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**SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK AGM**

**MINUTES**

**Online via Zoom**

**11 June 2020**

**14.00 – 14.45**

1. **Welcome, Present & Apologies**

* Sarah Munro (chair) checked that all those present had signed in and that the quorum of 1/10 of all members is met. CH confirmed that we had 29 members in attendance (see full list below).
* Currentboard members present were Sarah Munro (Chair), Lori Anderson, Jan-Bert van den Berg, Fiona Doring, Veronique AA Lapeyre, Alberta Whittle, Nuno Sacramento, Scott Parsons, Tessa Giblin and Clare Craig
* SM noted apologies from the following members: Kitty Anderson (LUX), Sophie Hao (Cooper Gallery), Joanna Kessel, and some others who I didn’t catch?

1. **Update on chair and board recruitment**

* LA – it is with great sadness that we confirm that Sarah Munro is stepping down as chair of SCAN. She has chaired SCAN since 2016, and and has done a massive job in getting SCAN to the place it is today. Sarah recently joined the board of Creative Scotland so will continue to speak on the behalf of the contemporary art sector there. She will remain in post until the appointment of her successor SCAN, supporting the SCAN team and board as we continue our vital Covid response work. Thank you, Sarah!
* SM- We’re massively grateful to Tessa Giblin, Director of Talbot Rice, who steps down as the gallery moves into a new phase in its development. Thank you, Tessa!

1. **Chair’s Report**

* Sarah Munro presented her chair’s report which can be read in full below – *Note 2*.

1. **Annual Accounts 2018/19**

* Sarah Munro asked that all those present had considered the accounts and asked if there are any comments or questions. None were offered by the attendees.

1. **Appointment of accountant**

* Sarah Munro – noted the re-appointment of Benham Conway Accountancy who prepared the accounts in consideration and will stay on with us for the 19/20 accounts.

1. **Reappointment/appointment of trustees**

* Sarah Munro advised that that as per the SCAN constitution office bearers will stand down at each AGM and be eligible for re appointment.  Jan-Bert van der Berg, Fiona Doring and Claire Craig are due to stand down on rotation and be considered for re-election by the members. Could we ask in this digital setting that a proposer and seconder clearly signal by raising their hands and stating their names.
* SM – Can I ask that the members approve the reappointment of Jan-Bert Van Den Berg, Artlink Edinburgh. Proposed by Scott Parsons – GSA / Seconded by Katrina Brown – The Common Guild.
* SM - Can I ask that the members approve the reappointment of Fiona Doring, Impact Arts. Proposed by Alberta Whittle – artist / Seconded by Ben Spencer – Ben Spencer Consulting.
* SM - Can I ask that the members approve the reappointment of Claire Craig, the Travelling Gallery. Proposed by Jan-Bert van der Berg – Artlink / Seconded by Tessa Giblin – Talbot Rice Gallery.

1. **Election of chair and office bearers**

* Lori Anderson asked that the members approve the reappointment of Sarah Munro as Chair, noting that this reappointment is until her successor is appointed which will take place before our next AGM.  Proposed by Nuno Sacramento - Peacock / Seconded by Scott Parsons – GSA.
* SM can I ask that the members approve the reappointment of Fiona Doring as Treasurer. Proposed by Tessa Giblin – Talbot Rice Gallery / Seconded by Ben Spencer – Ben Spencer Consulting.
* SM can I ask that the members approve the reappointment of Jan Bert van den Berg as Secretary. Proposed by Claire Craig – Travelling Gallery / Seconded by Alberta Whittle – Artist.

1. **Director’s Report of Advocacy**

* Clare Harris presented her director’s report which can be read in full below – *Note 3*.

1. **SCAN Platform**

* Members were asked to choose 6 out of 8 issues you think SCAN should prioritise. Voting through thumbs up icon on each card.
* CH – concludes Platform exercise by summarizing outcome – see below – *Note 4.*

1. **AOB**

* SM invited questions. There was no other business, and the meeting was brought to a close.

**Note 1**

**In Attendance**

**Board**

Sarah Munro, Lori Anderson, Jan-Bert van den Berg, Fiona Doring, Veronique AA Lapeyre, Alberta Whittle, Nuno Sacramento, Tessa Giblin, Clare Craig and Scott Parsons.

