



Supporting
University Museums
and Collections

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 24 November 2021
2.30pm**

AGENDA

1. Minutes of AGM (19 November 2020)

Minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Chairs' report

Nicola Kalinsky and Xa Sturgis provided an update in their role as Co-Chairs. The UMG Committee has met regularly throughout the last year, formally every two months, but with many more regular meetings between members as well.

Throughout the pandemic period the Committee has prioritised acting as a conduit between university museums and various sector bodies and funders. This has included attending sector meeting organised by the Arts Council, and regular meetings with DMCS, NMDC and ALVA. The Committee endeavoured to provide helpful information and clarification to members when required in relation to both covid and Brexit.

UMG undertook a survey of members in April 2021 to take the temperature of university museums, and following a first survey in 2020. 28 museums responded representing 14 universities, with the report [Covid-19: Beyond the Crisis?](#) collating key information that will support UMG in advocating for the sector. The report highlighted the challenges of working throughout the pandemic but also the real opportunities it has brought. Key themes includes building capacity and digital skills, funding uncertainty, health and wellbeing.

The Committee has also endeavoured to network with other bodies who have congruent interests and concerns, including the National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange, and Research Libraries UK.

The Committee has also tried to stay in touch with members through regular emails, and acknowledge both the challenges of not being able to network in person but also the benefits this can bring in terms of accessibility for members.

Advocating for the university museums sector is a principle purpose for UMG and the Committee and has been a focus for activity over the last year. This has included with DCMS, Arts Council, Research England and AHRC which has given the sector a much louder voice in these forums than previously. This has been enhanced by Esme Ward joining the NMDC specifically to represent university museums which has ensured their inclusion in key conversations including for example around the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Outcomes from the advocacy UMG are leading on behalf of members include: the suggestion that UMG host an All Party Parliamentary Group meeting to discuss the role of university museums; the 9% uplift in HEMG funding from Research England; and intimations of support from Research England and Arts Council for executive support for UMG which would enable the Committee to better support members. Positive discussions have also taken place with the AHRC regarding removing barriers to funding for university museums.

Esme Ward and Luke Syson are leading on an initiative to develop language and narrative around decolonisation, restitution and contested heritage which recognises that university museums, with a scholarly approach and proximity to research, might be best placed to do some of this thinking on behalf of the wider sector. Esme Ward provided further information on how this initiative would develop over the next few months through a series of consultations and the commissioning of research. Please contact Esme Ward and Luke Syson for further information.

The Committee relies on members to give direction on what the UMG should be advocating for and who to.

4. Treasurer's report

Janneke Geene provided the Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer (Janneke Geene) and one of the Co-Chairs (Xa Sturgis) are now both signatories to the UMG bank account with NatWest.

As of 24 November 2021 UMG has a positive balance of c.£7,565.94, after taking into account the payment of two invoices totalling £522.

This amount includes two membership fees, totalling £180, which have already been received for the current academic year of 2021/2022.

No income was received in the academic year 2020/2021, following the continued decision to suspend subscriptions for a further year as a result of Covid19.

Now a review process has been completed and subscriptions are being sought again, these are starting to come in.

5. Committee membership

The membership thanked Nicola Kalinsky as she steps down as Co-Chair.

The membership also thanked Janneke Geene, Harriet Warburton and Jo McPhee who continue in their roles as Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Secretary respectively.

The membership elected Esme Ward as incoming Co-Chair.

6. Any other business

The Committee thanked the speakers at the preceding Network Session as well as Beth Brankowski and Jen Ridding at Birmingham who coordinated that event.