

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MUSCATINE ART CENTER**

February 15, 2024

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

Absent: Kathleen Haltmeyer, Geri Kent

Staff: Melanie Alexander

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Latta at 5:30.

Visitors: None present.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Walter) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$1,400.36 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (McCarthy/Lawson) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: A credit card in the amount of \$75.00 was presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (McCarthy/Lawson) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

The Executive Committee met and discussed the draft interim report submitted by Lord Cultural Resources. The committee shared their thoughts with the full board, and Alexander compiled all comments to send back to Lord in preparation for next week's call with the consultants. The Board of Trustees will also have the opportunity to review the Final Report in draft form.

Finance & Budget:

The City of Muscatine budget for the Art Center went through as mostly status quo. One likely change is the adjustment of the program coordinator's position from "art center aide" to "education coordinator." If approved as part of the City Council's review of the budget, the adjustment will move the position into a different paygrade starting on July 1, 2024.

The Support Foundation Advisory Committee will hold its annual meeting on February 22nd. The group will review expenditures and income in 2023, hear from staff members from the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine where the funds are held, and approve the budget for 2024.

As discussed, and voted on last month the Juanita Cory bequest held within the General Trust, in the amount of \$28,067.82, will be re-directed towards the development of an architectural concept plan for the building addition.

We are waiting to hear about the Quad City Arts Dollars grant that was submitted.

Collections:

No Report

Building & Grounds:

Alexander plans to have a video created about the rehabilitation of the Japanese Garden. There will be a ribbon cutting for the opening of the garden on May 2nd.

Japanese Garden volunteers will have a work planning session on March 21st.

Community Engagement:

Animals in Art will open February 24th. There will be a guided tour of the pottery from the Latta collection by Mark and Marie Latta on February 29th.

The partnership with the Muscatine County Arts Council continues with Art Array 2024 opening on March 21st. The reception is April 4th at 5:30 p.m.

Eagles and Ivories was held at the Muscatine Art Center on January 20th and 21st. The Program Coordinator continues to offer a class customized for homeschool students once each month and also provides monthly outreach to Grant Elementary as part of the school's LEAD Lab. On March 21, the Darwin Turner Action Theater (DTAT) group from the University of Iowa will return to Muscatine. Their presentation will reach all but one elementary school in the district and is a collaboration involving the Art Center, Global Education at Stanley Center, and the University's Arts Share program. In partnership with the Muscatine County Arts Council, the Art Center will host Daniel Adam Maltz on his fortepiano in the Music Room on March 24th.

Alexander is presenting to the General Federated Women's Clubs on February 21st. This presentation will cover the history of the Muscatine Art Center/Laura Musser McColm, special projects, upcoming exhibitions, and an overview on classes and programs. Alexander will also join owner of Aunt Rhodie's, Todd Wiebenga, at the Art of Gardening seminar on March 16th. A presentation to the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust on the garden rehabilitation project is planned for April.

Personnel:

Loos applied for a scholarship to go to the American Alliance of Museums Conference.

Alexander will attend the Regional Arts Forum organized by the Iowa Arts Council on March 7th in Cedar Rapids. The forum includes workshops, updates on grant programs, and opportunities to network.

Alexander will take a few days of vacation during the week of March 11th.

Director's Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:**New Business:**

Next Board meeting – March 21, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Adjourn:

Moved/seconded by (Lawson/seaman) to adjourn at 6:25 P.M. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Aarzo Baharani, Secretary, Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees