



DRAFT Minutes of the FPSAD AGM held at 6.15pm, 9 November 2024 at PSAD

There were 24 Friends of Putney School of Art and Design (FPSAD) present, including Rob Dark (President), five Trustees and two members of the Management Committee. Apologies received from Vicki Garthwaite (Chair of the Management Committee), Margaret Knott (Vice-President), Mark Hayman, Pamela Greene, Mike and Avril Freeman. The meeting was quorate.

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the President.

Minutes of 2023 AGM and matters arising

The draft minutes of the 2023 AGM had been circulated. The President gave a brief resume and the minutes were approved by Friends present. There were no matters arising not dealt with later.

Review of the year by Clare Frankl Bertram, Chair of the Trustees

Friends of PSAD carried out our familiar range of activities in 2023-2024: lectures, workshops, the Xmas Fair held in the School, and Putney Art, held in the Exchange Shopping Centre. A new venture this year has been our involvement in the Coronation Gardens Sculpture Competition. We were delighted to be able to fund the prize money for an event putting artwork out into the community.

Funds and Fund Raising

We have continued to contribute funding to the School from our accumulated surplus. We now have a very effective system of working with the School to identify items where our help is most beneficial. There is now a continuously updated wish list formulated from needs and ideas put forward by staff and the Friends. So, if you have ideas for equipment or material improvements, let your tutor or Committee know. We are very grateful to Grant Martindale for his work on this.

This year's wish list has focused on developing the potential of the Disraeli Road site and the increased studio space in the main building. New equipment provided by the Friends during this year has included:

- A2 press and blankets
- 30 large drawing boards and 30 small drawing boards
- 20 Table top easels
- Drying Cabinet for ceramics studio 2

- New small kiln
- 3 pottery wheels.

In addition, we have agreed to fund the following from current surpluses: -

- Heat press for creative textiles
- Digital cutter (up to 4mm thick)
- 1 pottery wheel
- 10 shimpo pottery wheel stools
- Spray booth compressor
- Etching blotter rack
- Refurbishment of worktops in Studio 4 print room
- Extension of spotlighting ring in 3D Studio 1.

Friends Management Committee and Membership

1. Two long standing and valued members of the Friends, Mark Hayman and Yvonne Guerrier, have stood down from our committee. We are delighted that both have agreed to carry on being 'hands on' helpers at our events. We owe both of them a great debt of gratitude for their time, energy and commitment over many years and I would ask you to agree to including a special thank you to them both in our minutes. *[Agreed by members present]*.
2. We are delighted to welcome Alexandra Bell who was coopted this term and has taken control of our social media presence, much to the relief of the less tech savvy members of our committee.
3. Our membership level last year returned to around pre-Covid levels.

Activities

1. The Christmas Fair had a very successful year. Commission on art sales from Putney Art did not achieve the spectacular level of the previous year but remains a very successful event. Lectures and Workshops show a small return in the accounts, in line with our aim only to break even on these events. This is a fine balancing act, dependent on tutor fees and other expenses. Merchandising is settling into a steady earner which should show growing returns in the future.
2. We will be looking for new ideas and new people, for activities to be run by the Friends. Activities can help build the School community, increase interest, skills and excitement, and help us raise funds to support the School. If you have ideas or hear of ideas, please get in touch.

Management of the School

The School continues to be managed under the umbrella of EnableLC, a not-for-profit organization contracted to provide a range of services to Wandsworth Council. The Friends are the School's own Charity, all funds raised by us go directly to help support and improve the School.

Trustees Annual Report of the Accounts for the year by the Treasurer

Damaris Albarran presented the report of the accounts for the academic year ending 8 September 2024. She has presented details such that it is possible to read across the page to see in detail where our money comes from. Most came from the Xmas Fair (we made £11K for an outlay of £3K). Whilst merchandise only shows as £368, this is artificially low as most sales took place later, and Note 2 shows

that £847 of merchandise has been sold. We had £26.5K at the end of the year, but we have since spent £14K on items for the school.

There were no questions on the accounts from members present, and Damaris was thanked for producing the accounts and she, in turn, thanked our Independent Examiner, Richard Weaver FCA, who had approved the accounts, giving his services pro bono. The accounts were signed off on behalf of the Trustees by Clare Frankl Bertram.

Elections

All Trustees and Committee members must stand down at the AGM. Voting took place by show of hands. The new Committee were elected for 2024/25 by Friends present as follows:

TRUSTEES

Clare Frankl Bertram (Chair of Trustees) (proposed by Jenny Newhouse, seconded by Alison Brooke)

Victoria Garthwaite (Trustee and Chair of Management Committee) (proposed by Nicole Hollingworth, seconded by Pat Dark)

Damaris Albarran (Treasurer) (proposed by Linda Hayman, seconded by Yvonne Guerrier)

Nicole Hollingworth (Trustee/ Membership Secretary) (proposed by Mary Funk-Butterworth, seconded by Fleur Tookey)

Carolyn McMillan (Secretary) (proposed by Alison Brooke, seconded by Sniez Torbarina)

Sniez Torbarina (Website Editor) (proposed by Liz Mundle, seconded by Nicole Hollingworth).

