



Board of Trustees

Minutes

Date: 14 May 2020

Time: 14.00-16.30

Venue: Via tele-conferencing

Present: Nicholas Coleridge CBE, Chair
Jonathan Anderson
Martin Bartle
Allegra Berman
Dr David Bomford
Dr Genevieve Davies
Ben Elliot
Nick Hoffman
Amanda Leveté CBE

Steven Murphy
Professor Lynda Nead
Kavita Puri
Caroline Silver
Amanda Spielman
Marc St John
Dr Paul Thompson
Nigel Webb
Anthony Misquitta (*Secretary to the Board & General Counsel*)

In attendance Dr Tristram Hunt, Director
Dr Antonia Boström, Director of Collections
Sophie Brendel, Director of Audiences
Dr Gus Casely-Hayford OBE, Director of V&A East
Dr Helen Charman, Director of Learning & National Programmes
Jane Ellis, Director of Finance & Resources
Jane Lawson, Director of Development
Tim Reeve, Deputy Director & Chief Operating Officer
Judy Roberts, Head of HR
Dr Pip Simpson, Director of Design, Estate & FuturePlan
Alex Stitt, Director of Commercial, Digital & Exhibitions

Apologies: None

Minute taker: Julia Downer, Directorate Office Manager & Governance Officer

1. Welcome and Declarations of Interests

1.1 Nicholas Coleridge chaired the meeting and welcomed Trustees to the call.

1.2 A declaration of interest was recorded for Allegra Berman regarding agenda item 7 as she has a connection to HSBC.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25 March 2020, and the Confidential Annex relating to that meeting were approved by the Board.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 The Board was advised that Terms of Reference for the Trustees' Covid-19 Liaison Committee had been drawn up. The Committee met on 22 April 2020, and an update was subsequently circulated to the Board.

The focus of subsequent meetings, and the Finance, Audit and FuturePlan & V&A East Committees will be on the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the museum's strategy for reopening.

- 3.2 Dr Gus Casely-Hayford, recently arrived as Director of V&A East, was welcomed to the meeting.

4. Director's Report

- 4.1 Tristram Hunt, Director, briefed Trustees on the activities of the museum since closure.
- 4.2 It was announced that Duncan Forbes has joined the museum in the newly created role of Director of Photography.
- 4.3 The Board received an update on Development activities which showed the impact of Covid-19 at a time when fundraising is underway for significant capital projects, including the Museum of Childhood.
- 4.4 The Trustees were advised that the Executive Board is reviewing ways of working, including the application of physical distancing, which will be put in place when the museum reopens to retain the social function of the museum alongside public health protocols.

5. Covid-19 Update and V&A East

- 5.1 This item has been recorded under a Confidential Annex. Its contents are exempt from disclosure under S.(43)2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the V&A and its supply chain.

6. Financial Report

- 6.1 This item has been recorded under a Confidential Annex. Its contents are exempt from disclosure under S.(43)2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the V&A and its supply chain.

7. Partners Capital – custodian banking arrangements

- 7.1 The Board had received a proposal from the museum’s investment partners regarding a change to the custodian banking arrangements. The Board approved the resolution, which had been endorsed by the Chair of the Investment Committee.

8. FuturePlan Programme

- 8.1 This item has been recorded under a Confidential Annex. Its contents are exempt from disclosure under S.(43)2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the V&A and its supply chain

9. Public Programme

- 9.1 This item has been recorded under a Confidential Annex. Its contents are exempt from disclosure under S.(43)2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because publication would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the V&A and its supply chain

10. Digital Museum Update

- 10.1 Sophie Brendel, Director of Audiences, updated the Board on digital initiatives summarised in the new Digital Performance Dashboard. The work undertaken will enable the museum to reach the widest possible audience during the closure period, to set the scene for the reopening of the museum, and to refocus the digital offer through a wide variety of media and content, allowing the public to engage with the collections and the museum’s curators.
- 10.2 The Art Newspaper has reported that the V&A is in the top 10 of museums globally for social media. During closure the content of social media has been strengthened. Themes which have resonated with audiences include fashion and materials, with the blog around *Building a collection of homemade signs and rainbow drawings* being particularly successful.

11. Chairman’s Report

- 11.1 On behalf of the Trustees, NC commended the work of the Executive Board at this challenging time.

12. Any other business

- 12.1 The next meeting is scheduled for 02 July 2020.
- 12.2 There was no further business.

13. Reports from Committees

13.1 Trustees’ Audit Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2020 had been circulated in advance.

13.2 **Trustees' FuturePlan and V&A East Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2020 had been circulated in advance.

13.3 **Trustees' Covid19 Liaison Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April had been circulated in advance.

13.4 **Trustees' Visitor Experience Committee**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2020 had been circulated in advance.

Julia Downer
14 May 2020

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Signed
Nicholas Coleridge, Chair