

MAGDALEN ROAD STUDIOS

ARTIST STUDIO COMMUNITY / Magdalen Arts Space - PROJECT & EXHIBITION SPACE

74 - 77 MAGDALEN ROAD OXFORD OX4 1RE
info@magdalenroadstudios.com / magdalenroadstudios.com

Minutes of Magdalen Road Studios AGM Magdalen Road Studios | 25 July 2022, 18:30-21:00

Apologies

Juliet Eccles
Sarah Lorrimer Riley
Andy Bullock

Present

Louisa Johnson – Studio Manager
Miff Crockford- Director
Amanda Jewell – Acting Chair of Trustees
Tom Hunter - Trustee
Sean Hand - Trustee
David Cumberbatch- Trustee (**Online**)
Stephen Snoddy – Trustee (**Online**)
Jane Kelly
Lucy Stopford
Lissa Rodd
Symy Ong
Peter Vance
Pascale Cumberbatch (**Online**)

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair of Trustees
2. Approval of Minutes – AGM 2021
3. Annual Report 2020-2021
4. Financial Report 2020-2021
5. AOB

Welcome from the Chair of Trustees, Amanda Jewell

Thanks were given to Miff for project managing the renovations, the trustees who volunteered their time, landlords Steve and Phil for their practical and financial support, Colin Smith who volunteered a lot of help with finance and to Magdalen College School who allowed the Trustees to use a room for their meetings.

MAGDALEN ROAD STUDIOS

ARTIST STUDIO COMMUNITY / Magdalen Arts Space - PROJECT & EXHIBITION SPACE

74 - 77 MAGDALEN ROAD OXFORD OX4 1RE

info@magdalenroadstudios.com / magdalenroadstudios.com

Former Chair of Trustees, Andrew Carter, sadly passed away before Christmas 2021

Jessie Judges (Studio Manager October 2020- June 2022) has moved on to a full-time position at University of Oxford. Louisa Johnson has filled in the role at short notice and is now the new Studio Manager.

The previous Chair, Peter Dickson, had felt that he didn't have the time to give to the role. In his short period of time as Chair, Peter drew on his management experience to deal with 'personalities' at the Studio. He updated the Articles of Association, the Membership Application Form, and aligned crucial policies for the License to Occupy agreement.

A warm welcome from MRS was given to the new Trustee, David Cumberbatch as well as new studio members Pascale Cumberbatch, Peter Vance, and Akiko Nakaji.

Director Miff Crockford lead a discussion on the vision for Magdalen Road Studios (MRS) moving forward and how MRS will aim to fulfil its charitable purpose.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were circulated before and after the AGM. They have been approved via email by the following people: Luke McLaughlin, Andy Bullock, Tom Hunter, Sohyun Kim, Amanda Jewell, Akiko Nakaji, and Sean Hand.

They are accessible online at <http://www.magdalenroadstudios.com/legal-documents>

Annual Report 2020-2021

The annual report is a comprehensive view of the renovation work and covers the period 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021.

It was decided in 2020 to appoint a Director and Miff Crockford took over mid-April to oversee the strategy for moving forward with the studios. MRS started as an artist collective in the late 1990s and was registered as a Charity in 2011. This started a new regime with a voluntary board of Trustees and a Studio Manager with a few hours for admin.

The first thing to address was the renovating of the Studios and the Director was able to gain appropriate funding. It is acknowledged that the renovation was disruptive to studio users, especially as the asbestos roof needed to be removed and everyone had to be offsite for this period. This was resolved by the end of February 2022. The result is a huge improvement with heating, lighting and a watertight roof as well as a central community space with large, welcoming front doors.

MAGDALEN ROAD STUDIOS

ARTIST STUDIO COMMUNITY / Magdalen Arts Space - PROJECT & EXHIBITION SPACE

74 - 77 MAGDALEN ROAD OXFORD OX4 1RE

info@magdalenroadstudios.com / magdalenroadstudios.com

The Director was now working on a second phase of fundraising regarding Unit B renovation work. This will target the kitchen and bathrooms and gallery space flooring. Currently, there are no obvious capital funding avenues, and the financial approach will be incremental and combined with MRS' new thrust for community engagement that will also assist with MRS' charitable status compliance.

