

## Futures Gallery: What if the future had a voice?

TIME COMMISSIONERS (What if the future had a voice?) can be found on Level 1 of MOD. in the Futures Gallery.

### **DIGITAL SIGNAGE BOX (DSB)**

A large, portrait-oriented screen with a black background, the green title text reads: What if we all had a say?

Below a landscape-orientated video shows arial footage of a protest rally, with people marching one-way down a street between parked cars.

Underneath the image, text (in white) reads:

*We sometimes forget that it's not all about us. Humans make up a fraction of life on Earth yet our decisions impact everything. And these decisions don't just affect the present, they also affect future generations. Can we make democracy more representative? How do we better include non-human animals and even plants? And how can we better care for people who don't yet exist?*

### **ABOUT “TIME COMMISSIONERS (What if the future had a voice?)”**

Do you ever wonder what future people will think of us? Will they approve or disapprove of our decisions? We can't ask them, but we can consider how our decisions will affect their survival and ability to flourish.

Our five Time Commissioners are doing just that, covering ground from the present day up to 60,000 years into the future. What does medicine look like in 20 years? How about work in 100 years?

Hear what the Commissioners have to say about climate, technology, education, culture, Country and more.

If we knew in advance how our actions would affect those to come after us, how would we act?

## **Credits**

Screen content – Merlin

Script – Sean Williams

Script – Claire G. Coleman

Script – Jack Nicholls

Build – Exhibition Studios

Enter the door to the right of the DSB (digital signage box). You are entering a space approximately 7m X 7m. The side and front black walls are flooded in blue light, white text on the northern wall postulates “What if the future had a voice?” Long black drapes hang on the other two sides; along the wall by the door we entered through and at right angles across the space, partitioning off a larger part of the Futures gallery for the next exhibit.

In the left corner, five flat screen monitors each mounted on a steel stand are arranged in a quarter-circle, each displays the life size image of a Time Commissioner. In front of them, at the centre of the room is a round table with a brown top.

Each of the five Commissioners face into the room, they sit in front of a window behind a wooden table. It is as if they are attending a board meeting in the same room and we are also present, a pot-plant in the corner makes its appearance on both screens 3 and 4.

From left to right:

On screen 1 there is an oval faced woman with pale skin and long straight black hair parted in the middle. She has bright red lips and wears a blue jacket over a white buttoned shirt. White text on the lower left of the screen indicates she is the

**COMMISSIONER FOR URGENCY**

**TIME FRAME: PRESENT DAY**

Screen 2 shows a woman with brown hair that curls past her shoulders, she has heavily made-up eyes, and lips, and wears feathered earrings with a black and white checked jacket over a black scoop-necked frock. White text on the lower left of the screen indicates she is the

COMMISSIONER FOR THE SENATE

TIME FRAME: 6 YEARS

Screen 3 introduces us to a young man with styled short brown hair, well-trimmed beard and pierced ears. He wears a navy jumper with brown leather epaulets, over a white collared shirt. White text on the lower left of the screen indicates he is the

COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN

TIME FRAME: 20 YEARS

On screen 4 is a first nations woman with long black braided hair, large hoop earrings, a nose ring and several gold chains around her neck. She wears an apricot-coloured satin shirt tucked into blue jeans. White text on the lower left of the screen indicates she is the

COMMISSIONER FOR GENERATIONS

TIME FRAME: 100 YEARS

On screen 5 a broad faced man with brown eyes and mid length dark wavy hair wears a dark suit coat over a white open necked business shirt and grey knitted vest. White text on the lower left of the screen indicates he is the

COMMISSIONER FOR DEEP TIME

TIME FRAME: 60,000 YEARS

INTERACTIVE COMPONENT

Tabletop selection with multiple videos.

The round wooden tabletop is divided in half by a horizontal white line. In the upper half, white text reads: Time Commissioners work across a range of time frames, to consider the

effects of decisions on people living tens, hundreds, or even thousands of years in the future.

What's on their mind? Click to listen.

An arrow on the end of the horizontal white line, points to the right. Above the arrow on the left is the word NOW, on the right is the word FUTURE. Perpendicular to the white arrow, five lines lead to five round white buttons. The buttons are spaced evenly around the lower edge of the round tabletop console, there is a button for each Commissioner. They align with the standing monitor screens from left to right around the tabletop. Printed above

Button 1      COMMISSIONER FOR URGENCY. TIME FRAME: PRESENT DAY.

Button 2      COMMISSIONER FOR THE SENATE. TIME FRAME: 6 YEARS

Button 3      COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN. TIME FRAME: 20 YEARS

Button 4      COMMISSIONER FOR GENERATIONS. TIME FRAME: 100 YEARS

Button 5      COMMISSIONER FOR DEEP TIME. TIME FRAME: 60,000 YEARS

Push one of the five buttons on the round tabletop to interact with specific Time Commissioners – as if you are part of the boardroom meeting. You can invite each to speak, as they do the other 4 Commissioners wait and turn to look at the chosen speaker. They will share their ideas about health, education, culture, technology and the environment, each Commissioner thinking across different timeframes.

Intertwined acid green and magenta directional floor stickers point us to the survey station, which is to the left, along the northern wall of the gallery. The station is flooded in magenta coloured light.

## **SURVEY STATION**

Asks the question: Which timeframe is most important to you?

- A      The present day
- B      The next 6 years
- C      The next 20 years

D The next 100 years

E The next 60,000 years

To submit your response, please place your Broken pentagon token so the point faces the letter of your choice around the survey station slot.

If you would like some assistance, please ask for a MODerator.

This concludes the audio description track for “TIME COMMISSIONERS (What if the future had a voice?)” in the Futures Gallery, by Access2Arts for MOD. You will find the next exhibit by turning to your right and walking into the next space.