

North/South America Association meeting 10.07.2014

North America Area Association Meeting

Committee Room 2, Council House

10th July 2014, 17.00 -18.30

Attendees

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jo Andrews | BCU (Chair) |
| 2. Mike Murray | BCC |
| 3. Heather Law | BCC |
| 4. Symon Easton | BCC |
| 5. Ravinder Masih | Aston Villa FC |
| 6. Kimberley Sangha | Aston Villa FC |
| 7. Harpreet Sabbharwal | Former BCU student |
| 8. Ant Thomas | Marketing Birmingham |

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

Meeting with Ohio Professor

- Jo met with Ohio Professor Kate Rousmaniere along with Ian Grosvenor (Pro VC, UoB – Voices of War and Peace) The Ohio professor will be our link in the States. This is particularly important as there will be a History/Art and Culture conference in Chicago in 2016. Our Voices of War and Peace dovetails well with the activity of the Chicago based poetry foundation. The idea is that we will engage with local schools on theme of both war and peace and also on a theme of journeys. Work could be couriered across to the States and there would be a mirror exhibition here in Birmingham – potentially in the library. Jo will be meeting with Julie Burrows, the Head of the Cultural

Centre at City Hall to discuss the potential exhibit. Jo will also put Symon Easton in touch with Julie.

- Jo also to put Professor Kate in touch with Steve Bridges, UK Chicago Consul General and Rupert Ward, Chair of the Chicago Sister City Association.
- Jo will be in Chicago from 20th – 26th September 2014 and will be progressing links with De Paul University around health, plus liaising with Roosevelt University with whom BCU have a formalised agreement. Jo will also be linking up with Chipso at the Consul General's Office, Chicago. Tom Stevens, Chair of the Chicago chapter of BABC invite our group to identify community-based poetry proposals to collaborate on with counterparts in Chicago. The 'Voices of War and Peace' project is a potential candidate for this collaboration.
- JA/MM to produce a press release article promoting the work of the association to go to: Birmingham Post; Chamber; BABC; Birmingham Civic Society; Birmingham Airport; Universities Alumni Association and also JA invites Harpreet to Blog about it on the Chicago Tribune site.

ACTION POINT 1 – JA to provide contact details of Julie Burrows to Symon

4. Update from chairs of subgroups

Culture and Sport – Symon Easton

- Symon has produced the template for capturing cultural/sporting activity engaging with North/South America and other international areas reflecting the scope of the area associations. Symon has circulated this widely to his networks, but has, as yet, not had any responses. HL has also tweeted in relation to this, but has had a similar lack of response.
- HL suggested enlisting the help of the student intern at the European and International Affairs team to contact organisations to help in this scoping activity.
- Symon noted that there is a lot of North America related activity with smaller companies such as Espirito Brum which is collaborating with artistic partners in Brazil.

Public Services – Mike Murray

- Cllr Bridget Jones and Peter Hay, Strategic Director for People, BCC went to Chicago with 14 social services to learn from the US in relation to safeguarding. Their visit was extremely successful and Mike will be writing a short article to go on the DB website to publicise its success.
- Mike along with Jo is hoping to engage with Chicago Public Schools to set up meetings to learn from the Chicago experience of school governance.
- European and International Affairs Team will be engaging the help of a student to progress the work of the association.
- Mike has been contacted by TIDE Education centre which is launching a Connecting Classrooms programme in the West Midlands. They are keen to work with us to enhance their activity with Birmingham Schools
- Rupert Ward, the Chicago Sister City Cttee Chair met with JA, JK, MM and HL. Rupert reported that there are currently changes being made to the structure of the International Board which oversees all the cttees. There will be a greater focus on the sister city committees rather than corporate players on the board, reflecting the bottom up nature of the Sister City work.
- Jack Kelly is considering developing a graduate intern programme for students to come to Birmingham from the States. Maybe this could be something for AV to consider.

ACTION point 2: MM to arrange for Symon and Ant to meet with Rupert next time he is in Birmingham (w/c 15th Sept).

5. Development of Association subgroup database

- MM is developing a database which will log areas of interest of organisations/companies in Birmingham. A distinction will be made between where activity is already established and where it is not.

6. Funding opportunities – update on Creative Europe

- HL circulated a short paper on the EU funding initiative Creative Europe. Both Birmingham City Council (Symon Easton) and Bournville College are putting bids together which may include Chicago.

7. Pen portraits

- The pen portraits which we have received were circulated at the meeting. JA urges other members to send theirs to us.

ACTION POINT 3 – Anyone who hasn't submitted a pen portrait ☺ to send theirs to MM/HL

8. AOB

Ant Thomas

- Marek was in Philadelphia and New Haven in June with Bham Health partners speaking to US health/life science companies to attract them to Bham.
- Ant will be in Atlanta and Denver in August speaking to digital media SME US companies to promote Birmingham.

Ravinder Masih

- Ravinder will be on a US tour in Dallas and Houston and will therefore be unable to attend the next meeting.

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

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKfos0WqZmg>

9. Date of next meeting – Thursday 11th September, 2014.