

Minutes for 73rd Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14th September 2023 at 12.10pm (Historic Dockyard Chatham & Online)

1. WELCOME FROM GEM CHAIR, CAROLINE MARCUS

Caroline Marcus, GEM Chair, welcomed those present at Chatham Historic Dockyard & those online to GEM's 73rd AGM. CM mentioned that the AGM Agenda and 2022 Annual Report can be found on the GEM website.

CM provided some highlights from 2022, stating that it has been a very good year for GEM, demonstrating a positive impact for the sector. GEM continues to enable its community with opportunities to connect and learn together, enabling museum learning colleagues to thrive & develop new skills all across the UK.

A brief outline of our progress in 2022 against our 5 strategic priorities:

Driving & Diversifying membership – membership figures are stable with 730 total members made up of 255 institutional & 475 individual members.

Empowering our community – Core work includes the 1:1 mentoring programme with over 40 mentees supported. A special thanks to Melissa Maynard for the work she does to support the programme. Online training increased considerably with satisfaction rates of 96% being good or excellent. GEM participated in sector events such as M&H show, Museums Association conference & Brodsworth Hall study day in partnership with English Heritage. In 2022 over 1200 participants took part in GEM Area & National events. GEM also supported colleagues beyond the UK through partnerships with NEMO & Revitalising Museums in India. GEM produced 3 publications – our journal for education in museums and 2 case studies and organised a successful conference at the Museum of Making in Derby.

Realising the Digital Dividend – Over 1000 participants were involved in GEM's training & events programme in 2022. GEM expanded our online training offer utilising a new virtual learning platform and developed new courses.

Building Strategic Partnerships for a Sustainable Future – GEM continues to work across the 4 nations and internationally expanding our UK and global network. And, we further develop our partnership work reaching a wider audience with collaborators including the Art Fund, Welsh Government, Culture Health & Wellbeing Alliance, Museums Association, Engage, Clore Duffield Foundation & NEMO.

Sustainable Profitable Business Planning – CM reported that GEM's finances remained stable in 2022 demonstrating resilience in line with the ambitions of GEM's 5-year business plan. GEM grew its programme through the support of Nimrod Capital, the Linbury Trust, Welsh Government, the Art Fund and Arts Council England. GEM is absolutely thrilled to have been offered funding from Arts Council in 2022 that commenced in April 2023 as GEM became an Investment Principle Support Organisation (IPSO) as part of the National Portfolio. This 3-year funding enables GEM to substantially increase its support for the museum learning sector, helping museums to be ambitious for their learning programmes and embrace inclusivity and relevance.

CM thanked members, GEM's area and nation representatives & the wider GEM community for their help and support, enabling the GEM's work in creating a supportive and collaborative space.

CM gave particular thanks to the GEM team for all their hard work.

CM congratulated GEM Director, Rachel Tranter, on behalf of the Trustees and the GEM team, for her MBE announced in King Charles III's first birthday honours for services to Museums, Heritage & The Arts.

CM gave a huge vote of thanks to the Trustees who are committed to support GEM and extremely generous with their time and hard work and handed over Rachel Tranter, GEM Director to Chair the remainder of the AGM.

2. RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Karin Molson.

3. RECEIVE MINUTES OF THE 72nd AGM

The minutes of the 72nd AGM were received.

4. RECEIVE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Richard Bruce, GEM Treasurer provided a summary of the 2022 Annual Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2022. The accounts were received and an opportunity was given to ask questions.

It was agreed that the Trustees will engage Warner Wilde Limited as GEM's Independent Accountants for 2023.

5. RECEIVE TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Rachel Tranter, Director of GEM gave an overview of the 2022 annual report which was received by members including graphics showing membership rates, training activity and income and expenditure for 2022.

Introduction to Robin Johnson who has been leading GEM's programmes supporting by the Welsh Government in collaboration with GEM Cymru.

6. GEM CYMRU & THE NEW CURRICULUM FOR WALES REPORT – ROBIN JOHNSON

Robin Johnson gave an overview of the successful projects supported by the Welsh Government over the last few years and the ongoing progress with GEM having been granted another £100k for projects in 2023-2025.

7. RESIGNATION & ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The following Trustees, Hannah Sweetapple & Jenny Blay, have resigned from the GEM Board. Karin Molson, co-opted in July 2023, presents herself for election as a Trustee.

Karin Molson was elected unanimously as a new GEM Trustee.

CLOSING REMARKS

RT announced that GEM is 75 years old this year and that this important milestone is being celebrated with a digital timeline. Thank you to Miranda Yin who joined us as a UCL, Institute of Education placement student, studying an MA: Museums & Galleries in Education who prepared and commenced this process. GEM welcomed delegates to send memories or pictures of GEM to be added to the timeline. RT closed the AGM with a special thank you to Katya Provornaya for all her hard work in preparing for the conference.

20.09.2023