

SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK

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Online via Zoom

26 August 2021

10.00 – 10.45

1. Welcome, Present & Apologies

Veronique AA Lapeyre (Chair) checked that all those present had signed in and that the quorum of 1/10 of all members was met. Karen Vaughan (SCAN team) confirmed that we had 40 members in attendance and this exceeded the number 16 required to be quorate (see full list below).

In attendance: SCAN members

Kitty Anderson, Jayne Austin, Katrina Brown, Hugo Barclay, Kirsten Body, Fiona Bradley, Katrina Brown, Jane Cameron, Audrey Carlin, Tim Collins, Shona Flanagan, Su Grierson, Morven Gregor, Ann-Louise Kieran, Mira Knoche, Sarah Kurdika, Mairi Lafferty, Bea Last, Therese Lynch, Fadzai Mwakutuya, Francis McLeod, Helen Morley, Katherine Mothes, Janie Nicoll, Natalia Palombo, Nadia Rossi, Laura Simpson, Diana Stevenson, Shireen Taylor, Floren Teillet, Sam Trotman, Lada Wilson, Robyn Woolston

Board members

Lori Anderson, Fiona Doring, Amy Gear, Veronique Lapeyre, Scott Parsons, Nuno Sacramento, Alberta Whittle

Creative Scotland Observer: Anne Petrie

SCAN Team Moira Jeffrey, Helen Moore, Myriam Mouflih, Dan Shay, Karen Vaughan

VL noted apologies from the following members: Rosie O'Grady (Many Studios) and the following board members: Jan-Bert van den Berg and Clare Craig who is currently on maternity leave.

2. Chair's Report

Veronique AA Lapeyre presented her Chair's Report which can be read in full below – *Note 1*.

3. Annual Accounts 2019/20

Veronique AA Lapeyre asked that all those present had considered the accounts and asked if there are any comments or questions. None were offered by the attendees.

4. Appointment of Accountant

Veronique AA Lapeyre noted the re-appointment of Benham Conway Accountancy who prepared the accounts in consideration and will stay on with us for the 2020/2021 accounts.

5. Update on Board Recruitment

Veronique AA Lapeyre: We would like to update you on our recent drive for board recruitment. We are undergoing a phased programme of board appointments, with one new appointment to be ratified today and the next phase in response to our recruitment drive. SCAN has received notes of interest from both members and non-members to become trustees. ¾ of our board must be members but we are able to co-opt 1 in 4 members to ensure that we balance appropriate skills and we thought it was important to put out a wide call. Our current board are drawn from the SCAN membership. We are delighted at the range of applications and we will be in touch with those who have expressed interest and keep members advised of progress.

6. Reappointment/Appointment of Trustees

VL: It is with great sadness that we confirm that two longstanding SCAN Board members are stepping down today after years of service. Firstly, Lori Anderson who has was our Vice-Chair and has served on the SCAN Board since she first joined Collective Gallery in 2014. Lori's strength of experience, good advice and strategic insight have served us very well.

VL: Secondly, Alberta Whittle who has served on the SCAN board with great insight supporting us particularly in governance and recruitment. Alberta has supported us in thinking about care and kindness in the cultural sector, in championing the importance of education and young people and has been a spur to help us understand the necessity of change.

Happily, and entirely coincidentally both Alberta and Lori will continue to work together on the Scotland + Venice project, as amongst Alberta's many significant artistic achievements in recent years is that she will represent Scotland at Venice in 2022.

Veronique AA Lapeyre advised that that as per the SCAN constitution office bearers are due to stand down on rotation and be considered for re-election by the members. VL asked in the digital setting that a proposer and seconder clearly signal by raising their hands and stating their names.

VL: Myself, Clare Craig, Fiona Doring, Scott Parsons, Nuno Sacramento and Jan-Bert Van Den Berg are due to stand down on rotation and be considered for re-election by the members.

VL: can the members approve the reappointment of Claire Craig?

Proposed – Kirsten Body, Circus Artspace; Seconded – Kitty Anderson, LUX Scotland.

VL: can the members approve the reappointment of Fiona Doring?

Proposed – Therese Lynch, individual member; Seconded – Sarah Kudirka, artist.

VL: can the members approve the reappointment of Scott Parsons?

Proposed – Jayne Austin; Seconded – Anne-Louise Kieran, NL.

VL: can the members approve the reappointment of Nuno Sacramento?

Proposed – Kitty Anderson, LUX Scotland; Seconded – Natalia Palombo, Deveron Projects and Fiona Bradley, Fruitmarket Gallery.

VL: can the members approve the reappointment of Jan-Bert van den Berg?

Proposed – Fiona Bradley, Fruitmarket Gallery; Seconded – Kirsten Body, Circus Artspace.

Scott Parsons: can the members approve the reappointment of Veronique Lapeyre ?

Proposed – Lori Anderson; Seconded – Alberta Whittle.

VL: can the members approve the new appointment of Amy Gear, GAADA?

Proposed – Shona Flanagan; Seconded – Sam Trotman.

VL made final thanks to those board members who now stand down Lori Anderson and Alberta Whittle.

7. Election of Chair and Office Bearers

VL: As per the SCAN constitution office bearers will stand down at each AGM and be eligible for re appointment.

Nuno Sacramento: can members approve the appointment of Veronique Lapeyre as Chair?

Proposed – Fiona Doring; Seconded – Scott Parsons.

VL: can the members approve the reappointment of Fiona Doring as Treasurer?

Proposed – Lada Wilson; Seconded – Anne-Louise Kieran.

VL: can the members approve the appointment of Jan Bert van den Berg as Secretary?

Proposed – Therese Lynch; Seconded – Fiona Doring.

8. Director's Report

Moira Jeffrey presented her director's report which can be read in full below – *Note 2*.

9. AOB

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

The meeting closed at 10.45 am

NOTE 1 – CHAIR’S REPORT

Who we are

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.

Strategic Aims

Connect and unite the sector; sharing knowledge and developing shared sector goals and ambitions.

Champion and promote the sector; helping them to better evidence and articulate the artistic, social and economic impact of their activity.

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.

At 31 March 2020 we had 166 members. This continues to grow.

SCAN: Key achievements in 2019/20

Connect and Unite, Champion and Promote

Throughout the financial year ending 31 March 2020 SCAN grew our impact, influence and membership through a variety of targeted activities all designed to help us work towards achieving our strategic aims.

Achievements included:

In summer 2019 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 holding a parliamentary event to celebrate the presentation of a specially commissioned print by the artist 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.... Culture and creativity are not an add-on; they are part and parcel of how we live our lives.”

Throughout the year we shared our members views with policy makers:

We attended a Brexit roundtable with Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop.

We responded to consultations in relation to The Glasgow Culture Plan, the CTEEA's Funding Inquiry and the publication of the Scottish Government's Funding Strategy.

We became a partner with the Centre for Cultural Value.

SCAN: Key achievements in 2019/20 Cultivate and Develop

We were supported by Art Fund, and Museums Galleries Scotland to develop Connect and Activate a second phase of our Curatorial Leadership in Collections project, sharing peer learning and best practice for working with contemporary artists in permanent collections, new members of the group included City Art Centre Edinburgh, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and University of Stirling collections.

After a pilot event in Ullapool and Isle Martin held by An Talla Solais, we were supported by William Grant Foundation to launch Taisbean, an advocacy and development programme for curators and producers in the north of Scotland which has thirteen members from Shetland to Forres.

Our Curatorial Studio Project workshops and public events led by Kirsteen Macdonald reached new audiences including a public event with Glasgow School of Art hosting curator Grant Watson.

We adopted a sculpture by Laura Aldridge as part of Sculpture Placement Group's Sculpture Adoption Scheme and held an event with Laura and curator Linsey Young.

We grew our social media audiences and began our website redevelopment.

SCAN Covid Response

When Covid hit in March 2020 SCAN immediate responses included:

Helping members with contingency advice.

Advocacy with funders and government officials.

Undertaking urgent survey work to assess impacts on members.

Offering free support from digital experts.

Offering free support from Lindsays solicitors on employment law issues.

Moving member support online.

SCAN Key Achievements: Corporate

This was SCAN's second year as a Regularly Funded Organisation. This funding allowed the organisation to offer permanent contracts to key members of the team and extend its scope and reach particularly around advocacy.

The year began under the new leadership of Clare Harris. We welcomed new team members Helen Moore our Communication and Engagement Lead, Myriam Mouflih as programme and marketing officer and Rosemary James-Beith our CLiC Project Manager.

We brought in funding from Museums Galleries Scotland and Art Fund for the Curatorial Leadership in Collections programme and from William Grant Foundation for the Taisbean programme for curators and producers in the North of Scotland.

Our membership grew by 15% by March 2020 with total membership revenue for the period hitting £7824, which exceeded the target figure of £7000. In March 2020 we offered free 6-month renewals for members in need because of the pandemic.

I'll present two slides which show the breakdown of income and expenditure.

Our income in 2019/20 was as follows:

79% unrestricted grants
16% Restricted grants
5% other, including earned income

And our expenditure:

43% Staff costs in support of charitable activities
36% charitable activities including freelance fees
12% admin and accountancy
6% rent and insurance:
2% governance
1% travel and subsistence

We'd like to thank all the members who worked with us, sharing their knowledge, expertise and their needs and all our funders and partners in 2019 especially: Creative Scotland, Art Fund, Museums Galleries Scotland, William Grant Foundation, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow Caledonian University, An Talla Solais and Sculpture Placement Group.

NOTE 2 - DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

CONNECT

- In 2020-2021 our membership grew to 225 members across 26 local authority areas in Scotland.
- Our followers across social media, increased to more than 21k.
- We launched our new website.
- In 2020-21, we sent.
- 46 member only bulletins.
- 21 bulletins to our full mailing list.
- 5 targeted bulletins to MSPs.
- We hosted a total of 25 online member meet ups covering funding advice and advocacy updates, working online during lockdown, a safe return to work, museums and galleries exhibition tax relief, preparing for Brexit and introducing our new Chair as well as an advice session in partnership with Museums Galleries Scotland to discuss safe re-opening for museums and galleries.

CHAMPION

Since the outbreak of the pandemic we have:

- Met regularly with government officials and Creative Scotland sharing the needs of our members for both emergency support and long term renewal.
- Undertaken surveys across the visual arts community to collate information on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, to inform advocacy with government and funders.
- Made a submission into the Covid inquiry by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport Committee at Westminster.
- Made two written submissions and in January given in person evidence to the CTEEA (Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs) Committee of the Scottish Parliament in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Our work was mentioned on the floor of the Scottish Parliament by the Chair of the CTEEA Committee in the parliamentary debate on arts funding.
- We hosted meetings bringing members together with:
 - Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture
 - Iain Munro, Chief Executive Creative Scotland
 - Robert Wilson, Chair of Creative Scotland
- After consultation with members we published SCAN Platform manifesto asks for the 2019/2020 elections.
- We shared these asks with the manifesto writers of all the main political parties in Scotland.
- In recent weeks we have met with:
 - Jenny Gilruth, Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development.
 - Oliver Dowden, UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

CULTIVATE

Our projects champion the contribution that art and artists make to society and develop the knowledge and skills of those working in the contemporary visual arts in Scotland. We support innovation, best practice and critical thinking.

Curatorial Leadership in Collections (CLiC)

Our Curatorial leadership in Collections project continues to support a network of contemporary art curators from collections across Scotland and shares learning with the wider museums sector. Among the

guest speakers at our public events during lockdown was Matthew Burrows the creator of Artist Support Pledge

Taisbean/Curators North

Taisbean (from the Gaelic term to table, or reveal) brings together contemporary art curators and producers who live and work in the North of Scotland, including the Shetland Islands, Orkney Islands, Highland, Moray and Eilean Siar (the Western Isles). The programme features 13 participants sharing skills and exploring opportunities for collaboration.

Sculpture Placement Group/Circular Arts Network

We were very proud to support the development and launch of The Sculpture Placement Group's amazing project Circular Arts Network which provides a platform for artists to share materials, labour and other resources whilst reducing costs and waste.

Momentum

SCAN is working with Festivals Edinburgh, Edinburgh Art Festival, British Council Scotland, British Council and Creative Scotland on the annual delegates programme. We've held online meetings and studio visits with visiting curators from across the globe from New York to Bahrain and Tanzania introducing them to the work of their colleagues and artist in Scotland. Next year we will meet them in person.

SCAN Sparks

SCAN Sparks is our COVID response campaign to support grassroots and equalities-focused activism. With our Artist Policy officer Sekai Machache we are working on:

- A series of podcasts sharing the work of key cultural activists in Scotland
- Examination of funding and support mechanisms for grassroots activity
- Developing a SCAN Sparks fund which we will launch later this year

Art Unlocks

Finally our Art Unlocks campaign was launched in April 2021 to make the public aware that artists were at work and arts organisations were beginning to open their doors as restrictions eased. Art Unlocks received more than 50 pieces of press coverage, including columns in the Scotland and The Herald, a front page The Times, and slots on BBC Radio Scotland the Scottish News on BBC1 Television. The #ArtUnlocks campaign continues and this summer it has developed into our annual public affairs campaign.

- Invite MSPs to meet with artists and arts organisations in their community
- Share on social and in the press how the arts contribute to life in Scotland
- Campaign for the investment needed to support artists and arts organisations

I'd like to thank SCAN members for making all of this work possible through their contributions and expertise and to thank everyone for their kindness and support since I took up post in January. In particular, I'd like to note that much of the work we've discussed here today was instigated and carried out by my predecessor Clare Harris. This has been the toughest of times for all of us, so I'd like to give me deepest thanks to the SCAN Board and the SCAN team Karen Vaughan, Myriam Mouflih, Helen Moore, Dan Shay, Sekai Machache, Rosemary James-Beith and all our partners.

/ends