

The Exhibitions Group 39th Annual General Meeting Monday 13 October 2025

Minutes

Meeting held online via zoom

Present: 69 members

Alex Stein	American Museum & Gardens
Gina Langton	80000 Voices
Griffin Coe	Aberdeen City Council, Archives, Gallery and Museums
Jason Williamson	Aberdeen City Council, Archives, Gallery and Museums
Madeline Nehring	Aberdeen City Council, Archives, Gallery and Museums
Ulrike Smalley	Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales
Luna Jungblut	Artlife Translations
Joanna Johnston	Arts Council of Northern Ireland
Suzanne Lyle	Arts Council of Northern Ireland
Alice Lobb	Barbican Visual Arts
Joe Shaw	Barbican Visual Arts
Katie Morton	Birmingham Museums Trust
Helen Grundy	Brighton & Hove Museums
Nicola Coleby	Brighton & Hove Museums
Emily Oldfield	British Council
Joe Borges	British Library
Óscar Carrascosa	c2c Exhibitions
Helena Alonso	c2c Exhibitions
Eloise Chapman	Carmarthenshire Museums & Arts Service
Hannah Ford	Crafts Council
Alexandra Davy	Culture Leicestershire
Maureen Kendal	Dreamstudio.io
Sammi Lukic-Scott	Everybody Arts
Kate Grenyer	Fife Contemporary

Janet Waring Rago	Freelance / independent
John Reed	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Zoe Hughes	Harewood House Trust
Samantha Tabner	Haslemere Educational Museum
Jack Addis	KitMapper
Mo Suleman	Mo Suleman
Jennifer Brookman-Moore	Museum of the Mercian Regiment (WFR Collection)
Deborah Fox	Museums Worcestershire
Delphine Charpentier	National Galleries of Scotland
Jacqui Austin	National Galleries of Scotland
Mia Shirreffs	National Gallery of Ireland
Calum MacGillivray	National Museums Scotland
Bryony Smith	National Portrait Gallery
Miranda Stacey	National Portrait Gallery
Amanda Doran	National Trust
Emma Campagnaro	National Trust
Jennifer Melville	National Trust for Scotland
Felicity Sylvester	Natural History Museum London
Isabella Fernandes	Natural History Museum London
Ros Allwood	North Hertfordshire Museum
Claire Hart White	OBS Gallery, Tonbridge School
Richard Parry	Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery
Elizabeth Selby	Poole Museum
Anne Starkey	RAMM
Pip Diment	Royal Armouries
Billy-Jay Stoneman	Royal Photographic Society
Stella Rotstein	Royal West of England Academy
Melanie Coussens	South West Heritage Trust
Maria Ragan	St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery
Emily Shepperson	Suffolk Archives
Edward Liddle	The Amelia
Helena Copsey	The Amelia
AntoniaSpanos	The Exhibitions Agency
Alexandra Kavanagh	The National Gallery, London
Hannah Widginton	The National Gallery, London
Rebecca England	The National Gallery, London
Steve Goldman	The Worst Record Covers in the World
Rachel Murphy	V&A
Daniel Smernicki	V&A Dundee



Marianne Taviner	Vortex Creates
Nicola Richardson	Vortex Creates
Sara Glenn	Warne Archive, Penguin Random House
Lora Manolova	Wellcome Collection
Rachel Sturgis	Wellcome Collection
Jen Booth	Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust

Apologies for absence

Alanna Davidson, Co-Chair

1. Welcome from The Exhibitions Group Co-Chairs

Members and non-members were welcomed to The Exhibition's Group's AGM by Miranda Stacey, Co-Chair.

An email had been sent out to all those attending with the related papers for the AGM. All papers had also been made available on The Exhibition's Group website.

The 2024 AGM is the first year an Arts Council IPSO funded organisation. The Exhibition's Group has been granted £160,000 per year, for the next three years.

2. Annual Report for 2024-25 – Miranda Stacey, Co-Chair

Miranda Stacey, Co-Chair of The Exhibitions Group, opened the AGM by thanking attendees and noting the absence of fellow Co-Chair Alana Davidson.

The meeting agenda included presentations from the Treasurer Ulrika Smalley, Secretary Mari Lowe, and Deputy Chair Alice Lobb.

The Co-Chairs' report reviewed the 2024-25 financial year, the second year of ARTs Council England IPSO funding, highlighting consolidation and professionalisation efforts.

Key staffing updates included the appointment of Executive Director Reyahn King, Administrator Sue Lea, and Marketing Manager Rachel Auty.

Focus areas included governance, operational policies, financial procedures, marketing strategy, brand identity, and website development.

A new professional development strategy was introduced, featuring thought leadership and webinars.



Major achievements included research on the carbon impact of international lending and the launch of the Rethinking Touring Exhibitions Toolkit.

The toolkit supports funding applications with environmental sustainability goals and is available via the Environmental Responsibility Hub.

On inclusion, 11 new advisory and trustee members were recruited, including early career professionals.

