

Board meeting 30/10/2017 – 31/10/2017

1) Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened at 14:17.

2) Participants and legality

Present: Tarja Cronberg (chair), Kolbrun Halldorsdottir (via video link) Ingo Arnason, Janne Giese, Björn Ross, Lars Strandh, Juha Ruusuvaori, Susanna Tavazzi, Simon Karlsson. The meeting was declared lawful.

3) Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with additions of the issues for number 11 – Other business.

4) The future Strategy of CS

Cronberg told the board about her discussions with Annika Söderberg (AS) at the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). AS urged Circolo to define the Nordic value of Circolo and relation of Circolo's activities to or time in our new strategy plan, and to define the mission of Circolo in relation to NCM's "Norden i verden, verden i Norden" idea. Ruusuvaori also communicated Svenska Kulturfonden's wish of an updated vision for Circolo.

The board discussed and brainstormed ideas for a new strategy with a clear vision and mission. It was decided that Karlsson and Arnason will compile the ideas into a first draft for a strategy plan, to be sent to the NCM and other current and potential sponsors.

The staff was given 14 days to create the strategy, after which it is to be sent to the board members for comments. Then the edited document will eventually be sent to the NCM.

5) Financing of Circolo Scandinavo

Arnason explained the new payment system of the NCM. Circolo will from now on get 85% at the start of the year, and the remaining 15% after the annual report and the accounts have been submitted. Since this will come in effect starting 2018, there will be an anomaly in the accounts for 2017 which means some costs have been delayed until the next fiscal year. Everything will be back to normal again in 2018.

Ross suggested that even though the 15% come next year it should be included in this year's budget. The suggestion was agreed upon.

The new system for accepting residency, in which the artists need to pay the 200€ deposit upon accepting the room, has gone according to plan, with no cancellations so far among the selected.

Regarding the rent of Circolo, Arnason asked for approval of the board to enter negotiations with Accademia di Lincei. The board agreed on a course of action of Arnason setting up a meeting with the Accademia, explaining and showing them the (bad) condition of the premises and then asking for a lowering of the rent. The goal is to get a smaller rent amount and a longer period of lease. The matter should be resolved by the end of December.

The board discussed the matter of members and membership fees. Because of legal reasons Circolo needs members who can vote in elections. Now, most membership fees paid are from artist associations (100€/year). Since payment isn't automatic because of technical reasons, and

30€/year, many people forget or decline of paying the membership fees. Giese argued that the problem might be that there is no real benefit for the members in the Nordic countries. Only 5 lifetime memberships – à 250€/piece – has been sold.

Strandh presented an idea of Circolo buying a property with the help of mecenats.

On the suggestion of Cronberg, the matter was postponed until the spring meeting.

After Arnason presented the budget it was approved.

6) Master classes

The board discussed Circolo's possibility and resources to engage in masterclass production. Arnason told the board about Nu Factory, an organisation specialising in taking abandoned buildings, renovate them and give them to others to use, but also organising cultural events all over town. Nu Factory – which gets funding from the city of Rome – has expressed interest in collaborating with Circolo. One idea is that we can organise/help to organise master classes with our artists and/or in our facilities.

Collaborating with Nu Factory on this could also lead to direct funding from the city to Circolo.

Master class project also being worked on with the Writers' Guild.

The board agreed that it is a good way of trying master classes in collaboration with others first, and not taking full responsibility alone.

It was also agreed upon that all board members could use their networks to find ideas for creating master classes or other collaborations, to help bring new activities to Circolo.

7) Reporting on CS

Cronberg told the board that the NCM wants better, more value-oriented reports and not 'just a list of who has been at Circolo'. After discussing new ways to report to the NCM, the following was decided:

- Focusing on events, especially those with 'Nordic value added'.
- Focusing on synergies between Circolo, artists and between Italy and the Nordic countries.
- Adding some artist stories, a selected few that show the importance of Circolo.
- Implementing more figures aiming at showing satisfaction levels of the artists.

The traditional lists of artists and events could be added as an appendix. There could also be two reports; one official report heading for the NCM and other sponsors, and a traditional one on display at Circolo, with both submitted onto the webpage.

Meeting of 30/10 finished at 16:40.

Meeting was reopened on 31/10 at 09:10. Present: same as above except Susanna Tavazzi.

8) Economy of artists

The board debated the perceived inequality between artists.

The board reached the conclusion that this is a debate not for Circolo but for the national artist associations. Ross suggested that Circolo could create a page on the website listing funding organisations in all Nordic countries, helping the arriving artists with their grant applications.

9) Increased visibility of the CS

During discussions between Cronberg and the NCM, the latter responded positively (through AS) to the thought of the NCM helping Circolo with visibility in the Nordic countries.

The suggested paths are through the *ämbetsmannakommité* and the *folkmöten*, political assemblies such as Almedalen and Suomi Areena.

It was decided that a delegation of board members – who depending on where the meeting is to be held – will attend the February meeting of the *ämbetsmannakommité*. Cronberg will investigate further.

It was also decided that all members of the board will contact the cultural ministries of their respective countries to discuss the status and future of Circolo.

The board also discussed the possibility of arranging meetings between curators and producers at Circolo. To the extent it is possible, Circolo will try to arrange it.

10) Focus on the artists' activities

After a discussion about politicizing the artist programme (see June meeting protocol) in any way – criticised by substitute board member Petri Kaivanto – the board agreed that at this point Circolo will not proceed on the matter.

11) Other

Giese told the board about the portraits that had been on display in Denmark. The storage of the portraits is a problem because the facilities at Circolo are humid. There is a preliminary promise from Marianne Pade at the Accademia di Danimarca that they will take care of the portraits, while Circolo can display photos of the portraits instead.

The materials going to the Carl Bloch exhibition in Utah, USA, are on their way. The board discussed costs and decided that Circolo should not pay for any costs related to exhibitions. The board requested that Giese produces a written contract stating this with any parties involved in the US exhibition.

Ruusuvuori told the board about Circolo's new intern, ms Kristiina Rauhala, whose contract starts in January. Because of a new system where the year-long internship will start on September 1st instead of January 1st, her contract is six months long and thus will end on June 30th.

Director Arnason's contract expires in the fall of 2018. He has expressed his wish to extend it with at least two years. The board asked Arnason to produce an official translation of the current contract into English, so they can review it and then make a decision as soon as possible over if and how Arnason will be offered a new contract. It was decided all of this have to happen before the spring meeting.

It was decided that the board's next meeting will take place on March 9th at 14:00 and on March 10th at 10:00. It was simultaneously decided that the annual meeting of the General Assembly will take place on March 10th at 16:00.

12) Closing of meeting

The meeting was closed at 12:06.