

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023

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CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Special Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:11 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Kueng

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Member	Shannon Gerstheimer
		Jerry Weems
		Christian Garcia
	Council Liaison	Debra Dorst-Porada
	Museum, Arts & Culture Director	Marissa Kuchek
	Administrative Technician	Kari Kessinger
ABSENT:	Board Member	Rick Caughman
	Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James
	Executive Director	Helen McAlary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 27, 2023, July 31, 2023, and August 9, 2023, minutes were approved by a 4-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer and a second from Board Member Jerry Weems.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIASISON DEBRA DORST-PORADA

Council Liaison Debra Dorst-Porada stated that she attended the museum's Emerging Artist Meet-Up program held on Friday, September 22, and the event was well attended. She brought up the idea of working on the acoustics of the museum hallway, to better host events.

Council Liaison Dorst-Porada also discussed the different building projects as well as new state laws coming into effect to inform the board members.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Report

Education:

Built on Water: Director Marissa Kuchek presented the attendance for the months of July and August. She noted that for both months there has been an increase in visitorship both in programs and the museum facility.

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She reported on the VIP *Built on Water* event that was held in July and the premiering of the virtual reality experience in the gallery. The grand opening of the exhibit was held in August, where different community members and partners were able to experience the galleries and vendor booths.

Public Programs: Director Kuchek explained the Education department has created two reoccurring public program series, First Thursdays, and Studio Saturdays. This will ensure that the public knows every first Thursday and a Saturday of the month there will be a museum program. In the month of September Annie Toliver hosted a First Thursday for Zentangle workshop and Karla Camacho hosted a series of Studio Saturdays *Trastero* workshops.

Other events in the past two months were noted as well:

- Emerging Artist Meet-up on August 3, 2023
- *Community Voices on Water* Panel Discussion on August 31, 2023
- The first Docent Training Workshop on September 23, 2023

Conduit: The museum is working with guest curator Debra Scacco to create an exhibit that explores how the direction and diversion of water guides nearly every aspect of life. This exhibit is funded in part by the Inland SoCal Creative Corps grant the museum received.

The guest curator is really exploring how to transform the fourth gallery into an interactive space. She is doing studio tours for artists and a final list of artists should be available in November.

Collections: The collections team is carrying out the work on inventory and finding interesting objects along the way. Director Kuchek shared photos of dolls and swimwear found in the Museum's collection.

Other: The Museum finished their site visit as part of the accreditation process with the American Alliance of Museums. Notice of the Commission's decision should be received via letter in November.

In September a new HVAC system was installed in the north wing gallery space. This will allow humidity control to better preserve the art.

The Department's staff is growing by three fulltime positions and one part time position in October.

Staff Report

Museum FY 23-24 Annual Budget: Director Kuchek gave a brief overview of the Museum's fiscal year budget for the year 2023-2024. She highlighted the main agency strategic objective for the museum this year is to begin a full collection inventory. She broke down the yearly budget by category and department. All city budget information can be found on the city's website.

Strategic Plan Update and FY 23-24 Annual Goals: Director Kuchek presented an update on the Museum's Strategic Plan and highlighted the remaining components left to complete.

Director Kuchek highlighted the following accomplishments:

- Completion of the partial collections move to offsite storage
- Completion of the site visit
- Representation of indigenous artists through exhibits and programming
- Increased student participation by over ten percent
- Hire a PR consultant to support a marketing campaign for *Built on Water*

She also explained the next major steps for the museum:

- Finish the remaining items for *Built on Water*
- Update the Museum, Arts & Culture website
- Complete *Conduit* exhibit
- Creative Strategist Program
- Collections Inventory
- Increase school tour and docent program
- Museum facility updates

Director Kuchek facilitated a brainstorming activity for board members to write down different ideas for the five key areas of the strategic plan. These ideas will be discussed further at a future date.

OLD BUSINESS

JASPER and Museum Mascot

President Chris Kueng presented on the background of mascots and their contribution to different companies, agencies, and departments. He explained how icon characters can assist with company branding and marketing. And how mascots range from corporations, institutions and even schools.

President Kueng proposed that JASPER be the Museum's official mascot to support the marketing campaigns as well as be a historic symbolic figure.

JASPER was approved to be the Museum's official mascot by a 4-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Gerstheimer and a second from Board Member Weems.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES COMMENTS

None.

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MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Board Member Christian Garcia complemented Director Kuchek on her leadership and her ability to process constructive criticism and come back to the board with a strong response and solution.

Board Member Jerry Weems stated he was impressed with all the different presentations. He expressed that he sees the Museum's future and appreciates the urgency behind them. Board member Weems also stated his appreciation for all the youth programs the Museum has to offer and that he enjoys being able to participate with the community and their families.

Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer stated her overall thought for the night is that the Museum is being very responsive to the community and considering what the community needs. She also stated that the strategic plan updated was a very clear and thoughtful response to previous feedback.

President Chris Kueng thanked the board members for their contributions as the advisory board for the Museum. He also thanked Director Kuchek for the strategic plan update and the way it clearly lays out what has been accomplished and where the museum is headed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM in Historic Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Christian Garcia with a second by Board Member Jerry Weems with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

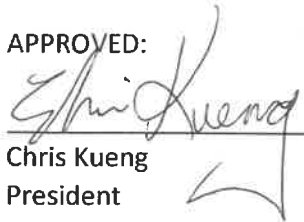
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Kari Kessinger
Administrative Technician

APPROVED:



Chris Kueng
President