**Members: 29**

Katrina Brown, Daniel Shay, Myria Christophini, Jayne Austin, Fiona Bradley, Salli Yule-Tsingas, Sarah Yearsley, Morvern Gregor, Kate Gray, Malcolm Dickson, Claire Feeley, Jim Cowan, Ben Spencer, Sarah Kudirka, Nikki Kane, Alexandra Marchant Wick, Kate Drummond, Shireen Taylor, Diana Sykes, Natalie Palombo, Molly Whawell, Agnieszka Prendota, Nora Aimes, Amanda Catto, Neville Rigby, Louise Barrington, Chloe Reith,

Karen Shaw, Leila ??

**Note 2 - Chairs Report**

Our vision is that the role, impact and benefits of contemporary visual arts are widely recognised as central to society and that sector professionals based in Scotland are informed, innovative and supported to achieve their ambitions.

**Our strategic aims are to**

* + Connect and unite the sector
  + Champion and promote the sector
  + Cultivate and support a diverse, highly innovative workforce and stronger infrastructure
  + Corporate: SCAN is appropriately resourced to exceed the expectations of our members and stakeholders and we embed innovative equalities and environmental approaches across all aspects of our activity and approach

**Our members**

At 31 March 2019 we had **157 members** in 21 of Scotland’s local authorities. This continues to grow.

**I’d like to highlight some of the key achievements detailed in our Trustees Report, which accompanies our annual accounts for 2018/19.**

SCAN grew its impact, influence and membership through a variety of targeted activities, which included:

* Six sector-facing sessions and gatherings with a range of partners
* Improvements to our digital presence and capabilities
* An independent survey into the effects of Brexit on the arts, in partnership with Federation of Scottish Theatre
* A Cross Party Group for Culture with a focus on International Working in the Visual Arts
* A robust response to the Scottish Government’s consultation on ‘A Culture Strategy for Scotland’

**We worked hard to cultivate and develop the contemporary art workforce, through some of the following activities:**

* The continuation of the popular Curatorial Studio project, aimed at early career curators
* Our first Curatorial Leadership in Collections project, which concluded in this year with outcomes including over £320,000 of new investment in the sector
* A partnership with ECA around their research project Artists in the Gig Economy
* A policymakers’ tour in partnership with Glasgow International 2018
* The launch of the Mandate Go See Fund in partnership with Engage Scotland

**On the corporate side,** this was SCAN’s first year as a Regularly Funded Organisation. This funding allowed us to offer permanent contracts to key members of the team and extend its scope and reach particularly around advocacy.

* We hit our membership growth targets with total revenue for the period at £7074, which exceeded the target figure of £6000
* We published the first iteration of our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, informed by the Scottish Contemporary Visual Art Demographics Report.

**Our income in 2018/19 was as follows:**

85% unrestricted grants

9% Restricted grants

6% other, including earned income

**And our expenditure:**

43% charitable activities including freelance fees

42% Staff costs in support of charitable activities

8% admin and accountancy

4% rent and insurance:

2% travel and subsistence

1% governance

A huge thank you to our staff, our trustees and of course our members for playing their part.

/ends,

**Note 3 - Director’s Update & SCAN Advocacy**

1. **Looking back at 2019**

It seems like an age ago. But what we did in 2019 has put us in good stead for advocating for the visual arts community now, when it is needed more than ever.

Last summer we launched Art in Action; a campaign aimed to bring MSPs face to face with contemporary visual art activity in their constituency.

* 25 visits were undertaken by 22 MSPs, from Orkney to Dumfries – including one by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, to Studio Pavilion in Glasgow.
* 3 parliamentary motions were raised in support of the campaign.
* A third of the artists or arts organisations went on to make further contact with their MSP following their visit.
* 86% of stakeholders agreed that “this campaign raised the profile of Scottish contemporary art”.

In October we took Art in Action to parliament to celebrate the presentation of a specially commissioned print by Ruth Ewan to each and every MSP.

In December a parliamentary debate was held, with Claire Baker leading on the statement:

*There are many building blocks to a better country, and one of those is culture…. A healthy cultural infrastructure has a role to play in achieving all the national performance framework outcomes. Culture and creativity are not an add-on; they are part and parcel of how we live our lives.*

1. **Now what?**

Art in Action is by no means our only form of advocacy. We develop links and influence through our projects, our regular engagement with members, funders, government and beyond. New projects such as CLiC 2: Connect and Activate and Taisbean/ Curators North, will further build the presence of contemporary visual art within national institutions and wider geographical areas.

