

**THE WALLACE COLLECTION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
MINUTES**

26 January 2023: 13:30
at Hertford House

PRESENT

Jessica Pulay (the Chair or JP)
Eric Ellul (EE)
Kate de Rothschild Agius (KdRA)
James Barnard (JB)
Marilyn Berk (MB)
Sophie Birshan (SB)
Ashok Roy (AR)
Timothy Schroder (TS)
Alison Taylor (AT)
Lord Hertford (LH)

IN ATTENDANCE

Xavier Bray, Director (XB)
Melanie Newlands, Director of Finance and Commerce (MN)
Sarah Harmer, Director of Development (SH)
Yuriko Jackall, Head of Curatorial Department (YJ)
Francesca Vella Bonnici, Assistant to the Directorate (minutes)

APOLOGIES

Pierre Arizzoli-Clémentel
Jane Lewis

ORDER OF MEETING :

1. CHAIR'S MATTERS

- The Chair welcomed the Board and expressed her thanks, particularly to the Senior Management Team (SMT) and the Events Department.
- The Chair reported on a meeting with DCMS on 1 December 2022.
- The Chair provided an update on the Trustee recruitment process from DCMS.
- The agenda for the Board Strategy Day to be held on 27 March 2023 was being prepared and ideas from Trustees would be welcomed.
- A dinner will be held on 5 June 2023 in honour of the three departing Trustees (KdRA, AR and TS).
- The Chair highlighted the newly founded WC Development committee and thanked KdRA for her very considerable efforts on this.
- The minutes were approved by the Trustees.
- The actions list from the previous meeting was reviewed and discussed.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (XB)

- XB highlighted the use of the former cloakroom space for the temporary display, *The Lost King: Imagining Richard III*. The refurbishment of this will be paid for by a donation from DCMS Wolfson and the next display in the space will be *The Queen and Her Corgis* to tie in with the main *Portraits of Dogs* exhibition.
- Visitor surveys during *The Lost King* have been carried out by UCL students as part of a joint project, and are currently being processed.
- XB reported that a successful crowdfunding campaign – *Small Treasures* – allowed 30 miniatures and manuscript cuttings to be conserved in-house by guest conservator Alan Derbyshire.
- The Benefactors’ trip to Paris in November 2022 was a great success and some very positive feedback has been received.
- The *Corgis* display has already garnered much press attention and *Portraits of Dogs* is now almost fully funded.
- A new Head of Buildings has also been appointed, who had worked previously at the Sir John Soane’s Museum.

3. LOANS (XB)

- XB presented the loans paper which was approved by the Board.

4. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (AT)

- AT presented the Audit Committee report.
- She gave updates on the DCMS funded capital projects and the audit undertaken by the NAO.
- The issue of Arts Council funding cutbacks in London was raised.
- The Chair thanked AT for her report.

5. FINANCE REPORT (MN)

- The Chair outlined the matters arising.
- MN presented the Finance report and gave update on staff pay rise and proposed strike action. MN drew the Board’s attention to a number of points in the Management Accounts and the strong performance of various departments, particularly Events.
- The Chair thanked MN for all her work ensuring that Collection achieved its budget.

6. DEVELOPMENT REPORT (KdRA, SH)

- KdRA presented on the first meeting of the Wallace Development Board.
- SH gave an brief update on other Fundraising matters, including staffing changes in the department.
- EE provided an update from the Investment Committee meeting which addressed TWC’s position on ESG investments. Another meeting will be organised for March and further discussion on this will be possible at the next Trustee meeting.

7. UPDATE ON COLLECTION PUBLICATIONS (YJ)

- YJ joined the meeting and reported on three principal ongoing publications: the OMEA catalogue, the *Vedute* catalogue and the Fragonard publication.

8. AOB

- Staffing changes in the curatorial department were discussed.

- The Chair thanked both the SMT and the Trustees and ended the meeting.