

## **North America Association – 13.01.2015**

**16:30, room M133, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham**

### **Attendees**

Jo Andrews, BCU (Chair)

Mike Murray, BCC

Heather Law, BCC

Ravinder Masih, AVFC

Kimberley Sangha, AVFC

Symon Easton, BCC

Carl Smith, The Edge Consortium

Louise Toner, BCU

Jez Collins, BCU

John Rainford, Strawberry Fields

### **1. Apologies and Action points/notes from last meeting, 4 Nov 2014**

Apologies were noted and any outstanding action points were dealt with during the meeting.

Jez Collins and John Rainford were welcomed to the group.

### **2. Update from Chair – Jo Andrews**

- Jo has spoken to Chipo, Chicago Vice Consul who has agreed dates of visit to Chicago (w/c 16.03.2015)
- Chipo and the Bham Sister City Committee are happy to help with the invitee list to the Birmingham Reception at the Consul General's residence
- BCU have signed a Business School MOU with the Business School Dean at Roosevelt ( Joseph Chan )
- Jo updated the group on the Pub is the Hub activity and the Medal employability workshop delivered by Jo and endorsed by Greg Mulholland Member of Parliament. Jo is now working with AVFC and will be delivering the workshop at one school in the city. The British Institute of Innkeepers would like to roll the workshop out.
- HL has sent a proposal to the Cara Foundation in Chicago for Jo to deliver a workshop over there.

► Action 1: HL to set up meeting for JA and Shilpi Ackbar to ascertain how the city can feed into the initiative/ explore whether there is any learning eg/ around youth employment which can share with/take from the states

- BCU are also working with DePaul and a their own art gallery . Jo is discussing the possibility of internships with them.

#### **Update from Louise Toner, BCU**

- BCU has been approached by DePaul University to work with children and is in discussion re paid internships for BCU and DePaul students.
- BCU have developed a learning tool, 'Share Ville' specifically designed for people with learning disabilities. Louise has a Skype discussion scheduled for the third week in January to progress this.

#### **Update from Jez Collins, BCU**

- Jez is really keen to be more involved with the N. America Association
- The School of Media, BCU has links with DePaul University through popular music and radio. Sam Coley is currently developing links with US radio stations and UK ones. A BCU student will be travelling to NYC to collect an award for her work in radio.
- Daniel Mulligan and Deena Winestein are the main DePaul contacts.
- Also liaising with UoB around collaboration with Chicago in relation to media/music

#### **Update from John Rainford, Strawberry Fields**

- Worked historically with Ellis Goodman (ex-Birmingham Committee Chair in Chicago) and the Kellogg Business School.
- John presented the 'Darwin Matrix' to the group which he would like to introduce to universities, schools and colleges. The application is free and downloadable.

### **3. Update from chairs of subgroups:**

#### **Schools - Carl Smith**

- BABC have offered to sponsor the link between Birmingham and Chicago schools. There will be a creative writing link between Turves Green Girls School, Birmingham and Hanson Park Elementary School in Chicago (11-14 year olds).

#### **Culture- Symon Easton**

- Sent the proforma to arts organisations in the city to identify who is already working with the US, but there has been no response. Symon has asked Val Birchall to take this to the Birmingham Arts Partnership to elicit a response.
- Stan's Café is in Chicago next week
- BRB will be in Houston soon.
- Currently looking at Creative Europe funding, but it is unlikely that a US partner will be sought for this activity.
- 2015 is the year of local arts
- 2016 is the year of youth culture – the international youth festival will be hosted in Birmingham for one month

### **Sport – Ravinder Masih**

- There is no international update this time
- AVFC may be in Chicago on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, RM will confirm whether this will take place at a later date – may be able to link up with the Birmingham team visit to Chicago.

### **Public services – Mike Murray**

- Currently a South Korea MA student is undertaking a piece of research as part of his MA looking at good practice in youth service provision in: Chicago, Birmingham, Johannesburg and Seoul.
- The focus for BCC for the Chicago trip will be around school governance as well as other areas listed below.
- Lord Mayor keen to develop a relationship with Gallway which is a Chicago Sister City. Mike will speak to Adrienne at City Hall to progress this.

### **3. Visit to Chicago – March 2015**

- JA proposes 16<sup>th</sup> March as date of travel for visit to Chicago and 18<sup>th</sup> March to host the networking event at the Consul General's residence

► Action : All committee members to verify whether they are able to attend

#### Attendee list to date

Jo Andrews

Mike Murray

Jez Collins

John Rainford

Louise Toner

## Event in Consul General's apartments

To encompass 5 subgroups: higher education; schools; culture and sport; business and trade and public services

A separate programme of meetings will be arranged for each of the foci. The aim of the visit must be to raise our profile, be outcome driven, perhaps using innovation as a broad theme to help set us apart from other comparator cities.

## Areas of interest while in Chicago

### BCU

Employment and skills

Darwin matrix

Healthcare, social care, education and life sciences

Media/music

### BCC

Meeting with Jenny Cizner, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Global Affairs

Meeting with Chicago Public Schools

Visit David Ballinger at Hanson Park

Youth Service

Intern exchange (City Hall; Santander; Mace and National Express)– to be discussed with Eric Kinnhammer at City Hall

Progress work on distance learning with INLOGOV and the City of Chicago

Meeting with Julie Burros' successor (former Head of Cultural Policy for the City of Chicago)

### Other

Aston Villa connections

Shakespeare connections – get in touch with Delia Garret – who is responsible for the digitalisation of Shakespeare's works

Get in touch with Steve Harding to see if there is learning to be gleaned from Cross Innovation

Turves Green school unlikely to be able to partake in visit, although Carl is willing to follow up any leads made during the visit when he is in Chicago later that month.

► Action : Carl to produce 100 flyers for JA to take over for visit, plus will supply data file.

## **Date of next meeting**

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at 16:30hrs