A bursary scheme enabled 5 attendees to join the Exhibitions Connect event at the Transport Museum in Coventry, funded by Momart and Constantine.

Accessibility improvements were made to training sessions, and EDI training was provided to consultants and trustees.

The organisation continued to advocate for exhibition careers and embraced its new identity as The Exhibitions Group.

A strategy away day led to a new vision and mission: 'We are the home of exhibition practice' and 'We connect and empower everyone in exhibitions to create relevant, sustainable, diverse, and accessible exhibitions.'

The new website launched in April and will be reported on in the next financial year.

Miranda expressed gratitude to the executive team, trustees, advisory group, Arts Council England, partner funders, sponsors, and members.

Special thanks were given to Emma Daker for her contributions to EDI work.

3. Treasurer's Report 2024-25

Treasurer Ulrike Smalley provided a brief financial overview during the AGM. The organisation ended the last financial year in a strong position, achieving a moderate surplus of approximately £20,000. This brings the total reserves to over £150,000, exceeding the policy requirement of a 4-month reserve. Plans are in place to invest more of these funds into charitable activities, including improvements to the website and services for the sector.

The Exhibitions Group continues to benefit from multi-year funding from Arts Council England, enabling increased activity. Income sources include funding, professional development, membership, and other activities, totaling £239,287, an increase from the



previous year. Although membership numbers have slightly declined, there is optimism that the new website will encourage renewed subscriptions.

TEG Connects event reported in the financial accounts showed a surplus and was a sellout, attracting sector sponsorship. Ulrike concluded her remarks and handed over to Marie Lowe.

4. Annual Ballot 1 – Election of Trustees

Mari Lowe chaired the ballot section of the AGM.

An email had been sent out to all those attending with the related papers for the AGM. [All papers](#) had also been made available on The Exhibition's Group website and available in Chat during the AGM.

Mari Lowe, Secretary of the Exhibitions Group, introduced the annual ballot and re-elections, noting this was her first year in the role. She outlined the constitutional requirement for one-third of trustees to retire. The following trustees were asked to step down:

- Emma Daker – completed two full terms. Thanks were extended for her service, and it was noted she remains active in exhibitions at Craft Space.
- Miranda Stacey, Alanna Davidson, and Crystal Ramkalawan – stepped down as part of the formal process. Crystal was also thanked and wished well in her future endeavours.

Mari then launched the online voting poll, explaining the process:

- Individual members are eligible to vote
- Organisation and corporate members are allowed one vote per organisation.
- Members experiencing technical issues were encouraged to vote via chat or email.

The poll included eight questions:

- Resolution 1: Re-elect Miranda Stacey as Co-Chair

PASSED

- Resolution 2: Re-elect Alanna Davidson as Co-Chair

PASSED

- Resolution 3: Approval of the previous year's AGM minutes

PASSED



- Resolution 4: Acceptance of the 2024–25 audited financial accounts and annual report

PASSED:

- Resolution 5: Approval of proposed changes to the Constitution and bylaws

PASSED

- Resolution 6: Recognition of the new Advisory Group Terms of Reference

PASSED

- Resolution 7: Election of new Advisory Group members

PASSED

Votes were collected successfully, including some submitted via Chat due to technical difficulties. Mari confirmed that all present had voted and thanked attendees for participating in this important governance process.

Mari then handed over to Alice for the next agenda item.

5. New survey and Exhibitions Connect 2026 - Deputy Chair Alice Lobb

Alice Lobb welcomed attendees and introduced herself as Deputy Chair. Alice reflected on a successful year celebrating The Exhibition Group's 40th anniversary and the launch of a new brand and website.

The annual Exhibition Connects event was held at the V&A Museum in April. The event was well-attended by both new and established members, showcasing a wide range of work.

The Exhibitions Group is now working with an organisation which has conducted sector research over the past 3-4 months, with promising results.

Looking ahead to the next few months, Alice highlighted to areas of work where members and non-members alike can be involved:

5.1 Strategic Focus and Sector Research

- Alice announced a new research initiative: [2025 Lending and Borrowing Survey](#) The survey link was shared in Chat.



- The survey is open until **Monday 10 November 2025, 5pm**
- It aims to assess adoption of the 2021 NMDC Principles and Guide to Lending and Borrowing.
- Participants were encouraged to share with colleagues and respond based on UK loans.

5.2. Exhibitions Connect 2026 Announcement

- **Date:** Tuesday 28 April 2026
- **Venue:** Millennium Gallery, Sheffield
- **Keynote Speaker:** Zandra Yeaman, Curator of Discomfort, Hunterian Museum, Glasgow
 - Focuses on anti-racist museum practices and reframing historical narratives.
- **Ticketing:**
 - Early bird booking for members: **30 October – 31 December 2025**
 - Updates to be shared via mailing list, website, and social media.
- Thanks extended to Momart and Constantine for their continued support.

Alice finished by thanking attendees for their participation and voting.

This marks the formal end to the AGM. Dana Andrew then went on to introduce the online share session featuring nine presentations.