

# Report by the Supervisory Board

## General

The Supervisory Board (hereafter: SB) met five times during 2014. Besides the current business, such as finances and organisation, the start of the construction work on the New Entrance of the Van Gogh Museum (hereafter: VGM) on the Museumplein played a key role in talks with the Management Team. The purchase of *La Toilette (Lecture après le bain)* by Edgar Degas was possible only with the approval of the SB. Many other substantive matters were also discussed once during the annual planning and were subsequently delegated satisfactorily to the Management Team and its support team.

## New Entrance

The possibility of a New Entrance on the Museumplein connected to the Kurokawa Wing was further investigated. With more than 1.5 million visitors per year, the museum is reaching the limits of its capacity at certain times. Particularly during the holiday periods, around public holidays and during certain rush hours, the pressure on the facilities is considerable and for many visitors a visit to the museum at such times is no longer experienced as optimal. The current entrance on the Paulus Potterstraat is not big enough for processing the large streams of visitors. Now that the other museums on the Museumplein have modernised their buildings to meet current needs, it is time for our museum to do the same. Following the first phase of further investigation, the SB approved a major plan at the start of 2014 for the building of a New Entrance.

As with the successfully executed Maintenance & Fire Security project in 2013, the building of the New Entrance will be carried out in close collaboration with the Central Government Real Estate Agency (CGREA).

By means of an ambitious time plan, the New Entrance will be opened in the summer of 2015. There were frequent meetings with the Management Team regarding the construction work. The most important aspects involved the available financing,

the effects of the New Entrance on operations in the short term and the long term, as well as the time planning. The permanent availability of the collection to the public remained an important basic principle for the SB.

Where necessary, individual members of the SB also provided support for the activities for the necessary fund-raising.

## Financial Statements and Budget

The Financial Statements for 2013 and the Budget for 2015 were discussed in 2014 and approved by the SB. The SB was pleased to note greater transparency in the reporting method. The Financial Statements for 2014 were discussed at the meeting of the Audit Committee on 18 March 2015. At this meeting, the external auditors reported their findings on the audit of the Financial Statements for 2014. The Audit Committee passed on the Financial Statements to the SB with a positive recommendation. In accordance with Article 8(1)(b) of the Articles of Association, the SB approved the Financial Statements for 2014.

## Membership of the Supervisory Board

The composition of the SB has changed in comparison with its form in the year 2014. Mr R.H. Dijkgraaf stepped down from the Board in May 2014 after a four-year term, partly due to his move to the US. We are grateful to Mr Dijkgraaf for his contribution and commitment to the VGM and the SB.

In addition, recruitment of a new member with a strong international museum profile was completed at the start of 2014 with the appointment of Mr G. Tinterow. Mr Tinterow is currently Director of The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas. The SB places great store by this substantive and international contribution.

Ms A.J. Kellermann was reappointed to the SB in 2014 for a further four-year term.

## Activities of the Supervisory Board

### Working method

Besides the regular meetings, the Chair of the SB also held regular meetings with the General Director of the VGM. During these meetings, the items on the SB agenda were discussed, in addition to current business. In line with the Governance Code for Culture, regulations for the SB have been established. As well as the regular meetings where all members of the SB are present, two committees were also active, namely:

#### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has been active since 2010 with its representatives Mr P. Tieleman and Mr R.H. Dijkgraaf (until his resignation in May 2014). Mr H.A. van Beuningen was appointed as member of the Audit Committee in 2014 as successor to Mr Dijkgraaf. The Audit Committee is involved in the financial reporting, budgeting and the quality of the financial organisation and reporting.

In line with the provisions of the Governance Code of Culture, the Audit Committee evaluated the functioning of the external accountant. After an extensive evaluation followed by a selection procedure, Mazars was appointed as new external accountant of the VGM starting with the report year 2014.

#### Building Committee

The Building Committee played an active role in 2014. This committee is involved with the large-scale and challenging housing projects of the VGM. Ms A.J. Kellermann and Mrs T.A. Maas-De Brouwer hold seats on this Committee on behalf of the SB. The Building Committee met regularly for the purpose of the New Entrance project. The executive of the Management Board was also regularly present at these meetings.

### Employee representation

Members of the SB regularly attend consultative meetings between the Staff Council and the Management Team.

### Strategic Plan 2014-2017

The Management Team has compiled a new strategic plan for the 2014-2017 period. The SB has subsequently approved this plan. Besides the core assignment of the museum, the focus for the coming years will lie with three strategic pillars: accessibility (including the building of the New Entrance, the new layout), reach (including web strategy and social media) and income (including new business models). The SB is pleased with the style of approach in this strategic plan. Good, clear main features and accordingly the space for advancing insight for concrete details.

### Financial Operational Plan

The Management Team also compiled and carried out a Financial Operational Plan in 2014. This safeguards the link between the strategic objectives and an optimum, cost-effective arrangement of the business processes. The SB observed that this Financial Operational Plan has played a good role in the development of the business culture.

The SB observed that the VGM, the Management Team and the staff all contributed important efforts once again during the report year. This allows the museum to carry out its social mission well and with vigour.

The SB expresses its deep gratitude for this.

The input and involvement of the VGM organisation form a healthy basis for a challenging 2015.

Approved accordingly on 23 March 2015,

Mrs T.A. Maas-De Brouwer  
Mr P. Tieleman  
Ms A.J. Kellermann  
Mr G. Tinterow  
Mr H.A. van Beuningen