

MEETING REGARDING MAGIC LIBRARY CREATIVE PROGRESS

Meeting Minutes

Monday, 09 October 2017: 18h30

Present: *HE Chairman, Hassan Alajmi, Marco Guidetti, Rhonda Millard*

I. DISCUSSION: MAGIC LIBRARY PROGRESS MEETING AND PRESENTATION

a. Presentation of design models

- i. Library exterior design options were presented and it was agreed that the presented design on the model is the preferred design. HE Chairman requested illumination in the windows to bring it to life.
- ii. Marco illustrated that there was a wheelchair access ramp incorporated into the design.
- iii. Marco presented the idea that the children would guess which door to enter through as an interactive “game” to begin their magical journey and that door was a small, child-sized door, which also had a larger, hidden frame around it for wheelchair access to be possible.
- iv. The storyteller big book model was presented with the design on how the door would open and reveal the storyteller. HE Chairman asked if the doors could slide open as opposed to open outwards thereby making it more magical, but Marco said the curved design of the book would make that very difficult to achieve, and it was agreed to leave it as per the design.

b. Library interior ideas and flow

- i. Marco presented the drawing of how the columns and bookshelves will look. HE Chairman approved the drawing.
- ii. Marco presented ideas that arose from the art department brainstorming session, including the flow of the various elements of the installation, and the proposed route the children will take through the library.
- iii. Marco mentioned the “Inventions” element and said that he would be making the “Leonardo” flying machine. HE Chairman requested that this be the story of the Arabic inventor, Abbas Ibn Firnas’ flying machine, and specifically mentioned the wings made out of feathers.
- iv. HE Chairman requested that the excellent team of puppeteers from the Theatre Centre be involved in the project, and could perhaps explain various element within the library to the children. For example, in the Art section they could explain “This painting is by this artist...”

c. Audio

- i. HE Chairman requested that there be audio to bring each section to life. Marco stated he had an audio specialist on his team that would be designing and installing this element.

d. Props

- i. Marco presented various slides of the props sourced per area/element of the library. HE Chairman approved all the props.
- ii. Marco presented the ideas to make the books come alive by fabrication of props and décor out of news or book print. HE Chairman requested that there be a mix of Arabic and various other languages of the world represented in the print.
- iii. Marco showed a short video clip of the train purchased for the library. HE Chairman requested that it not be an ordinary train but something more creative and magical.

e. Lighting

- i. Marco presented various ideas for lighting to create the mood and help to bring it to life. HE Chairman approved the lighting ideas but was concerned about fire safety. Marco assured him that the lighting would be safe and mostly LED's. HE Chairman also requested that the lighting be mysterious, but not scary or frightening for the children.

f. Minders

- i. Marco stated that the Library would need a team of at least 3 or 4 minders placed within the Library at various points to ensure the children do not touch and remove precious, and difficult to replace, toys and parts of the installation. He suggested that they be in costume to fit in with the various themes (for example "mad scientist"). Mr Hassan requested Marco take care of this element, but Marco stated this was not his specialist area, and that it would require a wardrobe person to arrange this. He also said that there were costumes in the National Day Store that could be used. Marco is to contact Ricardo to request his wife, Rosa assist with the costumes. Marco is to provide reference as to how he envisages the costumes.
- ii. HE Chairman requested that rehearsals be arranged for the team beforehand in order for the journey through the library to be choreographed and polished. He has requested that delivery of the installation be made as early as possible in order to facilitate the rehearsals.

g. Regular progress updates

- i. Marco requested regular meetings to update HE Chairman on the progress, to be able to deliver the best, most magical library possible. HE Chairman agreed to come to the DECC to monitor the progress, and bring his daughter (who is 7 years of age) to ensure that what we are building and making will be relevant to children.