

BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD

Wednesday, 13 July 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Centre Board held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 13 July 2016 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy John Tomlinson (Chairman)
Deputy Dr Giles Shilson (Deputy Chairman)
Lucy Frew
Stuart Fraser
Tom Hoffman
Emma Kane
Roly Keating
Vivienne Littlechild
Sir Brian McMaster
Wendy Mead
Cllr Guy Nicholson
Judith Pleasance
Keith Salway

In Attendance

Officers:

Sir Nicholas Kenyon	- Managing Director, Barbican Centre
Michael Dick	- Director of Operations & Buildings, Barbican Centre
Sean Gregory	- Director of Learning & Engagement, Barbican Centre
Louise Jeffreys	- Director of Arts, Barbican Centre
Jane Alison	- Head of Visual Arts, Barbican Centre
Lynette Brooks	Head of Development, Barbican Centre
Steve Eddy	- Head of HR, Barbican Centre
Jenny Mollica	- Head of Creative Learning, Barbican Centre
Jo Daly	- PA to the Managing Director, Barbican Centre
Niki Cornwell	- Head of Barbican Finance, Chamberlain's Department
Debbie Hackney	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Michael Bradley	- City Surveyor's Department
Gregory Moore	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy John Bennett, Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Trevor Phillips and Tom Sleight.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

3a. **BOARD MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 18 May 2016 were approved.

3b. **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The draft public minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016 were received.

3c. **MINUTES OF THE RISK COMMITTEE**

The draft public minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016 were received.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS AND WORK PLAN**

The Board received a report of the Town Clerk setting out the outstanding actions list and noted the various updates and additions. The forthcoming workplan for Board meetings in 2016 and 2017 was also noted.

RECEIVED.

5. **MANAGEMENT REPORT BY THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS**

Members received a report of the Managing Director providing updates from the Barbican Directors on their respective areas.

Members commented positively on the role of the Barbican Ambassadors and urged that more be done to showcase their role and input on the website. The recent closure of the stalls bar was also commented on, with it noted that the Risk Committee had discussed the issue in some depth at its recent meeting.

Members discussed the potential effects of Brexit on the Centre and in particular the impact on those members of staff from the European Union who were not UK citizens, both in terms of the immediate impact on morale and the longer term outcome as to their continued residency and working rights. In addition, there was a potential impact in respect of attracting young global talent to the Barbican in years to come, a problem potentially shared by the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Members expressed particular concern that steps be taken in the shorter term to assuage the concerns of staff, particularly through the use of appropriate communication and messaging. The Managing Director reassured Members that some initial messaging on these lines had already been circulated amongst staff. In respect of the wider issue of communicating the Barbican's position to the external world, the Barbican was working with others in the sector and through the Arts Council to ensure a coherent message was put out. Members agreed that it would be important to ensure that the arts voice was as united as possible on this issue in order to maximise the impact of any messaging; it was also suggested that it would be helpful to have an understanding of the potential impact on current staff, with a view to assessing the scale of risk in respect of motivation and morale. Members added that the impact of Brexit should also be added to the risk register once the position and potential effects were clearer.

The Chairman observed that care would need to be taken to ensure that any messaging was consistent with the City Corporation's position.

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6. VISUAL ARTS BOARD REPORT 2016

The Board received a report and accompanying presentation from the Director of Arts and the Head of Visual Arts, following which Members took the opportunity to ask a number of questions. During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Members were effusive in their praise for the quality of the programme over the past year, which had continued to go from strength to strength.
- The tangible benefits of closer working between the Visual Arts team and the Communications & Marketing team were particularly noted as having had a significant impact on performance.
- Members were provided with a breakdown of the curatorial team, comprising an enthusiastic and complementary blend of talented individuals whom the Director was confident would provide continued success and innovation to the Visual Arts programme.
- It was suggested that it would be beneficial to work towards developing a greater understanding of the diversity of audiences attending exhibits, so as to help manage and inform a diverse programming approach.
- Members referenced their previous support for the concept of pop-up installations in outside spaces as an experimental and novel way of bringing the visual arts to people in unexpected places. The Head of Visual Arts reassured Members this was an area that continued to be explored wherever possible, highlighting recent instances such as the lakeside installation for the Ragnar Kjartansson exhibition and planned displays to coincide with a forthcoming exhibition focusing on Japanese art. However, it was cautioned that such pop-ups were sometimes relatively costly and so would need to be managed against the backdrop of decreased funding to the gallery.
- In discussing the Barbican's competitors, the view was expressed that some of the increase in attendees could be due to the recent closure of the Hayward Gallery. However, it was noted that the Barbican and Hayward's offerings were markedly different and that it was not anticipated that the Hayward's re-opening would cause significant impact to audience numbers at the Barbican. The Head of Visual Arts expressed confidence that the various visual arts institutions across London could all prosper together, as each provided a unique offering and occupied a different space in the marketplace.
- Members were reassured that there was regular liaison in place with the Culture, Heritage and Libraries department to identify any potential overlap.

RECEIVED.

7. **CREATIVE LEARNING: ANNUAL PRESENTATION**

The Board received a report and accompanying presentation from the Director of Creative Learning and the Head of Creative Learning, following which Members took the opportunity to ask a number of questions. During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Members highlighted the fact that the Creative Learning team had engaged with over 40,000 young people over the last year, which represented an astounding level of impact. It was suggested that the Barbican should do more to make others aware of the huge impact of the Creative Learning team's work, including the wider Court of Common Council and prospective funders who might support even more wide-reaching activity in future.
- It was noted that an additional 35,000 people would also be engaged in some way through the forthcoming Walthamstow Garden Party.
- The Director confirmed that the intention was to grow and expand the Creative Learning team's activity and that work was underway to identify a suitable location for additional dedicated space. It was clarified however that growth within the Creative Learning team would require a corresponding increase in resource in other departments, such as Communications & Marketing, to adequately support this additional work. Consequently, wider planning would be required in this area and to this end a business plan was being developed which would more accurately identify resource implications.
- With reference to expanding national and regional reach, it was conformed that the intention was to seek to develop national partnerships for the Barbican Box programme, which would serve as a blueprint to be replicated in other areas. The team would be working with potential partners for this concept in the coming year.
- It was noted that the Creative Learning team's work formed a significant part of the City Corporation's overall educational strategy.
- In commenting on the financial summary, it was noted that the breakdown excluded the majority of overhead costs. It was urged that these be included in future so as to provide a more accurate breakdown of costs and budgets and also to allow prospective funders to see where their contributions might be spent.
- In response to queries around targeting activity to addressing areas of need, the Director advised that the team had been expanding its area of activity to increase work in outer London boroughs.

RECEIVED.

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
11a - 15	3
16	3 & 7
17 – 23b	3
23c	1 & 3

11a. **NON-PUBLIC BOARD MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2016 were approved.

11b. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016 were received.

11c. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE RISK COMMITTEE**

The draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016 were received.

12. **VISUAL ARTS UPDATE: NON-PUBLIC APPENDICES**

The Board received the non-public appendices to be read in conjunction with item 6.

13. **CREATIVE LEARNING UPDATE: NON-PUBLIC APPENDICES**

The Board received the non-public appendices to be read in conjunction with item 7.

14. **BUSINESS REVIEW**

The Board received a report of the Chamberlain setting out the Business Review for the Period 2 Accounts 2016/17.

15. **DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Chief Operating & Financial Officer which set out the latest fundraising results against budget.

16. **BARBICAN CENTRE SECURITY REVIEW PROPOSALS**

The Board received a report of the Chief Operating & Financial Officer outlining the various recommendations from recent security reviews of the Barbican and setting out the Centre's implementation plan.

17. **RISK UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Chief Operating & Financial Officer updating Members on the key risks facing the Centre and detailing the steps being taken to mitigate these risks.

18. **CAPITAL CAP ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board considered and approved a report of the Managing Director setting out the final outturn position for the third year (2015/16) of the Cap 3 period and presenting a revised project programme and expenditure plans for the final year of Cap 3 (2016/17).

19. **GATEWAY 7 OUTCOME REPORT: CONCERT HALL RIGGING**

The Board considered and approved a report of the Managing Director providing the outcomes and lessons learnt from a project to replace the Concert Hall rigging system.

20. **GATEWAY 5 ISSUES REPORT: BARBICAN EXHIBITION HALL 1 - ENABLING WORKS**

The Board received a report of the City Surveyor concerning enabling works at the Barbican Exhibition Hall 1.

21. **BARBICAN CAMPUS PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Board received a report of the Director of Operations & Buildings providing updates on those projects across the Barbican Campus.

22. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no questions.

23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were three urgent items:

a) **Service Based Review / Strategic Plan Update**

The Board received a report of the Managing Director providing an update in respect of progress made in meeting the Barbican's Service Based Review targets and Strategic Plan objectives.

b) **City of London WiFi Concession**

The Board considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor concerning plans to improve the provision of WiFi in the City.

c) **Appointment of External Member**

The Board considered and approved a recommendation of the Nominations Committee, concerning the appointment of Russ Carr to the Board for an initial three-year term.

The Board also agreed to appoint Mr Carr to its Finance and Risk Committees.

The meeting ended at 1.00pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Gregory Moore
tel. no.: 020 7332 1399
gregory.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk

