



**Minutes of the Arts Working Group**  
**1000 - 1230 on Thursday 4 May 2017**  
**in the David Douglas Room, John Hope Gateway,**  
**Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE),**  
**10 Arboretum Place, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ**

<b>Present:</b>	Professor Chris Breward	Principal ECA (Chair)
	Patricia Barclay	Convenor of the Edinburgh Friends RBGE
	Fiona Bradley	Director Fruitmarket Gallery
	Claire Byers	Interim Director of Arts and Engagement Creative Scotland
	Jacqueline Donachie	Artist
	Professor Mary Gibby	Former Director of Science RBGE/Honorary Fellow
	Shauna Hay	Press and Marketing Officer RBGE
	Rachel Hillman	Public Engagement Team Wellcome Trust
	Sir John Leighton	Director General NGS
	Simon Milne	Regius Keeper RBGE
	Diana Murray	Trustee RBGE
	Dame Seona Reid	
	Kirstie Skinner	Director Outset Scotland
	Robert Wilson	Director Jupiter Artland/Nelsons
<b>In attendance:</b>	Amanda Catto	Head of Visual Arts Creative Scotland/Secretariat
	Ian Edwards	Head of Public Engagement RBGE/Secretariat
	Chloe Reith	Curator of Exhibitions RBGE/Secretariat
<b>Apologies:</b>	Simon Dessain	Chief Executive The List
	Kenneth Fowler	Press Creative Scotland
	Lisa LeFeuvre	Head of Sculpture Studies Henry Moore Foundation
	Dr Henrietta Lidchi	Keeper of World Cultures NMS
	Phil Long	Director V&A Dundee

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
<b>1.0</b>	<b><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></b>	
1.1	Prof Chris Breward welcomed Dame Seona Reid and Sir John Leighton to their first meeting and went through the apologies.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b><u>Minutes and Action Points from the Last Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2017</u></b>	
2.1	The draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2017 were approved.	

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
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**3.0 Summarise Progress to Date including Conclusions from the Vision Workshop held on Wednesday 5 April 2017 and the Emerging Vision and Priorities that will Underpin the Successful Delivery of an Integrated Arts, Creative and Cultural Engagement Programme for the RBGE**

3.1 A lot of work had been achieved with two meetings held (on Tuesday 14 February 2017 and Monday 13 March 2017) and a very useful Vision Workshop on Wednesday 5 April 2017 (which was facilitated by Nick Barley and included representatives from the Board of Trustees and RBGE Staff). Many ideas and opportunities had been identified in the discussions. It was noted that:

- a. A high quality cross disciplinary arts programme was already in place at the RBGE and this should be more widely communicated to inform visitors and stakeholders of what was on offer and what was being achieved.
- b. Any future arts programme should demonstrate alignment to the RBGE’s Mission and Vision.
- c. Inverleith House will continue to be used as one of the many venues at the RBGE for a broader and integrated arts programme across all four Gardens.
- d. There was an opportunity for the RBGE to become better known for its high quality art programme (including its international leadership in botanical art) as well as its world leading plant science and horticulture.
- e. Public expectations will need to be managed while the RBGE develops its future art programme.
- f. The RBGE was already engaging community groups with art related activities but there were further opportunities for engagement with wider audiences.
- g. Visitors’ feedback will be sought as part of the Plant Scenery of the World Exhibition with Visitor Surveys and Focus Groups undertaken – in particular to assess perceptions of how art affects health and well-being.
- h. There is an opportunity for the RBGE to become a venue for high profile public discussions on art and science.

It was also noted that while the RBGE does not currently have headroom in its budget to increase funding for its arts programme, the development of further and long term partnerships could assist with generating resources.

