



NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 3.00PM IN ROOM W3, WESTMINSTER HALL (INF 07)

- Members present: Alison McGovern (Chair)
Hannah Bardell
Hywel Williams
Chris Bryant (Ex-Officio)
- Apologies: Ann Clwyd, Mr Jonathan Djanogly, Mr David Lammy, Tom Tugendhat, Mr Edward Vaizey
- In attendance: Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator
Melanie Unwin, Curator of Works of Art (Acting)
James Ford, Assistant Curator
Nicole Le Marie, Media Relations Manager, Communications

1) Informal Note [INF 06]

The Committee **agreed** the informal notes of the meeting on 26 June 2018.

Matters arising

Recent decisions by correspondence

The Chair noted that the Committee was asked by correspondence on 19 July and 21 August 2018 to consider the following requests:

Acquisition request – Portrait of Lucy Baldwin by Philip de László

The Committee **agreed** to the request to acquire a portrait of Lucy Baldwin from Lord Baldwin's collection.

The responses received were as follows:

In favour Alison McGovern (Chair) Nic Dakin David Lammy Tom Tugendhat Mr Edward Vaizey Hywel Williams	Against Mr Jonathan Djanogly
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Statue of Emmeline Pankhurst

The Committee **agreed** to a letter sent by the Chair objecting to the planning application to move the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst from Victoria Tower Gardens away from Westminster and that an application should be submitted to raise the listing status of the statue from grade 2 to grade 2*.

Art UK: Art in Schools pilot

The Committee **agreed** to support Art UK's proposed Art in Schools pilot, which would cost £15,000 over the next two years.

Acquisition request – Suffrage badges

The Committee **agreed** to purchase three suffrage badges for £1,600.

Statue of Emmeline Pankhurst

Melanie Unwin, Curator of Works of Art (Acting), provided an update to the Committee on the status of the planning application to relocate the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst in Victoria Tower Gardens. A report commissioned by the Curator's Office on the historical significance of the statue had been published and submitted to Westminster Council.

Committee Membership

The Chair welcomed Chris Bryant, Chair of the Finance Committee, who had been invited to join the Works of Art Committee as a guest with a view to him becoming an ex-officio member.

2) Financial statement [WOA 31]

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), briefed the Committee.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the financial statement.

3) Malcolm Hay's departure and plans for his replacement

Carlos Bamford, Managing Director of In-House Services, briefed the Committee.

Following the retirement of Malcolm Hay, Curator, the scope of the Curator of Works of Art role would be reviewed with the possibility that responsibility for a number of historical collection areas would be combined. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

Members noted that the Curator already had the large task of caring for the Parliamentary Art Collection and expressed concerns over adding additional responsibilities to the role. Mr Bamford confirmed that there would continue to be a role of Curator of Works of Art.

Decision



The Committee **noted** the update.

4) Impact of Restoration and Renewal on Works of Art [WOA 32]

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), Kate Emms, Chief of Staff, Shadow Sponsor Body, Strategic Estates, and Claire Reed, Collections and Heritage Design Manager, Strategic Estates, briefed the Committee.

It was noted that a programme on this scale had not been seen since the construction of the new Palace in the 1830s, and it presented numerous challenges and opportunities. The first meeting of the new Shadow Sponsor Board had taken place on Monday that week.

The following points were discussed:

- the potential for a travelling exhibition or outward loans of artworks from the collection, either within the UK or abroad during the decant of the Palace;
- the possibility of existing displays of artworks to be reviewed and new ones trialled;
- the need for ownership of an overarching plan and strategy for works of art during Restoration and Renewal;
- potential planning issues, considering that the Palace was a listed building and whether the House should make itself a planning authority;
- the Committee would have a number of policy decisions to make. A policy on return of loans was needed relatively urgently;
- the Committee would be taking a number of papers relating to R&R in 2019.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the paper.

5) Parliament's commemorations of the end of the First World War [WOA 33]

James Ford, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

6) Voice and Vote exhibition update

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), briefed the Committee.

It was likely that visitor numbers would reach the 100,000 target set out in the original business case as 80,000 people had already seen the exhibition, which was due to close on 6 October.



The women's suffrage display in the Admission Order Office corridor would need to be reconsidered once the exhibition had ended to include several recent acquisitions.

The portrait of Constance Markievicz gifted to the House by the Irish Parliament would be displayed in Portcullis House.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

7) 209 Women exhibition

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee, and Hilary Wood, Project Lead Curator, and Tracey Marshall, Project Curator gave a presentation.

'209 women' was an artist led photography project founded by Hilary Wood which aimed to have all 209 women Members photographed by 209 women photographers.

The Project Lead Curator reported that it had cross-party support and was progressing well. The project would result in an exhibition, which the Committee had been invited to host in Portcullis House.

The photography project had been funded through crowdfunding and outside sponsorship. The Committee was asked to facilitate the exhibition in Portcullis House. This would involve the temporary displacement of the contemporary portrait collection. The cost of installing the exhibition and of moving and storing works from the Parliamentary Art Collection that were currently on display in Portcullis House to make way for the exhibition would be met by the House.

The Project Lead Curator informed the Committee that 206 of the portraits would be available for display in the exhibition in Portcullis House in December and that works from the exhibition could be offered to the Committee for purchase. A draft text would be sent to the Curator's Office for approval.

Matthew Morgan (in attendance), Commercial Visits Business Manager, Visitor Services, briefed the Committee on how public access could be facilitated for the exhibition.

The following points were discussed:

- possible sources of financial support for the project, which included a grant application to the Government Equalities Office;
- the usefulness of having a feedback mechanism for visitors to the exhibition;
- the potential purchase of the portraits when the exhibition had ended.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.



8) Updates, acquisitions, moves and loans

a) Potential acquisition: a bronze bust of Olaudah Equiano [WOA 34]

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

b) Update on the Summer works and those planned for the Conference and Christmas recesses

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

Fire safety improvement works over the summer recess had resulted in the removal and protection of around 500 artworks across the Palace, and 200 more were affected during flue surveys on the Northern Estate. Care had been taken to notify all lenders of artworks on inward loan. The project had a significant impact on the work of the Curator's Office, which had responded quickly to events on a daily basis, and the Collection had been protected.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

c) Relocation of the bust of Oliver Cromwell

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

The bust had been moved to a more suitable location on the Estate following concerns over health and safety.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

9) Date and time of the next meeting

The Committee will next meet on **Wednesday 10 October at 9.30am.**