All Trustees also serve on the Management Committee.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Pamela Greene (proposed by Catherine O'Neill, seconded by Stephen Stafford)

Fleur Tookey (proposed by Jane Theophilus, seconded by Clare Frankl Bertram).

Additional committee members may be co-opted during the year for their skills/help organising lectures, parties, Putney Art, fair etc.

The President thanked the outgoing Committee for all their hard work over the previous year. There was a show of hands from those present in support of this.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

Rob Dark and Margaret Knott, our founder members, were unanimously re-confirmed as Hon. President and Hon. Vice-President respectively, and were thanked for their continuing support.

Report on forthcoming year by Clare Frankl Bertram, Chair of the Trustees

The Friends are the School's own charity and what we can contribute in funds, support and activities goes directly to enhancing the contribution the School can make to our community, both in house and through outreach.

Membership

We need more members! We need the importance of supporting the School to be more widely understood. We need to harness the appreciation for the School, from past and present alumni to ensure its future.

We are pleased with the number of new members already joining this year. But will be looking for more! We need all the help we can get to imbed the idea of supporting the School, directly through the Friends, in all classes and all students.

The Friends website and social media are key factors in keeping in touch with our members. Along with emailed newsletters, the website provides a constant source of information and news at members' fingertips.

Access

Financial pressures from inflation, energy prices, rising staff costs etc. are going to continue to impact severely on the School, as they will on many of our current and potential students. The School operates entirely on fee income, and what the Friends can provide. There is no income from Wandsworth Council.

Friend's activities this year will again need to focus on Access, in the widest sense.

1. Re assessing the bursary scheme, in order to make access funding more available to a wider audience.
2. Help the School's programme to access wider audiences through outreach and innovative, affordable course delivery.
3. Help to keep the courses and fees affordable and attractive and accessible to all aspiring students.
4. Look to more long-term funding support to help give future stability to the School.

Funds and Fund Raising

This year the Friends will be looking to launch a number of fund-raising activities both immediate and longer term to support our Access focus. We will also continue to contribute funding from our accumulated surplus through:

1. Identifying 'wishlist' items in need of our support.
2. Contributing to equipment funds.

Activities

Current proposals for Friends Activities this year are to continue:

1. Res'tiling' project, in association with Wandsworth Borough of Culture 2025, which is under way with all students being invited to submit ceramic tiles for incorporation in revitalizing our building. Non potters can contribute designs too.

2. Our programme of lectures, the first of which is this evening!
3. The workshop programme which continues to be strongly supported.
4. The Xmas Fair, which is on Sunday 1st December this year with the private view on Saturday 30th November. Please tell all your friends, family and neighbours.
5. Running Putney Art immediately after the summer exhibition has proved very successful in encouraging new artists to exhibit and sell their work. 2025 will see another Putney Art Exhibition.
6. We will be looking for new ideas and new people, for activities to be run by the Friends. Activities can help build the School community, increase interest, skills and excitement, and help us raise funds to support the School. If you have ideas or hear of ideas, please get in touch.

Future Development and Management of the School

The School continues to be managed under the umbrella of EnableLC, which is a not-for-profit organization contracted to provide a range of services to Wandsworth Council. However, we need to be realistic and recognize the increasing financial pressures and difficulties facing Local Government. Although all appears to be working well for now, we will continue to be vigilant and keep engaging with Enable and Wandsworth Council in discussions about the future growth and management of the School.

The President remarked that the new government is placing more emphasis on the arts in schools, and this may help to engage the local community with the School.

Questions by Friends present

Q: Why don't the Friends put up a list of all their purchases in both campuses? **A:** Yes, we intend to do that, we need a permanent record of our expenditure on the School on both sites. This is in hand.

Q: Will the situation with the Council change with the new government? **A:** There is no indication yet of any changes or where any new funding might come from. The school building is owned by the Council, maintenance comes from the Enable budget, but it is unclear how any new capital expenditure will be paid for.

Q: Has there been any progress on access to 3-D campus? **A:** Ceramics classes are downstairs as well as upstairs, so access to these is less likely to arise. The Friends are considering equipment to help staff take heavy materials and equipment upstairs, and it may be possible to have a platform to help the less able reach the upper floor.

AOB

There were no other matters arising, and the meeting was concluded with the President thanking members for coming to the AGM. The meeting was then closed.

Date of next AGM

The next AGM is planned for Saturday 8 November 2025.