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
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**4.0 Establishing the Scope and Structure of the Report to the RBGE Board of Trustees**

4.1 The following matters were noted/agreed:

- a. The Report will take a broader and more strategic approach than the Kelly and Co Report, and that the Minutes of the Arts Working Group Meetings were in the public domain and the majority of information will not need to be duplicated.
- b. The underlying need for the report is to propose to the RBGE Board of Trustees and its Senior Management a vision and strategic direction for a coherent, affordable, relevant and high quality arts programme.
- c. The Report should be short and succinct (no more than six pages) with top line recommendations and options for consideration.
- d. The Report will need to reflect the RBGE’s overall Vision and provide a clear set of objectives and outcomes, reflect the challenges and opportunities and suggest some next steps.
- e. Consideration could be given on how to move from the current position to the future position with timeframes and next steps.
- f. Consideration could be given to art as a “conversation” and not just as “objects” to view.
- g. RBGE Trustees might consider including its art programme as a Corporate Objective.

The following themes were to be considered for inclusion in the Report:

- a. The unique identity and reach of the RBGE (ie its international brand” and distinctiveness).
- b. The concept of the Garden as a National Collection could also embrace the culture of the arts.
- c. Existing and potential partnerships (both national and international).
- d. Potential audiences and how the arts programme could connect with them.
- e. Establishing an RBGE Arts Advisory Group to advise the RBGE on the future arts programme.
- f. The opportunity for RBGE visitors to have an even greater involvement in the arts programme.

**5.0 Methods and Timeline for Drafting, Testing and Finalising the Report**

5.1 It was proposed that a first draft of the Report, which will be prepared by Prof Breward and the Secretariat, be circulated to the Arts Working Group for comment by mid May 2017. The final Report will then be presented by Prof Breward to the Board of Trustees’ at their meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2017 for Trustees’ comments. The Board of Trustees’ responses to the

<b>NO</b>	<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	Report will then be reported back to the Arts Working Group by Prof Breward.	
5.1.1	<b>ACTION:</b> Prof Breward and the Secretariat to prepare the first draft of the Report and circulate it to the Arts Working Group for consideration.	<b>CB/ Secretariat</b>
5.1.2	<b>ACTION:</b> Prof Breward will present the final Report to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2017 and then provide feedback to the Arts Working Group on the Board of Trustees' responses.	<b>CB</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b><u>Communications Planning – External and Internal</u></b>	
6.1	It was proposed that a Press Statement be issued following the Board of Trustees' Meeting with a quote from the Chairman of the Arts Working Group and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.	
6.1.1	<b>ACTION:</b> SH will prepare a Press Statement for issue once the Board of Trustees' have considered the Arts Working Group Report.	<b>SH</b>
6.2	Bullet points of the key communication messages will be prepared by Shauna Hay.	
6.2.1	<b>ACTION:</b> SH will circulate the key communication messages to the Arts Working Group for information.	<b>SH</b>
6.3	The approved Draft Minutes of this Meeting will be put on the RBGE website.	
6.3.1	<b>ACTION:</b> Jennifer Martin to put the approved Draft Minutes of this Meeting on-line at <a href="http://www.rbge.org.uk">www.rbge.org.uk</a> .	<b>Jennifer Martin</b>
<b>7.0</b>	<b><u>Future Status of the Arts Working Group Post Submission of Report to the RBGE Board of Trustees</u></b>	
	When the Arts Working Group present their Report to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2017 their work will be complete.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b><u>Any Other Business</u></b>	
8.1	<b><u>Plant Scenery of the World Exhibition</u></b>	
	The summer exhibition in Inverleith House 'Plant Scenery of the World' will open on Friday 28 July 2017 and all Arts Working Group Members will be invited to the launch.	

**NO ITEMS**

**ACTION**

8.2 Thanks

The Chairman and Regius Keeper thanked the members of the Arts Working Group for their valuable input to this important exercise. Their enthusiasm, support and time given to the discussions was much appreciated.

**Jennifer Martin**

PA to the Regius Keeper

8 May 2017

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

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<b>5.0</b>	<b><u>Methods and Timeline for Drafting, Testing and Finalising the Report</u></b>	
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<b>6.0</b>	<b><u>Communications Planning – External and Internal</u></b>	
6.1.1	<b>ACTION:</b> SH will prepare a Press Statement for issue once the Board of Trustees' have considered the Arts Working Group Report.	<b>SH</b>
6.2.1	<b>ACTION:</b> SH will circulate the key communication messages to the Arts Working Group for information.	<b>SH</b>
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