



Board of Trustees

Minutes

Date: 03 July 2014 (218th meeting)

Time: 10.00

Venue: V&A Board Room

Present:	Sir Paul Ruddock (Chair)	Theresa Sackler
	João Baptista	Mark Sebba
	Nicholas Coleridge	Paul Thompson
	Mark Damazer	Sir John Sorrell
	Andrew Hochhauser	Professor Evelyn Welch
	Steve McGuckin	

In attendance: Martin Roth, Director, V&A
Emmajane Avery, Director of Learning and Visitor Experience, V&A
Kate Bellamy, Head of Strategy and Advocacy and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, V&A (minutes)
Heather Francis, Director of Finance & Resources, V&A
Moira Gemmill, Director of Design & FuturePlan, V&A
Jane Lawson, Director of Development, V&A
Beth McKillop, Deputy Director, V&A
Tim Reeve, Chief Operating Officer, V&A
Alex Stitt, Director of Commercial & Digital Development, V&A
Kieran Long, Senior Curator of Contemporary Architecture, Design and Digital, V&A (for items 1-4)

Apologies: Professor Margot Finn
Michelle Ogundehin
Samir Shah
Caroline Silver
Robert Stefanowski
Edmund de Waal

The Chairman welcomed recently appointed trustee, Mark Sebba, to his first Board meeting, and looked forward to extending a similar welcome to Caroline Silver, the other new trustee, at the September meeting.

1 Declaration of Interests

1.1 There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting (22 May 2014)

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the Board.

3 Matters arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 Exhibition Road Opening Exhibition Concept

Martin Roth

Kieran Long

- 4.1 Martin Roth introduced plans for the opening of the Exhibition Road development, and explained that visitors would be given the opportunity to view the new building before the first exhibition is installed, ideally for a 2 week period. The first exhibition will make good use of the new space and be true to the V&A's founding purpose. Martin Roth introduced Kieran Long to present the outline plans for the opening exhibition.
- 4.2 Trustees supported the emerging concept, but agreed that it was important to define the terms for the opening exhibition, in order that it retains a coherent narrative, and that it should draw on the V&A's own collections, be provocative, fresh and relevant.
- 4.3 The Chairman requested an update on the concept in early 2015.

5 Wedgwood Collection

Beth McKillop

Tim Reeve

- 5.1 Beth McKillop informed the Board that the Chairman of the Art Fund had written to the Chairman of the V&A, asking the V&A to consider taking ownership of the Wedgwood Museum collection, so preventing its private sale and allowing the Art Fund to lead a fundraising campaign to save the collection for the nation. The V&A had been approached due to its ceramics specialism, and the intention is that the collection would be on long term loan to the Wedgwood Museum at Barlaston.
- 5.2 The Board made clear its support for the V&A taking ownership of the collection, given the Museum's ceramics expertise and its responsibilities as a national museum. The Chairman asked Tim Reeve to look at the legal and financial implications of ownership, and to advise the Board on these matters in due course. He requested delegated responsibility from the Board to accept ownership of the collection on advice from Management, should it be necessary before the next meeting, and providing the following conditions are met: The V&A will not be expected to be responsible for the finances or operations of the Wedgwood Museum; that, should the Wedgwood Museum be forced to close, the V&A would not be obliged to fund an alternative in order to keep the Collection on public display (although it would, of course, endeavour to do so); that, under such circumstances, if no alternative could be found, a designated fund would be established to provide for annual storage and collections care costs.
- 5.3 **ACTION: The Chairman to respond to Art Fund request, with advice from Management, on behalf of the Board.** **SPR**

6 E2o – Update

Martin Roth

- 6.1 Martin Roth updated the Board on progress in the development of plans for a V&A presence in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It was noted that the business case and design brief for the Stratford Waterfront development have been progressing smoothly and to schedule and that LLDC and the Mayor's Office have appointed Deloitte and Malcolm Reading, respectively, as consultants for the business case and design competition. The Board were reminded that a funding decision is expected as part of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.
- 6.2 Trustees advised Management to continue to play an assertive role in the development of the building design.

