John Leighton, Director-General  
 Bryan Robertson  
 Anne Lyden  
 Imogen Gibbon  
 Valerie Urquhart  
 Adam Christie  
 Isabella Miller  
 Jacqueline Ridge  
 Leanne Mabblerley (item 6)  
 Simon Groom and Claire Martin (item 7.1.2)

**Apologies:** Andrew Wilson

**Secretariat:** Elaine Anderson

### ***Open Business***

#### **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no new declarations of interest.

#### **2 Chairman's Business**

Trustees approved the appointment of Ms Gray to the Ethics Committee.

#### **3 Minutes**

##### **3.1 Minute of the meeting of 30 January 2023**

The minute of the meeting of 30 January 2023 was approved.

Ms Rudman offered clarification on the minute relating to LGBT events and agreed to send an annual calendar of events to trustees and the Leadership Team.

HR

4      **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising which were not already covered on the agenda.

5      **Director-General's Report**

*Discussion redacted.*

**Reserved Business**

6      **Branding Launch**

*Leanne Mabberley in attendance*

*Discussion redacted.*

**Open Business**

7      **Reports**

7.1      **Collection Report**

Ms Gibbon presented the Collection report, highlighting some of the recent acquisitions and noting the importance of bequests in developing the collection.

Ms Lyden shared the recent acquisition of two ambrotypes and explained the connection to a working class story.

Ms Lyden explained the role of the "Sustaining my Recovery group". NGS had been working with an Occupational Therapist at the NHS and a freelance artist to help build the confidence of patients in their rehabilitation.

Ms Gibbon noted the approval in 2019 for the commission of a portrait of Scottish Nobel Laureates. Funds had now been secured for the seven portraits and the first two were underway.

Trustees noted the public interest in the phrenology heads on display at the Portrait Gallery. Many of them had returned to their owners, but 25 remained in the collection.

**Reserved Business**

7.1.1      **Acquisitions for Board Approval**

*Redacted.*

7.1.2      **Shanghai Tour**

*Simon Groom and Claire Martin in attendance*

*Discussion redacted.*

## **Open Business**

### **7.2 Public Programme 2023-24**

Ms Lyden shared the plans for the Public Programme in 2023-24. The Alberta Whittle show opening was this coming weekend.

The Grayson Perry show was opening in July at the RSA.

The opening of the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2022 at the PG and the private view on 16 June was noted.

The Turner show had been exhibited in the lower space at the RSA in January, which had proved successful.

Artists at Work was a show of works by colleagues across the galleries. The moral boost for colleagues was noted.

Conversations with the Collection was making the collection more accessible to staff and visitors.

### **7.3 Audience & Digital Quarterly Report**

Ms Miller shared some of the positive statistics relating to social media and digital content.

Visitor targets for SNG and Modern One had been reached, but the Portrait Gallery had not. The scaffolding had been taken down and that may make the building more visible.

There had been some work with colleagues in HR on goal setting and internal engagement.

The Trading Company was performing well and surpassing targets.

Ms Miller noted the positive feedback from visitors.

The Chairman asked if Learning & Engagement could be given greater prominence at future Board meetings, noting some of the really positive activities which had taken place in recent months.

AL/IG

## **Reserved Business**

### **7.4 Chief Operating Officer's Report**

*Discussion redacted.*

## **Reserved Business**

### **8 Financial Matters**

*Discussion redacted.*

### **9 Major Projects Progress Reports**

*Discussion redacted.*

## **Open Business**

### **10 Compliance & Risk**

#### **10.1 Performance Measures 2022-23: Q3**

Ms Anderson shared the performance data and report from quarter 3, noting the positive out-turn, good exhibition performance and excellent retail figures.

#### **10.2 Strategic Risk Register**

Ms Anderson presented the strategic risk register and shared the covering report which had been considered by the Audit & Risk Committee. Trustees noted the movement in the register from the previous quarter.

#### **10.3 Gaelic Language Plan: Update**

Ms Anderson explained the statutory obligation to produce a Gaelic Language Plan. The previous Plan was nearing the end of its term and a new one would be produced in the autumn. Trustees noted that the draft plan would be presented at the June Board meeting, following which there would be a period of public consultation.

#### **10.4 Safeguarding**

Some trustees had attended Safeguarding training earlier that day. It was noted that the training was mandatory and a further session would be arranged for those who could not attend in due course.

It was noted that the Board required to nominate a trustee responsible for safeguarding. Trustees were invited to volunteer. To be agreed in early course.

All

10      **Any Other Business**

Ms Carlin asked if trustees could view the SNG building following handover in May.

BR

11      **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 5 June 2023 at 1330 hours.