



Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9th September 2021 at 11.00-11.45am (via Zoom, 73 attendees)

Rachel Tranter, GEM Director, welcomed those attending and provided housekeeping details for the GEM online AGM.

1. OPENING REMARKS, GEM CHAIR, CAROLINE MARCUS

Caroline Marcus (CM), GEM Chair of Trustees welcomed everyone to the GEM virtual AGM and conference.

CM spoke of the challenges of the pandemic to the sector and explained that GEM made a team decision to mitigate this by action. CM stated that GEM wanted to try and make a difference and support the sector by changing the way we worked, providing skills sharing, online training and development of new courses such as GEM's anti-racism course, as we continue to combat racism in the cultural sector. GEM delivered training across the nations and continues our commitment to address climate change as an organisation.

CM outlined GEM's support for the sector, the offer of free freelance membership and discounted student and unwaged membership and reported that in spite of the challenges of the pandemic GEM's membership has grown. CM stated that the launch of the free mentoring One to One programme has had a positive impact, supporting 265 mentees through the help of 92 mentors. CM thanked Nimrod Capital and the Linbury Trust for supporting this programme which will continue for another year.

CM acknowledged the contribution of staff, Trustees, Course leaders and GEM representatives who have contributed so much to GEM to ensure it evolves as a stronger GEM for a stronger sector. CM gave heartfelt thanks to the staff team and Rachel Tranter who has worked tirelessly and who has led admirably to demonstrate resilience and positivity during such a challenging period. CM thanked her fellow trustees and welcomed our new trustees Jenny Blay, Laura Hill and Mark Macey. She gave huge thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for emergency funding and the Culture Recovery Fund that assisted GEM at such a critical time. CM gave sincere thanks to Neil Herrington who is stepping down as editor of the Journal after six years, and stated that GEM is incredibly grateful for all Neil's hard work.

CM stated that GEM is a unique community that connects and learns together which is even more relevant this year. CM thanked the member's commitment to GEM and sharing of resources, the volunteers and the Area Representatives and collaborative organisations, Engage, Clore Duffield Foundation and the Museums Association.

CM explained that over the last year GEM has developed a new business plan, created a new vision and enhanced its governance. GEM has responded to the sector's needs and become more collaborative in its approach and outlook.

GM gave huge thanks to Jenny Pistella and Jessica England for all their hard work in organising GEM conference – CM encouraged those attending to enjoy the rest of the programme.

2 RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Laura Hill, Sue Pope and Peter Divall.

3 RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE 70th AGM

The minutes of the 70th AGM were received.

4 RECEIVE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Richard Bruce, GEM Treasurer provided a summary of the 2020 Annual Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2020. The accounts were received and an opportunity was given to ask questions.

The accounts were received, and it was agreed that Bradbury Stell would be re-appointed as GEM's independent examiner.

5 RECEIVE TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Rachel Tranter, Director of GEM gave an overview of the 2020 annual report which was received by members including graphics showing membership rates, training activity and income and expenditure for 2020. RT reported that significant progress had been made with GEM membership increasing from 487 (at the end of 2019) to 787 and that GEM online training events have been attended by 3401 participants compared with 229 in 2019. RT's summary of the 2020 Annual Report was well received and RT mentioned that the report can be accessed on the GEM website.

Thanks was given for everyone who has delivered training and our course directors and credit given to Devon Turner in terms of digital and communication improvements and progress in recruiting GEM Nation Representatives in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

6 AGREE CHANGES TO THE GEM ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The following summary of changes was put to the AGM and supported with the full amendment included with the AGM papers:

- Increase the number of elected and co-opted Trustees from nine to twelve

- Formalising the ability for GEM meetings to be held virtually in the Articles
- Providing flexibility in the Articles for the Board to set the term of office for the Chair and Deputy Chair
- Removing unnecessary detail from the Articles
- Updating the disqualification clause for Trustees

The proposed changes to the GEM Articles of Association were agreed unanimously by those attending.

7 ELECTION OF GEM TRUSTEES

RT reported that the following Trustees had been co-opted since the 2020 GEM AGM –

Jenny Blay
Laura Hill
Mark Macey

RT stated that the following five trustees were presenting themselves for re-election for a further term of office, having all served one term of three years.

Caroline Marcus, Chair
Richard Bruce, Treasurer
Kathy Moore, Deputy Chair
Sarah Cowie, Trustee
Essex Havard, Trustee

Unanimous agreement was given by all those attending for the re-election of these trustees for a further 3 year term.

8 CLOSING REMARKS

CM stated she was excited to serve for another term and to work with the team that gives so much and continues to support the sector. CM stated that a lot has been achieved in the last 3 years and GEM has found its sense of purpose and its place. Moving forwards GEM will continue to develop to continue to provide important community support for the learning sector. CM reported that during the last year GEM has been a “shining jewel” that will continue to enable colleagues to support each other and connect and learn together.

NOTES

The GEM 2020 Annual report can be accessed here <https://gem.org.uk/about-gem/what-does-gem-do/>.