

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Two, Belford Road, Edinburgh on Monday 16 June 2014 at 1400 hrs.

Present: Ben Thomson, Chairman Tricia Bey
Alistair Dodds Edward Green
Benny Higgins Lesley Knox
Tari Lang Ray MacFarlane
Alasdair Morton Catherine Muirden
Nicky Wilson

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Patricia Allerston Christopher Baker
Nicola Catterall Michael Clarke
Alan Gibson Simon Groom
Siobhan McConnachie, Head of Education (item 4)

Apologies: Ian Howard
Jacqueline Ridge

Secretariat: Kathryn Farrell

Action

1 Chairman's Business

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minute of the Meeting of 31 March 2014

The minute of the meeting of 31 March 2014 was approved.

2.2 Note of the Strategy Day of 28 April 2014

There were no amendments to the note.

3 Matters Arising

It was agreed that the outstanding action from the 2013 strategy day, to refresh the vision for Scottish art, should be addressed at the next Board meeting.

SMT

The Chairman commended contributors for the quality of the papers submitted, noting the KPI report in particular.

All other matters arising were dealt with under the following items.

Strategy

4 Learning and Access Strategy

Siobhan McConnachie in attendance

Ms McConnachie was welcomed to the meeting. She highlighted the breadth and quality of the current learning and access activity and explained that the intention of the new Learning and Access Strategy was to develop this further.

The strategy was based on three strategic aims:

- Widen opportunities for learning with NGS
- Understand our audiences
- Give every visitor a quality experience

Under the first aim, Ms McConnachie explained that there would be an increased focus on those who cannot necessarily visit the galleries to participate in programmed activity, with more self-directed options and improved digital/online resources made available. Another key strand would be further development of the training and professional development programme so that it could be offered to people in the care sector and youth agencies as well as school teachers. This would help to promote the public programme, build relationships with teachers etc and enable trainees to bring their groups at a later date. Also, in order to be able to contribute more effectively to exhibition interpretation, the Education team would aim to be involved in planning at an early stage.

With regard to audiences, Ms McConnachie noted that assumptions about the loyalty of current adult 'leisure learners' would need to be tested, linking into the ongoing audience development work. Schools and families would remain core audiences. The last two priority audiences were adults with additional support needs and young people.

Suggestions from trustees included investigating opportunities for digital partnerships to improve access for people facing prohibitive transport costs to travel to Edinburgh, such as a facility which publicised exhibitions and displays in local areas, and encouraging the Open University to cover the Scottish collection in their History of Art course. There was also support for a programme of regular events; it was noted that *Thursday Lates* were being trialled throughout GENERATION.

Ms McConnachie also explained that there was a lot of informal sharing of best practice amongst similar organisations which had in some instances led to more formal

partnerships. There were examples of very successful initiatives elsewhere in which education programmes were embedded in local communities, which would be an ambition for NGS but would require significant additional resource and joined-up working with other sectors.

It was recognized that it was often difficult for teachers to bring classes to the Galleries, both due to transport and attaining the required permissions. It was suggested that NGS could perhaps look at how these issues could be resolved, but also to consider how to take NGS activity out to schools more regularly.

The role of social media in keeping visitors engaged after they had visited, encouraging them to return and sharing their experiences, was highlighted.

Ms McConnachie explained that an evaluation plan would be developed to ensure qualitative as well as quantitative data was captured. Trustees agreed that it was very important to be able to demonstrate the high quality of outreach work which can have a significant impact on a small number of participants, as well as the levels of general participation in programmed activities. It was suggested that analysis be undertaken of schools and class types that were engaging with the programme in order to identify gaps and target efforts accordingly. Some progress had already been made through the Art Competition for Schools to target schools and areas which had not previously taken part.

Trustees emphasized that NGS should be seen as an exemplar for learning and access, providing templates for others to use.

Ms McConnachie left the meeting.

Open Business

5 Corporate Performance

5.1 2013/14 KPI Report

Trustees noted the annual report.

5.2 2013/14 Freedom of Information Report

Trustees noted the annual report.

6 Departmental and Gallery Reports

6.1 Collections Care Division Annual Report

Trustees noted the report.

6.2 **Scottish National Gallery**

The report, including details of the recent Lusieri acquisition, was noted.

6.3 **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**

Trustees noted the report, which included details of recent acquisitions and a commission.

6.4 **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**

The SNGMA's report included the proposal to purchase four works by William Turnbull. Trustees approved the purchase, which would fill a major gap in the collection.

Loans and gifts to ARTIST ROOMS were also detailed. Trustees noted the report.

6.5 **Public Engagement**

Trustees noted the report.

6.6 **Public Programme 14/15 Working Document**

The latest version of the working document was noted.

7 **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

8 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday 22 September 2014.