

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly

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Date: 10 December 2024

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 7 November 2024 – Motion

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2024 regarding the motion agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 7 November 2024. My reply to the motion is as follows.

Motion 3.5 – Migration Museum

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Migration Museum on securing a permanent home in the heart of the City of London. The Mayor visited the museum's temporary gallery in Lambeth a few years ago, where he stated his support for the museum finding a permanent home. Both myself and officers from across the GLA have met with the museum many times over the past eight years to offer advice and guidance. And I was really pleased that Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice spoke at the museum's Parliamentary event in November in support of the project.

London's 250 museums and galleries are an essential part of our city's world-class cultural offer. The Migration Museum is one of many in the capital seeking funding after a decade of council cuts to culture (a reduction of 43%) and exclusion from cultural funding such as £56 million of Arts Council England funding moved out of London. Many museums across the capital are continuing to struggle financially following Brexit, the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.

In addition, there are an estimated 600 heritage buildings at risk in London. Of these, 392 are Grade II listed and some are museums. These are historic sites that are at risk of being lost forever and which desperately need capital funding.

The GLA supports the capital's museums through its statutory duty to fund the London Museum and its funding of the Transport Museum through the TfL budget. We are also delivering the new cultural quarter at East Bank, which includes the V&A East Museum and Storehouse, as a priority legacy project from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

But while the GLA does not generally provide direct funding to museums and is unable to fund the Migration Museum, we will continue to support the organisation in whatever way we can.

My team will continue to provide advice and guidance to any museums and heritage at risk, and our Green Finance Fund is open to any museums accredited through the Arts Council's UK Museum Accreditation Scheme.

MAYOR OF LONDON

I am pleased that the Migration Museum has found a permanent home at the heart of the city; it acts as an important anchor-point for storytelling about London's diverse communities. I know that the Mayor will continue to champion the role that migrants play in London and that we are proud to promote the capital's many world-class museums and will continue to work with institutions across the city to build a better London for everyone.

All good wishes,



Justine Simons OBE

Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries