

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MUSCATINE ART CENTER
February 20, 2025

Present: Mark Latta, Aarzoo Baharani, Sara Fitzer-Huston, David Meloy, Kathleen Haltmeyer, Mark Seaman, Ann McCarthy, and Vince Lawson

Absent: Geri Kent

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 January 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Baharani/Seaman) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Minutes of the January 29, 2025, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Haltmeyer) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$8,643.168 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Lawson) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: A credit card in the amount of \$737.00 was presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Haltmeyer/McCarthy) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: A credit card in the amount of \$592.83 was presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Lawson/Haltmeyer) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: A credit card in the amount of \$44.20 was presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded Baharani/Haltmeyer) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

Work with de Novo Marketing has been paused for now. In advance of work beginning with the architectural firm, the board and staff spent time sharing ideas for the building, the grounds, and the types of visitor experiences that might have.

Finance & Budget:

The Art Center's budget presentation took place on Saturday, February 1st. The City Council is evaluating ways to balance the general fund budget.

The Support Foundation Advisory Committee met on February 11th to approve the 2025 budget which includes money for architectural design work and other consulting fees.

Collections:

Staff is currently reviewing the test mode of PastPerfect, checking that data fields have transferred to the correct locations in the new database.

We have received a gift of Oscar Grossheim cameras. The gift came to us from a relative of a former Board member.

Building & Grounds:

A few lead garden volunteers will meet on February 25th to discuss preparing the garden for spring.

Muscatine Community College is making a video about the Japanese Garden. The video should be ready to share by the time Melanie Alexander presents on the garden at the “Art of Gardening” on March 15th. Alexander will also be part of a session during the Preserve Iowa Summit in June, and the garden will be featured as part of a summit event.

Planning is underway to pivot the annual “For the Love of Art” event into “For the Love of the Garden” event for this year only. The event will take place in May and spotlight the garden and present some demonstrations of floral design and floral crafts.

Community Engagement

The theatrical reading of the original play, “Barberman: The Alexander Clark Story,” will take place at the Little Theater at MCC on February 20th at 6 p.m. Dr. Marian Lee, Chair of St. Ambrose University’s Music Department, is offering a free piano concert on February 22nd in the Music Room. will present this free program. On March 9th, the Art Center is hosting a closing reception for artist Corinne Stanley from 1:30 to 3:00 P.m. The opening reception for Art Array 2025 is scheduled for March 20th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The Mississippi River Collection will be featured during the April 12th Muscatine Symphony Orchestra concert at Wesley United Methodist Church. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m., and the Muscatine Art Center will host a pre-concert event starting at 4:00 p.m.

Some special 60th anniversary activities are being added to the Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 29th. Work by Tim Schiffer be unveiled, and several local artists will participate in a plein air painting day. Details pertaining to musical entertainment have not yet been worked out.

Personnel:

The new Education Coordinator is Rachael Mullins. She began on February 3rd.

A motion was made by Lawson to approve travel for Loos to the “Caring for Decorative Arts and Historic House Collections” workshop in Minneapolis, March 5-7, 2025. The motion was seconded by McCarthy. Motion approved.

The Board will have two positions open beginning July 1, 2025

Director’s Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Next Board meeting – March 20th at 12:00 P.M.

Adjourn:

Moved/seconded by (Haltmeyer/Lawson) to adjourn at 12:45 pm. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Aarzo Baharani
Secretary
Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees