

# Minutes The British Museum Board Meeting 8 October 2022

Held at the Hotel du Louvre, Paris

## Present

Mr George Osborne  
Chair  
Professor Abhijit Banerjee  
Professor Dame Mary Beard  
Dame Elizabeth Corley  
Ms Clarissa Farr  
Professor Chris Gosden  
Ms Muriel Gray  
Mr Grayson Perry  
Mr Philipp Hildebrand  
Lord Marland  
Sir Charlie Mayfield  
Mr Mark Pears  
Sir Paul Ruddock  
Baroness Shafik  
Mr Alejandro Santo Domingo  
Mr Weijian Shan  
Ms Priyanka Wadhawan  
Professor Sir Mark Walport  
Mr George Weston  
Professor Dame Sarah Worthington

## In Attendance

Hartwig Fischer  
Director  
Jonathan Williams  
Deputy Director  
Christopher Yates  
Deputy Director  
Elizabeth Knight  
Governance Manager  
Jane Whittaker  
Director of Resources  
Kary Kelly  
Director of Advancement  
Jill Maggs  
Director of Public Engagement  
Russell Torrance  
Director Estates & Capital Projects

**1. Welcome and apologies**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Alejandro Santo Domingo and Weijian Shan to the Board.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Vivian Hunt.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No interests were declared.

***Discussion and Approval***

**3. Masterplan**

- 3.1 The Chair thanked the executive team for their hard work. Charlie Mayfield summarised the scale of the project and the progress achieved during the last year.
- 3.2 The Director reiterated the aims of the masterplan. He was pleased to report that practical completion had been achieved at BM\_ARC.
- 3.3 Following a full and wide-ranging discussion, the Board approved:
  - 3.3.1 the draft summary masterplan document (it was noted that the final version would be approved by the Board prior to publication);
  - 3.3.2 the Operating Plan for the period 2023 - 2025;
  - 3.3.3 proceeding with the next stage of design on the Western Range project, building on the RIBA stage 1A report;
  - 3.3.4 progressing design on the energy transition project to the next stage and submitting a business case to the Government in the Autumn to secure the release of funding to deliver design and enabling works;
  - 3.3.5 the proposed approach to fundraising and proceeding into the market testing phase (it was noted that further papers would be presented to the Board at appropriate intervals);
  - 3.3.6 proceeding to RIBA stage 1B for the Western Range project with the existing design team, appointing consultants now to provide further advice on procurement, and appointing the Major Project Design Team following the completion of RIBA stage 1B; and
  - 3.3.7 the Museum's approach to public engagement.
- 3.4 Christopher Yates reported that changes to the Museum's welcome arrangements were under consideration and a paper would be brought to a future Board meeting.

***Action: The Directorate Group***

- 3.5 There was a discussion regarding the potential for the Round Reading Room to be made accessible to the public. An update will be provided at the December Board Meeting.

**Action: The Directorate Group**

- 3.6 The Chair requested that a digital strategy be prepared for the March Board meeting.

**Action: The Directorate Group**

### **Standing Business**

#### **4. Minutes**

- 4.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 7 July 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

- 4.2 Matters arising:

- 4.2.1 Item 5.3, British Museum Annual Report and Accounts: these were approved by ministers and laid before parliament on 19 July.

#### **5. Chair's Report**

- 5.1 The Chair noted that he looked forward to the Trustees' Dinner on 2 November.
- 5.2 The Chair proposed to hold a future Board meeting at BM\_ARC in Reading, which was likely to be the meeting on 23 March 2023.
- 5.3 The Chair was pleased to report that Sir Ian Johnston's term as co-opted member of the Audit Committee had been extended by a year.

#### **6. Management Report**

- 6.1 The Board noted the report.

#### **7. Committee reports**

- 7.1 This item was deferred.

### **Information**

#### **8. Committee minutes**

- 8.1 The Board noted the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting on 1 February 2022, the Standing Committee meeting of 9 June 2022, and the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting of 23 June 2022.

#### **9. Archaeology approvals**

- 9.1 The Board noted the report of Standing Committee approvals.

#### **10. Any other business**

- 10.1 There was no other business.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair

**Date of next meeting:** 8 December 2022