



CITY OF ONTARIO
ONTARIO MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA
FAYE DASTRUP HAMILL HISTORIC COUNCIL CHAMBERS
225 S. EUCLID AVE. • ONTARIO, CA
April 25, 2023 • 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Click or tap here to enter text.

ROLL CALL

- Kueng
- Caughman
- Gerstheimer
- Weems
- del Turco
- Dorst-Porada/City Council Member

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES LIAISON

- Sherwood-James

STAFF PRESENT

- McAlary, Executive Director of Community Life & Culture Agency
- Kuchek, Museum Arts & Culture Director
- Kessinger, Administrative Technician

MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR March 28, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENTS

6:30 PM

The Public Comment portion of the Board of Trustees meeting is limited to 15 minutes total, with each speaker allowed a maximum of 3 minutes. Additional speakers are allowed 3 minutes each at the end of the meeting. Prior to consideration of old or new business agenda items, speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to comment on that specific item. Under provisions of the Brown Act, the Board of Trustees is prohibited from taking action on oral requests.

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CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DORST-PORADA

STAFF REPORTS

1. Director's Report – Marissa Kuchek
2. Culture Fest – Marissa Kuchek

OLD BUSINESS

Click or tap here to enter text.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Board Election 2023

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES/LIAISON COMMENTS

Click or tap here to enter text.

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Click or tap here to enter text.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NEXT MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING(S)

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Next meeting:

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT	7:00 PM
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MOTION TO ADJOURN /



Agenda Report
April 25, 2023

SECTION: STAFF REPORT

Prepared By: Marissa Kuchek

Action: Report & File

Staff Member Presenting:

Marissa Kuchek

Approved By: Marissa Kuchek

SUBJECT

Director's Report

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Education:

Outreach: Over the past month, museum staff participated in numerous outreach events. At the City of Ontario's Community Open House, the Museum's booth promoted the *Built on Water* exhibit with a popular button-making activity, and staff conducted the AFTA survey. The Education team also participated in Mariposa Elementary School's Open House on April 12th, the team engaged with over 150 parents. The team also presented at the office of Congresswoman Norma Torres to their youth advisory committee and discussed the types of career opportunities that exist in museums and the arts.

Programs: Earlier this month our Museum Assistant offered her very first museum program "Mindful Art Paint with Us" on April 7th - this program was a result of the education team

participating in the *Mindfulness in the Museum* a convening at the Getty Center back in August 2022. Participants were invited to practice mindfulness and do a whole body scan in the galleries using works from the *We the People* exhibit and promote mindfulness and wellness. The program demonstrated how museums can serve as a place for being present and use art and creating as a catalyst for centering and reflecting.

On the last exhibit day of *We the People*, our Assistant Curator collaborated with exhibiting artist cindita to host a collage workshop with the community. This was a great way to end the exhibit as participants had the opportunity to create their own artworks representing issues of justice and freedom, themes well represented in the exhibit.

Next month, the team is hosting a California native plant cookie decorating class in partnership with Dolce Vida by Lised on May 13th and will have an activity related to *Built on Water* for Culture Fest on May 20th.

Tours: The museum hosted two tours last month. The De Anza community teen podcast team visited for inspiration on upcoming podcast themes, and the Assistant Curator of Exhibits hosted the City's Library Teen Lab.

Exhibits:

We the People: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow closed on April 16th with over 1500 visitors.

The exhibit continues to attract media coverage. Joe Blackstock wrote an article for the *Daily Bulletin* on artist Hanna Raykhenberg and her artwork *Capital Sunset*. Our marketing outreach featured her painting of the nation's capital. Here is an excerpt from his article:

She initially worked as a graphic and toy designer before devoting herself to painting full-time over the last six years.

"During that time, I have gotten more confident in my work and began to enter more exhibitions," she said. "I am honored to have been selected to be in the show in Ontario."

Next, Joe will interview Chaffey Highschooler Vivian Dominguez-Mencia. Vivian's artwork is *Footnote*, and she is the youngest artist in *We the People*.

On March 29th, the Library's Teen Advisory Board visited the museum for a tour. Eight teenagers visited the exhibition, including artist Vivian Dominguez-Mencia.

