

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:01 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Kueng

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Members:	Rick Caughman
		Shannon Gerstheimer
		Randy del Turco
		Jerry Weems
	Council Liaison	Debra Porada
	Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James
	Museum, Arts & Culture Director	Marissa Kuchek
	Museum, Assistant Curator	Dan Faltz
	Senior Administrative Assistant	Nelva Costello
	Administrative Technician	Kari Kessinger
ABSENT:	Executive Director	Helen McAlary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 22, 2022 were approved by a 5-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer and second by Board Member Randy del Turco.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DEBRA PORADA

Council Liaison Debra Porada spoke on strategic planning and how far the Museum has come and does not see many school trips coming through here. She wants to see the groups coming back together to go through what has been accomplished and the next steps and not the vision per se.

Council Liaison Porada also wants strategic plans for groups not just individuals or just a few people. She would also like the next meeting to have a report of what have we accomplished, what do we need to get done, where do we need to go.

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STAFF REPORTS

Director's Report

Education:

Staff Report

Director Kuchek reported on items since last meeting of November 22, 2022; the team closed out closing the Día de Los Muertos activities and de-installing 150+ windchimes, the Education team continued their prep for our winter programs. On December 3rd, the team participated in the annual Town Square Tree Lighting Ceremony in collaboration with the Museum Associates. At the ceremony, the team welcomed city residents by making their own holiday cards and promoting the upcoming That's a Wrap workshop, while the Museum Associates and staff collected AFTA Surveys. The next day staff hosted That's a Wrap, a series in which members of the community created their very own wrapping paper by making their own linoleum stamp. This activity is now part of the annual winter programs offered at the city libraries as well. Later that week, the team also welcomed artist Elide Sanchez to host an Adult Paint Night in which participants painted a 'Cozy Mount Baldy' scene.

This past December the team collaborated with the Waterwise Community Center & Chino Basin Water District to host a Waterwise Landscaping and Gardening workshop to inform the community of "waterwise" solutions to conserve water in their homes. This was a popular event and staff hope to work with the organization for future programs and information sessions.

In addition, a couple weeks ago, to complement our Landscaping and Gardening Workshop, the team invited artist and landscape designer Andreas Hessing from the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants to host a Drawing Workshop on Native California Plants. The talk was so informative and provided context on what plants are native to California and the history of how plants have evolved with the changes in water resources - this supports the many themes that will be addressed in the upcoming *Built on Water* exhibit. Upcoming this month, we'd like to invite you all to attend a virtual talk on the History of Kaiser Steel presented by Historian Ric. A Dias. The first ten people to attend the live stream in person in the Council Chambers will receive a signed copy of Dias' most recent book - *Fontana: Together We Build*.

This month the Museum Education team onboarded two new staff members, filling the positions of Museum Assistant, Front Desk (part time) and Assistant Curator of Education (full time).

Exhibits:

Upcoming: *We the People: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* (February 2, 2023 – April 16, 2023)

This juried exhibition was developed with two guest curators, Riea Owens and Dr. Patricia Jessup-Woodlin. The exhibition delves into the significance of the Preamble and unpacks the nuances of the phrase "We the People," its imperfections, complexities, and present-day interpretations. The dates for the exhibition are February 02 – April 16, 2023. There will be a community reception on February 18,

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2023, from 6 PM – 9 PM and an Artist Discussion on March 4, 2023, from 2 PM – 4 PM. The open call was posted on our museum and city website. We also sent the information to local colleges, multiple organizations throughout southern California, local newspapers, and art magazines. Our city libraries and recreation centers were also notified about the open call.

Highlights:

- 118 artists submitted applications.
- 180 works of artwork were reviewed.
- The guest curators selected 61 artists and 59 works.
- Artists from Northern California to San Diego apply to the open call.
- We also had one student artist from Chaffey High school apply and was accepted to participate.
- More than half of the artists participating in the exhibition are new to the museum.
- The seamless doc application was beneficial in assisting the staff with organizing the artists for the guest curators' during the juror process.

Upcoming: *12th Biennial Ontario Open Art Exhibition (May 18, 2023 – July 30, 2023)*

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates presents the 12th Biennial Ontario Open Art Exhibition. The Juror is Jennifer Kane an artist, arts organizer, and teacher from Los Angeles, CA, who currently resides in Joshua Tree. She serves as the Executive Director of Arts Connection, the Arts Council of San Bernardino County. The museum has sent out an e-blast, emails, and posted on the website. Printed information will be at Rec centers, libraries, and local businesses.

Application: OntarioMuseum.org/upcoming.

The Deadline to Apply: Friday, March 24, 2023, at 1 pm.

Reception and Awards: Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 5 PM to 7 PM

Other:

Applications are currently being accepted for the Public Art Program Commission, the deadline to apply will be later this spring.

The site visit with the American Alliance of Museums for Accreditation will occur on March 1st and 2nd. The February 28th board meeting will be canceled due to the site visit. This will likely have 1 or 2 members of the Alliance come out to our facility for a tour and likely talking to some of you. We will hold a meeting with anyone who will be participating in the site visit. There will be an opportunity from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on March 1st for a "meet and greet" for members from the Board and members from the Museum Associates as well as our Docents. Director Kuchek invited the Board to talk to her

after if they wanted to be invited as if there were three (3) or more members that wanted to participate it would need to be a Special Board meeting in mid-February.

