



**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  
March 26, 2024 • 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
- Oakes, Museum Manager
- Padilla, Administrative Assistant

**MINUTES**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR January 23, 2024**

**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 – Marissa Kuchek

**OLD BUSINESS**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Board Elections
- 2. Museum Ban

**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, April 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM

**ADJOURNMENT**

**6:00 PM**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**  /



Agenda Report  
March 26, 2024

**SECTION: STAFF REPORT**

**Prepared By:** Marissa Kuceck  
**Staff Member Presenting:**  
Marissa Kuceck  
**Approved By:** Marissa Kuceck

**Action: Report & File**

**SUBJECT**

Director's Report

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Exhibits:**

The current exhibition *Conduit*, opened on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit focuses on how the diversion of water shapes our cities by exploring the tension between urban growth and the natural world. *Conduit* was inspired by *Built on Water* and developed by guest curator Debra Scacco. The Exhibits and Collections divisions teamed up to install the artworks due to the delicate nature of some of the works. There are a few types of works that we have never exhibited before, including Lauren Bon & Metabolic Studio's "Accretion Lab," which is an experimental artwork that runs 24/7 in Gallery 1. Such artwork incorporates the arts into STEM by running an electrical charge in Salton Sea water. Through the process of "accretion," the experiment shows the ability of this process to absorb and sequester the carbon dioxide (CO2) from the air. We had experts from Metabolic Studio work on site for multiple days to install this work.

During installation, we worked closely with each artist to ensure that their vision of their artwork was executed. Maintenance for this exhibit is more intense than past shows because of multiple factors, such as refilling the water cups in Gerald Clarke's "One Tract Mind" or checking in on Christy Roberts Berkowitz's artwork so that her charcoal drawings are staying connected to the wall because of fluctuations in humidity which can impact the adhesive used in some of the installation.

Along with keeping an eye on the works of art, we also focused on the actual reading materials in the galleries, such as the artist's statement, which was printed on paper and dealt with the same issues of fluctuating humidity and temperature, did not allow the paper to stay completely flat on the wall. The paper began to buckle and curl, which led us to replace the statement with vinyl instead. These key components make this exhibition unique, fun, and sometimes frustrating but allow us as a team to learn and grow for future exhibits and their challenges.

### **Education:**

#### **Public Programs**

During the end of January, the museum hosted two public programs: Studio Saturdays: The Power of Art and Mindful Art Making. Both programs were impactful in allowing our visitors to learn about local history and the civil rights movement along with practicing mindfulness in our California Native Plant Garden through guided breathing exercises.

Earlier this month, we hosted a First Thursday celebrating Black Art History with educator and cartoonist Duan Kellum who invited the public to create mixed media artworks using materials inspired by pioneering Black artists. We also hosted a Studio Saturday where visitors created Valentines' paintings guided by teaching artist Erick Rodriguez. We also hosted two artist talks, on First Thursday, March 7, artist Noe Montes and Catherine Gudis discussed Montes' work focusing on Jurupa Valley Superfund site Pyrite Canyon and on March 16, artist Gerald Clarke and guest curator Debra Scacco discussed water rights, American Indian stereotypes and the role water plays in indigenous culture.

#### **Built on Water:**

Our work on *Built on Water* continues with our Creative Strategists. Artist Danielle Guidici Wallis has connected with non-profit organizations Huerta Del Valle and Master Gardeners in development of a community seed library. Wallis also toured Ontario's groundwater wells, reservoirs, booster stations, and treatment plant with OMUC's Water Quality Programs Manager. Just a few weeks ago, we also connected with Denise Silva, also known as Pearmama for a kick-off meeting to discuss community engagement with the California Native Plant Garden using her illustrations to develop learning tools for our k-12 audiences and museum visitors. Both of the Creative Strategists will help broaden the reach of *Built on Water* and bring a creative lens to connecting with the public. The Creative Strategist roles were made possible,

in part, by a grant from the Inland SoCal Creative Corps, a component fund at The Inland Empire Community Foundation.

The Museum Director and Curator of Education submitted an article to be published in the American Alliance of Museum's (AAM) *Museum Magazine* for their May 2024 issue. The article covers how museums can be intentional in exhibition development to support the well-being of our community. Earlier this month, Ontario Museum of History & Art staff participated and presented at California Association of Museum's Annual Conference in Long Beach from March 10-13. Our Presentation included, the Curator of Education, former Exhibitions Curator, and Exhibition Designer Principal discussing the development of the exhibit and sharing our learned experiences with those in attendance. The team also hosted a creative station highlighting our *Water Keepers* application and the Virtual Reality experience. We were excited to share the exhibit and its interactives with museum professionals across the state.

### Collections:

In February, the Collections team supported the installation of *Conduit*. Aside from conducting the loan intake process for the *Conduit* exhibition, the team assisted the Exhibition Division with the show's installation.

The team has continued working on inventory at offsite storage. In the past month, the team has inventoried an additional 200 items, bringing the current total of fully inventoried items to 882. The rest of the archives were removed from the Curator's office and taken to offsite storage.

For the offsite inventory, the team is currently working on the Rene & Barbara Biane Collection. This collection contains artifacts and ephemera from the Guasti area and Brookside Winery. In addition to the Biane Collection, they have also started working on part of the art collections. Inventory of the collections in the main storage room began at the beginning of this month.

The team has also been participating in professional development activities. They attended a webinar focusing on Deaccessioning and the problems museums encounter. They also attended a "Care for Paintings" workshop at the Long Beach Museum of Art as part of the California Association of Museums annual conference. Later this month the team will be going to the University of La Verne to meet with the University's Archivist and tour the archives.

The Curator of Collections has been selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Western Museum Association, her 3-year term will begin in September.

### Personnel:

Our new Museum Manager started on March 18<sup>th</sup>. She will support the administrative operations of the Museum and will directly supervise the curators of Education, Exhibits and Collections.

The Education division hired three new Museum Assistants to support and contribute to the growth of K-12 experiences at the museum. The assistants will support the development and coordination of various public programs.

At the end of January, the Curator of Collections conducted interviews to fill the Museum Assistant vacancy, and the division welcomed its latest staff member at the beginning of March.

A couple of staff also left the Museum in the last month. Our Assistant Curator of Education's last day was February 23<sup>rd</sup> and our Curator of exhibits last day was March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be opening up the search for these new vacancies soon.