

# the stove network

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER AT 6 PM  
AT THE STOVE NETWORK, 100 HIGH ST, DUMFRIES

## **In attendance (56):**

**Curatorial Team:** Matt Baker, Katie Anderson, Katharine Wheeler, Martin O'Neill, Sal Cuddihy

**Directors:** Karen Donald (Vice Chair), Mike Bonaventura (Treasurer), Morag Paterson, Tina Fisk, Carol McCann, Juliet Caird, Del Whitticase

**Members:** Mike Comerford, Wilson Ogilvie, Kirsty Turpie, Frank Hayes, Nicola Hill, Tom Black, Eva Milroy, Agne Zdanavicinte, Eppie Sprung, Wendy Stewart, Shirley Prahms, Pat Kirby, Cara McNaught, Joy Cherkaoui, Ellen Mitchell, Colin James, Alan James, Jimmy Russell, Melissa Gunn, Carolyn Yates, T S Beall, Clare Hanna, Rebecca Giblin, Kirstin McEwan, Kaz Paszki, Venus Carew, Kirsten Rowe, John Dowson, Galina Walls, Liam Templeton, Simon Chard, Alyne Jones, Stuart Paterson, Mark Zygadlo, Denise Zygadlo

**Non-members:** Ailsa Watson (Company Secretary), Amy Rankin, Lizzie Smith, Gregory Lovelock, Felix Waterhouse, Gary MacDonald, A. A. Elliot, Lee McQueen, Michael Moore

## **1. Welcome**

Karen Donald (Vice Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. On behalf of The Stove and the board, Karen thanked Melissa Gunn for her year as Chair of the board.

### **Apologies**

**Directors:** Venda Louise Pollock, Tony Fitzpatrick

**Members:** Cathy Agnew, Kevin Reid, Cate Ross, Gordon Robertson, Barbara Kelly, Jo Hodges

## **2. Chair's Report**

Karen Donald highlighted the main activities and notable achievements during 2016-17:

- Scottish Regeneration (SURF) Award for Creative Regeneration 2016.
- Annual turnover in excess of £450,000
- We have delivered at least 3 public events per week with more than 2,900 people directly participating in creating projects (up 1,100 since previous year) and total audience figures over 9,000 (up 2,500 from previous year). Over 150 groups / organisations collaborated on projects,

- In 2016-17 we have offered opportunities for the creative community valued at £119,092 (up from £58,699 in 2015-16).
- The Stove currently has 30 staff and regular freelancers – 75% of whom are under the age of 30.
- Three new arts organisations have grown under The Stove, are based at 100 High Street and deliver programming for The Stove: EAFS (Environmental Art Festival Scotland), DMC (Dumfries Music Conference), and D-Lux (Festival of Lighting in Dumfries)
- Four members of our young peoples project Blueprint100 have gained places in Higher Education to pursue creative careers; a further four members have become self-employed creatives in the region.
- Growth of network to 470 members
- Developed a trading arm to bring management of the Café in-house. The café is a commercial enterprise that helps to fund our charitable activities.
- The Stove is leading a community partnership towards the major redevelopment of a key location in the High Street – the Midsteeple Quarter – which has resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the West of Scotland and NHS Dumfries and Galloway, and support from Scottish Government, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Holywood Trust.
- 'Creative Futures: Lincluden and Lochside' is our project for NW Dumfries – 4 Year Big Lottery Funded TSN 'outpost' in housing estates including mentorship, 3.5 year full time post and skills development programme.
- Ongoing partnerships with three international arts organisations in Norway, Iceland and Portugal
- Partnership with Cryptic from Glasgow including the development of Cryptic Nights to be delivered in Dumfries.
- Continued productive partnership working with regional organisations e.g. Wigtown Festival Company, Upland, DG Arts Festival, Big Burns Supper, CatStrand.
- The Stove is now a member of: Development Trust Association Scotland, Loreburn Community Council, Scotland's Town Partnership, Green Arts Initiative, Nourish, DG Unlimited's Regional Arts Hub and Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Mike Bonaventura (Treasurer) summarised the year in review (as at March 2017):

Since 2012 we have raised £1.4M in public and private funding with nearly £900K of that coming from national rather than local sources.

#### Income

- This year we continue to show increasing financial self reliance with funding from D&G now standing at 16% down from 29% in 2015-16. For every £1 that the Council has granted us over the last 5 years, TSN has raised £5 from other sources.
- Our overall income for 2016-17 was slightly down on the prior year (£270K cf £272K)
- As you might expect, the bulk of that income (93%) is grant funding. This has remained broadly constant for the last 3 years, varying between about £250K and £265K per year. However, the profile of that funding has changed quite significantly. This is primarily due to the capital (redevelopment of The Stove building) and the sustainable development (professionalisation) funds

coming to an end. Project work is now reflected more in the profile, as it should be.

- Grant income for the year at £240K, was down a touch (6%) from 2015-16. 65% (£155K) is restricted (to specific projects) and the remainder (£85K) to core and governance costs together with a small number of 'designated projects'.
- We would like to thank the Holywood Trust for their continued support once again this year, and their recent contribution to both The Mid-steeple Quarter and Blueprint100 projects.
- We would also like to thank Creative Scotland and D&G Council for continuing to provide funds to cover for our core and development costs. More on Creative Scotland shortly.
- We are delighted to have received over £120K of new grants in 2016-17 from:
  - Big Lottery Fund (£38.4K)
  - Heritage Lottery Fund (35.6K)
  - Scottish Government (£11K)
  - Robertson Trust (£9K)
  - Development Trusts Association Scotland (£7K)
  - Tesco Groundwork (£6K) - carrier bag charge
  - Network for Social Change (£15K) - philanthropic network

### **Expenditure**

Our adjusted net income (surplus) for the year is down by about a half (from last year). Carrying forward £45K of restricted funds to 2017-18 to cover on-going project costs, leaves an adjusted surplus of £16K. This, with the £93K carried forward from 2015-16, gives us a retained surplus on unrestricted funds of £109K. A total fund of £154K is therefore available, up 26% on 2015-16.

### **Since the accounts were lodged and looking forward**

#### **Creative Scotland RFOs**

Last time round we asked for £490K and got £150K. This time we're in at £517,960 for the next 3 years. Scottish Government will publish its draft budget on 14 December and Creative Scotland will find out what its settlement is about the same time. Decision will now be announced by the end of January 2018

#### **Cashflow**

Our cash flow remains positive until May, by which time we should have clarity on the RFO funding. Since the accounts were lodged in March, over £200K of additional income has been secured:

- £99K DGC Town centre Living Fund
- £41.8K Holywood Trust Blueprint100
- £59.8K Holywood Trust Midsteeple Quarter

and another £240K in the pipeline, partly as contingency for the RFO, with decisions expected early next year:

- £9.3K Regional Arts Fund - NW Dumfries project (January)
- £89K Esmee Fairburn (February)
- £140K Big Lottery Fund - Stage 2 application for Community-led Activity
- £518K CS RFO

As of now, we will be publishing our annual accounts on our website [www.thestove.org/accounts](http://www.thestove.org/accounts)

#### 4. Resignation and Election of Directors

Ailsa advised Members that under Article 53 of the Constitution, Directors must retire from office at the Annual General Meeting. The Memorandum and Articles of Association allows for 14 Directors and 9 nominations have been received to date, from previous board members.

Ailsa invited any further nominations from the floor, of which there were none. Members agreed that the nominations could be done as a block and Ailsa proposed the nominations for election of Directors, as follows:

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Secunder</b>
<b>Tony Fitzpatrick (Chair)</b>	Morag Paterson	Venda Louise Pollock
<b>Karen Donald (Vice Chair)</b>	Mike Bonaventura	Venda Louise Pollock
<b>Mike Bonaventura (Treasurer)</b>	Tina Fiske	Karen Donald
<b>Venda Louise Pollock</b>	Mike Bonaventura	Karen Donald
<b>Tina Fiske</b>	Karen Donald	Mike Bonaventura
<b>Morag Paterson</b>	Tina Fiske	Del Whitticase
<b>Del Whitticase</b>	Juliette Caird	Tina Fiske
<b>Juliette Caird</b>	Tina Fiske	Karen Donald
<b>Carole McCann</b>	Mike Bonaventura	Karen Donald

AW invited amendments to the proposals and as none were received the proposed Directors were elected as the Board of Directors of The Stove Network Ltd.

#### 5. Curatorial Team Re-elections

The CT provide the collective artistic direction of the organisation. CT members have been selected by an open public call-out and are paid a stipend - equivalent to 2.5 working days per calendar month to cover attending CT meetings, admin and communications. Our current Curatorial Team comprises: Katie Anderson, Matt Baker, Sal Cuddihy, Martin O'Neill and Katharine Wheeler.

There is provision for a maximum of 7 members of the CT and if we are successful in our bid for continued Regular Funding from Creative Scotland we will be advertising for additional member in the New Year.

As stated on our website, it is in our rules that CT members serve for an initial 3 year period, if they wish to continue beyond that point this request must be brought to the AGM for agreement. 4 of our current team will pass the 3 year milestone during this coming year: Katie, Matt, Martin and Katharine.... all have indicated they would like to continue.

Members agreed that the nominations could be done as a block and Ailsa invited amendments to the proposal that all 4 stay on as CT members. As none were received the Curatorial Team will remain the same.

**6. AOB**

None

**7. Formal Business Close**

Karen Donald closed the formal part of the meeting. All were invited to stay for a presentation of projects in development for 2018 and for food and drinks until 8pm.