

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

August 19, 2020

Present: Diana Bolander, Carrie Estrella, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Courtney Hansen, Phil Hoff, Erin LaBonte, Larry Shimon, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, Patricia Zimmerman, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Lori Kirby

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Fricke-Weigel at 12:01pm.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

Motion was made by Zimmerman, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the July minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report- Fricke-Weigel

a. Education Committee—Vadney

Committee met and discussed updates on online/virtual opportunities. The first take and make art kit featuring Ron Stokes Mother Tree and Sons was distributed, with all 20 going quite quickly. Shiny Fish Art is currently being distributed. Education will continue with adaptive programming in the fall and will partner the Manitowoc Public Library. A grant was received by the Wisconsin Arts Board will help upgrade technology for better digital communication. They also discussed connecting next year's exhibit schedule and programming. Currently working on six projects connected to and inspired by the pieces on loan from Art Bridges.

1. Manitowoc Symphony Orchestra improv collaboration

2. Take home art kits (1000) to be distributed at local elementary schools, the Rahr-West, and Manitowoc Public Library.

3. A video production with Greg & Diana featuring Adkins & Gonzalez-Torres pieces

4. Collaboration with Lighthouse Recovery with art therapy

5. Tik-Tok account and videos

6. Working with Felix Gonzalez-Torres Foundation on getting a speaker for a virtual event.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee—Fricke-Weigel

Did not meet. Stokes prints are ready to be distributed. Mailing to expired members has gone out. Committee will review response at next meeting in September.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet

d. Public Arts Committee—Bolander

Met August 11 and discussed Lakeside Foods mural project, utility box painting, and reinstallation of Hop, Skip, Jump into the Future. They are now planning for 2021 projects

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and will be working with the Community Development Department for long range planning on bigger projects, which will allow for more potential grant funding opportunities.

- e. Development Committee—Fricke-Weigel
Met August 17 and discussed front yard project and strategic plan action goals. They also discussed development and how to best market sponsorships/how to streamline fundraising. They are working on developing a sponsorship form that will be inclusive of all funding/sponsorship opportunities, including education, exhibits, public arts, and collections. Next meeting will be in September.

 - f. Sputnikfest 2021—Fricke-Weigel
Would like to rebrand/restructure Sputnikfest for 2021. There are opportunities for more community involvement and partnerships. Looking to appoint a chair person to the committee to take some planning/organization burden off staff. Would like to begin planning for 2021 in October/November of this year.
6. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Gehrig
Met August 11. Discussed options for receptions going forward. Waiting to see traffic count for Tablesettings. There was discussion as to the amount of work Christmas in the Mansion entails. They will be organizing the 3rd floor, straightening Christmas items. Art masks are selling extremely well in the Shoppe.
7. Collection Report—Bolander
Committee met August 18. There were no new acquisitions, but there are two offers. They discussed collections work. The new data loggers are working great. A grant of \$10,000 was received from National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) specifically for collections supplies, water detectors, summer interns, etc. The museum's emergency plan has been updated and will be distributed to the Board for approval at the September meeting. Bolander also suggested that the Development Committee consider including collections in their development plan.
8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel
None
9. Director's Report—Vadney
There will be no opening reception for the Members & County Artists Exhibition; therefore voting will be a bit different. This exhibit will help gauge numbers for Tablesettings/Christmas in the Mansion. Virtual Sputnikfest will take place Saturday, September 12. Currently working on details for contests, with registration/submission two weeks prior to event, with winners announced during virtual event. Let Me Be Frank will be doing a 20 minute skit of their Sputnik Manitowoc performance, which will be opening in Green Bay September 18. A portion of the opening night's ticket proceeds will be donated to the Rahr-West. The 501st met at the museum August 16 and made a recording of their Light Saber duels in the gallery, to be streamed during Sputnikfest.

Rahr-West will be partnering with Lakeshore Artists Guild for "What We Made" exhibit, which will feature artwork created over the past several months. Art Slam will not be taking place this year.

Budget planning for 2021 is well underway. There will be no spending increase and no new hires for 2021.

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Four of five potential projects for the Art Bridges programming grant received funding. Currently applying for Bridge Ahead Grant, this is a COVID relief fund and will assist with programming and operations.

A job request has been submitted for seasonal custodial help through year's end.

10. Old Business

Vadney reminded that committees need to work on strategic planning goals. Would like these goals to go to the Board for approval in October, then Council in November.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Shimon, seconded by Estrella and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 12:46pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist