



**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**  
**May 23, 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    Garcia  
 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  
 Matamoros, Curator of Exhibits  
 Kessinger, Administrative Technician

**MINUTES**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR April 25, 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.

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DORST-PORADA**

**STAFF REPORTS**

1. Director's Report
2. VR Update

**OLD BUSINESS**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**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)**

Next meeting:

Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

**7:00 PM**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**  /



*Agenda Report*  
May 23, 2023

**SECTION: STAFF REPORT**

**Prepared By:** Marissa Kuceck

**Action:** Report & File

**Staff Member Presenting:**

Marissa Kuceck

**Approved By:** Marissa Kuceck

**SUBJECT**

Director's Report

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Education:**

**Public Programs:** On May 13th, the Museum hosted a California Native Plant Cookie Decorating workshop. The workshop filled up, with a capacity of 24 and a long waiting list. We hope to continue to offer enticing workshops for our family audiences. Next month, we will host two Emerging Artist Meet-ups in collaboration with the Arts Area and Golden Artists Inc.

**Built on Water:** All year, staff have been working on multiple projects for the exhibit and now many of them are nearing completion, including: Community Voices on Water, *Water Keepers*, a curriculum guide and the VR experience. Last month, staff traveled to the studio of artist Luciana Abait to learn more about her work painting and photographing water. After the visit, the Education team invited Luciana to participate in the Community Voices on Water project

and interviewed her. You can listen to a portion of this interview in the exhibit now. The team has been working with an audio engineer to interview various members of the community and share their relationship with water. You can listen to 6 of the 12 voices in the exhibit now, the remaining 6 are undergoing edits and will be posted to the Museum's website later this summer.

The team has been working with Ascending Edge Evaluation to evaluate multiple aspects of the exhibit. In 2021, we conducted a focus group that informed the delivery of content and over the last year, we've been working on designing a survey instrument to assess the interactive components (*Water Keepers* and the VR) as well as the overall exhibit experience. Earlier this month the team launched '*Water Keepers* app play' where we allow the public to preview the exhibit and test play the game if they complete a short survey. This has been promoted through our newsletter, social media channels and direct email. We incentivized the program by giving a \$10 gift card to the first 20 to participate. The results will inform future design of exhibit interactives.

The team is collaborating with local water expert, Cindy DeChaine on the development of a curriculum guide. The guide will include lesson plans, images, activities, and resources for further learning differentiated for K-12 school groups. It will be completed this summer and be available for download from our website.

The team is also working on the development of a VR experience that allows visitors to immerse themselves in the world of a monarch butterfly. Updates will be provided in the staff report.

**Community Outreach:** Education Staff participated in the annual College, Career, and Leadership Conference hosted by the De Anza Community Teen Center. Staff connected with local teens and families to share the opportunities to get involved and participate at the Museum.

### **Exhibits:**

The *12th Biennial Ontario Open Art Exhibition* is on view from May 18 – July 30. The final artist count is 36, with 60 artworks. The Museum Associates created a new award honoring Steven Thomas. His wife, Donna Chadwick, has agreed to continue to fund the prize during her lifetime. The reception and awards ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, July 22, from 5 PM to 7 PM. For the next Ontario Open, the Museum Associates are committed to promoting the new award for photography/conservation. We expect to receive more entries for photography. Below is the sponsorship breakdown for each prize.

- **First Place**, Paul J. Gomez
- **Second Place**, Ruby Leavitt, Gary & Janet Manildi, and Charles & Connie Uhalley
- **Third Place**, Cherry Dobbs, and Sherry Glab
- **Honorable Mentions**, Museum Associates

- **Steve Thomas Award for Photography/Conservation**, Donna Chadwick
- **City Council Liaison Award**, Mayor Pro tem Debra Porada
- **General Event Sponsorships**, The Arts Area, Donna Chadwick and Ontario Elks Chapter 1419

As of 5/12, the Museum Associates collected \$2,300 in prize sponsorship and \$1,535 in entry fees.

**Collections:** Collections staff aided the exhibitions division with the intake of art for the *Ontario Open Art Exhibition* and by creating a daily art-check book for exhibits. This allows the front desk to better monitor the status of the artwork while on display. Collections staff is getting ready to start the inventory and relocation of the archives located in the Curator of Collections office. The organization of the offsite storage is still underway. Collections has purchased various types of storage units to help utilize the space and the team is creating new boxes to house some of the artifacts. The department is at the beginning of transferring to a new Collections Management database. The Catalogit database will be web-base and will allow for public access to the collection.

**Other:**

In the last month, the Museum submitted two grant proposals. The first grant was submitted to the Inland Empire Community Foundation as part of the 2023 Creative Corps Inland SoCal Program. We made a request of \$120,000 for artists to develop new work and creative approaches to community engagement that will further the reach of topics from the new *Built on Water* exhibit. The second grant was submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of their Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants: Capital Projects program. We submitted a request for \$2 million dollars to fund the design and construction of an elevator to connect the existing three floors of the Ontario Museum of History & Art's historic building. This would improve our historic facility by ensuring access to local history collections for the long-term and improving the overall space usage and code compliance of the facility.

Earlier this month the Museum began work with MIG, a PR firm that will help support the public launch and marketing efforts for *Built on Water*. They have already secured coverage of Culture Fest, which is part of our soft launch of the exhibit. This included a 15-minute interview about the event and the upcoming event on local radio station KFRG.

The Ontario Arts Festival application is now live and available through the Museum's website. The deadline to apply is June 30, 2023.



*Agenda Report*  
May 23, 2023

**SECTION: STAFF REPORT**

**Prepared By:** Leslie Matamoros &  
Miriam Valle-Mancilla

**Action: Report & File**

**Staff Member Presenting:** Leslie  
Matamoros

**Approved By:** Marissa Kuchek

**SUBJECT**

1. Virtual Reality in *Built on Water* exhibit

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

The Ontario Museum of History & Art is working with NEXT/NOW to develop a virtual reality experience as part of the highly anticipated *Built on Water* exhibit. Virtual Reality (VR) will transport visitors to an immersive learning space that will bring to life the impact that water has on the migration of the Monarch Butterfly in our region. The idea behind the narrative is to connect visitors with familiar visuals and build a relationship with their environment through an animated scenery in which individuals can act and see how water, animals, and plants support the biodiversity and water resources in our landscape. Museum staff will present on the development process and share the current stage of development, including a preview of the environments for acts 1,2 and 3 of the experience.

This is the first time that the Museum has ever worked with VR, which is on the cutting edge of interactive museum technologies. It is a completely different way of engaging our audience. In developing the exhibit, we wanted to keep in mind the different ways that people learn, so we have artifacts with labels and text, a range of hands-on activities, and interactive components geared toward youth. The VR is being developed to capture the attention of our middle and high school audience and will also be fun for adults.