

BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD

Wednesday, 20 March 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Centre Board held at the Frobisher Rooms,
Barbican Centre on Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Deputy Chairman)	Zulum Elumogo (External Member)
Munsur Ali	Wendy Mead OBE
Deputy Randall Anderson	Mark Page (External Member)
Michael Asante (External Member)	Jane Roscoe (External Member)
Farmida Bi (Ex-Officio Member)	Despina Tstatsas (External Member)
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Alpa Raja

In Attendance

Stephen Bediako (External Member) – Via MS Teams

Officers:

Ali Mirza	- Barbican Centre
Nick Adams	- Barbican Centre
Jackie Boughton	- Barbican Centre
Jackie Ellis	- Barbican Centre
Cornell Farrell	- Barbican Centre
Natasha Harris	- Barbican Centre
Karena Johnson	- Barbican Centre
Toni Racklin	- Barbican Centre
Eve Scott	- Barbican Centre
James Tringham	- Barbican Centre
Beau Vigushin	- Barbican Centre
Sarah Wall	- Barbican Centre
Richard Chamberlain	- City Surveyor's Department
John Cater	- Town Clerk's Department
Matthew Cooper	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Tom Sleigh, Tobi Ruth Adebekun, Jens Riegelsberger, and Irem Yerdelen.

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 Wednesday, 24th January 2024 were approved as a correct record.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the departing Wendy Mead for her huge contribution to the work of the Board over the years.

Whilst a formal vote-of- thanks will be delivered at the (second) Board meeting in May, the Chair noted that this was the last formal meeting for the Chair, Tom Sleigh, who was absent today.

4. **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

The Board considered a Report of the Town Clerk concerning the reappointments of Mark Page, Professor Jane Roscoe, and Dr Jens Riegelsberger for a further 3-year term (ending in March 2027) of the Barbican Centre Board.

RESOLVED – that the Board approved the reappointment of Mark Page, Professor Jane Roscoe, and of Dr Jens Riegelsberger for a further 3-year term (ending in March 2027).

5. **SUB-COMMITTEES**

a. ***Finance and Risk Committee**

The Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee of the Barbican Centre Board provided an oral update on the public elements of the meeting held on Monday, 4th March 2024.

b. ***People, Culture & Inclusion Committee**

An oral update on the public elements of the People, Culture & Inclusion Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 5th March 2024 was provided.

6. ***FORWARD PLANNER**

Members noted the Board's Forward Planner.

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

The Board considered a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning updates from across the Centre's activities.

A Member took the opportunity to commend the team for the increased visitor numbers and associated higher revenues from ticket sales.

A Member welcomed and endorsed the team's approach and hard work regarding the recent matters pertaining to the London Review of Books Winter Lecture Series, and subsequent impacts on the Unravel exhibition that opened in February. The Chair echoed these sentiments.

RESOLVED – that the Board noted the Report and endorsed Management's approach to future activities.

8. **DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 - BARBICAN CENTRE**

The Board considered a Report of the CEO of the Barbican Centre concerning the draft High-Level Business Plan 2024/25 for the Centre.

In response to a query, officers confirmed that the Business Plan had been presented to a peer group for comments in the Corporation – the feedback had been positive.

In response to a query, officers informed the Board that the audience strategy would include data around the number of City residents attending the Centre.

Members asked that, given the Centre's inherent involvement, reference was made to Destination City in the Plan.

In response to a query concerning the underspends outlined in the Plan, officers assured Members that, whilst this was predominantly due to timing, progress was being made on speeding up the processes around procurement and effectively delivering projects and works more quickly.

RESOLVED – that the Board:

- Note the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Barbican Centre Business Plan; and
- Approve, subject to the incorporation of any changes sought by this Committee, the departmental Business Plan 2024/25.

9. ***CURVE GALLERY REFURBISHMENT**

The Board considered a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Curve Gallery.

RESOLVED – that the Board noted the Report.

10. ***THEATRE AND DANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board received a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the past year's Theatre and Dance programming activities at the Barbican Centre.

The Head of Theatre and Dance provided accompanying comments to the Report.

Per page 108 of the agenda, Members noted the scale of the change in the programme over the past year compared to five years ago. The relationship with Trafalgar gives the Centre an added boost in both financial and programming stability for the next few years and the security to consider how to continue to be daring in shaping the whole programme in the future.

The Head of Theatre and Dance assured the Board that pipeline development remained a critical focus; the loss of Arts Council England funding for the open lab programme (p109) was deeply unfortunate, one of the Centre's main Strategic Objectives is Developing Artistic Talent, all art forms are working

closely together to revisit this approach to supporting exciting emerging talent in a holistic way, and to make a compelling new case for funding.

As testament to the value and impact of the Open Lab scheme the Centre included 5 companies: Rachel Mars, Pappy Show, Rhiannon Faith, emma+pj and Julene Robinson, alumni of the Lab programme, into last year's public facing Pit season, to much acclaim.

RESOLVED – that the Board noted the Report.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other urgent business.

13. 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.

14. CONFIDENTIAL UPDATE

At this point, the meeting went into confidential session.

15. NON-PUBLIC BOARD MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24th January 2024 were approved as a correct record.

16. SUB-COMMITTEES

a. *Finance and Risk Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Risk Committee of the Barbican Centre Board provided an oral update on the non-public elements of the meeting held on Monday, 4th March 2024.

b. *People, Culture & Inclusion Committee

An oral update on the non-public elements of the People, Culture & Inclusion Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 5th March 2024 was provided.

17. CEO REPORT OF THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS (NON-PUBLIC)

The Board considered a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning non-public updates from across the Centre's activities.

18. *ARTS PROGRAMMING & BUSINESS EVENTS RISK & ETHICS REGISTERS

The Board received a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning Arts Programming & the Business Events Risk & Ethics Registers.

19. ***BARBICAN BUSINESS REVIEW: DECEMBER 2023 (PERIOD 9)**
The Board received a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the period 9 accounts for the Barbican Centre.
20. ***BARBICAN CENTRE - BUILDING DISRUPTION**
The Board received a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning disruption caused by building fabric and services.
21. ***BARBICAN CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME (CWP) AND CAPITAL PROJECTS - UPDATE**
The Board received a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Centre's Cyclical Works Programme and Capital Projects.
22. ***BARBICAN FIRE SAFETY PROJECTS**
The Board received a Report of the CEO, Barbican Centre concerning fire safety at the Barbican Centre.
23. ***NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX TO ITEM 10 - THEATRE AND DANCE ANNUAL REPORT**
The Appendix was noted.
24. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**
There were no questions.
25. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 12.45 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: John Cater
john.cater@cityoflondon.gov.uk