

Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm, Zoom

15 March 2022 | 14:00 – 16.00

Record of the meeting

Co-chairs:

Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries,
Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice.

Attendees

Commissioners

Aindrea Emelife
Binki Taylor
David Bryan MBA FRSA
Eleanor Pinfield
Gillian Jackson
Jack Guinness
Jasvir Singh OBE
Revd Professor Keith Magee ThD FRSA
Lynette Nabbosa
Pedro Gil
Sandy Nairne CBE FSA

Apologies

Dr Zoé Whitley
Riz Ahmed
Robert Bevan

1) Introduction and Welcome

2) Commission Overview and Update:

Untold Stories

- Round One of £1m fund launched 21 October
- Received 117 applications
 - 74 Grow and Make Happen larger grants
 - 45 Test and Nurture smaller grants
- Total of £1.8million has been requested
- Received applications for activity in 31 boroughs
- Many interesting and exciting projects
- Update on the Grow & Make Happen and Test & Nurture review panels
- Commissioners to be present on both panels alongside Shape Arts from the Partners Board
- Good spread of projects across London, able to showcase what the Commission is about
- Applicants will be informed beginning of April
- Launch event being planned – Commissioners will be invited
- Need to review where the gaps are to target for the next round
- Round 2 will open in late Spring / early Summer 2022

Engaging Londoners

- Two tenders currently open – Podcast series (deadline 21 March) and Walks & Talks season of events (deadline 28 March)
- Looking for partners for both these projects – suggestions from Commissioners welcome
- Commissioners invited to help shape and be involved in the development stage of these programmes.
- Roundtable – Education themed. Tuesday 26 April
 - Call for Commissioner(s) to co-lead to work on agenda

3) Emblematic Projects

Transatlantic Slave Trade memorial

Update on conversations to progress this project.

Discussion

1. How can we make sure it lives up to the values and principles the Commission has set out?
2. In achieving an exemplar of good practice – what are the most important considerations for you?
3. Community engagement will be central – what will success look like here?

Principles for Emblematic Projects:

- substantively change the narrative
- promote learning & engagement
- engender wider cohesion
- demonstrate sustainability
- represent a diversity of rigorous approaches
- educate and inform
- are specific in relating to their location
- enable grassroots representation

Other considerations:

- Permanent / Semi permanent
- Decentralised
- Representation of different perspectives via different medium
- Connect by values and principles
- Important to have broad outreach
- Look at contemporary aspects of slavery / indentured labour
- Community engagement must be from the outset
- Education element should be part of any memorial
- Potential for innovation
- Create era defining moment of change
- Galvanising moment for our work and public support
- London memorial (with possible national significance)
- Be uplifting, aspire and challenge
- How does it relate to what is happening today
- To be powerful, striking, and resonant

Location(s):

- Research some initial sites
- What are the sites of resonance in London
- Research in progress

Other emblematic projects

- Jasvir and Eleanor are on the Sikh War memorial group
- Jack is having a meeting with the London Aids HIV memorial team who are due to meet in April
- Feasibility study being drafted for “Seat of Honour” proposal

5) Commission Research

- Two pieces of research being conducted
- Urban Design London looking at boroughs widening representation in the public realm
- BAS Consultancy (Bristol report 2021) looking at how action is being taken on “contested” sites and heritage
- Some boroughs have not undertaken any audits or have found nothing significant
- All boroughs in pilot mode – general lack of guidance and different processes
- Different teams lead the process for reviewing “contested” heritage
- Traffic light system in some boroughs
- Case Studies – e.g., practicalities in changing names, unintended consequences
- Needs to be driven by good historical data

Commissioners requested a wider update across all of London’s boroughs to consider how to support all to engage.

Commissioners asked to consider and shape recommendations.

5) AOB

- Updated Press / media briefing note to be shared with commissioners.
- Commission, Partners Board and Borough Working Group meeting at the Museum of London to be rescheduled
- Date of next Commissioner’s meeting: **5 July, 14:00 – 16:00**
- Public announcement of Untold Stories Grant programme date TBC
- Closing statements, and thanks by Deputy Mayor Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard