

North/South America Association meeting 1.06.2014

North America Area Association Meeting

Committee Room 2, Council House

4th June 2014, 17.00 -18.30

Attendees

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Anjum Cave | Bournville College |
| 2. Jack Kelly | National Express |
| 3. Jo Andrews | BCU (Chair) |
| 4. Mike Murray | BCC |
| 5. Heather Law | BCC |
| 6. Symon Easton | BCC |
| 7. Nicola Gauld | University of Birmingham |
| 8. Ian Grosvenor | University of Birmingham |
| 9. Ravinder Masih | Aston Villa FC |
| 10. Kimberley Sangha | Aston Villa FC |
| 11. Carl Smith | The Edge Collegiate of Schools |
| 12. Harpreet Sabbharwal | Former BCU student |

1. Apologies

JA gave apologies for those unable to attend.

2. Action points/notes last meeting, Thursday 13th March

No action points outstanding.

3. Update from Jo Andrews

BABC Chicago/Voices of War and Peace

- Steve Bridges, UK Chicago Consul General and Tom Stevens, Chair of the Chicago chapter of BABC invite our group to identify community-based poetry proposals to collaborate with counterparts in Chicago. The 'Voices of War and Peace' project is a potential candidate for this collaboration.

Long-term objectives

- The European and International Committee which oversees the activity of all four area focussed associations will convene sometime between June and September 2014. The N/S America cttee should aim at identifying a tangible outcome to report to the E&I cttee by then.

4. Aston Villa presentation on USA engagement.

The group was delighted to welcome Ravinder Masih and Kimberley Sangha from AC FC to the meeting. Ravinder gave a presentation on the activity of the club highlighting its approach to CSR and community engagement. A copy of this presentation will shortly be made available on the website.

We are going to upload the presentation to the DB website at:

www.distinctlybirmingham.com

The link to the video highlighting AV's US Tour in 2012 is:

<http://www.youtube.com/v/5uQZ44dvqKs&feature=youtu.be>

Also a link previewing the AV upcoming US tour to Texas (July 2014) is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKfos0WqZmq>

5. Funding opportunities for Birmingham/North America projects – dates of briefing meetings.

There will be an information session on Monday, 9th June 2014 (10:00 – 12:00hrs) on Creative Europe which will support:

Culture sector initiatives, such as those promoting cross-border cooperation, platforms and networking;

Audio-visual sector initiatives, such as those promoting the development, distribution, or access to visual works.

The workshop will provide practical guidance on how to find partners and develop a robust application for funding.

HL will attend and note any points relevant to potential international funding opportunities.

6. Update on 'Voices of War and Peace', Nicola Gauld/Ian Grosvenor

The project is looking to explore connections with Chicago and other US cities to examine the community angle of US involvement in WW1. The project is also exploring links with Australia.

A professor from the University of Ohio is visiting the UK in July and will be linking up with Nicola, Ian and Jo to discuss potential collaboration.

Jo will be visiting Roosevelt University in September and has offered to progress potential collaboration for the project.

7. Update from chairs of subgroups

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

Schools in the US are very interested in working with UK schools. Carl is currently seeking to drum up support amongst Bham schools and is hoping to secure a meeting with Tim Boyes, Head of Queensbridge and the City Education Partnership.

- **ACTION POINT 1: MM** to assist CS in progressing links with Harold Washington College in Chicago.

b) **Culture and Sport** – Symon Easton

Symon has been in touch with Gary Peal, Director of International Sports and will be meeting with the Assistant Director of museums as part of an audit to ascertain what international sports/cultural activity is going on in the city and to identify where synergies for potential collaboration lie. A proforma to collect information on cultural and sporting activity was circulated for comment by the group.

- **ACTION POINT 2: HL** to send out a Distinctly Birmingham tweet asking cultural/sporting groups to get in touch with information on their activity and also to note if they are interested in further collaboration.

c) **Public services** – Mike Murray

Birmingham social services undertake an annual exchange. This year the group will visit Chicago's social service department (June 2014). MM has arranged for Peter Hay and Cllr Bridget Jones to meet with S. Ullery, Director of Education, in Chicago to discuss governance and safeguarding.

World Routes Conference is being held in Chicago in September. Paul Keyhoe and Neil Rami are currently in discussions with United Airlines to press for a direct route to Birmingham.

d) Business and trade – Jack Kelly

Jack, Head of External Communications for National Express has volunteered for the role of chair of the business and trade group this week and is compiling a database of Birmingham based businesses with an interest in N/S America to explore the potential for joint collaboration. National Express are partners of Greater Birmingham Chamber and have connections to the LEP Board and Black Country Chamber.

National Express has yellow buses in 32 US states, 3 Canadian provinces and is Head quartered in Warrenville and has a global HQ in Birmingham. It also manages a £.5 million foundation.

e) Dates for subgroup meetings

The chairs of individual subgroups are organising this activity. Any dates will be circulated.

7. Report back on visit to Birmingham by Chicago UK Consul General Steven Bridges, 7th May

Steve met with Sir Albert; Ian Ward, Deputy Leader; Jonathan Webber; Jo Andrews; Mike Murray and the current Lord Mayor on a recent visit. The Consul General, Steve Bridges is keen to facilitate collaboration with Birmingham organisations and has funding to support this activity.

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 10th July, 17:00hrs, Room 2

9. Pen portraits

Please email pen portraits to: Heather.Law@birmingham.gov.uk

10. Any other business

n/a