

The Heritage Alliance and British Council Global Travel Grant Scheme 2018-19

This template is designed to help you write a report on your international visit. We recommend you read this template and make notes during your visit to make it easier to write a report on your return to the UK.

In addition to the report after your visit, we also require you to write one blog entry for the Heritage Alliance and British Council website during your visit, and supply one or more images to illustrate your blog entry (recommended image size 2,560px wide). We recommend that blog entries are approximately 500 words. You may also be invited to present your project at the next Heritage Alliance international event.

The blog entry, final report and images should be sent to Desi Gradinarova, the Heritage Alliance Policy and Communication Officer at Policy@theheritagealliance.org.uk

REPORT TEMPLATE

Part 1:

Organisation: Council for British Archaeology

Name: Mike Heyworth

Job title: Executive Director

Country travelled to: USA

Specific region or cities travelled to: Washington DC & Boston

Organisation(s) visited: Society for American Archaeology & Archaeological Institute of America

Dates of visit: 3-6 September 2019

Part 2:

1. Original purpose of the visit: (max. 200 words)

The key purpose of the visit was to build alliances with key archaeological membership bodies in North America based in Boston and Washington DC to encourage collaboration and the development of shared interests. We are particularly aware that many members of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and Society for American Archaeology (SAA) have an interest in British archaeology and (in particular) the AIA operates in a very similar manner to the CBA (eg has a public membership scheme, a regular popular magazine which is available through retail outlets, acts as a publisher, organises conferences and events, runs an archaeology

festival, promotes archaeology to young people). The SAA acts as a key advocacy body in the USA to promote archaeology.

To date we have had limited email contact with the AIA and SAA and both agreed that it would be beneficial to meet face to face to explore opportunities and get to know each other better to develop strong partnerships.

2. People, organisations, projects of relevance to your organisation/ project that you encountered during your visit: (max. 200 words)

In Washington DC I met with Oona Schmidt, Executive Director of the Society for American Archaeology.

In Boston I met with a team of staff from the Archaeological Institute of America led by Kevin Quinlan, Acting Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer/Publisher, Archaeology magazine, together with Kevin Mullen, Director of Marketing & Professional Services; Samantha Austin, Manager of Membership and Governance; Christine Dziuba, Communications Coordinator; and Sarah Smith, Membership Services Coordinator.

I also took the opportunity to visit other heritage attractions and cultural institutions in Boston (Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology at Harvard University; Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum; Museum of Fine Arts, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum) and in Washington DC (Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture; National Gallery of Art)

3. Summary of the visit, including what went well and what was challenging: (max. 250 words)

It was a very important opportunity for the CBA at a crucial time in our ongoing transformation project. The grant was important as our reserves are very limited at this stage, but the visit has the potential to build partnerships to help enhance our resilience and increase our profile and membership. At both the SAA and the AIA we agreed that it was crucial to start building a closer relationship by meeting face to face at Executive Director level. This gives us the confidence and the potential to follow up our initial strategic conversations at a more practical level and spread the conversations out to our trustees/boards and staff.

We shared current thinking on a wide range of opportunities and challenges which affect our respective organisations, both strategic and practical. It provides a sound basis for further follow up conversations in the coming months as we explore ways we can work together more closely. It was frustrating to have such limited time on a flying visit to get to know the wider staff teams of both organisations and by trying to fit in consecutive visits to two key organisations in different cities it meant that the timings for the meetings were not necessary optimal. However, we can now follow up the contacts by email and videoconferences, as needed. It would not be possible to make two separate visits so this was a necessary situation to face.

4. Experience and knowledge gained, with particular focus on how this experience and knowledge will benefit your organisation: (max. 200 words)

The context in which USA-based organisations work is in some respects very different with different legal frameworks and norms for membership organisations, yet what emerged from our meetings was how similar were the challenges that we faced and the opportunities that were available to us. There was a strong feeling that collaboration and partnership working is crucial for the future and that by working together we can add value to the work of all our organisations.

Discussions ranged across mechanisms for advocacy and the additional strength that would come from our organisations jointly signing up to key statements which impact on world archaeology and sharing arguments that we have worked up to enhance the protection of archaeological heritage, to opportunities to expand the audiences for our work with each other. With AIA, in particular, we share functions as publishers of magazines and monographs, as

festival organisers, as membership bodies, as organisations that promote engagement with archaeology and public education. We have much to share.

5. Top tips for other heritage professionals working internationally, based on the learning gained during your visit: (max. 200 words)

Create opportunities to meet face to face and establish the basis for meaningful relationships which can then be developed remotely. Without those initial relationship building opportunities the outcomes will be far less helpful.

6. What are the next steps you are going to take following the visit, and what resources/ support might you need in order to successfully realise your ideas?: (max. 250 words)

We are going to exchange various key internal documents and strategies and start to include our trustee/board members and other staff in email conversations which will lead on to videoconferences. Out of these initial conversations will come specific strategies and opportunities to work together based on a greater mutual understanding of the respective opportunities and challenges that we all face.

In due course it will be important for further face to face meetings to take place which we may struggle to fund, but much work in the meantime can be done over the Internet.

7. In one sentence, please summarise the impact the visit has had on your organisation and the organisation(s) you visited:

We took key initial steps to create a transatlantic partnership of leading archaeology organisations with shared interests.

8. In one sentence, please summarise the impact the visit has had on you personally:

It has made me more aware of the similarities between archaeological membership and advocacy bodies in different parts of the world and the opportunities to learn from each other.

9. Quote from your Director / Trustee / senior staff member on the benefit and impact of your international visit on your organisation: "In our 75th anniversary year it is an opportune time to reach out to similar organisations in other parts of the world and look to create strong and enduring partnerships to enhance our work and help showcase the value of what we do to an international audience."

10. Following this international experience, how likely is it that your organisation will fund another international visit in the next 12 months from 1 to 5 (1 = very unlikely, 5 = very likely)?

5

11. Will there be any follow up to this visit (e.g. jointly paper writing, online community building, future project applications, formal partnership formed, etc.)?

Yes, initially sharing of information and exchanges of ideas for collaboration and partnership working followed up by more formal links and bringing together of our respective memberships and advocacy missions.

Images

Please supply at least three images from the visit. Please send high resolution images as jpeg files (recommended size: 300 dpi, min. 21 cm wide).

Six images attached. Titles as per file title. Credit to the Council for British Archaeology.

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