

THE BRITISH MUSEUM
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2 JULY 2009
HELD AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

PRESENT

Mr Niall FitzGerald KBE (Chairman)
Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Ms Karen Armstrong
Professor Sir Christopher Bayly
Lord Broers
Mr Francis Finlay
Dame Liz Forgan
Miss Val Gooding
Mr Antony Gormley
Mr Stephen Green
Ms Bonnie Greer
Mrs Penny Hughes
Mr George Iacobescu
Dr Olga Kennard
Baroness Kennedy
Mr Richard Lambert
Mrs Edmée Leventis (to Item 11)
Mr David Norgrove
Lord Powell (to Item 11)
Lord Stern

IN ATTENDANCE

Neil MacGregor	Director
Andrew Burnett	Deputy Director
Chris Yates	Director of Administration
Justin Morris	Director of Strategic Planning (Item 8)
Joanna Mackle	Director of Public Engagement (Items 10 & 11)
Sukie Hemming	Director of Capital Development (Item 11)
Jeremy Hill	Research Manager (Item 9)
Mark Bates	Governance and Policy Manager (Secretary)
Cassie Brown	Directorate

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies had been received from Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe and Sir Ronald Cohen.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2009

2.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 26 March 2009 were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record.

2.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Chief Anyaoku reported that he had become a patron of the National Museum Lagos.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

4.1 The Chairman was keen to promote engagement between Trustees and Museum staff. He encouraged all Trustees to attend the Board day lunchtime meetings with departments, and to participate in staff breakfast briefing sessions from the autumn.

4.2 The Chairman advised that the permanent Committee Chairs would each provide an oral report on committee business at this and future Board meetings.

4.3 The V&A Board had requested a joint meeting with the Board to discuss areas of common interest. The 19 November Board day was being considered as a possible date for the meeting.

Action: Governance Manager

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 The Chairman, David Norgrove and Val Gooding provided updates on the business of the Standing Committee, Audit Committee and Nominations and Governance Committee respectively. See Appendix.

6. MANAGEMENT REPORT

6.1 The Board noted the contents of the Management Report.

6.2 The Director reported that:

- discussions with Iran about a possible loan had been postponed in light of the post-election unrest in Iran;
- he had visited Saudi Arabia to discuss a possible exhibition on the Hajj;
- the Africa programme was making good progress;
- the press trip to Mexico for the Moctezuma exhibition had been very successful;
- the Andrew Dismore Holocaust Restitution Bill, supported by the Museum as amended, had succeeded in the House of Commons and would be going to the House of Lords; and
- the Garden and Cosmos exhibition merchandise was selling very well.

6.3 The Director thanked Bonnie Greer for representing the Museum with Dr Lesley Fitton at the opening of the Acropolis Museum in Athens on 20 June.

7. ECONOMIC SITUATION

7.1 Chris Yates reported on the impact of the current economic climate on the Museum. He noted that although visitor numbers were holding up well, some current sources of funding were likely to decline over the next few years.

8. ZAYED NATIONAL MUSEUM

8.1 Justin Morris reported that the contract between the Museum and the Tourism, Development and Investment Company in Abu Dhabi to develop the Zayed National Museum had been signed on 20 April, and that a public announcement would be made in July.

9. RESEARCH REPORT

- 9.1 Jeremy Hill presented the Research Report for 2008. He highlighted the Museum's success at securing research funding, which means that the Museum continues to be the largest research institution for the humanities in the UK outside the university sector.
- 9.2 The Trustees welcomed the report and encouraged the Museum to explore wider sources of research funding and to ensure that its research work was clearly in the public domain. The Chairman requested a schedule showing external research funding in each of the last 5 years.

Action: Directorate

10. ADVOCACY REPORT

- 10.1 Joanna Mackle presented the Advocacy Report.

11. NORTH WEST DEVELOPMENT

- 11.1 The Deputy Director reported that Camden Planning Committee's consideration of the planning application had been rescheduled to 23 July, and that an OGC Gateway 3 review had been completed.
- 11.2 The Board approved the expenditure limit as recommended by the North West Development Committee.
- 11.3 The Chairman reported on his discussions with Government ministers and officials about support for the project. These are ongoing.
- 11.4 Sukie Hemming provided an update on progress with fundraising. The Chairman advised that he would be seeking the support of all Trustees in the Museum's fundraising efforts for the project over the next few months. Meetings are being arranged with each Trustee.

12. ACQUISITION

- 12.1 The Board approved an acquisition proposed by the Department of the Middle East.

13. LOANS

- 13.1 The Board approved loans to the Castello Sforzesco, Milan and the Art and Exhibition Hall, Bonn.

14. ACQUISITIONS REPORT

- 14.1 The Board noted the Acquisitions Report for 2008-2009.

15. SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

- 15.1 The Board noted the proposed itinerary for the meeting in Tyne & Wear on 25 and 26 September.

16. MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES

16.1 The Board noted the minutes of the:

- Standing Committee 15 January and 23 April 2009.
- Audit Committee 26 March 2009.
- North West Development Committee 12 February, 25 February, 25 March and 20 April 2009.

17. INVESTMENT REPORT

17.1 The Board noted the Investment Report to 31 March 2009.

18. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

18.1 The Board noted the schedule of forthcoming Museum events.

Date of next Board meeting: Friday 25 and Saturday 26 September 2009, Tyne & Wear.

_____Chairman

Note of reports from Committee Chairs at British Museum Board meeting, 2 July 2009

Standing Committee (Niall FitzGerald)

The Committee had met twice since the Board meeting on 26 March.

23 April meeting

The main items of discussion were progress with the North West Development and the Zayed National Museum project.

The Committee approved plans for re-fits of the Museum's main retail outlets planned for completion in 2010.

It was agreed that the Chairman of the Audit Committee should sign off accounts on behalf of the Board from now on.

The Committee approved an acquisition proposed by the Department of Prints and Drawings.

11 June meeting

The main item of discussion was the North West Development.

The Chairman reported on discussions with Government on proposals to support lifetime giving.

The Committee endorsed the principles underpinning the Space Plan 2009.

The 2008/09 Operating Plan report was discussed. The outturns did not differ significantly from the forecasts presented to the Board on 26 March.

The annual management accounts for 2008/09 were presented.

Audit Committee (David Norgrove)

The Committee had not met since the Board meeting on 26 March 2009.

The Committee were drafting the annual Audit Committee report which would be presented to the Board in September.

Nominations and Governance Committee (Val Gooding)

The Committee had last met on 2 July 2009.

The Committee had carried out a review of expiring terms of appointment to 2013 and considered future skills needs and gaps.

Proposed revisions to the Trustee induction process had been approved, including a new induction pack.