But Covid-19 has, for a spell, diverted our attention. Since the outbreak hit we’ve been talking, listening, reporting back and speaking up for the visual art sector and its workforce. We’ve been:

* Attending frequent meetings with Creative Scotland and Scottish Government representatives to share impacts as they happen
* Joining a round-table with Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop on the impacts to the culture sector
* Joining consultation on government guidelines for studios and shared workspaces, with galleries happening now.

We’ve hosted 11 Zoom meetings for members, on topics including legal advice for employers, Creative Scotland’s new Open Fund, digital working and a safe return.

We’ve provided a free legal advice hotline (still open), information and factsheets, and a voice at the end of the phone to discuss what you’re going through.

We’ve surveyed the sector with the results picked up widely in the mainstream and arts press.

1. **Moving beyond the immediate**

While we continue to work on sharing your immediate needs with government and funders we are also beginning to work on what’s next.

What does the visual art community need to survive, recover and flourish? Who is asking for the kind of wider change and social justice that could we join our voices with? How do we ensure equality of access and opportunity are at the heart of whatever new normal begins to emerge?

1. **SCAN Platform**

We would like to build a set of six concise asks that can be put to politicians and political parties in the coming months. These will help guide our messages to politicians in any campaigning we do, and form our political platform from October as parties in Scotland begin to write their manifestos for the 2021 election.

We’ve now held open meetings with the membership where we framed the discussion around two areas:

* What are the major things that are really important to me?
* What are the small things that would make my life easier?

We’ve coupled this with what we’re hearing from the visual arts community both prior to and during Covid-19, and we’ve taken advice from stakeholders and experts in political lobbying.

At the root of this work is the 2017 Visual Arts Manifesto – developed in partnership with SAU and Engage Scotland – which sets out a broad vision for the kind of visual art sector we’d like to see.

**Note 4 - SCAN Platform Feedback**

**These asks were *lower* priority, with the message coming through that we should focus on asks specific to our sector and add our support to wider movements where these are felt to be important:**

Promote active and green transport

Ensure nationwide access to superfast broadband and end digital exclusion for people on low incomes

**These asks were *medium* priority, with comments provided around how we might frame them:**

Universal Basic Income, a measure that would benefit a wide range of society including artists

A new commitment to arts development at a local level, supporting a nationwide mandatory programme of arts development officer posts in local authorities.

Embedding art in the primary school curriculum by making expressive arts provision mandatory in the Curriculum for Excellence.

Transformation of public procurement processes and the local government tendering portal to allow artists, self-employed creatives and micro-businesses greater access to public art commissions, consultancy and public engagement opportunities.

**These were *high* priority:**

A budget for cultural renewal: a doubling of the culture budget and a five-year stabilisation deal for the sector, so that we are able to contribute fully to the national recovery and rebuild a cultural workforce based on the principles of fair work, enabling publicly funded organisations to pay union rates and support the living wage.

A nationwide investment programme for artists’ studios and workshop facilities, stabilising vulnerable facilities and supporting adaptation of premises for physical distancing on re-opening, as well as repurposing of redundant commercial and retail properties for affordable studios and other cultural provision

**In addition, key issues and comments coming across that were not reflected, or not fully reflected in these asks (see over):**

Our advocacy must have a stronger focus on equality, by drawing attention to Scotland’s Race Equality Framework and by looking at actions that would help to combat structural racism

Include maintaining free entry to publicly funded galleries, to ensure equality of access and experience is not put at risk by implementation of health and safety measures as a result of Covid-19

Advocacy points should be more tightly focused and not embrace wider policy targets

There are issues around the tender process and bigger obstacles here that may need to be tackled in the context of procurement

Local authorities need to work more transparently in commissioning public art, and should offer realistic opportunities for artists working in non-corporate settings

Top priority asks need to embrace both artists and the infrastructure

Potential partners in asks around UBI include Public Health Scotland, Poverty Alliance, Third Sector Interface Network

What’s missing is participative decision-making and participative democracy, as well as sustainable practices and equality.

We must use positive actions to illustrate the big, top-level asks

/ends