



Minutes of the Arts Working Group
1400 - 1630 on Monday 13 March 2017
in the Board Room, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)
20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

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

NO ITEMS ACTION

1.0 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

1.1 Prof Chris Breward welcomed Claire Byers, Fiona Bradley and Diana Murray to their first meeting and went through the apologies.

2.0 Minutes and Action Points from the Last Meeting held Tuesday 14 February 2017

The draft Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 were approved.

3.0 Presentation on the RBGE Context

Simon Milne gave a presentation to inform the Arts Working Group of the RBGE's core activities. The main themes were:

- Maintaining and developing National Collections comprising the Herbarium, Library and Archives and the Living Collection at the four Gardens (Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan), which combined to provide an international botanical and horticultural resource.
- Delivering world-leading plant science and conservation programmes to reduce the loss of global biodiversity and to achieve greater understanding of plants, fungi and environmental sustainability.
- Providing learning and training in horticulture, plant science and biodiversity conservation – to stimulate people to appreciate, understand and contribute to the conservation of plants and our natural environment.
- Providing a first class visitor attraction to enable communities, families and individuals to enjoy and be inspired by the Gardens and their facilities, and become more environmentally responsible.

Ian Edwards gave a presentation with examples of arts and cultural engagement projects/programmes within RBGE, emphasizing local, national and international collaborations and the links between art and science and nature. It was noted that it was usual for the events and exhibitions to be led by the RBGE mission, although over the past few years the exhibitions at Inverleith House had taken on its own distinctive characteristics. There was also comment on how strongly the words used to describe the RBGE cultural engagement programmes values/objectives ie to explore, discover, explain, inspire, echoed the language used by artists in their practice.

4.0 Towards a Draft Vision and Objectives for a Future Integrated Arts, Creative and Cultural Engagement Programme for RBGE

It was agreed that The Arts Working Group would have to carefully consider how to achieve a programme that aligned with the vision of the RBGE; it was proposed that a sub- group should meet in April 2017 to draft a vision and strategic framework for the programme. The Group should include some Trustees and Staff of the RBGE and some members of the Arts Working Group. The main points discussed were:

- The draft vision and framework should be developed so that the RBGE Board could embed it into the RBGE Corporate Plan.
- Information being gathered on benchmarking and exemplar projects would be essential to inform the development of the strategy.

NO ITEMS**ACTION**

- The Trustees would wish to ensure that the arts programme would attract and inspire a broad range of visitors and could attract sufficient funding to make the programme cost-neutral.
- The pressure on RBGE to increase its self-generated income and to focus its resources on core activities.
- The need to ensure that the arts programme was world class, in keeping with the standards of science, horticulture and education programmes.
- The opportunity for art to help explain and explore RBGE's science and for it to be used to stimulate conservation and inquiry.
- The future of Inverleith House and contemporary art at RBGE was of great interest to many in the local and international arts community and that this should be taken into consideration when developing the strategy.
- The desire by Trustees for Inverleith House to contribute to achieving RBGE core objectives and generating funds.

It was agreed that the next task was to draft the vision for the arts programme in the Garden and to seek the RBGE Board of Trustees views on this draft.

5.0 Benchmarking and Exemplar Projects

At the last meeting attendees were asked to consider potential case studies and individuals to be approached for consultation. The following suggestions were made:

- San Antonio Botanic Garden
- Florence Botanical Gardens
- Snug Harbor, New York
- Real Jardin Botanico, Madrid
- Desert Botanical Gardens, Phoenix
- Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids Michigan
- Inhotim, Brazil
- Denver Botanic Gardens
- Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
- Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne
- Hospital Field
- Serpentine Gallery
- Chisenhale
- House for an Art Lover (Glasgow)
- Atlas Arts (Skye)
- Hollow

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jupiter Artland ▪ Wellcome ▪ Talbot Rice ▪ Live 	
	<p>It was agreed that 10 case studies should be considered and attendees would e-mail any further suggestions.</p>	
	<p>ACTION: All to e-mail Jennifer Martin ideas for organisations to be considered for case studies and Secretariat will arrange the research to be undertaken.</p>	<p>All/ Secretariat</p>

6.0 Partnership and Resourcing Opportunities (Kelly and Co Report)

It was noted/suggested that:

- The partnership and resourcing opportunities listed in the Kelly and Co Report were untested.
- There was a need for a shared agreement on what the measures of success for the future arts programme would be.
- The RBGE Board was concerned that the RBGE would not have the staff capacity to undertake fundraising for the arts programme at a time when there was already overstretch for raising funds for core activities. It was suggested that “seed corn” money would be required.
- Elements of Creative Scotland’s most recent funded project was still live and concerned the publication relating to the anniversary exhibition and the archives.
- An application for funding would be submitted to Creative Scotland for the summer exhibition to be held in Inverleith House which would be subject to established due process. Some sponsorship had already been agreed for the summer exhibition.
- Once the vision was agreed then partnerships and resourcing opportunities could be considered.

