



CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

Board Meeting

Circolo Scandinavo,
Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus Rom

Date: 07/09/2021

Time: 17:00

Location: Zoom Platform

Present: Kolbrun Halldórsdóttir, Marie Kraft, Lars Strandh, Björn Ross, Lone Falster, Dr. Ulf R Hansson, Linda Gaarder, Sirpa Kähkönen, Alexandra Lindström.

1. Opening of the meeting, welcome to the new intern.

The meeting opened at 17:02. KH opened the meeting by welcoming Circolo Scandinavios new intern from Svenska Kulturfonden, Alexandra Lindström. Alexandra gave a short presentation of herself to the board.

KH suggested planning a board meeting in Rome soon, if possible in October. This might become more clear in the end of September or beginning of October, as the corona situation unfolds.

2. Update on the general situation at the Circolo.

Artists in Residence (AiR)

Marie made a short presentation about the current situation at Circolo. At the moment three artists are staying at CS, and one more will hopefully come later on, as he is currently sick. All of the current artists in residence are ones that have had to postpone their stay from 2018/2019 until now.

CS will try to host a Meet The Artist event in October, but more details about this will be known in the end of September or beginning of October, as the corona situation and Italian regulations unfold.

3. New location for Circolo Scandinavo

Circolo is still in the process of searching for a new location. There is no answer so far from the real estate agent, but Marie will update the board if/when the situation changes.

4. New book by Madeleine Wulffson

The book about Casino Farnese by Madeleine Wulffson has been published. Marie proposed to send out 3-5 copies to each board member. The book might then be given to

other people whose attention CS needs in regards to the budget cuts. The board members were asked to provide an address to which the books can be sent. Kolbrun gave her warm thanks to Madeleine for her work with this book.

5. Ingo Arnason's situation at Circolo Scandinavo

The board discussed previous director Ingo Arnason and his current status at CS. He will be involved in the project financed by Kulturkontakt Nord for at least a month. The board decided to give Marie until Monday (13.09.2021) to allocate a budget for his part in the project.

There is a budget for project management and communication within the Kulturkontakt Nord project, but there is a need for money for daily activities, not only projects.

KH also underlined the need to look into Marie's workload and her lack of vacation this August.

6. New call: Retake a place, reuse a space

Marie held a short presentation about the new call Retake a place, Reuse the space funded by Kulturkontakt Nord. The call received 50 applications, from all Nordic countries. There was a majority of Swedish and Finnish applicants. Most of them were artists, but some researchers have also applied. The choice of 5 artists and researchers is in process, and is made in collaboration with Stalker. The goal is to have a group with different talents and abilities from different countries. Since there were a lot of interesting applications, some more might be accepted through invitations for shorter workshops or with added funding. The applicants will be staying in apartments around Rome, not in residence at Circolo.

7. Campaign against budget cuts

Marie pointed out that even though CS can apply for specific project funding, what is more critical is financing the daily operation of CS.

Marie met with Leif Jakobsson, former director of Svenska kulturfonden, who told her about *a/nordic*, a recently founded association that works on highlighting the value of culture in Nordic cooperation and how to communicate that value. He suggested contacting Nordisk Kulturfond regarding funding for CS. Marie was also suggested to contact Liisa Suvikumpu, Managing director at Association of Finnish Foundations. Sirpa will also reach out to her.

Kolbrun has met with the Minister for Nordic Cooperation in Iceland, Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson, who made clear that NCMs cuts in Circolos budget 2024 could only be altered by raising the NMC budget, which Icelandic ministers are reluctant to do, since Iceland gets proportionally more out of the Nordic cooperation than what it puts into it. The same counts for the Norwegian minister for Nordic Cooperation, Jan Tore Sanner, in his answer to LS he stated that the reason for the cuts in NCM culture budget are the changed priorities as seen in Vision 2030. Therefore CS has to turn to the ministers in Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

Sirpa has written to the Finnish Minister for Nordic Cooperation, Tomas Blomqvist. Since Kolbrun has also met with him previously, a meeting between the three of them to discuss CS and its situation was suggested. Sirpa will contact him to ask for an appointment via Zoom.

A suggestion for Lone and Björn was made to contact the new Minister of Culture in Denmark. Marie and Mia will monitor the situation in Swedish politics and try to find a way to contact the ministers in charge of Nordic Cooperation.

Kolbrun continues to work on her article on the CS situation. Marie is preparing a new letter to send to all the Ministers in all countries as a reminder on the CS situation before they meet during the fall.

The meeting was closed at 18:03.