

## 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 17 November 2014 at 1400 hrs.

**Present:** Ben Thomson, Chairman  
Alistair Dodds  
Catherine Muirden  
Tari Lang  
Tricia Bey  
Edward Green  
Nicky Wilson  
Willie Watt  
Professor Nick Pearce

**In Attendance:** Sir John Leighton, Director-General  
Christopher Baker  
Nicola Catterall  
Jacqueline Ridge  
Simon Groom  
Michael Clarke  
Alan Gibson  
Sam Lagneau, Paul Gilfillan and Lauren Roden (item 4 only)

**Apologies:** Lesley Knox  
Benny Higgins  
Alasdair Morton

**Secretariat:** Elaine Anderson

### Action

#### 1 Chairman's Business

The Chairman welcomed Mr Watt and Professor Pearce to the meeting.

It was noted that Ms Knox had been appointed Deputy Chair.

#### 2 Minutes

##### 2.1 Minute of the Meeting of 22 September 2014

The minute of the meeting of 22 September 2014 was approved.

Action Points:

- The PG Strategy was on the agenda for today and the GMA strategy was due for discussion in January 2015.
- The annual Trustee assessments had been carried out and general feedback on the function of the board had been positive.

### 3 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **Strategy**

### 4 **Youth Agenda**

#### 4.1 **HLF Skills for the Future Programme**

Ms Lagneau, Mr Gilfillan and Ms Roden joined the meeting.

Mr Gilfillan explained the background to developing the programme. HLF funding had enabled the project to take place, offering development opportunities to 12 trainees. The programme targeted the 16-24 age group and participants will attain an SQA qualification.

The work of the trainees will contribute greatly to the development of the collection online.

It was noted that there is no guarantee of employment at the end of the eighteen month programme. It is hoped that this programme can be built upon, having invested in the equipment and development of the qualification.

#### 4.2 **Developments in Volunteering and Internships**

Ms Roden outlined developments in the use of volunteers at NGS. Volunteer hours add up to the equivalent of seven full time members of staff. It was noted that volunteers are additional to the staff complement and do not replace remunerated posts.

It was noted that NGS was the first national arts organisation in the UK to attain "Investing in Volunteers" status.

Colleagues discussed how volunteers' contribution was recognised and what placements came from universities. It was noted that volunteer posts were over-subscribed and there was a large pool in place to draw from.

A key feature of the SNG HLF application was about increasing the use of volunteers

Ms Roden explained that NGS had always worked with volunteers, but had only recently formalised and centralised the programme. There was huge potential for further development and the SNG project offered an opportunity.

Ms Lagneau, Mr Gilfillan and Ms Roden left the meeting.

## **Open Business**

### **5 Public Programme**

#### **5.1 Public Programme Evaluation**

Mr Leighton explained the reasons for undertaking the evaluation on the Public Programme 2013-14, inviting Trustees to challenge in future on the results. It is important to use past experience to inform future programming and Trustees could assist SMT in encouraging evaluation of the past as well as rigour in future planning.

#### **5.2 Public Programme 2014-20**

At the session at the Board strategy day in April, it was noted that the exhibition in the SNG during the summer is key. Big draws were essential in supporting the rest of the programme.

Mr Leighton advised caution in looking at the visitor numbers as they were not easy to predict.

Trustees queried whether there were shows with good retail product which we should be doing. Mr Leighton considered that there were many opportunities in this regard over the next two years. The working relationship between the Trading Company and the Public Programme needed to be strong and the lead in time long enough to get maximum benefit.

### **6 Departmental and Gallery Reports**

#### **6.1 Scottish National Gallery**

The report was noted.

#### **6.2 Scottish National Portrait Gallery**

Mr Baker raised the opportunity to receive a portrait of the outgoing First Minister. It was offered as a gift by Mr Salmond. Trustees approved the gift.

Mr Baker asked colleagues to note the opening of the BP Portrait exhibition the following week and the Ponte City photography show in December.

### **6.3 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**

The report was noted.

### **6.4 Public Engagement**

The report was noted.

#### **6.4.1 Summer Pilot**

The evaluation was noted. There was potential for opportunities in future years. Donations had increased, particularly for overseas visitors. The data would also be useful for future discussions on revenue sources.

## **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 26 January 2015.