

CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

Date: 8.9.2023

Time: 8.9..2023 kl 14.00

Location: zoom meeting

Attending: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Marie Kraft, Lone Falster, Lars Strandh, Ulf R. Hansson, Morten Kyndrup, Mårten Westö, Silva Hielm

Absent: Björn Ross, Christine Aspelund, Linda Gaarder (Vera Gjermundsen will be filling in until Linda is off leave)

AGENDA

1/ Opening of the meeting

Kolbrún opens the meeting at 14.00.

2/ Selection of a secretary for the meeting

Silva will be the secretary of the meeting.

3/ General update from the Director

Marie gives a general update on the situation at Circolo. Starting with introducing Silva Hielm as Circolos new assistant for the year. Silva presents herself briefly.

Marie continues with an update on the residents present and the residents that will be coming in October and November. Marie concludes that everyone is very pleased with the housing situation. Marie also mentions the residents in the apartment in Testaccio have the covid virus.

Marie presents the program for Circolo during the rest of the year. On September 26th the EFI (European Forest Institute) will launch a book and have the celebration at Circolo, inviting relevant people.

In October there is a project at Museo della Civita Circolo would like to take part in, in some way. Both an artistic and educational project regarding food sustainability. Some discussion has been had about hosting some event at Circolo around the 26th October.

In November there will be the Nordic art festival in ROME. Where Circolo will host the inaugural party on October 30th. Circolo will also host a press conference about the festival. During the festival Circolo may offer rooms to the artist involved. Otherwise the rest of the nordic countries will share the costs of organising said festival.

4/ Update on the financial situation 2023 and 2024

Marie gives an update on the grave financial situation of Circolo. Circolo is looking to apply for grants, scholarships, etc. in September- November, however there are few Circolo is eligible for.

The situation is distressing. The money received earlier can not cover social costs much longer.

5/ Extra funding

Kolbrun begins with explaining how grave the situation is and invites the other board members to help find a solution to the financial problems.

Lars explains that due to the parliamentary changes in Norway the ministers have not made time for meeting about Circolos future. Mentions the possibility of getting the Norwegian royal house involved since they have helped Circolo in the past. Lars brings up the idea of selling some of Circolos artwork to cover immediate costs.

Lone has the same problem as Lars with getting in contact with the ministers.

Marie agrees that the scandinavian parliaments right now are hard to reach and prioritising other issues. She mentions that she has been discussing with Annika Söderlund about the possibility of making a foundation or fund that would only finance Circolo through next year. Circolo will get the answer if such a fund would be possible by the end of September.

Morten mentions that there are 2-3 foundations that we could possibly apply for that would lead to some extra funding for 2024. Augustifonden being one of them.

Mårten expresses that the same parliamentary crisis has occurred in Finland leading to less funding for culture. He intends to try and schedule a meeting with the minister of cooperation Anna Maija-Henrikson and discuss Circolos financial crisis. He will also contact the Finnish writers organisations and the Finnish culture foundation. Måstern will also write a chronicle for the Swedish Finnish newspaper HBL, informing about the situation.

Lone wishes for the chronicle to be translated and shared with the other nordic countries.

Marie shares that after a Swedish article was published the Swedish sentiment is that Circolo should be protected and live on. However, there have not been actual attempts made for the cause.

Ulf agrees that many in Sweden want to help but the ministries are not doing anything.

Lars again mentions that extra funding could come from the sale of artwork. To sustain Circolo financially until the problem can be solved long term.

All board members agree that it is a viable short term plan that has been enacted in the past as well. The overall idea is to sell some of the pieces that are too fragile to have on the walls at Circolo to Scandinavian museums that are interested. The artwork should be sold before the books, seeing as Circolo origins are as a library.

A workinggroup regarding the sale is made consisting of Lone, Marie, and Morten.

If the sale should lead to an excess in funds then that money should be allocated for future financial safety.

Marie states that 1 million DK should sustain Circolo for 2024. However, since the decision regarding receiving said million will come at the end of September Circolo can not promise any artists residence for 2024. Marie mentions that Circolo should consider increasing the residents rent as well.

Kolbrun and Marie will form a working group together on figuring out exactly how much money Circolo has, so that it will be clear how much it needs. After this is calculated they will inform the rest of the board. Afterwards the sales workinggroup can begin to discuss specifics regarding the selling of art.

6/ Campaign Calendar

Who and when to inform?

All agree that Circolo should inform the members of the relevant changes as they occur. Writing a newsletter to members. The chronicle Mårten writes should also be shared. As the different solutions are tested they should be shared so that the press, people, and relevant politicians can understand how grave the situation is. The board members should also try to get past members of Circolo and famous nordic artists to talk with the ministers. Circolos social media should be updated accordingly. Circolo will be tagging the ministers in social media posts.

Next decision about AiR programme 2023-24

The decision is discussed in paragraph 5.

7/ Extraordinary General assembly

Changes in the statutes.

Kolbrun claims that Circolo is not ready to change the statute as of now. However, that after the crisis Circolos statute should be renewed.

A working group regarding the changes in the statutes is formed with Marie, Lars, and Kolbrun. They will now look over it and then discuss possible changes in November 2023.

Update of the overall organisation (legal status association or foundation, AiR-programme, specific grants)?

These updates are given throughout the meeting.

Create Working group(s)

Ulf suggests that the Circolos board should consider forming fixed working groups. That the board members should have fixed positions, so as to effectively solve specific problems in smaller groups.

Kolbrun says that the board has always worked with ad-hoc positions and working groups.

Lone agrees that ad-hoc working groups are functional when the board has so few members.

8/ Any other business

Discussion about meeting in November. Marie invites the board to the nordic festival although unsure if members need to finance the trip themselves. Morten and Kolbrun both share that they will be coming to Rome.

9/ Closing of the meeting

Kolbrun ends the meeting at 15.42.