

# Minutes of the 2018 ASDC AGM

Tuesday 9th October 2018

3:30 - 5:30pm

Hosted by the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester

Chaired by Chas Bishop, ASDC Chair

<b>Welcome and Chair's Report, Chas Bishop</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASDC Chair Chas Bishop welcomed all members to the AGM and invited all delegates to enjoy the AGM, inviting all delegates to ask questions during the AGM.</li> <li>• Chas Bishop thanked:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ASDC CEO Dr Penny Fidler, the executive team and ASDC trustees for their work.</li> <li>○ The ASDC Trustees who are retiring, Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Gillian Lang and Adrian Lutton</li> <li>○ The sponsors of the conference, STFC and NERC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>CEO's summary of the year, Dr Penny Fidler</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delighted to be here at the Science and Industry Museum, part of the Science Museum Group</li> <li>• Penny gave an overview of the ASDC vision, mission and strategic objectives</li> <li>• Penny covered Highlights from the last year including: Inspiring Science: ASDC secured £30 million in funding for UK Science Centres – Round 1 and 2 have now been awarded. ASDC is delivering 8 National Strategic STEM programmes</li> <li>• ASDC has a team of 4.6 (Penny Fidler, Jaclyn Bell, Heather Lampard, Shaaron Leverment, Andy McLeod) Excellent board of trustees Reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 were £314,783 Income was £585,824</li> <li>• Income from members is just £28,200 and this is our only core income</li> <li>• New Website (highlighting projects, events, resources and National Impact supporting funding applications)</li> <li>• Penny highlighted the importance of our national programmes, are there to do a strategic step change, that promote knowledge exchange, staff training and National Impact</li> </ul> <p><b>Operation Earth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking all NERC'S world-leading research and bringing to the public</li> <li>• The vision to engage and inspire families. The partnership includes Dynamic Earth, Natural History Museum, Eden Project and NERC.</li> <li>• 100,000 people will take part in the programme, with equipment, grants and training offered to science centres (including "Earthy") across 11 science centres</li> <li>• The content is very hands on.</li> <li>• Over 96,000 already have taken part</li> </ul> <p><b>Secret World of Gases</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family audiences and their children across 9 Science Centres</li> <li>• Focus of using gases for a greener, more sustainable future (including hydrogen powered activities)</li> <li>• 54,000 people will take part.</li> <li>• The programme is funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC</li> </ul> <p><b>Hypatia (EU Horizon 2020 Project)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focussing on gender equity with lasting legacy, run by Shaaron Leverment (Deputy CEO).</li> </ul> <p><b>Cimulact (EU Horizon 2020 Project)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASDC is the UK Partner. The Project asked 1000 citizens in 30 countries what they want for their future communities and in what priority areas they want the EU science budget to be spent.</li> <li>• The outcomes were greener communities, cleaner air, safer communities – local and very environmental.</li> </ul>	

**The Earth and the Museum of the Moon:**

- The Earth will be at the Natural History Museum in November.
- The Moon is an excellent art-science project with Luke Jerram, 2.5 million people have seen this so far.

**Explore Your Universe**

- Phase 1 and 2 reached 341,714 school children.
- Academic evaluation showed no difference between girls and boys in their responses
- Phase 3 completed, reaching another 39,273 children and adults focussed on engaging under-served families
- Final number is 380,987 children and adults have taken part.

**Penny thanked everyone for taking part in these projects**

- EYU Phase 4 is in discussion and will be seeking 8 centres
- Focussed on depth of engagement, multiple interventions, families from underserved communities

**Destination Space (UK Space Agency)**

- Phase 1 was Tim Peake mission
- In March 2018 we asked centres how many have been engaged in workshops, family shows and special events to date: 914,646 children and adults have been engaged with Destination Space 1.
- 75,741 children and adults who met and spoke to scientists
- 12,120 school children evaluated, 904 families, 573 teachers.
- 23% of school children were from the top 20% on the Indices of multiple deprivation.
- At least a further 1,135,786 have visited galleries etc
- Very successful programme
- We have run Phase 2a (space ports, satellite applications, James Webb Space Telescope and ExoMars)
- Delivered by 5 UK Science Centres
- We now have Phase 2B starting soon, we are at contract stage with the UK Space Agency. Phase 2B will cover all these 4 areas and also the Moon Landing Anniversary

**New partnership with the Science Museum Group**

- Announced publicly yesterday (8<sup>th</sup> October 2018)
- Nationwide partnership programme
- Grant scheme to fund and support 15 centres to find out the latest academic and practical work that supports science capital and use this to run programmes with disadvantaged audiences.

**Discussion of Development Fee**

- Looking to the future. The ASDC team spends a lot of time bidding for funding for national STEM programmes, and we don't recoup any of that. Most of these resources are given out to the centres in equipment and grants. We give away 80% of the funding we get to science centres.
- The ASDC Board agreed at the last board meeting to add a small development fee for future projects. Future programmes = 6% development fee that goes onto the delivery grant and kit.
- ASDC will charge a 6% development fee on the value of equipment and the grant (So for a grant of £3000, and £3000 of kit this fee will be £360.)
- It will not be applied on the full value to each science centre (e.g. Training Academies: science centres will still have all their accommodation and expenses paid for and training and resources provided without fees).
- There is also recognition that some centres are involved in many projects and others are not benefitting from any, yet the membership fee remains the same.

**Lobbying and Advocacy: Inspiring for the UK Science Centre and Engagement Sector**

Inspiring Science

- ASDC secured £30 million for the Inspiring Science Fund, the culmination of 7 years lobbying

<p><u>National Forum for Public Engagement in STEM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> Central London</li> <li>Collective priorities are improving models and approaches to funding and engaging underserved audiences.</li> </ul> <p><u>GREEN GB Week and NI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Operation Earth possibly playing an important role in this.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Chas thanked Penny and the team, and invited comments from the floor</b></p> <p>Dom McDonald (Royal Institution) enquired about the life-span of projects, how this impacts ASDC finances and enquired about inclusion on the risk register?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With different phases, we are keen to pioneer with each project.</li> <li>EYU4 and DS2 are continuing, but also have had pauses between phases which can be interesting for a number of reasons. Operation Earth would be amazing to continue, but Gases will not continue. H2020 projects have also finished and we find we are no longer being asked since Brexit.</li> <li>We are in a riskier place, but we do have proposals in at the moment.</li> <li>ASDC has always been in this situation. What we really need is core funding.</li> </ul> <p>Diana Leitch, Chair or Trustees, Catalyst raised awareness for International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements. Is ASDC getting involved in this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penny says we know about it and ASDC can organise a conference call to bring together what everyone is doing</li> <li>Penny invited Dianne to be part of a leadership call</li> <li>There is interest and there are plans from RSC to lead strategically on this too</li> <li>Other comments included discussing the interest from schools in these workshops and whether Research Councils funding chemistry research should be approached</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Approval of minutes of last AGM</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bryan Davies proposed that the minutes be approved</li> <li>Terry O'Connor seconded</li> <li>Minutes approved.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Presentation and consideration of annual accounts for 2017/18</b>  <b>Liz Hodge (ASDC Treasurer) and Chris Godden (ASDC Finance Director)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liz Hodge, CEO Aberdeen Science Centre, introduced herself as the new treasurer</li> <li>Net expenditure for the year is £44,484</li> <li>Some projects are phased, so there were a few grant payments waiting, however, our expenditure is more than the income.</li> <li>Core activities from the team (e.g. national meetings, advocacy, this conference) have no income</li> <li>Reserves remain strong at £314,783 fluctuating over the past 5 years. A result of the number and size of projects. There are restricted and unrestricted reserves</li> <li>At last year's AGM it was raised that the trigger point was too low. This has now been reviewed and increased to £150,000</li> <li>Total income is down from previous 2 years</li> <li>Penny's time was focussed on project direction which allowed less time for fundraising.</li> <li>ASDC is an organisation that continues to grow, but needs to source both core and project funding. The ASDC board are focussed on sourcing core funding.</li> <li>Tight spending controls need to be in place</li> <li>Development fee is not yet filtering through</li> <li>Accounts are on the website</li> <li><b>Liz also thanked Penny and her team to achieve so much with so little over the past year.</b></li> <li><b>Liz also thanked Chris Godden as our financial director for all his support.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Approval of 2017 - 2018 Accounts</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gillian Lang proposed approval of accounts</li> <li>Scot Owen seconded</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accounts Approved</li> </ul>	
<b>Approval of a further year continuing with our auditors</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terry proposed approval of accounts</li> <li>Ben Ward seconded</li> <li>Approved</li> </ul>	
<b>Questions were invited for Liz and Chris</b>	
<p>No questions Chas thanked Liz and Chris</p> <p><b>Penny added</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thanks to Chris for the last 10 years and Liz as our new treasurer.</li> <li>The ASDC Board made a collective agreement that the recipients of the Inspiring Science funds should provide voluntary contributions as a vote of recognition for the work of ASDC in securing the funds.</li> <li>Depending on contributions, this will amount to £50,000 - £60,000 of unrestricted funds for ASDC.</li> <li>Some centres have already asked to be invoiced and payments have been received</li> <li>For some centres the voluntary contributions are spread over the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	
