

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MUSCATINE ART CENTER
September 15, 2022**

Present: Aarzoo Baharani, Mark Latta, Vince Lawson, David Meloy, Mark Seaman, and Brian Walter

Absent: Geri Kent, Laurie Johnson and Sara Fitzer-Huston

Staff: Melanie Alexander

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Latta at 5:32 PM.

Visitors: None present.

Minutes: Minutes of August 18, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Walter/Lawson) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$13,472.31 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Baharani) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: There were no credit card bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

The final Accreditation report was submitted to the Accreditation Commission on August 11th. We should hear something from them in mid-November.

Finance & Budget:

Nothing new to report.

Collections:

A proposed promise gift was reviewed and discussed. The Collections committee feels it does not fit into the acquisitions plan/policy.

There was also an update on incoming gifts from an estate. The committee also reviewed the parameters and strategy and are happy with how the process is progressing.

Building & Grounds:

The State Historic Preservation Office has given the go ahead for the tree removal in the Japanese Garden Rehabilitation. Aunt Rhodies is working on a planting plan. Alexander will file a quarterly report with the National Park Service this month on the project.

Community Engagement:

The new exhibitions in the Stanley Gallery opened on September 3rd and are on view through October 23rd. "Captivated by Japan" includes many graphic text panels, object cases, and installations highlighting Laura Musser McColm's household items and clothing that were inspired by Japanese design.

The booklet, "The Making of Japanese Garden in Iowa," is in the process of finalization and submission to the printer. 2,000 copies of the booklet will be made and offered for sale at a price of \$8.

The Friends of the Muscatine Art Center is presenting the radio show, "Encore for Murder: The Adventures of Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer," on Saturday, September 17th at 7 p.m. at the Muscatine High School Auditorium. The show was written by Max Allan Collins who is co-producing the performance. Gary Sandy, of WKRP in Cincinnati fame, will star in the show alongside Muscatine area actors. Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$50 for premium seating and entrance to the After Party where attendees can socialize with Max Collins and Gary Sandy and enjoy dessert and other treats at the Merrill. Proceeds benefit Friends and the educational mission of the Muscatine Art Center.

The Chamber of Commerce has led efforts to secure Muscatine as a stop for the American Queen. The Muscatine Art Center will be one destination for the hop-on, hop-off bus. Guided tours of the house will be offered. The trial run is set for October 22nd with passengers disembarking after 8 a.m. and returning to the boat at noon. If successful, 10 or so stops would be expected during the 2023 season.

The Community Stage, offered in partnership with the Muscatine County Arts Council, was presented on August 18th on the grounds on the Muscatine Art Center. The event drew 80 attendees. The Ice Cream Social was held on August 21st from 1 to 4 p.m. Attendance was lower than pre-pandemic years, and the staff intends to return the event to the last Sunday in June date for 2023.

On September 18th, French guitarist Francis Verba will perform in the Music Room. On October 2nd, the Mad Creek Mudcats will perform in the E. Bradford Burns Performing Arts Park (foundation of the Jayne House). On October 15th, the Japanese drum group is part of the festivities around the "Captivated by Japan" exhibition. On October 20th, a partnership with LULAC Muscatine and the Stanley Center for Peace and Security will bring Ballet Folklorico and other performers to the Muscatine Art Center. On October 27th, LADAMA will perform through the Quad City Arts Visiting Artist Series. Many of these performances are funded by the Mary Jo and Richard Stanley Human Conditions Grant.

Personnel:

Alexander is going to City training sessions. The focus is on employee communication and feedback.

Alexander will be on vacation from October 3rd through 5th. Cooper (Registrar/Curator) will be on vacation from October 5th through 23rd.

Director's Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Next Board meeting – October 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

Moved/seconded (Baharani/Lawson) to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Seaman
Acting Secretary