

North America Area Association Meeting

Committee Room 1, Council House

1st May 2014, 17.00 -18.30

Attendees

Mike Murray	BCC
Heather Law	BCC
Jo Andrews	BCU (Chair)
Carl Smith	The Edge Collegiate of Schools
Anjum Cave	Bournville College
Harpreet Sabbharwal	Former BCU student
Piali Ray	SAMPAD
Nicola Gauld	University of Birmingham
Abdul Qadir	BCC
Symon Easton	BCC

Apologies

Ant Thomas	Marketing Birmingham
Carolyn O'Brien	RBS
Rhian Dobbs	Newman University
Paul Noon	UKTI
Justin Benson	KPMG
Mashuq Ali	BCC
Wendy Yip	Aston University
Sue Twells	BCC
Ian Grosvenor	University of Birmingham

1. Apologies

As above

2. Action points/ notes of last meeting 13.03.2014

All action points have been completed.

3. Welcome and introductions

JA welcomed Dr. Nicola Gauld and Abdul Qadir to the group.

4. Update from Chair

- There will be a European and International Committee meeting early this summer. It is important that each subgroup chair is able to report on at least one project at this inaugural meeting. If funding for the project has not already been identified, the EIC meeting will offer an opportunity to raise this.
- Jo will be the conduit to the University of Birmingham led project 'Voices of War and Peace' and will be the link to US schools for the project. Jo to work alongside Dr. N. Gauld (UoB) and to keep Piali Ray informed of developments.
- Jo is bringing a USA dimension to her 'Pub is the Hub' project (<http://www.pubisthehub.org.uk/>). Jo is in discussions with Prof. Steve Raymer from the University of Indiana with a view to arranging a transatlantic conference around the British pub and its role in the economy. The 'Pub is the Hub' initiative has just been awarded the Prime Minister's 'Big Society' award.

5. Funding opportunities for Birmingham/North America projects - Abdul Qadir

- Please see attached paper. Abdul can be contacted at: Abdul.Qadir@birmingham.gov.uk

6. Presentation of 'Voices of War and Peace', Great War commemoration project, UoB - Dr Nicola Gauld

- Please see attached paper or visit: <http://www.voicesofwarandpeace.org/>

7. Update from chairs of subgroups

a) Education (schools, colleges and higher education)-Carl Smith

- Carl Smith and Anjum Cave have been attempting to link up with Harold Washington College in Chicago to progress school/college link-ups.

ACTION POINT 1. MM to facilitate link up to Harold Washington College.

ACTION POINT 2. NG and JA to meet with **Tim Boyes**, Head of Queensbridge school and co-chair of the Birmingham Education partnership (covers 300 schools in Birmingham) to discuss their potential contribution to the sub-group.

b) Culture and Sport – Symon Easton, BCC

- The group’s remit will cover music, film and arts and heritage plus sport.
- SE will bring together a ‘virtual’ group to facilitate this agenda, including mapping activity taking place with N/S America across the city.
- Once the mapping activity has been completed, the group will endeavour to get two projects off the ground embracing culture and sport.

c) Public Services – Mike Murray, BCC

- For the past 12-13 years, Social Services have fostered an annual exchange between Hamburg, Birmingham and Chicago. The exchanges aim at improving service delivery and currently there is a focus on safeguarding.
- MM is working with Gary Forsyth (GF), West Midlands Assistant Chief Constable. GF has been working with the Chicago Police Department and is participating in a two-year research project looking at mapping potential crime areas.
- The Lord Mayor went to Washington and Chicago in April 2014 to mark Birmingham Contemporary Music Group’s performance in the Library of Congress. He also progressed links in Chicago including visiting Gallery 37; the Art Institute and the Steppenwolf Theatre.

d) Business and Trade- TBC

- JA will pursue a potential chair through BABC.

ACTION POINT 3: All subgroup chairs – please inform MM;JA and HL of the dates when your group will meet and other general activity.

8. Visit to Birmingham from Chicago Consul General Steven Bridges, 7th May

MM is co-ordinating a visit from the Chicago Consul General. MM has organised a programme of activity to include: a meeting with Marketing Birmingham; a meeting with UKTI; a meeting with senior executives from National Express; a meeting with Sir Albert Bore and Ian Ward, Deputy Leader of BCC.

9. Any other business

- Gentle reminder to the group to send their pen-portraits with a photo to HL.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 3rd June 17:00hrs, Committee Room 2, Council House.

AGENDA TO FOLLOW

ⁱ Composition of the committee is yet to be decided. However, we do know that it will be chaired by Sir Albert Bore and will be attended by the sub-group chairs and key representatives from across the city.