

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:03 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Kueng

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Members:	Rick Caughman
		Shannon Gerstheimer
	Council Liaison	Debra Porada
	Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James
	Museum, Arts & Culture Director	Marissa Kuchek
	Museum, Curator of Exhibits	Leslie Matamoros
	Museum, Curator of Education	Miriam Valle-Mancilla
	Executive Director	Helen McAlary
	Senior Administrative Assistant	Nelva Costello
	Administrative Technician	Kari Kessinger

ABSENT: Board Members Jerry Weems; Randy del Turco

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 25, 2022 were approved by a 3-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Rick Caughman and second by Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DEBRA PORADA

Council Liaison Debra Porada spoke about the election being almost completed, with Measure Q, the tax measure showing currently being 53% in favor of passing and she thanked the City Manager's office for having the vision and making it happen. She also informed that the apartments on Euclid should be started soon, with the restaurants opening possibly in February 2023.

Museum Associate Liaison Leslie Sherwood-James asked Council Liaison Porada when Measure Q would go into effect, Ms. Porada responded that the City would not see any money from the tax measure until July 2023 as the tax is first collected by the State.

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Museum Director Marissa Kuchek introduced the Museum's new Administrative Technician, Kari Kessinger. Ms. Kessinger has a background in Marketing and Management and a graduate from California State University, Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in Communications with a focus in Entertainment and Tourism. She also has an associate degree in Visual Communications. Included in Kari's duties will be the sending out of the Board emails and taking minutes at the meetings.

Council Liaison Porada asked that she be included in the emails that are being sent out, Director Kuchek responded that she would ensure she was included and would check that the Museum had her correct email address on file.

STAFF REPORTS

Director's Report

Education:

Staff Report

Director Kuchek reported over the last month the education team hosted seven (7) tour groups, welcoming over 300 students. Last month's programs included *Art in the Dark Paint Night* on October 20th, a virtual talk on Aztec history of *Dia de los Muertos* On October 27th with Dr. Elisa Mandel, a Professor of Art History at California State University, Fullerton. On Dia De Los Muertos day, November 2nd the Education team took the Museum on the go to Mariposa elementary for their annual Dia de los Muertos celebration. They worked with about 200 students where they created calavera skulls with them, this is the 2nd year that they have partnered with that school and have established a great relationship with this local school.

On November 19th, the Museum also had the quarterly Ontario Art Walk which featured local vendors, which has shown an increase recently up to 15. There was a DJ and Herencia Mexican Folklorico Dance Group performed.

In December the Museum will host an adult paint night inspired by winter scenes of Mount Baldy and "That's a Wrap", a popular program from last year in partnership with the Library, wherein participants will create their own gift-wrapping paper by carving linocut print block inspired icons from the City.

The Museum will also be partner with the Water Wise Community Center in Montclair and Ontario Municipal Utilities Company to present a workshop on waterwise gardening.

Exhibits:

*Upcoming: We the People: Yesterday, today and Tomorrow
Scheduled for February 2, 2023 – April 16, 2023*

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Director Kuccheck shared that the entry deadline was yesterday November 21st, and thus far there has been over 100 submissions.

We the People exhibition will engage with the meaning of the Constitution and the Preamble as shared fluid experience that has transformed over generation. This exhibition was developed with two guest curators, Riea Owns and Dr. Patricia Jessup-Woodlin. Both these guests assisted the staff in developing the exhibition and reaching out to new artists not previously shown at the museum.

STAFF REPORTS

Exhibitions: Update on the *Built-on-Water: Ontario and Inland Southern California*

Museum Curators, Leslie Matamoros and Miriam Valle-Mancilla presented the update; the staff completed design development 2.0 for Built on Water. During this phase of the exhibition the design consultant Picnic Design, incorporated feedback and suggestions from partners, consultants, and Museum staff. New content, areas, and interactives have been added in response to the feedback. The Museum hired a Native American consultant to help the staff write an exhibition statement acknowledging the contributions of the local Tribes and the complexity of the western interpretation of history. The statement falls in line with the Museum's mission to share relatable narratives, and because of the process, the Museum is beginning to form lasting partnerships with tribal community members. A new section called Engineering Water was added to the *Built-on Water*. The new section explores the importance of Tongva's water management practices and the Chaffey brothers' irrigation model to tell the story of regional insects, animals and how access to water affects their life cycle. The gallery floor was activated with animal tracks, which gave staff the opportunity to talk about the environmental impact on local species. A new interactive station for younger audiences will be added in the northeast corner of the exhibition. This area is geared towards younger children and provides a space to stop and reflect. In addition, a virtual reality station has been identified in the gallery space. The VR experience is scheduled for a summer release in 2023 and the Community Voices interactive in the center of the gallery has a new component where visitors will be asked to write responses and add their own droplets to a designated area. For visual learners, the water cycle infographic has been updated to include the soil composition to illustrate the layers of sediment.

A photo montage on the south wall was also added to demonstrate the variety of ways water has impacted our area throughout the decades. A brochure has also been developed to give context to each image. There is now an application (app) which investigates the past, present, and future of water conservation. This app is interactive and is available on the Android and Apple app stores as well as in the exhibition. This application is currently in the testing stage and will be ready to debut at the exhibition opening.

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The next phase of the exhibition development is the creation of construction documents. After the finalization of the construction documents, fabrication is scheduled for the new year. This exhibition is set to open on March 30, 2023.

Board member Caughman asked what age range is the Exhibit geared towards?

Curator Miramontes responded that the whole exhibit was incorporated to include all ages and audience level, but the VR was for ages 13 and up, the application was geared towards a middle school age audience and some of the other areas are for younger age groups.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

President Kueng said he appreciated this presentation as he now can envision the ideas that have been in the works for the past few years. He likes the interactive aspect of it and how everyone can learn the different ways our water has come to us and why we need to protect it and can't wait to see the exhibit open.

Board member Caughman commented on the wonderful presentation and how now he has a better feel for what the exhibition will be, he thinks it is well thought out, and complimented everyone on a good job.

Council Liaison Porada also commented on how far it's come from the beginning with the cabinets and now how well it turned out, and thanked staff for all the hard work and how well it has turned into something worth seeing.

Board member Gerstheimer commented that she appreciates that now when she brings her children, she can tell them where water comes from and each of them can find something that they can be interested in. She is excited about the exhibition.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday January 24, 2023 at 6:00pm in Historic Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT

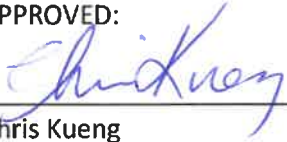
Board member Caughman had to leave at 7:00 pm, leaving only President Kueng and Board member Gerstheimer therefore no quorum for any motions, President Kueng, closed the meeting at 7:02pm.

Submitted:



Nelva Costello
Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:



Chris Kueng
President

