



CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

Board meeting 04/08/2020 at 13:00 - Online Zoom meeting

Present: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, *chair* (KH), Lars Strandh, *vice-chair* (LS), Hilla Okkonen *Nordic Embassies in Rome* (HO), Christopher Prescott *Nordic Institutes in Rome* (CP), Mia Törnqvist *organisations of Nordic artists* (MT), Björn Ross (BS), Lone Falster (LF), Ingo Arnason (IA), Marie Kraft (MK)

Absent: Sanna Tahvanainen (ST)

1. Circolo Scandinavo AiR - NMR and Covid-19 situation

IA gave a report of the situation of AiR program. All the artists that had their residency cancelled in 2020 have asked to return in 2020-2021.

CS has adapted its premises according to the Italian national regulations regarding COVID-19, hence only four rooms of seven can be used. This has created a complicated situation; the AiR-year (September 2020 - September 2021) is completely full, and not all artists asking to return can be taken in so there is also a waiting list for 2020-2021.

Due to this the artists that sent in an application for the year 2020-2021 cannot be offered a residency until the restrictions are lifted and CS can again work on full capacity and offer all seven rooms. The applicants have been informed and asked to renew their application before the 1st of April 2021.

IA also informed the board of a new problem regarding Artists cancelling in September 2020 in the shadow of a second wave of the pandemic. IA contacted around 100 artists that applied for a residency in 2019-2020 whose applications had already been evaluated. Thirteen of them replied with interest in coming in September. Now four artists have cancelled but four new artists have accepted and three have declined and still are six artists on a waiting list for September 2020. Unless the situation regarding Covid-19 escalates drastically the activities of Circolo Scandinavo will start on 1. September.

CS contacted the landlords, Accademia di Lincei (AdL), in the beginning of the pandemic and an agreement was made to suspend all payments of the rent until things would be clearer. IA

informed the board that the negotiation about a potential reduction of the rent would probably start in the beginning of September since AdL is closed for summer vacation.

The board decided that they should contact the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation in each represented country and inform them about the situation and the activities of CS, send a copy of the letter that KH sent to Annika Söderlund at the NMR on 16/07/2020.

The ministers will have a meeting on the 9 - 10 September.

ST contacted IA with a message for the meeting concerning the intern of CS. Svenska Kuturfonden in Finland has suspended its intern program until August 2021 so it is clear that there will be no assistant from Finland this AiR year. The board and director have already bidden Tinja Räsänen farewell, since she concluded her assignment with CS by the end of July.

BR asked if there were any possibilities of an intern program in Rome. IA informed the board that there has been collaboration between CS and the university in Rome, La Sapienza, where Italians studying Swedish have been at Circolo as interns/volunteers. IA will contact the University and see if there is a possibility to rekindle that collaboration.

2. Budget 2020

IA presented a new version of the budget 2020 and explained the various uncertainties. The expected loss of contribution from renting the rooms is now estimated €25.750.-

Also a huge uncertainty is the rent payments for Via della Lungara, it depends on how the negotiation will proceed with AdL.

LF applied for a support from AUGUSTINUS FONDEN to cover a part of the loss of income from the rent contribution and received a grant for 50.000 DKK or 6.700€

LS suggested if she could share her application with the board so that each board member could use it to apply for support from funds in their respective countries.

The board decides to write a “thank-you-letter” to AUGUSTINUS FONDEN and the fund’s logo will be published on the CS webpage in the section of Sponsors. IA, MK and LF will draft the letter and send it along with a copy of our books to them.

IA will update the budget 2020, and change “Crowdfunding” to “Fundraising” and specify the Augustinus-fund. The estimated cost of an assistant will be removed and the NMR contribution for renovation of the rooms will cover one month’s salary for IA, who has worked on the renovation with the hired painters.

The board decides to postpone the final decision on the director’s salary until the end of the year.

3. New director

MK will start working as the director on 1 September 2020. The Board agreed to appoint her as the legal representative of CS as of 1 September 2020 and the board also agreed that MK will have the Procura of CS bank account from the same date.

The board agreed on prolonging IA contract by one month until 30 September 2020 so he and MK can work together for one month.

4. Renovation

The painting of the rooms has been proceeding very well and the painters will finish by the end of the week, 8 August. While repainting the walls many cracks were exposed that had to be fixed. IA suggested that it should be pointed out when negotiating for lowering the rent. IA will relocate all the furniture in the rooms and clean the apartment in collaboration with the cleaning lady, paint the doors and put in new shower cabinets in the toilets.

5. Fundraising

Due to the 160 years anniversary of CS this year, KH will write an article to be published in all the Nordic countries. The Board and directors will consider the possibilities of a 160-jubilee event before the end of 2020, combined with performances online and/or physical. One idea would be to contact the Artists that have been in CS in the last years and ask for a collaboration or a contribution of some sort. KH suggested involving the umbrella association of artists in each Nordic country. MK will start to prepare, and she suggested that CS could follow a similar format as the Italian contemporary art museum Maxxi had when celebrating its 10th year's anniversary. BR and IA will assist MK in this.

The Board decides to coordinate the fundraising project to the anniversary events and KH encouraged the board members to use the fundraising channel on CS Slack-program to exchange ideas and develop the fundraising project further. BR suggested a special fundraising meeting by the end of August.

6. Annual meeting 2020

The Annual meeting was opened on 15 June and was recessed. The board decides, due to the current situation, that the best solution is to have a continued annual meeting on Friday 25 September, online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting is open for all members of Circolo Scandinavo and the members that want to attend the meeting will have to sign up to get the online invitation. The call for the meeting should be sent out no later than 11 September, but preferably sooner.

7. AOB

KH asked HO to inform the board about the salary of the intern of the Finnish embassy if CS would need to hire an assistant for the coming year.

LF asked for the web page to be updated, showing that CS is active and ready to start its activities, since the web page is noted as a source of information in the fundraising applications. IA will take care of that.

The meeting was closed at 14.50



Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir
Chair



Ingo Arnason
Director/Secretary