A few of MRS artists were involved in Artweeks and other exhibitions - this included The Bridge. There has been a good amount of activity despite the disruptions caused by the renovation and the safety measures that had to be imposed during the Covid Pandemic.

Financial Report 2020-2021

Most of the finances were focussed on the refurbishment and the funding was from two sources. That said, the work had to be paid in retrospect so cashflow was an enormous issue – the landlords graciously stepped up and helped with the cashflow.

AOB

Lissa raised a query on behalf of Studio Member Catalina regarding the out-of-date website. The Chair of Trustees suggested that artist could help with updating the website. The Director and the new Studio Manager shared that they have an upcoming meeting to review the websites content to understand what needs to be done. Trustee Sean Hand suggested having an archive space on the website to best support the community engagement focus.

The Trustees said that when we got to the end of the refurbishment then they would invite an artist trustee to join the board of trustees. Instead of previous long application process, it is up for artists to nominate themselves. The studio manager will distribute 4 questions to be answered and every full member can vote. There will be only one Artist Trustee as MRS are still in a 'transition period' and are looking to focus on the next phase of community engagement.

Artist can have up to 3 people in their studio. If there is more, the artist must book out the MAS. It is £10 hour for MRS members and £30 for external hirings. Lucy Stopford's studio is an exception and can have more people in her studio. She will pay he £10 if the session has over 3 people.

As we are opening to the community, the health and safety is being reviewed as it has been very lax up to date. The kiln in the bathrooms needs to be removed. We need more than one toilet and will be building multiple cubicles as part of the next renovation plans.

MRS members can have a group exhibition once a year. Then, there is a two-tiered system for members and external hire rates for the gallery. The minimum period for hire is two weeks. The prices for this are coming soon.

MAGDALEN ROAD STUDIOS

ARTIST STUDIO COMMUNITY / Magdalen Arts Space - PROJECT & EXHIBITION SPACE

74 - 77 MAGDALEN ROAD OXFORD OX4 1RE

info@magdalenroadstudios.com / magdalenroadstudios.com

Studio member Lissa enquired whether new studio members are still voted into MRS. The Director clarified that the trustees have recently changed this, and the studio manager has created a series of questions for future applicants that appropriately align with the charity's community engagement intentions. The Director is committed in keeping MRS as a professional studio.

Studio member Symy shared that the artists would like more of a community and means of speaking with one another. It was decided that this is not the Trustees responsibility to organise, and the Artists will set up a WhatsApp group. A notice board has been suggested for the foyer.

Lucy Stopford will have painting sessions and MRS artists are welcome to join free of charge. Lucy will formalise these sessions and put notices on her door.

Oxford Brookes and The Ruskin School of Art were interested in our vacant studios. These have now been let but we are waiting to hear confirmation on what kind of investment they would like to make in MRS. The Ruskin School of Art are also interested in postgraduate, professional opportunities for their students and what MRS could potentially provide.

Trustee Steven Snoddy asked whether either art school new the other was interested. The Director confirmed that they were both aware and that she has outlined plans to both to explain how it would be managed.

The Director explained that the community engagement focus is working with refugees and asylum seekers. The charity Asylum Welcome are 'on board' with our community engagement plans. We have been contacted by Artists in Exile regarding support we could give a Ukrainian artist and the Director is awaiting a meeting. Studio 5 could potentially be a space.

The organisation Multaka has asked to support us with our community engagement programme from September 2022. Oxford City College fell through last year but now there has been a change in staffing we are being encouraged to have a partnership and further opportunities will be available from September 2022. A partnership has been formed with Magdalen College School. They will have a studio and they are interested in our community engagement programme. The Ruskin have also signed up their undergrad students to support the community engagement programme.

Any artists who wanted to get involved were thoroughly encouraged to get in contact with the Director.