The 12th Biennial Ontario Open Art Exhibition will be on view from May 18 – July 30. 34 artists have confirmed their participation, and 58 artworks are expected for drop-off. Thus far, the Museum Associates collected \$d2,000 dollars from eight donors for the Ontario Open. The reception and awards are scheduled for Saturday, July 22, 2023, from 5 PM to 7 PM

Collections:

Built on Water: The Collections team removed years of dirt, rust, moss and grim from numerous artifacts including a piece of the Chaffey fountain, a metal water pipe, a redwood water pipe and a small trolley cart. The Curator of Collections is teaching the new team of Museum Assistants how to carefully bring life back to these artifacts with proper cleaning techniques. The team was amazed to see the coloring of the redwood pipe revealed once the caked-on dirt was removed.

Collections Inventory: The Collections team is gearing up to start the first phase of the wall-to-wall inventory of the entire collection. The plan is to have the archives located in the Curator of Collections office inventoried and relocated to the new offsite storage by August.

Collections Maintenance: The team is currently working with IT to switch over the collection database from PastPerfect to Catalogit. This new database will help meet the needs of the collections and allow the Museum to grant public access online. Work on organizing the offsite storage is also still underway. The team is working to identify what other equipment is needed to best utilize the space to properly store collections items.

Other:

In February, staff from the Museum, Public Works, and Planning team met with ARG to discuss phase two of our Master Facilities Plan. The workshop included a discussion of several adjustments to the Plan, including:

- Building envelope/waterproofing
- Basement retrofitting & elevator
- Improvements to exterior spaces to allow for additional program-driven use
- The Museum Store
- Main Hall wall signage
- Main Hall Kiosks
- Old Jail
- Staff and visitor safety
- Wayfinding
- Site perimeter improvements
- Event support (kitchen)

The main considerations in the above discussion had to do with pressing needs for collections storage, staff distribution, and code-required building upgrades. A preliminary sequence for the public-facing and back-of-house upgrades was also discussed with the building envelope waterproofing and basement retrofitting taking priority in the near future.



Agenda Report
April 25, 2023

SECTION: STAFF REPORT

Prepared By: Kim Boganey

Action: Report & File

Staff Member Presenting:

Marissa Kuchek

Approved By: Marissa Kuchek

SUBJECT

Culture Fest 2023

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

In conjunction with the quarterly Ontario Art Walk, the Ontario Museum of History & Art is excited to present Culture Fest 2023, which will be held May 20, 2023 from 6 – 9pm. The event is an evening-long celebration through the arts of the different cultural experiences that exist within Ontario’s diverse community. Participants will enjoy live performances, an interactive public art installation, artist vendors, food trucks, art-making activities, exhibitions, and more.

Culture Fest will thematically focus on water, in celebration of the opening of the Museum’s new permanent exhibition, *Built on Water: Ontario and Inland Southern California*. Five years in the making, the exhibit focuses on the history and future of water in the Ontario region, and brings together the story of local water agencies, regional tribes, agriculture, water conservation, and the establishment of the City of Ontario. Additionally, Culture Fest will

feature public artist Luciana Abait's large-scale immersive video projection installation, *The Glass Wall*. Originally featured in 2022 as a part of LUMINEX 2.0 in downtown Los Angeles, the artwork draws attention to water as a resource, and the realities and metaphors involved in the struggle to control it. The video will be projected onto the northwest façade of the Ontario Museum of History & Art, a historical landmark originally built in the 1930s as Ontario's City Hall.

A roster of performers, varying from a Tongva performance by Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity (M.A.L.O.) and marionette puppetry, to a rendition of Handel's Water Dance by the Southland Symphony's brass quintet, will be featured. High school bands with the Southern California Percussion Ensemble will close out the evening.

There will be plenty of additional activities for the whole family, transforming the Museum grounds. In addition to a DJ, there will be artist vendors on the plaza showcasing artworks and crafts that will be available for purchase. The Museum's Education team will host an Art Cart activity that complements the Community Voices on Water segment of the *Built on Water* exhibit.

Lemon Street will be closed off to allow for food truck vendors. As of today, vendors include: Pig Island BBQ, Coast2Coast Latin Cuisine, and Churro Bar, with several more vendors we hope to confirm soon.

Visitors will have the opportunity to preview our new permanent exhibit *Built on Water* and Ascending Edge Evaluation will be on site to collect visitor feedback through surveys. This data will be included in our final report to IMLS and inform future development of exhibits.

Culture Fest 2023 will build upon what has occurred over the past couple of years as a way to honor and highlight the performing arts, while also integrating different aspects of culture that can be appreciated by all ages. We hope this event will eventually become a destination event for downtown Ontario and the quarterly Art Walk, further defining the Ontario Museum of History & Art as a focal point for the Arts District.