

We Are Bristol History Commission – Meeting Summary

Time and Place: 09:00-11:00 Thursday 12th January 2023, Zoom

Attending: Tim Cole, Steve Poole, Estella Tincknell Nigel Costley, officers.

Guests: Officer

Apologies: Madge Dresser, Edson Burton, Shawn Sobers, Joanna Burch-Brown

1. Welcome and apologies

- Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Colston display update – Officer

- Officer from museum curatorial team gave update on the budget setting process, ongoing staff consultation and plans for new display for statue.
- Noting political ambition to have display open by Spring of 2024.
- Update on funding application to Arts Council and if further consultation necessary.
- Acknowledging more work would delay and have impact on timeline and that a data rich consultation has already been done through the survey in 2021.
- Importance of history of slavery, racism and inequality in the context of Bristol being central to the display so that it remains relevant for years to come, as well as the role of the community in curating the display.
- Commissioners wanting to show support for service and offer of help
- Chair suggested academic funding could be sought if there was a research element.
- Commissioners suggest potential scope to get PhD students on board to assist.

ACTION: To arrange for Officer to have data from consultation and Chair to send analysis of question responses

ACTION: Commissioners to draft a public forum statement for February Cabinet

ACTION: To arrange meeting for Chair and mayor's office

3. Colston plinth/plaque update – recommendation 4

- Exploring what might be possible with funding and officer resource to move this recommendation forward
- Discussion that with the Legacy Steering Group having funding available which could be explored regarding new plinth
- Update requested from Cllr Craig and potential sources of funding

4. Tteach project

- Further work done on this project with support obtained from mayor's office

- Wider discussion regarding the art on walls of Register Office / Old Council House and next steps regarding contextualising or removing – particularly if Tteach plaque to be sited there
- Potential in replacing with other items from the wealth of art in the city's collection

ACTION: Officer to investigate the artwork at Old Council House and feedback on next steps.

5. Uncomfortable Truths project / Stubbs painting

- Officer update on conclusion

6. Legacy Steering Group update

- Further to update above

ACTION: Reminder to invite Cllr Craig to update on Project Truth, reparations and potential of sites

AOB

- Date of next meeting to be set