

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

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

The Earth and the Museum of the Moon art projects co-commissioned by ASDC:

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

Explore Your Universe Phase 3

- 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 national strategic STEM programme
- We have delivered Destination Space Phase 2a (space ports, satellite applications, James Webb Space Telescope and ExoMars)
- Delivered by 5 UK Science Centres
- We have submitted a proposal for Phase 2b, and 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 (8th 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 ASDC programmes will therefore have 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 of resources given to each science centre (e.g. Training Academy accommodation, expenses, training resources and support.
- There is also recognition that some centres are involved in many projects and others are not applying to participate, 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

National Forum for Public Engagement in STEM

- Upcoming meeting on November 1st London. Details on the Forum website.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current collective priorities are improving models and approaches to funding nationally and strategically, place-based interventions and engaging underserved audiences. <p><u>GREEN GB Week and NI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15th -19th October 2018. Operation Earth is playing an important role in this and will go to Number 10 Downing Street to present operation earth. 	
<p>Chas thanked Penny and the team, and invited comments from the floor</p> <p>Dom McDonald (Royal Institution) enquired about the life-span of projects, how this impacts ASDC finances across financial years and enquired about inclusion on the risk register?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASDC are keen to pioneer with each project and each phase. EYU4 and DS2 have exciting new phases. However there have been pauses between phases which often means we cannot keep staff on. Operation Earth would be amazing to continue, but Gases will not continue. H2020 projects have also finished and we find since Brexit, we are no longer being invited to join bids. We are in a financially riskier place, but we do have proposals in at the moment. ASDC has always been in this situation. What we really need is core funding to underly the project income <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"> Penny says we are aware of it, and proposed if members present wish, ASDC can organise a conference call to bring together what everyone is doing and share ideas Members were interested. Penny to organise Penny invited Dianne to be part of a leadership call. Other comments included discussing the interest from schools in these workshops and whether Research Councils funding chemistry research should be approached 	ASDC
Approval of minutes of last AGM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryan Davies proposed that the minutes be approved Terry O'Connor seconded Minutes approved. 	
Presentation and consideration of annual accounts for 2017/18 Liz Hodge (ASDC Treasurer) and Chris Godden (ASDC Finance Director)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz Hodge, CEO Aberdeen Science Centre, introduced herself as the new treasurer Net expenditure for the year is £44,484 Some projects are phased, so there were a few grant payments waiting, however, our expenditure is more than the income. Core activities from the team (e.g. national meetings, advocacy, this conference) have no income 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 At last year's AGM it was raised that the trigger point might be too low. This has now been reviewed and increased to £150,000 Total income is down from previous 2 years Penny's time was focussed on project direction which allowed less time for fundraising. 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. Tight spending controls are currently and have always been in place Development fee is not yet filtering through, as only recently implemented Accounts are on the website Liz also thanked Penny and her team to achieve so much with so little over the past year. Liz also thanked Chris Godden as our financial director for all his hard work. 	
Approval of 2017 - 2018 Accounts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gillian Lang proposed approval of accounts Scot Owen seconded Accounts Approved 	

Approval of a further year continuing with our auditors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry proposed approval of accounts • Ben Ward seconded • Approved 	
Questions were invited for Liz and Chris	
<p>No questions Chas thanked Liz and Chris</p> <p>Penny added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to Chris for the last 10 years of work as our finance director, and Liz as our new treasurer. • The ASDC Board had proposed and made a collective agreement that the recipients of the Inspiring Science funds would provide voluntary contributions as a vote of recognition for the years of work of ASDC in securing the funds on behalf of centres. • Depending on contributions, this will amount to around £50,000 - £60,000 of unrestricted funds for ASDC, spread over several financial years • Some centres have already asked to be invoiced and payments have been received • For some centres the voluntary contributions are spread over the next 2 years. 	
Elections to the ASDC Trustee Board	
<p>Chas Bishop noted that 3 trustees are retiring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chas thanked Leigh-Anne, who has been part of the board for many years and represented the non-millennium centres. Also thanks to Dr Gillian Lang and Adrian Lutton (not with us today) • Chas thanked these board members and presented gifts. • It was noted that we should look to having a Northern Ireland representative on the board moving forward. • Chas introduced current trustees present (Karen, Terry, Scot, Ben Ward, Bridget, Linda, Liz) and handed proceedings over to Penny for the 8 people who are standing for election, inviting each to present their 'manifesto' for wishing to stand and the value they bring to the board. 	
<u>The following members stood for re-election (shown with a*) and election to the ASDC Board:</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chas Bishop, CEO, National Space Centre* 2. Alison Robinson, Director of Corporate Affairs, NERC 3. Bryan Davies, Chairman, Catalyst Science Discovery Centre* 4. Dr Hermione Cockburn, Scientific Director, Dynamic Earth 5. Lauren Deere, Museum Manager, Thinktank, Birmingham Museum Trust 6. Liz Hodge, CEO, Aberdeen Science Centre* 7. Dr Stephen Breslin, Chief Executive, Glasgow Science Centre 8. Tudor Gwynn, Operations and Projects Director, Eureka! The National Children's Museum 	
<p>It was noted that there can be a maximum of 16 Trustees on the ASDC Board, and at this AGM there were sufficient spaces on the ASDC board for all those standing to be elected.</p> <p>Penny Fidler recommended for all those standing for election to be accepted</p> <p>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 be elected to the ASDC Board. This was unanimously approved by members, and all the 8 people above were elected (or re-elected) to the ASDC Board.</p>	
Members discussion. The following thoughts and issues were raised and discussed by members present	
<p>Members raised the following questions and points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we in hiatus (BEIS – UKRI for example) in terms of national programme funding? • Should we focus more taking steps to talk 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. • Research councils such as EPSRC. Are there opportunities for the next project with these councils? • Penny mentioned that funding has previously not been available here, but budgets may have changed and it is worth exploring. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alison Robinson noted that UKRI are a welcome addition and 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 to public engagement. Times are difficult but there is also opportunity for a new funding structure and also for advocacy. 	
<p>Universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? 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. REF coming up in 2-3 years means that now is the time to make the most of these partnerships. 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 Engagement work is very time consuming for researchers. 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. Reaching out and engaging with entire sectors – is there an opportunity here? 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 ask for this local support. Is there something we can do to support universities' ability to work with us to deliver more effectively to diversify their audiences? Penny mentioned ASDC have trained scientists and worked with university partners in almost every programme we have run, and it is part of what we're offering Science communication is a skill, it isn't easy to talk to adults and non-specialist audiences so we have opportunities to offer. Universities will say they have their own university departments, but there is more opportunity. Perhaps we should insist on training programmes. We should all try to work together more. 	
<p>Do we need our own definition of who our diverse audiences are?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public engagement includes all the usual suspects. We need to champion those people who are not confident in science. 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. A note of caution was raised when considering producer-pushed projects. The content needs to be pulled by the audiences. Being led by research/funding priorities always brings an agenda. We need to champion the need for it to be audience-led We are communicators and educators. We are here to build bridges between the two. <p>Chas thanked all members present and closed the AGM AGM closed at 5.20pm</p>	