

# MAYOR OF LONDON

## Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm, Virtual Meeting

12 May 2021 | 14:00 – 16.00

### Record of the meeting

#### **Co-chairs:**

Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture and Creative Industries,  
Dr. Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Communities and Social Justice.

#### **Attendees**

#### **Commissioners**

Aindrea Emelife  
Binki Taylor  
David Bryan MBA FRSA  
Eleanor Pinfield  
Jack Guinness  
Jasvir Singh OBE  
Pedro Gil  
Revd Professor Keith Magee ThD FRSA  
Robert Bevan  
Sandy Nairne CBE FSA

#### **Apologies**

Dr Zoé Whitley  
Gillian Jackson  
Lynette Nabbosa  
Riz Ahmed

#### **1) Introductions and Welcome**

- Commissioners were welcomed and updated on activity since the second meeting.
- The third meeting focused on:
  - A presentation by Art UK
  - Grants Programme update and planning

#### **2) Art UK Presentation and Discussion**

##### **Presentation focus:**

- The organisation's work as an online home for every public art collection. There are 3,300 British institutions and 50,000 artists across the UK represented.
- 3.4 million unique users accessed the Art UK website in the past 12 months.

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- This is now expanding to include public sculpture, public art and memorials, which are being mapped across the UK for the first time.
- Once complete expecting to map c15,000 public sculptures across the UK. Approximately half of these in London.
- It will be the most comprehensive photographic audit of public sculptures in London and across the UK.

## **Discussion Overview:**

- Commissioners supported widening the definition of public art to include non-figurative items such as murals and three-dimensional objects. Art UK confirmed that this definition is applied in some areas where there is information available.
- Opportunity to develop more content, setting out the wider narratives and stories behind the sculpture and memorials.
- Sculptures, memorials and commemorations come about for different and distinct reasons yet are often referred to in the same way.
- Develop a wide-reaching database and outputs in partnership with Boroughs – noting that Art UK are keen to expand this strand of work through the Borough Working Group.
- Commissioners were keen that the research also included sculptures, murals and artwork which might have particular significance but no longer exist (e.g. Rachel Whiteread's 'House' and previous Fourth Plinth Commissions) - ensuring there's a place for their existence through record-keeping.

## **3) The Commissioners discussed methods of:**

- Creating a collective space for diversity in the public realm (explored within communities)
- Creating a shared opportunity to bring communities, ideas and experiences together
- Ensuring all Londoners are included within shaping the wider London narrative

## **Emblematic Projects:**

- Framed ideas of how to address contested sites and set principles that create a more inclusive narrative.
- Reviewed the existing data presented by Art UK and discussed the missing gaps

## **Grants Programme update and discussions:**

- Developing a process that is easy to access, straightforward and clear.

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- Grant programme needs to allow for nuances within art making, art commissioning and art display.
- Highlight projects which help increase the visibility of local heritage.

## 4) AOB:

- Fourth Plinth Exhibition Launch at the National Gallery 24<sup>th</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Next Commissioners Meeting – July 2021