



WM museum policy forum

MUSEUM POLICY FORUM MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at MLA Offices, Bennets Hill, Birmingham at 2pm on Wednesday 23 June 2010

Present: Diana Owen (Chair), Jane Arthur (Secretary), Chris Copp, Rachel Cockett, Sue Fitzsimmons, Michael Cooke, Glynis Powell, Liz Crawley, Sarah Elsom, Philippa Tinsley, Tim Bryan, Carol Bowsher

Ref:		Action
11/10	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Gary Hall, Sally Orton, Robin Hill, Chris Kirby, Kate Andrew, Caroline Sampson, Sophie Wilson	
12/10	Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2010 Approved	
13/10	Matters arising from the minutes <u>Representation (ref 24/09 & 3/10)</u> Carol Bowsher was welcomed as the representative for Shropshire (IND) in replacement for David de Haan. Herefordshire – JA to discuss with KA and Sue Knox and arrange for a discussion with Herefordshire Museums Forum. Metropolitan Boroughs – Stephen Snoddy and Andrew Lovatt although agreed to be members last year had not yet attended a meeting. JA to check reasons for non-attendance. <u>Election of Chair (ref 4/10)</u> Diana Owen had accepted the role of Chair for 1 year. In light of the representation issues above and the interesting times the sector is facing (economy/new government policies etc) she suggested a review of the purpose of the forum. When originally formed the purpose of the forum was to advice MLAWM, it had a scrutiny role vs Renaissance and needed to have representation across museum types and geographic areas. There is still a role for an organisation with an independent	 JA JA

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	<p>voice in the region, one that promotes new ways of working and achieving best outcomes for the sector from Renaissance and other stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Archives Forum joint meeting (9/10)</u> The Archives Forum were keen on a joint meeting however the subject (volunteering) was already being covered by Renaissance and other meetings in the archives sector. MPF are keen to create more links with the Archives Forum. JA to maintain contact and look for joint opportunities.</p>	JA
14/10	<p>Annual Open Meeting Evaluation produced and circulated. JA to circulate the text from John Orna Ornstein's address and produce a summary of the event for the website.</p> <p>Costs were supported by Renaissance WM at £650 (catering and venue hire). Most popular themes for next open meeting were sponsorship/fundraising and meeting government agendas.</p> <p>There was a need this year for a workshop/meeting addressing how museums can understand and respond to policy changes from the new government eg Big Society etc. Getting a politician as a keynote speaker would be good eg Tristram Hunt MP.</p>	JA
15/10	<p>MPF Action Plan <u>FF08 Recommendations:</u> Main themes coming from the recommendations were –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More improvements to physical/sensory access • Putting collection care into policy and planning • Regional approach to collection rationalisation/significance • Museums as a focus for place making, identity and how to measure community value <p>It was decided to use these as a filter for discussions over the next year especially when commenting on policies and looking at responses to govt agendas.</p> <p><u>Accreditation proposals:</u> An online consultation is in progress – please all respond.</p>	All

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	<p>MPF would write to MLA to ask if the review analysed the measurers for improvement to see if themes emerged that would link to the Fast Forward findings.</p> <p><u>Bid to MLA:</u> Draft bid discussed. Needs to include the workshop on understanding the new govt agendas (see 14/10) and forum development. JA to redraft, circulate and submit asap.</p> <p><u>MDO review:</u> The national MDO network is responding to MLA. Clarification needed on whether it is the intention to phase out the small grants made to museums by MDOs.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>JA/All</p>
16/10	<p>Renaissance in the Regions update Currently implementing the 2.5% in-year cuts – c. £114k across all the programmes. Link to latest newsletter http://tiny.cc/rwmteapot this will be the last one – the rest will be e-newsletters. RC would email to MPF. RC putting forward examples from WM - particularly Fast Forward - for MLA’s sustainability evaluation being undertaken by Burns Owens Partnership. Paulette Francis Green working on FF10, workforce development and Supporting Diversity.</p>	<p>RC</p>
17/10	<p>MLA Regional Manager update MLA is implementing 3% in-year cuts. Running “Sharper Investment” seminars – all to publicise and attend. Renaissance 2011 onwards will depend on government’s comprehensive pending review due to report on 20/10/10 – they are expecting a c.30% cut. Arts & Business awards – no nominations from the WM. Members to publicise and encourage submissions.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
18/10	<p>Any Other Business <u>Networking:</u> Collections Trust have set up a network space on their new Collections Link website. Suggested MPF use this as their online space rather than LinkedIn. <u>Useful information:</u> Cultural Research seminar – JA had attended the CRAIN seminar recently and would circulate the findings. JA would circulate the “Harvesting Tacit Knowledge”</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>JA</p>



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	template for people leaving their jobs (we are likely to need it ...) AIM economic value toolkit was launched at the recent conference and will be available shortly. TB to circulate info to forum.	TB
19/10	Dates of the next meetings – PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE NEW DATES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 September, 2-4 at MLA offices• 6 December, 2-4 (after the Marches Curator’s Group) at MLA offices	All