

## **We Are Bristol History Commission – Meeting Summary**

**Time and Place:** 15:30-17:00, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Teams Meeting

**Attending:** Tim Cole, Nigel Costley, Jon Severs, Steve Poole, officers

**Guests:** Ray Barnett, Genevieve Adkins

**Apologies:** Madge Dresser, Joanna Burch-Brown, Estella Tincknell, Edson Burton, Shawn Sobers, Officers.

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

- TC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.
- TC introduced new Head of Culture and Creative Industries to the meeting.

### **2. Previous minutes and action log**

- Members agreed minutes from previous meeting.

### **3. Updates on recommendations and next steps**

- JS updated commissioners on next steps for taking recommendations forward and noted discussions with Historic England and GLA regarding Fourth Plinth set up.
- Members discussed the Fourth Plinth model in relation to recommendation 6 and noted concerns with security and safety of a temporary art and activities programme.
- Officers also noted the opportunity for digital realm.
- Members and officers discussed the need for any potential harm to the plinth as a public asset would be offset by public benefit as part of the regularisation process.
- Members noted that a reflection of the report was need for ongoing dialogue and whether recommendation 6 offers opportunity to continue these discussions.

### **4. Bridging Histories/Unicorn Fest Update – schools project – TC (in JBB absence)**

- TC updated UnicornFest approached Bridging Histories with a project similar to Wallace and Gromit trail, involving business sponsorship of unicorn sculptures.
- TC updated schools will be involved in painting smaller unicorn sculptures.
- Members noted the Power, Protest and the People day for schools hosted at M Shed in 2018, and a potential to recreate something similar alongside this project for Summer 2023.

**ACTION 1:** JS to consider unicorn on plinth suggestion and feedback to the group.

**ACTION 2:** TC to circulate a document to group to share ideas.

**ACTION 3:** SP send documents across to group members regarding Power, Protest and the People day.

**ACTION 4:** RB to follow up with colleagues at M Shed regarding schools day and connect HC with learning team

### **5. Future Statue Exhibition update – RB**

- Officers noted upcoming meeting to begin planning exhibition and currently discussing location options for the statue within the Museum

- Officers discussed the need to contextualise the statue but short on space – potential to position it and evolve other permanent parts of the gallery to give them additional context.
- Officer updated on the continued interest in viewing the statue – free, volunteer led tours every week.
- TC thanked RB for contribution and offered ongoing support.

#### **6. History Commission approach (next 6-12 months) incl funding – TC/SP**

- TC noted the broader aspirations of the History Commission, aside from the initial Colston statue project which has demanded the majority of resources – need to consider what to do next and potential for partnership work.
- Officer noted goal of returning M Shed to flagship cultural offer of the city, which could require expertise of the Commission to assist with revamp of museum’s offering.
- Officers updated on funding for Empire and Commonwealth material and need support from the Commission with this – connects with development of M Shed and family histories work.
- Officers noted the potential for M Shed to be a museum for debate following on from Colston, which fits well with M Shed’s values and desire to be a place of debate.

**ACTION 5:** Commissioners to meet to discuss how historians and museums can work together – potentially in M Shed.

#### **7. AOB**

- No additional items.