



- IN CONFIDENCE: FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY -

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2018 AT 9.30AM IN ROOM O, PORTCULLIS HOUSE INF 08)

Members present: Alison McGovern (Chair)
Nic Dakin
Tom Tugendhat

Apologies: Ann Clwyd, Hannah Bardell, Mr Jonathan Djanogly, Mr David Lammy, Mr Edward Vaizey, Hywel Williams

In attendance: Melanie Unwin, Curator of Works of Art (Acting)
Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator
James Ford, Assistant Curator
Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator
Maev MacCoille, Media Officer

1) Informal Note [INF 07]

The Committee **agreed** the informal notes of the meeting on 11 September 2018.

Matters arising

Bust of David Lloyd George

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), reported that the bust of David Lloyd George in the foyer of the underground car park had been cleaned.

Voice and Vote exhibition

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), reported that that the Voice and Vote exhibition in Westminster Hall had ended and had been visited by 107,000 people, which was more than the original target. Feedback forms were still being analysed but, together with press coverage, was nearly all positive.

2) Financial statement [WOA 34]

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

There were no changes to report since the last update except for some budgeted expenditure relating to the Race Relations residency.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the financial statement.

3) International Women's Day [WOA 35]

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



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It was proposed that 'Nancy Astor' be taken as the subject of the 2019 International Women's Day lecture to commemorate the centenary of her becoming the first woman to take her seat in Parliament as the MP for Plymouth. The proposed speakers were Luke Pollard, the current MP for Plymouth, and Dr Jacqui Turner, University of Reading.

The Chair suggested that Mr Pollard be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss the commemorations that were planned to mark the centenary in his constituency and elsewhere.

It was noted that the decade 2018-2028 would provide an opportunity to celebrate and highlight a number of 'firsts' for women MPs, and it would be useful to involve the current Members for those constituencies to develop a programme of centenary commemorations.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** the selection of 'Nancy Astor' as the subject of the 2019 lecture and Dr Jacqui Turner and Luke Pollard MP to be the invited speakers.

4) Portrait of Lucy Baldwin by Philip de László

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), provided an update to the Committee on a proposal to hold an event in Parliament to celebrate the acquisition of the portrait of Lucy Baldwin by Philip de László. The Curators were working to find a suitable date and time for the event.

The painting was on display on the Committee Corridor opposite the portrait of Stanley Baldwin, the sitter's husband. Conservation work and cleaning of the painting would be carried out in 2019-20.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

5) Open House Weekend 2018

James Ford, Assistant Curator, provided an oral update to the Committee.

The event had been very well attended with 926 visitors on the Saturday alone. A series of talks had been held by the Curators and House officials on some of the artworks on display in the Palace and Portcullis House, as well as in the Voice and Vote exhibition in Westminster Hall.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.



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6) Updates, acquisitions, moves and loans

a) *Potential acquisition of a bust of Olaudah Equiano [WOA 36]*

Sileas Wood, Assistant Curator, briefed the Committee.

The artist Christy Symington had approached the Committee with an offer of a bust for purchase of the abolitionist and former slave Olaudah Equiano.

If purchased, careful consideration would need to be given to siting the bust as there were key details on the reverse and because it came with a plinth that the artist considered integral to its display, which would be challenging in a historic setting such as the Palace of Westminster.

The following points were discussed:

- possible locations for displaying the bust on the Parliamentary Estate were considered;
- it was noted that there was a gap in the collection of artworks that represented influencers from outside Parliament and there were few works relating to the abolitionist movement, and none relating to black abolitionists;
- Members recognised the potential challenges of siting the work as it would require a 360-degree display. Locations on the Northern Estate including Richmond House were considered; and
- it was suggested that the artist be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to discuss her work.

Decision

The Committee **commented** on their interest in a bronze bust of Olaudah Equiano and **agreed** to request a viewing of the sculpture.

b) *First Waves update*

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, updated the Committee on the progress of the First Waves Race Relations Residency. Six of the seven community workshops led by the artist, Scarlett Crawford, had already been delivered, as had three of the exhibitions where artworks produced during the residency were shown.

The final exhibition would be held in Parliament in January. Financial support for travel costs would be made available to those who had participated in the workshops so that they could come to Westminster to see the exhibition.

The Chair noted the importance of publicising the exhibition by engaging with the media and the Members in whose constituencies the workshops had been held. Ms Unwin said that work had been undertaken by the Media team to engage with the regional press in each of the areas



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where the workshops were held, and the results had been positive. The Media Officer added that a media strategy was in place to publicise the exhibition when it came to Parliament.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update.

c) Potential inward loan of a portrait of Alfred Waterson MP by Sophie Oakley [WOA 37]

Emma Gormley, Deputy Curator, briefed the Committee.

The Committee discussed the potential inward loan of a portrait of Alfred Waterson MP offered by the Co-operative Party to commemorate the centenary of the sitter's return as the first Co-operative MP in 1918.

It was suggested that if agreed the loan and display of the portrait could be linked to the commemorations held to celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918.

A short-term loan was preferable because of a large-scale move of the artworks on display in Portcullis House to prepare for the upcoming 209 Women exhibition.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** the loan of a portrait of Alfred Waterson MP for a period of three months.

7) Any other business

Pankhurst Memorial in Victoria Tower Gardens

Melanie Unwin, Curator (Acting), updated the Committee on developments since its meeting in September. The planning application made by the Emmeline Pankhurst Trust to relocate the statue had been withdrawn, though there was nothing to stop a new application in future.

The appearance and condition of the statue was discussed. It was proposed that the Committee write to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to ask for the statue to be cleaned, as well as to The Royal Parks to see if there were any plans to landscape the surrounding garden and for improved interpretation of the memorial.

8) Date and time of next meeting

The Committee will next meet on **Tuesday 6 November at 3.00pm**.