

20th October, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Updates on Black History Month (BHM) 2018 & Black History Cymru (BHCymru365)

Happy New Year Everyone!

As you all know, RCC is leading the expansion of Black History Month (BHM) so that events take place across the country throughout the year. Below are some notes on this initiative, which we are now calling BHCymru 365.

Why BHCymru 365?

We chose this name at this year's debriefing and forward planning meeting in Cardiff on 2 December 2017. The 365 symbolises our commitment to expanding black history events throughout the year, and by calling it BHCymru, we combine both the official languages of Wales – Welsh and English. Taiwo our IT manager is currently working on our new logo and banners, which we'll be able to use on all our promotional material.

Does this mean that BHM will stop happening each October?

No. BHM will continue to be a significant black history event – it is our chance to showcase what we stand for, it is a well-known brand, major organisations support it, and it is a great way to attract funding for some of our spectacular black stars. RCC is committed to implementing BHM each year.

What does implementing BHCymru 365 actually mean?

What it doesn't mean is that you have to run twelve BHM events! We are aware that BHM has been successful through the dedication and very hard work of volunteers – all of you. We will be building our delivery of this new initiative as resources allow. Our Black History Creative Arts Strategy, approved by you all and finalised last spring, identified that RCC currently doesn't have the capacity to run **an expanded programme** without working with others and without attracting additional funding. The Strategy identified that BHCymru 365 needs to be built over a number of years, allowing us to develop strong partnerships with others and explore new avenues of funding.

What is RCC doing to support BHCymru 365?

We are exploring ways of attracting funding from organisations such as Arts Council Wales, the Big Lottery and the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, these organisations may themselves be experiencing difficulties with reduced funding available to grant as many organisations as they would like to fund and so we cannot rely on them exclusively to provide the large amounts of money we need. Our priority at the moment is to secure funding for staff across Wales who can

focus on developing BHCymru 365 through establishing networks of support organisations and funding streams.

What can you do to support BHCymru 365?

Look around you, are there organisations and people who you could work with as partners on projects? If we all spoke to just one new organisation or person and were successful in attracting just a few of them to work with us, we could expand BHCymru 365 delivery spectacularly! The whole point of this initiative is that it will allow us the freedom to build strong relationships that will endure well beyond one month, as things currently stand. It will also allow us to establish links with educational providers, ensuring that education and learning become integrated into everything we do.

What now?

We are working with a small but strong project board /committee to move BHCymru 365 forward. We look forward to keeping you informed and involved every step of the way.

Please support us in this initiative and come along to BHM Meetings for 2018 (All meetings are held at the National Museum of Wales building at Cathays park Cardiff.

The dates are below:

- **15 February (6-8pm)**
- **17 May (6-8pm)**
- **23 August (6-8pm)**
- **6 December (6-8pm)**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Uzo Iwobi OBE
Chief Executive
Race Council Cymru
07838360979
uzo@racecouncilcymru.org.uk