

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:05 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Kueng

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Members:	Rick Caughman, Randy del Turco, Shannon Gerstheimer
	Executive Director	Helen McAlary
	Council Liaison	Debra Dorst-Porada
	Staff	Samantha Herrera, Matt Hickey

ABSENT:

Board Member	Jerry Weems
Interim Museum Director	Cindy Cleary
Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2021 were approved by a 4-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Randy del Turco and second from Board Member Rick Caughman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DORST-PORADA

Council Member Dorst-Porada shared that she attended the League of California Cities meeting last week in Sacramento and provided updates from the meeting. She advised the board about the West Valley Connector which will include bus stations along Holt Boulevard that they are planning to incorporate public art into, and then provided development updates for the Downtown Ontario area. Board Members asked questions about specific development projects. Council Member Dorst-Porada provided answers. The group shared in a discussion about their memories of the Guasti properties.

STAFF REPORTS

Introduction – Matt Hickey

Executive Director Helen McAlary introduced Matt Hickey and provided some background information about Matt to the board. Matt will be assisting with the planning of the Arts Festival.

Directors Report

Executive Director McAlary provided an update on the Museum, Arts & Culture Director recruitment, and then shared other personnel related changes that can be expected including changing the focus of the Arts & Culture Officer to be solely be on Arts & Culture. The recruitment would run when the new Director begins. Additionally, she shared that the intern positions will be replaced by Museum Assistants which is open for recruitment now. She provided the board with an update on the Museum renovations and upgrades that are taking place, as well as a grant opportunity that Cindy Cleary and the Museum staff are pursuing through the National Endowmnet for the Arts. President Kueng asked additional questions about personnel and accreditation. Executive Director McAlary responded. A discussion about extending the Museum’s hours for accreditation ensued which included a suggestion from President Kueng to have a focus group to determine the hours. City Council Liaison Dorst-Porada suggested not setting hours in stone so that as downtown Ontario grows the hours can be flexible if desired. Executive Director McAlary continued with updates sharing that museum tours are beginning again. Docents started meeting last week. She gave an update on the Built on Water Gallery including the character development for the interactive app, and the collaborations with other Museums and educational institutions on the educational content and programming. Additionally, she shared that the Collection Committee met and has deassessed some items from the collection and ended with an update on accreditation.

Ontario Festival of the Arts Update

Matt Hickey provided an update on the upcoming festival that will take place on October 16, from 10am-4pm. The board asked questions which Matt answered. Council Member Dorst-Porada mentioned things to think about for next year such as timing of Oktoberfest events. The board members provided suggestions on places to market the event. Board Member Caughman suggested selling event banners in the museum after they are used.

Dia de los Muertos Exhibit Update and Tour

Samantha Herrera shared her background, and provided an update on the exhibit titled Brave Women. This years exhibit has more interaction with the community including a chalk wall and sculpture contest (Alebrejes). The Board Members toured the exhibit.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES COMMENTS

None

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer provided kudos to Cindy on going after the grant, to Helen for fighting for more staffing at the Museum, to museum staff and Sam, and welcomed Matt Hickey.

Board Member del Turco thanked Helen, Matt and Sam and commented on his excitement for the future of the museum.

Board Member Caughman shared that Sam did a great job with the exhibit and thanked Matt for coming to his art show with his family.

Board President Kueng thanked Matt for working on the Arts Festival, and thanked Sam for the beautiful job on the exhibit.

The Board Members introduced themselves and provided background on themselves to Matt.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday October 26, 2021 at 6:00pm in Historic Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting was made by Board Member Caughman with a second by Board Member del Torco by a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM

Submitted:

Lacey Rightmer
Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

Chris Kueng
President