

Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm, City Hall

16 November 2021 | 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
Gillian Jackson (Digital)
Jack Guinness
Pedro Gil
Revd Professor Keith Magee ThD FRSA (Digital)
Sandy Nairne CBE FSA
Lynette Nabbosa David Bryan MBA FRSA

Apologies

Dr Zoé Whitley
Eleanor Pinfield
Riz Ahmed
Robert Bevan
Jasvir Singh OBE
Robert Bevan

1) Introduction and Welcome:

- The commissioners were welcomed to meeting at City Hall - Union Street
- Meeting outline included:
 - Discussion of Emblematic Projects Framework
 - Reflections of Exemplar Community Heritage Roundtable

2) Commission Overview and Update:

Review of the Commission's activities to date:

Untold Stories

- Round One of £1m fund launched 21 October

- Deadline for applications 12 January 2022

Outreach and Engagement

- 22 Outreach and learning session scheduled
- 9 sessions attended by approx. 125 people
- Inclusion Partners: Ubele, Women’s Resource Centre, Inclusion London and Consortium

Communications

- Wide press coverage
- Our Untold Stories grants page has nearly 3,000 unique page visits, with over 8 minutes average dwell time

Engaging Londoners

- Over 400 Londoners have attended open conversations co-hosted with partners such as Black Cultural Archives, East End Women’s Museum, Queer Britain, Museum as Muck amongst others.
- Ten workshops have taken place with 85 young people.
- A series of outreach sessions and workshops have begun in support of the Untold Stories grant fund
- Around 150 Londoners have taken part in Bridging Histories workshops.
- Over 650 letters have been received from Londoners about the Commission and its work, demonstrating strong engagement from the public.

3) Emblematic Projects Framework

The GLA receives numerous requests to support and advance proposals for emblematic public sculptures, memorials and monuments. Proposals come from a range of sources. The Commissioners were invited to reflect on a structure or process for responding to approaches in a consistent and transparent manner.

A number of criteria for evaluating proposal were discussed, they included:

- Strategic importance
- Emotional importance
- Local/National relevance
- Alternate options (2D, temporary, performance, landscape)
- Budget Requirements
- Resourcing
- Partnerships

The Commissioners agreed that a process should be developed, that it should be workable for the GLA and endorsed by external stakeholders. The Commissioners also suggested the use of case studies to illustrate good practice.

4) Community Heritage Roundtable – Reflections and Next steps

- Reflections were shared from a roundtable held with community-led heritage groups active in London, who shared their motivation, successes and challenges and experience working in this field. Roundtable was attended by three commissioners and their reflections shared in the meeting.
- Participants emphasised the importance of recognising the work already being done in community-led spaces around heritage and representation within London’s public realm. A discussion followed on how the Commission can amplify the value of the projects and experience of community-led heritage and history initiatives.
- The Commissioners will be presented with a proposed programme before the next meeting that will aim to address these points and build on this wealth of experience.

Next Steps

- Agree on framing for next roundtable discussion
- Update Commission website to reflect current programme achievements
- Work with Art UK to gather and evaluate London focused data

5) AOB

- Update by Keith Magee on [Black Britain and Beyond](#)
- The recently released Policy Exchange ‘History Matters’ report will be shared with Commissioners alongside the notes and papers from this meeting
- Closing statements, and thanks by Deputy Mayor Justine Simons OBE