

BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD

Wednesday, 27 September 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Centre Board held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 27 September 2023 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Tom Sleigh (Chair)	Mark Page (External Member)
Alderman Sir William Russell (Deputy Chairman)	Jens Riegelsberger (External Member)
Deputy Randall Anderson	Jane Roscoe (External Member)
Stephen Bediako (External Member)	Despina Tstatsas (External Member)
Farmida Bi (Ex-Officio Member)	Irem Yerdelen
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Alpa Raja
Wendy Mead	

In Attendance

Officers:

Claire Spencer	- Barbican Centre
Beth Bryan	- Barbican Centre
Jo Davis	- Barbican Centre
Lee Dobson	- Barbican Centre
Cornell Farrell	- Barbican Centre
Will Gompertz	- Barbican Centre
Vania Gonzalez	- Barbican Centre
Natasha Harris	- Barbican Centre
Luke Kemp	- Barbican Centre
Ali Mirza	- Barbican Centre
Patrick Moran	- Barbican Centre
Eve Scott	- Barbican Centre
James Tringham	- Barbican Centre
Jenny Waller	- Barbican Centre
Udhay Bhakoo	- Chamberlain's Department
Sarah Wall	- Chamberlain's Department
Matthew Cooper	- Town Clerk's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Zulum Elumogo.

The Deputy Chair (External) and Michael Asante observed the meeting virtually.

The Chair noted that this was the last Board meeting for Will Gompertz, the Barbican Centre's Artistic Director. The Board joined the Chair in thanking Will for his work during his tenure and wished him well for the future. In reply, the Artistic Director thanked the Chair and the Board for their support.

The Chair welcomed the representatives from the Barbican Staff Networks, who were observing the meeting as part of the Barbican Centre's EDI and engagement strategy.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **BOARD MINUTES**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 were approved as a correct record.

4. **SUB-COMMITTEES**

a. ***Finance and Risk Committee**

The Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee provided an oral update on the meeting held on 11 September 2023.

b. ***Nominations, Effectiveness and Inclusion Committee**

The Chair of the Board provided an oral update on the meeting held on 13 September 2023.

There were no substantive points from the public session of this meeting. However, the Chair used the opportunity to propose that, following discussion with the members of the Committee and officers, the name of the Committee be changed to the 'People, Culture and Inclusion Committee'. The Chair felt that this name better reflected the remit of the Committee and the organisational priorities of officers reporting to it. There would be no change to the Committee's terms of reference.

RESOLVED, that – Members approve that the name of the Nominations, Effectiveness and Inclusion Committee be changed to the People, Culture and Inclusion Committee.

5. **WORKPLAN**

Members noted the Board's workplan.

6. **CEO REPORT BY THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS**

Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, providing an update on the Centre's activities.

RESOLVED, that – the Board endorses Management's approach.

7. **BARBICAN CENTRE – CINEMA ANNUAL STRATEGIC UPDATE**

Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the Cinema art form.

Members praised the report as being an exemplary art form report. During discussion, the following points were noted:

- The cinemas required investment to resolve technical challenges. The Deputy Chairman suggested that individual donors could be approached to assist with this.
- The Cinema's arts programme was more resource heavy than the commercial programme.
- The Pay What You Can trial had worked well, and officers supported expanding it beyond the initial offer on new releases on Fridays.
- Officers did not feel that the opening of an arthouse cinema close of the Barbican Centre had affected the Barbican Cinema.
- The Cinema artform was pursuing its own marketing approach and using the screens to promote this.
- The Cinema artform had a small travel budget, allowing each member of the team to visit one festival year. The impact of in-person meetings was felt to be a key part of the curated programming.

The Deputy Chairman informed the Board of his positive experience at a recent visit to the Barbican Cinema and asked that this be fed back to staff.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

8. **BARBICAN CENTRE – COMMERCIAL ANNUAL STRATEGIC UPDATE**

Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the Commercial Department.

Members praised the report for providing a good news story. During discussion, the following points were noted:

- A Member noted their recent positive personal experience of using the venue for an away day, and said that it had encouraged some attendees to sign up for Barbican Membership.
- Events officers from the Barbican Centre were part of a City Events Working Group, which aimed to keep venues in contact with each other and maintain good relationships. The CEO said that she felt it was important to ensure that other City of London Corporation venues had opportunities to take on any business turned down by the Barbican Centre.
- The Commercial Department had been able to expand the number of weddings held at the Barbican Centre, with 32 in 2023. They had a licence limit of 40.

- The usage of the car parks was declining, with Barbican Renewal providing a chance to look differently at how they were used.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

11. **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.

Members agreed to adjourn the meeting for five minutes following the exclusion of the public.

12. **NON-PUBLIC BOARD MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2023 were approved as a correct record.

13. **SUB-COMMITTEES**

a. **Finance and Risk Committee**

The Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee provided an oral update on the non-public session of the meeting held on 11 September 2023.

b. **Nominations, Effectiveness and Inclusion Committee**

The Chair of the Board provided an oral update on the non-public session of the meeting held on 13 September 2023.

14. **CEO REPORT BY THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS**

Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, providing an update on the Centre's activities.

15. **BARBICAN IMMERSIVE FUTURE PLANS**

Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the Barbican Immersive programme.

Members agreed to extend the meeting under Standing Order 40.

16. **BARBICAN CENTRE - AUDIENCE STRATEGY 2023-2026**

Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the Audience Strategy.

17. **BARBICAN CENTRE - DRAFT CODE OF ETHICS**
Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the Code of Ethics.
18. ***BARBICAN EXHIBITION HALLS ENABLING WORKS**
Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the Exhibition Halls.
19. ***RESOLVE COLLECTIVE REPORT**
Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Resolve Collective.
20. ***ARTS PROGRAMMING & BUSINESS EVENTS RISK REGISTER**
Members received a report of the CEO, Barbican Centre, concerning the arts programming and business events risk register.
21. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
There were no questions in the non-public session.
22. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
The Chair confirmed that November's Board meeting had been rearranged to begin at 9am, to allow for a Board away day to follow.
23. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 12 July were approved as a correct record..
24. **UPDATE ON THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT**
The CEO provided Members with an update on the recruitment for the Artistic Director.

The meeting ended at 2.00 pm

Chairman

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