Minutes
The British Museum Board
Meeting 2 December 2021

Held at the British Museum

Present

Mr George Osborne  
Chair
Professor Abhijit Banerjee (online)  
Professor Dame Mary Beard
Ms Clarissa Farr
Professor Chris Gosden
Ms Muriel Gray (online)
Mr Philipp Hildebrand
Dame Vivian Hunt
Lord Marland
Sir Charlie Mayfield
Mr Mark Pears
Sir Paul Ruddock
Baroness Shafik (online)
Ms Priyanka Wadhawan
Professor Sir Mark Walport
Mr George Weston (online)
Professor Dame Sarah Worthington

In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director
Mark Bates  
Governance & Planning Manager
Jane Whittaker (Item 3)  
Director of Resources
Russell Torrance (Item 3)  
Head of Capital Planning & Programme Management
Sarah Saunders (Item 4)  
Head of Learning & National Partnerships
Maria Bojanowska (Item 4)  
Head of National Programmes
Daniel Antoine (Item 4)  
Acting Keeper of Egypt & Sudan
Lissant Bolton (Item 4)  
Keeper of Africa, Oceania & the Americas
Emma Hayes (Item 4)  
Head of Collection Projects & Resources
Jane Portal (Item 4)  
Keeper of Asia
Jonathan Tubb (Item 4)  
Keeper of Middle East
1. **Welcome and apologies**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Abhijit Banerjee, Jonathan Marland and Priyanka Wadhawan to the Board.

1.2 Apologies had been received from Elizabeth Corley and Grayson Perry.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

2.1 No interests were declared.

**Approval**

3. **Rosetta Project**

3.1 Charlie Mayfield led a presentation on the history of the Bloomsbury building, projects completed over the last 20 years, and recent building surveys. This was followed by a presentation led by the Director on proposals for the next stage of the Rosetta Project.

3.2 Following a full discussion, the Board agreed that:

   i. the Western Galleries should be the priority for the next phase of the Rosetta Project;
   
   ii. work on the project for a new Energy Centre should continue;
   
   iii. engagement with key stakeholders should commence;
   
   iv. a masterplan should be presented to the Board in October 2022; and
   
   v. updates should be provided at future Board meetings.

4. **Public Engagement Strategy: National and International**

4.1 Jonathan Williams provided an overview of the proposed National Strategy. The Board approved the strategy, subject to some amendments.

4.2 Jonathan Williams provided an overview of the proposed International Collaboration Strategy. The Board approved the strategy.

**Standing Business**

5. **Minutes**

5.1 The minutes of the Board meetings held on 2 October 2021 were approved as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

6. **Chair’s Report**

6.1 The Chair reported a successful Trustees’ Dinner.

6.2 The Chair informed the Board that he had appointed Mark Walport to the Rosetta Project Committee.
7. Management Report

7.1 The Board noted the report.

8. Committee reports

8.1 Vivian Hunt reported that in her absence at the Audit Committee meeting on 21 October, the committee had received a presentation about the management of information risks; had agreed the transfer of COVID risks to the main corporate risk register; and, following a recent self-assessment, had concluded that the committee achieves good practice principles.

8.2 Minouche Shafik advised that the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting in January would be considering the outcome of the Board skills audit.

Information

9. Committee minutes

9.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of 1 July 2021 and the Standing Committee meeting of 2 September 2021.

10. Archaeology approvals

10.1 The Board noted the report of Standing Committee approvals.

11. Loan approvals

11.1 The Board noted loans approved by the Standing Committee.

12. Any other business

12.1 There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 24 March 2022, the British Museum

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Chair