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Council Liaison Porada asked that Director Kuccheck to go ahead and set the meeting and invite all and that way anyone who could attend would be able to or not. Director Kuccheck answered that she would do schedule the meeting.

President Kueng asked if there was “back-up” plan if Museum did not pass for Accreditation? Director Kuccheck responded that the Museum would be “tabled”, and the Alliance would complete and send a report with an evaluation and make recommendations informing why Museum did not achieve Accreditation. The next step would be reapplication to be reviewed in 1 or 2 years.

Council Liaison Porada asked if the *Built-on Water* exhibit would be partially done to show the Alliance members part of it? Director Kuccheck answered that no it was still not ready for viewing. Council Liaison Porada inquired if *We the People: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* exhibit would be up and Director Kuccheck answered that yes it was ready for viewing by the Alliance members.

Director Kuccheck further reported that the Collections move will take place during the first week of February. The Collections Team will provide a report at the next board meeting in March. She also informed the Board that three Museum Assistant positions in Collections have been filled.

Staff Report

OMHA Exhibits Schedule 2023-2025

Exhibition Schedule:

The Ontario Museum of History & Art reviews its exhibition schedule on an annual basis and begins the development of each exhibit years in advance. The Museum’s south wing galleries hold its permanent history exhibits including *Gem of the Foothills* and the forthcoming *Built on Water* exhibits. The north wing galleries host changing temporary exhibits that focus on contemporary artists or special history topics. Throughout its forty-year history, the Museum hosted a combination of temporary exhibits in the north wing Galleries including open calls, traveling exhibits, and curated group shows. Many exhibitions have a tradition of recurring, such as the Ontario Biennial Open (currently in its 12th iteration), the Annual Día de los Muertos exhibit (approaching its 25th iteration), the Biennial Ontario Invitational (11th iteration held in 2022) and a biennial joint exhibition with the Chaffey Community Museum of Art (3rd iteration was in 2022).

When developing exhibitions for the north wing galleries, Museum staff consider the institution’s strategic plan, the needs of our community members, best practices in Museums, and current discussions within the field. Each year the board provides input to the Museum’s strategic plan, and this includes exhibition development.

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The director shared the full schedule of exhibits from Spring 2023 through the end of 2025. The presentation highlighted a few key upcoming exhibits: the 25th Annual Día de Los Muertos exhibit (title TBD), *The Luxury of Water* (working title), *Arts & Healing* (working title) and *Ontarioland*.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual elections in March 2023

MUSEUM ASSOCIATE COMMENTS

informed Council Liaison Porada about the Associates pledge for \$40,000 to the Museum specifically to partially fund the Education fund, she also reported that the Associates have commissioned for an updated/modernize plan for the Store and she just received the plan and will review with the Museum Director.

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Board member Gerstheimer said that the Collections move was an exciting update and she hopes the Board gets to see it. She also is eager to support the Accreditation effort and will be at the March meeting. In addition, she likes the moving of some of the recurring events that take place and complimented the Director on the changes.

Board member Rick Caughman commented that he is excited about the exhibits as they reflect who we are in Ontario and wants to cultivate something in the South side of town. He also welcomed Dan Faltz the new Assistant Curator at the Museum.

Board member del Turco congratulated staff on the line up of the exhibits and wanted staff to consider for the *Ontarioland* exhibit the performers at Gardiner Spring Auditorium, such as Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra who performed there.

Board member Jerry Weems commented on how excited he is for the upcoming exhibitions but especially for *We the People: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* exhibit as he was involved in the beginning planning of this exhibit. He also welcomed Dan Faltz the new Assistant Curator at the Museum. He also will be available for the Accreditation meeting in March.

President Kueng commented that he wanted to close the meeting in memory of Steve Thomas as he did a great deal for the Museum and art in general and specifically to photography.

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He also wanted to start looking at reconvening of strategic planning groups and how his training has been that there should be a goal that allows for a review within a 12-18-month period to achieve the goals and evaluate the progress. He asked that this be put on the next meeting.

The volunteer outreach efforts were discussed by all; the needs that may be harnessed by Board members together as a team to support the museum. Museum Associate Liaison Sherwood-James made a note of all Board members emails to include in the volunteer efforts.

President Kueng also wants some of the art panels in storage to be up on the blank walls for the Alliance members of the Accreditation team to see when they come on the Museum tour in March. He also requested that the Museum put up the quote *"The museum is a school, the artist learns to communicate, the public learns to make connections"* by Luis Camnitzer.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Collections Move

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday March 28, 2023 at 6:00pm in Historic Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting was made by Board Member del Turco with a second by Board Member Gerstheimer with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM

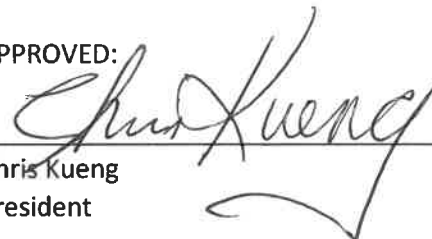
Submitted:



Nelva Costello

Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:



Chris Kueng
President