

NOTES OF THE NORTH / SOUTH AMERICA ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2014 IN HMS DARING ROOM, COUNCIL HOUSE

Attendees

Jo Andrews	BCU (Chair)
Mike Murray	BCC
Symon Easton	BCC
Richard Kenny	BCC
Louise Toner	BCU
Chris Barron	BRB
Kimberly Sangha	Aston Villa FC
Ravinder Masih	Aston Villa FC

Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Notes of last meeting

Notes of the last meeting were agreed.

Update from Jo Andrews

- Jo informed colleagues of the progress being made on the Voices of War and Peace project led by Ian Grosvenor at the University of Birmingham and assisted by Kate Rousmaniere in Ohio. Jo will be pursuing this and the related community poetry exchange during her upcoming visit to Chicago when she meets with Steve Bridges, HM Consul General and Tom Stevens, Chair of the Chicago BABC Chapter.
- The main focus of Jo`s visit will be the development of an MOU between the Business Schools of BCU and Roosevelt University, comprising a study abroad programme.

- Jo will also undertake discussions will also be held with representatives of DePaul University regarding a potential art / design/ media partnership.
- LT added that she was also in discussion with DePaul University, regarding midwifery and child care. Funding had been identified to support an exchange of staff and virtual engagement. Other establishments in Australia, Canada and Nottingham, UK are likely to participate.

Update from chairs of subgroups

Culture and sport – Symon Easton

- Symon reminded colleagues of the audit he is undertaking of cultural activity across the city. He had already obtained details from various arts and other organisations that are being collated for future reference. He encouraged colleagues to assist and encourage cultural organisations to provide the required information.
- Ravinder and Kimberly reported back on the summer tour by Aston Villa to the USA. Their visits to Dallas and Houston included a range of football matches and fan –related activities. In both cities CSR work around reading and cooking with young people and ex-offenders was undertaken. The overall visit was seen to be very successful with large numbers of AV supporters, from a number of countries, attending the matches. There was considerable TV and press coverage of the various elements of the tour leading to very productive awareness raising of the club and Birmingham.

Public Service – Mike Murray

- Mike reminded colleagues of the recent very successful Social Work Exchange visit to Chicago and said the initiative was being followed up with an imminent meeting between Rupert Ward and representatives of the Dominican University in Chicago.

ACTION: Mike to report back on developments.

- Colleagues were informed that the collaboration between Birmingham and Chicago around school governance teaching and learning was progressing. Consideration was also being given by Catherine Staite, Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham to some potential joint research on “bridging the resource gap” between BCC, Chicago City Hall and the University of Birmingham.
- Mike also reported that the West Midlands Police were continuing their dialogue with Chicago Police Department on the theme of predicted crime.

- The Association was informed by Mike of the possible availability of a PhD student to undertake some research work relating to the Birmingham / North America agenda. Colleagues were asked to give some thought as to what possible future research themes could be proposed for investigation.

Visit to Birmingham by Rupert Ward – Wednesday 23 September

- Mike told colleagues of Rupert`s upcoming visit to Birmingham. To date meetings had been arranged with the Lord Mayor, John Rainford and Mike. It was also hoped to include Jack Kelly. In addition Symon and Ant were to advise Mike of their availability to meet with Rupert on 23 September.

Pen Portraits

- Colleagues who had not yet provided pen portraits where requested to do so.

Date and time of next meeting

- To be determined.

Any other business

- Richard Kenny reported that he was undertaking an investigation of BCC`s local, national and international partnership engagement. He was in the process of building a profile of that engagement prior to an analytical review of its appropriateness.