<b>Elections to the ASDC Trustee Board</b>	
<p>Chas Bishop mentioned we are losing 3 trustees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leigh-Anne, who has been part of the board “forever” and represented the non-millennium centres. Gillian Lang and Adrian Lutton (not with us today)</li> <li>Chas thanked these board members and presented gifts.</li> <li>It was noted that we should look to having a Northern Ireland representative on the board moving forward.</li> <li>Chas introduced current trustees present (Karen, Terry, Scot, Ben Ward, Bridget, Linda, Liz and Chas also) and passed to Penny for the 8 people who are standing for election, inviting each to talk about their reasons for wishing to stand and the value they bring to the board.</li> </ul>	
<p><u>The following members stood for re-election (shown with a*) and first time election to the ASDC Board:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chas Bishop, CEO, National Space Centre*</li> <li>Alison Robinson, Director of Corporate Affairs, NERC</li> <li>Bryan Davies, Chairman, Catalyst Science Discovery Centre*</li> <li>Dr Hermione Cockburn, Scientific Director, Dynamic Earth</li> <li>Lauren Deere, Museum Manager, Thinktank, Birmingham Museum Trust</li> <li>Liz Hodge, CEO, Aberdeen Science Centre*</li> <li>Dr Stephen Breslin, Chief Executive, Glasgow Science Centre</li> <li>Tudor Gwynn, Operations and Projects Director, Eureka! The National Children’s Museum</li> </ol>	
<p>Penny Fidler put in her recommendation for all to be accepted In a break from traditional individual elections, Terry O’Connor moved that we approve all trustees through a single vote. Penny requested a show of hands of all who agree that all the above can be elected as approved Unanimously approved</p>	
<b>Members discussion. The following thoughts and issues were raised and discussed by members present</b>	
<p><b>Are we in hiatus (BEIS – UKRI for example) in terms of national programme funding?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should we focus more on working collaboratively, taking proactive steps and talking across sectors, to lobby government for funding? However unfortunately waiting for government may be unrealistic at this time, particularly as the whole of the civil service appears paralysed due to Brexit.</li> <li>Research councils such as EPSRC. Are there opportunities for the next project with these councils?</li> <li>Penny mentioned that funding has previously not been available here, but budgets may have changed and it is worth exploring.</li> <li>Alison Robinson noted that UKRI are quite a welcome addition but they are changing the game and the rules aren’t yet decided. However, Mark Walport has put public engagement square on the agenda and their strategic prospectus has commitment here.</li> <li>Times are difficult but there is also opportunity for a new funding structure and also for advocacy.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>There is a government view that public engagement is being driven through universities, so this is where the money is going. Should we partner more with universities?</b></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Futures Gallery, Birmingham Museums Trust - individual bays that can be updated separately and universities are funding updates of these pods with the research groups competing on what can go on display.</li> <li>• REF coming up in 2-3 years means that now is the time to make the most of these partnerships.</li> <li>• The importance of making connections through trustees (etc) to understand different aspects of university life, becoming involved and knowing research groups and researchers, in order to team up and support their public engagement</li> <li>• University work is very time consuming for individuals. There is an opportunity of ASDC to raise awareness by reaching audiences that they find hard to engage with as they are under pressure to diversify their background.</li> <li>• Reaching out and engaging with entire sectors – is there an opportunity here?</li> <li>• Focus on areas of expertise (e.g. geology / environmental science in the North East, Leicester for space sciences) and individual universities are areas where you can tap for this local support.</li> <li>• Is there something we can do to support universities’ ability to work with us to deliver more effectively to diversify their audiences? For example, generating our own IP?</li> <li>• Penny mentioned ASDC have trained scientists and worked with university partners in every programme we have run, and it is part of what we’re offering</li> <li>• Science communication is a skill, it isn’t easy to talk to adults/non-specialist audiences so we have opportunities to offer. Universities will say – we have our own university departments – but there is more opportunity. Perhaps we should insist on training programmes. We should all try to work together.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Do we need our own definition of who our diverse audiences are?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public engagement includes all the usual suspects. We need to champion those people who are not confident in their science.</li> <li>• NERC: There is a need for it. 74% men, 80%+ if you drop marine scientists. 6-8% non-white. 2% disability. There is a diversity problem.</li> <li>• A note of caution was raised when considering producer-pushed projects. The content needs to be pulled out by the audiences. Perhaps we need to be more audience led. Being led by research/funding priorities always brings an agenda.</li> <li>• We are communicators and educators. We are here to build bridges between the two.</li> </ul> <p>Chas closed the opening remarks etc.  <b>AGM closed at 5.20pm</b></p>	