

BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Centre Board held at the Guildhall on
Wednesday, 25 September 2024 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chair)	Anett Rideg
Munsur Ali	Jens Riegelsberger (External Member)
Deputy Randall Anderson	Jane Roscoe (External Member)
Jaspreet Hodgson	Despina Tsatsas (External Member)

In Attendance

Mark Page (via Teams)

Officers:

David Farnsworth	- Interim CEO, Barbican Centre
Genine Whitehorne	- Chamberlain's Department
Jackie Boughton	- Barbican Centre
Kate Doidge	- Town Clerk's Department
Ali Mirza	- Barbican Centre
Pip Simpson	- Barbican Centre
Devyani Saltzman	- Barbican Centre
Sarah Wall	- Barbican Centre
Beau Vigushin	- Barbican Centre
Natasha Harris	- Barbican Centre
Harriet Usher	- Barbican Centre
John Cater	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Tobi Ruth Adebekun, Michael Asante, Farmida Bi, Tijs Broeke, Zulum Elumogo, Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons, Mark Page, 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 draft public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17 July 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

4. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Committee considered a Report of the Town Clerk concerning the re-appointments of two external Members of the Barbican Centre Board, namely,

Tobi Ruth Adebekun and Stephen Bediako to serve on the Board for new 3-year terms.

RESOLVED – that the Board approved the reappointment of Stephen Bediako and Tobi Ruth Adebekun for further 3-year terms (ending in September 2027).

5. **BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD: REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Board considered a Joint Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre and the Town Clerk concerning the governance arrangements for the Board.

Whilst acknowledging that it was helpful to refresh the overall governance arrangements for the Board, a Member asked that a renewed focus was given to ensuring that regular evaluations of Board performance, including skills audits, were established in the Board's forward work plan. Several Members supported this suggestion and asked that the evaluations were not merely box ticking exercises; regular feedback via interviews would offer a more constructive method in which to measure the performance of the Board and its Members. It was suggested that this should be facilitated by procuring an external organisation with expertise in these areas. Further discussion will take place at the Board's Away (half) Day in October.

The Chair added that, whilst it was unfortunate that these evaluations had not been given the requisite focus in previous years, it would be front of centre going forward.

RESOLVED – that the Board:

- To agree to the reduction of meetings of the Barbican Centre Board and its Sub-Committees to four times each per year.
- To agree to undertake an annual Board and Committee skills and diversity audit to support good governance.
- To agree to the re-focusing of reporting to the Board, and empowerment of the pre-existing delegations to the Sub-Committees.
- To endorse the approach to communications and engagement with Board Members from the Barbican Centre.
- To endorse the review of Board, Committee and Trust role descriptions and the development of a refreshed induction and training/development offer to all Board and Committee Members (aligning with the work in this area being undertaken more widely across the City of London Corporation).
- To endorse officers continuing to explore the suggested approach to the governance of Barbican Renewal, subject to future reports on the finalised proposals.

6. CEO REPORT BY THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS

The Board considered a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre comprising updates from across the Centre.

The absence of the Barbican as a partner in the London Film Festival was questioned, with members expressing interest in understanding the reasons behind this and the potential for re-establishing the partnership in future years. Officers would explore options and update the Board on potential opportunities in this area.

Separately, a Member asked that the recently arrived Head of Music provide a presentation to the Board at an upcoming meeting on music programming.

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

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

There were no questions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

9. 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.

10. NON-PUBLIC BOARD MINUTES

The draft non-public minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17 July 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

11. NON-PUBLIC CEO REPORT BY THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS

The Board considered a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre comprising updates from across the Centre.

12. CEO REFLECTIONS AND RECRUITMENT TIMELINE

The Board considered a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the recruitment of a new permanent CEO of the Barbican Centre.

13. *PEOPLE, CULTURE AND INCLUSION UPDATE

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning some key areas of the Centre's People, Culture, and Inclusion Strategy.

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

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

15. ***BARBICAN BUSINESS REVIEW: JUNE 2024 (PERIOD 3)**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the period 3 accounts for the Barbican Centre.

16. ***NON-PUBLIC REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

The Board received a Report of the Town Clerk concerning an urgent decision approved since the last meeting of the Board.

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

There was one question.

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

There were two items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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