



# CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

## BOARD MEETING 25-26.3 2019

Place: Circolo Scandinavo, via Della Lungara 231, 00165 Roma

Present: Ingo Arnason, Marianne Pade (25.3), Susanne Tavazzi (25.3), Juha Ruusuvaori, Oona Haapamäki, Björn Ross, Lars Strandh, Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir

### 1. Opening of the meeting, selection of secretary

The meeting was opened at 15.06. Oona Haapamäki was selected as secretary and Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir as chair because Tarja Cronberg was not present.

### 2. Circolo's economy. The accounts for 2018 and budget for 2019

Director Arnason updated the board on how the Accounts and Budget has changed with the new application process for receiving funds from NCM. Arnason suggests that in the future the budget should be created according to NCM standards, i.e. in Danish Kroner instead of Euros. This would simplify the work and prevent duplication in effort. It is also practical for CS since Arnason has moved all our banking from the Italian Branch of Deutsche Bank to Nordea Bank in Copenhagen. It's suggested that it could be good to have a Danish revisor to get closer to the Nordic system. Having only a Danish bank account makes it easier for the chair to react in case of unexpected events. The Board assigns the Director to arrange for the necessary access of the new chair to bank statements and internet bank.

The Director explains the accounts for 2018 and informs the Board that the accounts have not been reviewed by the auditor. The Board has no objections to the presented accounts but cannot sign them until the auditor has approved. The Director will contact the Board as soon as the auditor has approved of them.

The Circolo's financial situation is strained and there is no buffer for unforeseen expenses. With the raised rents and adding of the new room, we break even. It's proposed that for the budget of 2020, more money should be reserved for replacing gas heaters or updating heating system.

**Conclusion: The Board accepts the budget for 2019. The board accepts the accounts 2018 subject to the approval of the auditor. Arnason will contact the revisor and ask him to perform the financial check for the accounts 2019. The Board assigns the Director to arrange for the necessary access of the new chair to bank statements and internet bank. The Board will propose to the new Board to add money to the budget for updating the heating systems at CS.**

### **3. Annual report 2018**

It's proposed that Haapamäki should be credited for photos in Annual report 2018. The Board compliments her on keeping CS social media interesting and lively. Arnason notes that the Director's workload has increased. The Circolo has had increased visits by researchers and received more walk-ins even though the archives are now digital and available for researchers. It is suggested that in order to reduce cancellations even more that the board should form a clause that the whole payment should be paid in full, one month in advance. Recently there have been incidences of conflicts between artists in residence, which call for improved guidelines about harassment and possible penalties. These could be put into the code of conduct and if violated, could lead to removal from the residency without reimbursement. New guidelines should be implemented before next residency period.

**Conclusion: The annual report for 2018 is accepted by the board. Haapamäki will be credited for her photos in the Annual report 2018. The archives will be made public for everyone to use. New guidelines about cancellations and harassment will be drafted to make decision-making easier in compromising situations.**

#### **4. Timetable for new director**

#### **5. Qualifications for the new director**

It is proposed to discuss point 4 and 5 together since they are in close correlation to each other.

The qualifications and the timetable for hiring a new director is discussed based on previous communication of the Board via e-mail. It's proposed to involve NCM in the process. The meeting that Tarja Cronberg had with Paula Lehtomäki, the new General Secretary of the NCM, was promising and together with senior specialist Annika Söderlund she is optimistic that the issues of Circolo Scandinavo will be on the agenda of NCM under Iceland's precedence 2019. The Board will work on a final text for the announcement for a new Director via e-mail. The Board agreed to operate according to the following timeline, subject to changes in connection with the NCM-consultation:

- Announcement: 1 June 2019
- Deadline for applications: 1 September 2019
- Interviews: November 2019
- Decision: December 2019
- New Director meets Ingo and prepares for the assignment: June/July 2020
- New Director will start working: 1. September 2020

**Conclusion: The Board agreed to consult the NCM regarding the content of the announcement for a new Director and finalise the decision (text and timeline) via e-mail or online meetings.**

### **6. Proposal for board honorarium**

Lars Strandh proposes that all board members receive an honorarium for their work but since the economy of CS is too fragile to bear extra expenses the members of the Board could donate the honorarium back to Circolo. That would make the work of the Board visible in the budget of CS. Arnason points out that according to Italian law a payment for board duties can be possible only as consultants, but not as an ongoing salary. It's pointed out that this is a relevant question in bringing CS closer to the Nordic system. Halldórsdóttir suggests that the proposal is kept on the table and worked on in the future.

**Conclusion: The proposal is appreciated and just, but not relevant for the moment.**

### **7. Changes in the statutes**

It is proposed to postpone this issue but hand it over to the new board so all details can be addressed carefully. Arnason points out that changing the statutes is also a financial matter and it requires around 3000-4000€ according to Italian law.

**Conclusion: The proposals for changing of the statutes will be handed over to the new board.**

### **8. Status for meetings with ministers/increased visibility**

Arnason updated the board about the results of the meetings with Nordic ministers and cultural authorities. The Icelandic presidency of the NCM for 2019 is discussing whether to come to Rome and visit CS in order to get first-hand view of the activities and investigate the possibilities of strengthening its economy under this period. To increase CS visibility, it was proposed that flags be put up at the entrance, however according to Accademia de Lincei flags are out of the question but a sign in the street is accepted.

**Conclusion: The Board and CS will carry on working towards strengthening the economy of CS, especially with Iceland as a chair of the NCM during 2019. Arnason will take care of acquiring a sign.**

### **9. Master classes**

The possibility to hold master classes has been investigated but it needs additional funding and human resources. The MTA can be seen as a master class, on our terms. Further work on the idea is postponed.

**Conclusion: We have put an effort into the MTA events, and we will continue to develop them within our budget if no more funding is provided.**

### **10. Next meeting:**

**Conclusion: The next meeting of the CS Board should be held immediately after the GA where the new board will elect a new Chair and a Vice Chair, and decide a date for the next board meeting.**

### **11. Any other business**

**Honorary meetings:** The board decided not to elect any new honorary members since an inspection of the suggested candidates didn't reveal an extraordinarily contribution as required by the statutes.

**Skype meetings:** The boards proposal to the new board is that online meetings should be held whenever necessary, since the projects ahead call for a more effective communication of the Board than usual.

**MACRO:** The collaboration with MACRO is challenging. Some of the previous artists were not very impressed with the arrangements. CS will follow up on the situation.

**Memberships:** The possibility of giving more choice of memberships, for example 5-year membership was discussed along with the possibility of an automatic renewal of the membership. The board will propose to the new board that they will address the issue of raising the membership fees for institutions from 100€ to 120€.

The meeting was closed at: 18.51 on 25.3. The meeting was re-opened 10.01 on 26.3. The meeting was closed at 12.26