7.0 Presentation on the Planned Summer Exhibition at Inverleith House

Chloe Reith presented an overview of the Summer Exhibition that would be held in Inverleith August to November 2017. It was noted that:

- The model used to create the summer exhibition was integrated with RBGE’s collections and core programmes and was drawing on expertise across RBGE Divisions.

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was planned that the success of this model would be evaluated to determine if it would be suitable for future exhibitions/events. ▪ The exhibition would use as its start point the 50th anniversary of the Front Range glasshouses (which were opened in 1967 and are a rare example of modernist architecture) and would link the glasshouses, the plant collection, and archives with contemporary artists who would contextualise and respond to the collections and architecture. ▪ The aim was to achieve a very high quality exhibition that reached a broad audience, demonstrates RBGE commitment to art and is aligned to its heritage and core work. 	
	<p>The Group was enthusiastic about the exhibition model and congratulated Chloe on all that she had achieved to date. It was agreed that this exhibition should not be perceived as an isolated exhibition and suggested that it was important that the future events and exhibitions programme was made known to the public as soon as it was developed.</p>	
8.0	<u>Next Step - Timelines, Tasks and Process to June 2017</u>	
8.1	A Workshop will be held in April 2017 and it was suggested that this could be facilitated by someone out with the Arts Working Group. The Workshop would consider the structure and content of the Draft Vision and Objectives for a Future Integrated Arts, Creative and Cultural Engagement Programme to be discussed at the next Arts Working Group Meeting prior to being presented to the Trustees.	
8.1.1	ACTION: Secretariat will arrange for a date for a Workshop to be held towards the end of April 2017.	Secretariat
8.1.2	ACTION: Fiona Bradley will find out if Nick Barley would be available to facilitate the Workshop in April 2017.	Fiona Bradley
8.2	Prof Breward will present a draft Report from the Arts Working Group to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2017.	
8.2.1	ACTION: Prof Breward will check if he is able to attend the Board of Trustees' Meeting on Tuesday 20 June 2017.	Prof Chris Breward
8.2.2	ACTION: Ian Edwards will provide information on the medium term programme of events and exhibitions at the RBGE at the next meeting.	Ian Edwards
9.0	<u>Key Messages Emerging from the Meeting/Communications Planning</u>	
9.1	Bullet points of the key communication messages will be prepared for Shauna Hay.	
	ACTION: Secretariat to provide Shauna Hay with bullet points of the key communication messages for information.	Secretariat

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
9.2	Information on what could be shared about the summer exhibition will be provided to the Arts Working Group when appropriate.	
	ACTION: Chloe Reith/Ian Edwards will provide the Arts Working Group with information on the summer exhibition that could go into the public domain when appropriate.	Chloe Reith/ Ian Edwards
9.3	The approved Draft Minutes of this Meeting will be put on the RBGE website.	
	ACTION: The approved Draft Minutes of this Meeting will be put on-line (www.rbge.org.uk).	Jennifer Martin
10.0	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	
	The next meeting will be held from 1000 – 1230 on Thursday 4 May 2017 in the David Douglas Room, John Hope Gateway, 10 Arboretum Place, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ.	

Jennifer Martin

PA to the Regius Keeper

17 March 2017

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

NO	ITEMS	ACTION
5.0	<p><u>Benchmarking and Exemplar Projects</u></p> <p>ACTION: All to e-mail Jennifer Martin ideas for organisations to be considered for case studies and Secretariat will arrange the the research to be undertaken.</p>	<p>All/ Secretariat</p>
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9.2	<p>ACTION: Chloe Reith/Ian Edwards will provide the Arts Working Group with information on the summer exhibition that could go into the public domain when appropriate.</p>	<p>Chloe Reith/ Ian Edwards</p>
9.3	<p>ACTION: The approved draft Minutes of this Meeting will be put on-line (www.rbge.org.uk).</p>	<p>Jennifer Martin</p>