7 Shekou - Update

Tim Reeve

- 7.1 Tim Reeve informed Trustees that a contract was signed for the V&A's partnership with the China Merchants Group during the Chinese Premier's visit to London. News of the partnership was well received in China, where it was the third item on the national news, receiving more hits on the V&A's Weibo account in one day than typically in a month. Under the terms of the contract the V&A will support CMG's plans to develop the first major design museum in China, in the Shekou district of Shenzhen, with a dedicated semi-permanent V&A gallery within the Museum curated by the V&A and using objects from its collections. The Shekou Museum will also receive 2 touring exhibitions as part of the collaboration, and the V&A will play an advisory role in helping the Museum to develop its own collections and in providing training for its senior management team. A senior V&A curator will be seconded to the Shekou Museum to oversee delivery of the V&A contract in China, and a new governance structure has been developed to ensure that the collaboration delivers its key objectives, to time, and within the agreed financial parameters.

8 Annual Safety Report

Vernon Rapley

- 8.1 Vernon Rapley presented the 2013-14 Annual Safety Report to the Board for their approval. Trustees confirmed their approval and the Chairman congratulated Vernon Rapley on an excellent report.

9 Annual Report

Heather Francis

- 9.1 Heather Francis presented the draft 2013-14 Annual Report to the Board for their approval. The Report has been reviewed by the Trustee Audit and Finance Committees, and approved by them both with minor amendments, the auditors had also approved the Report. The V&A has approval from the Minister of Culture to lay the Report before Parliament on 15 July.
- 9.2 The Board gave their approval for the Director and Chairman to sign the Report.

10 Director's Report

- 10.1 The Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 10.2 The Director updated trustees on the following matters:
- Martin Roth reported on his meeting with Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Culture, which focussed on the E20 project.
 - Trustees were updated on V&A activity as part of the UK-Russia year of culture, including the opening of the V&A Jameel Prize 3 exhibition in Kazan, attended by Beth McKillop.
 - Trustees were informed that plans for Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty were progressing well. Trustees asked that all efforts be made to ensure maximum attendance at that exhibition.
 - The Board requested that, as with all major exhibitions, a report on The Glamour of Italian Fashion should be given at a future Board meeting.

11 Chairman's Report

- 11.1 The Chairman reported on discussions with Simon Thurley, Chief Executive, English Heritage and asked the Management to consider loans to English Heritage sites.
- 11.2 The Chairman noted that he has been asked to chair the World War I Cathedral Repair Commission and asked Management to consider how the V&A might support the drive to save the UK's historic churches.

12 Reports from Committees and VAE Board

12.1 Research Advisory Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 June had been circulated previously.

12.2 Museum of Childhood Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 June had been circulated previously.

12.3 Collections Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 16 June had been circulated previously.

12.4 Audit Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 June had been circulated previously.

12.5 Finance Committee

Joao Baptista provided an update for the meeting held on 18 June. He explained that Committee had reviewed and discussed the Annual Report and the National Audit Office report on the V&A. He also reported that the V&A has signed its Funding Agreement with DCMS and all internal audits are proceeding well.

12.6 Investment Committee

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 17 June had been circulated previously.

12.7 Technology Strategy Committee

Mark Damazer provided an update for the meeting held on 26 June. The Desktop Renewal project is now complete. Management have selected a Customer Relationship Management System and a contractor has been appointed, with phase one due to commence in November 2014. Debate at the meeting focused on the use of WiFi vs. Bluetooth throughout the Museum and Kati Price, Head of Digital Media, presented on the V&A Digital Strategy.

12.8 Development

The Development report had been circulated previously.

Evelyn Welch departs

13 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Kate Bellamy

11 July 2014

Signed _____
(Sir Paul Ruddock, Chairman)