

Board of Trustees

Minutes

Date: 24 November 2016 (232 meeting)

Time: 14.00-16.30

Venue: The Boardroom, V&A Museum South Kensington

Present: Nicholas Coleridge (Chair) Mark Sebba
Elaine Bedell Caroline Silver (by telephone)
Mark Damazer Sir John Sorrell
Professor Margot Finn Edmund de Waal
Robert Glick Professor Evelyn Welch
Andrew Hochhauser QC Anthony Misquitta (*Secretary to the Board*)
Nick Hoffman
Steve McGuckin

In attendance: Emmajane Avery, Director of Learning and Visitor Experience, V&A
David Bickle, Director of Design, Exhibitions & FuturePlan, V&A
Sophie Brendel, Director of Marketing & Communications, V&A
Heather Francis, Director of Finance & Resources, V&A
Anna Jackson, Keeper of Asia, V&A
Jane Lawson, Director of Development, V&A
Tim Reeve, Acting Director, V&A
Bill Sherman, Director of Research & Collections, V&A
Alex Stitt, Director of Commercial & Digital Development, V&A
Julia Downer, Directorate Office Manager & Governance Officer, V&A, (minutes)

Apologies: Dame Theresa Sackler, Dr Paul Thompson

1. Welcome and Declarations of Interests

1.1 There were no declarations of interests.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Board.

3. Matters arising

3.1 The Board agreed that Tim Reeve be appointed Acting Director (effective from 1 November 2016).

3.2 The Chair welcomed Sophie Brendel, Director of Marketing & Communications, to the V&A's Senior Management Team.

- 3.3 The Chair thanked Evelyn Welch, who is stepping down as a Trustee, for her contribution to the V&A, and congratulated her on being appointed Provost at King's College and Chair of Dulwich Picture Gallery.
- 3.4 The Chair updated Trustees on additions to the Board recently approved by the Prime Minister. Ben Elliott, Steven Murphy, Lynda Nead and Nigel Webb have been appointed to the V&A Board effective from 1 January 2017.

4. Acting Director's Report

- 4.1 Tim Reeve (TR) presented an overview of the key V&A activities since the previous meeting. In addition to the introduction to the Director's Report, TR highlighted the recent Friends of the V&A AGM, where a resolution was approved by the Trustees of the Friends to merge with the museum. The merger will unify the activities and administration of the Friends with those of the Museum, and dissolve the separate charity with no change to the range of benefits and advantages Members enjoy.
- 4.2 The Gilbert Galleries have now re-opened to very positive press coverage.
- 4.3 The V&A's relaunched website has been given a gold award by the IDCA, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the V&A website
- 4.4 TR gave an overview of current exhibitions: *Opus Anglicanum*, *You Say You Want a Revolution?* and *Undressed*. Visitor numbers are looking positive.
(Caroline Silver joined the meeting)
- 4.5 Finally, TR reported that V&A's archive service has received Archive Service Accreditation from The National Archives and partners. The V&A is one of only two national museums to have been awarded accreditation for its archive service.

5. V&A East Update

- 5.1 Nicholas Coleridge, TR and Bill Sherman gave an update on V&A East, following the discussions at the previous meeting. Various meetings have taken place since with the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), the key Cultural and Education Development (CED) partners, the Foundation For Future London (FFL), the Mayor's key officials and colleagues at the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS). Further meetings have also been held with the Smithsonian Institution.
- 5.2 A presentation outlining the revised brief for V&A East was well received by Trustees, and the proposed display of objects from the reserve collection as a key part of that plan, was welcomed as a particularly strong addition to the overall proposition.
- 5.3 NC outlined the key options from this point onwards, and in particular to ensure that sufficient space is found to house the enhanced collections. It was understood that a viable and fundable solution is needed and that it would need the endorsement and support of all parties in order to proceed. The wider fundraising context for the V&A was discussed, along with potential alternative options.
- 5.4 It was agreed that the interim presentation on the proposed partnership with the Smithsonian Institution would be discussed at the Trustee Collections Committee on 7th December.
- 5.5 The Board supported the Chair and Senior Management Team in their ongoing work on this project.

6. Reports from Committees

6.1 Trustees' Finance Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2016 had been circulated previously.

6.2 Trustees' Investment Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2016 had been circulated previously.

6.3 Trustees' Investment Committee – Ethical Investment Policy paper

The Trustees gave their approval to the Ethical Investment Policy.

6.4 Trustees' Commercial Strategy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2016 had been circulated previously.

6.5 Trustees' Research Advisory Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2016 had been circulated previously.

6.6 Trustees' Museum of Childhood Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2016 had been circulated previously.

6.7 Trustees' Audit Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 had been circulated previously.

6.8 Trustees' Buildings Strategy Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2016 will be presented at the next Board meeting. The latest position on the Exhibition Road Building contract was discussed.

6.9 Trustees' V&A East Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2016 will be presented at the next Board meeting.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 None.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

8.1 The next meeting will be held on 23 January 2017 at South Kensington.

Julia Downer 24 November 2016

Signed _____
(Nicholas Coleridge, Chairman)