

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MUSCATINE ART CENTER
August 21, 2025

Present: Mark Seaman, Kelsie Foley, Mark Post, Diana Tank, Kathleen Haltmeyer, David Meloy, and Vince Lawson.

Absent: Rebecca Schmertman and Laurie Johnson

Staff: Melanie Alexander

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

Minutes: Minutes of the July 17, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Haltmeyer/Tank) to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$5,890.64 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Haltmeyer) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

Discussion by the Board about developing a fundraising plan.

There are two upcoming retirements.

The Board discussed delaying the de Novo project until we have a better idea for our future.

There is a need to revisit the agreements for our rentals. Use of the Support Foundation to help pay costs associated with renting out exhibitions.

There is a need for a Marketing Specialist. Marketing is currently being done by several members of the Staff.

Finance & Budget:

The City's Director of Finance, Nancy Lueck is retiring soon.

Collections:

Staff, along with the Collections Intern, continues to clean up data since the transition into PastPerfect. The online database has provided the staff with better tools for organizing exhibitions, grouping objects to consider for deaccession, and preparing records for publication online.

Deaccessioning items from the collection is coming along also, but it is a long process.

Building & Grounds:

There were leaks in various places in the Art Center. This included the Stanley Gallery roof, a room on the top floor of the historic house, and the Music Room. There was no damage to any collections object. Building and Grounds has been looking into this issue.

Community Engagement

July was especially busy resulting in higher than usual attendance for the month. August is also tracking to have higher than usual attendance. Since the July board meeting, the Muscatine Art Center presented the performance of the Footlitters musical camp to an audience of 253 people, debuted the bilingual Mini Masters program, hosted nearly 100 kids from the YMCA's summer camp, brought back the National Watermelon Day event with 70 people participating, worked with Muscatine Sister Cities to hold the bell ringing ceremony in the Japanese Garden, connected to 112 people at the back to school expo at McKinley Elementary, provided programming to the 40 member of the Tri-City Garden Club, had two mornings of visits from American Cruise Lines, and offered the usual Mini Masters classes and other classes for adults and children. (There are eight more boats expected on 7 days with the last boat on October 14th.)

The 60th anniversary event will be held on September 18th from 5 to 7 p.m. The Midwest Icons exhibition will open on that day. The event will include remarks, unveiling of the commissioned work by Kimble Bromley, a few silent auction items, and food/beverages catered by the Rendezvous.

The Muscatine History Revisited exhibition closes on August 24th. The deinstall of the exhibition will be a longer process than for most exhibitions. Staff has selected the artwork for the Midwest Icons exhibition which will open on September 18th.

Melanie Alexander and Jim Elias joined staff from Iowa Economic Development Authority for a presentation on public art during the Iowa Downtown Conference in early August. On August 8th, Alexander traveled to Des Moines to serve as an elected representatives for Iowa Arts Caucus.

Personnel:

Virginia Cooper's last day is September 22nd. Assistant Registrar, Pat Carver plans to retire in November. A current volunteer will likely fill the Assistant Registrar's position.

Both Interns will complete their internships in August.

Seamon proposed pairing existing board members with new members to make a smoother transition on to the board.

Director's Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:

Seaman made a clarification on developing plans for fundraising.

New Business:

Next Board meeting – September 18, 2025 at 12:00 P.M.

Adjourn:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Lawson
Secretary
Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees