

Minutes of SMG Board of Trustees Meeting
Held at the Science + Innovation Park on
Tuesday 8 October 2024

<u>Present:</u>	<u>In attendance:</u>
SMG Trustees Sir Tim Laurence (Chair) Professor Stephen Belcher James Bilefield Professor Brian Cantor Judith Donovan Tim Dugher Professor Anya Hurlbert Professor Ajit Lalvani Iain McIntosh Baroness Nicky Morgan Professor Washington Ochieng Lopa Patel Sarah Sands Sarah Staniforth Steven Underwood	Sir Ian Blatchford, SMG Director & Chief Executive Shri Mukundagiri, SMG Chief Operating Officer Nicolas Raynaud, SMG Director of Finance and Corporate Services Peter Dickinson, SMG Director of Communications Anna Dejean, SMG Masterplan Director Dr Julia Knights, Deputy Director, Science Museum (ScM) Sally MacDonald, Director, Science & Industry Museum (SIM) Judith McNicol, Director, National Railway Museum (NRM) Jo Quinton-Tulloch, Director of National Science and Media Museum (NSMM) Sian Thompson, SMG Board Secretary David Jacob, Chair, Science Museum Foundation (<i>Observer</i>)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Professor Greg Radick.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Draft Minutes of SMG Board Meeting on 26 June 2024, Action Tracker & Items for Board Consideration

The papers circulated previously were noted. In addition:

- It was noted that all actions outstanding from the previous meeting had been completed.
- **The minutes were approved** and would be signed by the Chair (**Action: TL / ST**)

4. SMG Chair's Update

A verbal update was received, and the following points noted:

- The Chair had recently attended the memorial service for Julia Rausing (a longtime supporter of SMG).
- The Chair had also recently met with Lord Hall, who had recently joined as Chair of the Natural History Museum in South Kensington.
- The Chair had also recently attended the final meeting of the SMG Digital Advisory Board. Thought was currently being given to the future governance of SMG digital, noting that it was a hugely important part of SMG's activities. Trustees expressed an interest in being involved in discussions regarding the future of SMG digital. (**Action: SMu / JB**)

5. SMG Director's Report

The papers circulated previously were noted. In addition:

- A discussion was had regarding the current Government Spending Review. SMG expected to hear the outcome ahead of its December Board meeting.
- A discussion was had regarding SMG's connections at the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT). Trustees offered to assist the SMG Director in formalising and strengthening the relationship between SMG and DSIT. (**Action: IB / SB / JB / WO**).
- The SMG Director, along with Sally MacDonald (Director, SIM) had recently had a very positive meeting with the Mayor of Greater Manchester.
- The impact on SMG's business continuity by the upcoming Wilson James staff strike was noted.
- The Board noted that a petition by a protest group was expected to be received by SMG in the coming days.

6. SMG Wonderlab & Power Up RIBA Stage 1

The papers circulated previously were noted. In addition:

- The project represented a timely moment to welcome a range of audiences back into the museum following an extended period of site closure.
- It was also noted that *Wonderlab* was a 'tried-and-tested' model for SMG that tapped into the skills and STEM needs of the Manchester region. Initial conversations with various prospective funders had also been positive.
- A discussion was had regarding the alignment of SMG committees and the project approval process.
- **The Board approved** the feasibility study.

7. SMG Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24

A verbal update was received on the process for 2023/24. It was noted that the SMG Audit and Risk Committee would approve the final accounts (as per the delegated authority agreed by the Board at its previous meeting).

8. SMG Bank & Investment Mandates Update

The papers circulated previously were noted. **The Board approved** the update, and the resolutions would be signed by the SMG Chair and the Chair of the Finance & Business Committee. **(Action: TL / NM / ST)**

9. Terms of Reference Approvals

The papers circulated previously were noted. **The Board approved** the terms of reference.

10. Any other business

- The SMG Chair noted that Brian Cantor and Lopa Patel were leaving after both serving two terms on the SMG Board. The SMG Director also noted that Judith McNicol (Director, NRM) would be leaving SMG after a tenure of nearly 20 years.
- The Board expressed thanks to those named above for their contribution and service.
- It was noted that some Board meeting dates in 2025 and 2026 would be changing to enable better scheduling of SMG committees. The new dates would be circulated to the Board. **(Action: ST)**