

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

September 19, 2024

Present: Mark Latta, Sara Fitzer-Huston, David Meloy, Aarzoo Baharani, Marl Seaman by phone, Kathleen Haltmeyer, Geri Kent, and Vince Lawson

Absent: Ann McCarthy

Staff: Melanie Alexander

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Latta at 12:00 PM.

Visitors: None present.

Minutes: Minutes of the August 15, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Kent/Meloy) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$18,983.90 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Baharani/Haltmeyer) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: Credit Card bills in the amount of \$221.76 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Fitzer-Huston) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: Credit Card bills in the amount of \$24.32 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Latta/Baharani) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

Alexander presented at the City Council's In-Depth Session on September 12th. A public presentation at the Art Center was also held on the 12th over the noon hour. A second public presentation at the Art Center is scheduled for September 26th at 5:30 p.m.

The process for selecting an architect for pre-design was discussed in detail including the Construction Manager at Risk method.

The proposal from de Novo was discussed by the Board.

Finance & Budget:

A full proposal will be sent to the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust in October. The request is to fund the collections management project.

Collections: Nothing to report.

Building & Grounds: Nothing to report

Community Engagement

Starting on September 23rd, the Stanley Gallery will be a work zone while the “Fashionably Dressed” exhibition is taken down and the “Muscatine History Revisited” exhibition is installed. While the gallery is being turned over, the “Suspended” traveling display from the African American Museum of Iowa will be on view from September 26th – October 13th. Muscatine Community College is currently hosting the display. In the historic house, photographs of the Iowa State Fair are no longer on view, and local artist Jim Elias will have work on view from September 19th through December 29th. His reception is September 22nd from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Plans are underway to bring back the Muscatine Cultural Alliance and to both raise awareness and funds for the various cultural / historical groups by presenting a luncheon on November 15th at the Merrill Hotel ballroom. The main speaker is Chuck Swanson, former Director of Hancher Auditorium, with Mayor Brad Bark making introductory comments. Tickets will be sold through the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine. Marketing materials and other information should be finalized in the coming weeks.

Alexander will present at the Iowa Museum Association conference (September 22nd – 24th) in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The presentation is on the Japanese Garden and managing public response around the significant changes to the garden. Loos will also attend the conference

The October-November newsletter is at the printer and should be mailed soon.

Personnel:

The new custodian, Darin Thomas, began on September 9th. In the short-term, the plan is for him to learn the Maintenance Technician position while also fulfilling the Custodian position. The current Maintenance Technician will retire at the end of 2025.

There was a motion to amend the bylaws to change the board meeting time for the Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees to noon on the third Thursday of the month by Fitzer-Huston. The motion was seconded by Haltmeyer. Motion carried.

The Friends Board has changed the of day of the month for their board meetings. They have moved to 4th Wednesday at noon.

The Director will possibly be on vacation October 11, 14, and 15.

Director’s Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Next Board meeting – October 17 at 12:00 P.M.

Adjourn:

Moved/seconded by (Meloy/Haltmeyer) to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Aarzo Baharani
Secretary
Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees