

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by President Kueng

**ROLL CALL**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Members:	Rick Caughman, Jerry Weems, Randy del Turco
	Council Liaison	Debra Dorst-Porada
	Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James
	Staff	Michelle Sifuentes
	Museum, Arts & Culutre Director	Marissa Gonzalez-Kuchek
	Executive Director	Helen McAlary
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Board Member	Shannon Gerstheimer

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

N/A – No December Meeting

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DORST-PORADA**

Council Member Dorst-Porada commented on recent wind damage throughout the City, and provided an update the Robert Lyn Nelson Exhibit at CCMA which will include a VIP reception on March 5, 2022. She continued with other city updates including street and freeway construction, more programs coming to South Ontario, and construction and projects in the downtown area. Board member Randy del Turco asked for an update on Glenwood Smokehouse which Council Liaison Dorst-Porada provided an update. Additionally she noted donations given to the museum, library and mercy house. Conversation ensued from the board members on other homes that were damaged in the city and neighboring cities. City Council Liaison Dorst-Porada shared her favorite item in the collection, and her vision for some of the artifacts to be displayed differently. Additionally she suggested having a schedule where the artwork in the collection is put up on a rotation, as well as having the group review the strategic plan again. Have been designated the keeper of the nativity paintings and the convention center is keeping.

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**STAFF REPORTS**

Introduction

Executive Director Helen McAlary provided an introduction to Museum, Arts & Culture Director Marissa Gonzalez-Kuchek to the board. Director Gonzalez-Kuchek continued by providing the group with some of her background and professional interests.

Director's Report

Director Gonzalez-Kuchek provided an update on the current exhibit Her side of the story: Tales of California Pioneer Women including attendance at just under 400, not including student tours, and the gallery guide. Additionally she reviewed the winter and upcoming programs, and reminded the board of the 11<sup>th</sup> biennial Ontario reception in conjunction with the Ontario Art Walk on February 19, 2022.

Museum Accreditation Update

Michelle Sifuentes provided an update on accreditation, including an overview of the entire process from start to present, and looking at what the next steps will be for the future. The application will be submitted on Feb 1, 2022, a self study will be conducted, a site visit in spring 2023, and a final decision will be made in July 2023. The Board Members asked questions about the process which Michelle answered. The Board Members concluded with providing Michelle recognition for her hard work on this project.

New Museum Hours

Director Gonzalez-Kuchek provided an update on the museum's hours which will be extended to meet the requirements for accreditation. The extended hours will keep the museum open on Thursdays until 8:00 pm, and CCMA will be extending their hours as well. The Board Members expressed their feelings on the decision and provided comments about the topic. Board Member Caughman suggested getting creative with the opportunity and getting food trucks to attract more people. City Council Liaison Dorst-Porada suggested putting in more lighting in the to make it more safe for attendees. Conversation ensued around different options to create more light and other ways to create a sense of safety. Board Member Caughman suggested having Ontario PD come by during Thursday evenings on their bikes. He also suggested finding a promotable reason to attract people every Thursday, such as specific events. Director Gonzalez-Kuchek continued her presentation sharing ideas on how to amplify the message and market the new hours, which begin on February 3. City Council Liaison Dorst-Porada suggested having marking materials in other languages including Chinese, which Helen advised there is a need City-wide for a translator. Director Gonzalez-Kuchek requested suggestions from the board on outreach. Board Member Caughman suggested contacting a local public radio station out of San Bernardino and getting an interview on their show as well as LA publications. Helen suggested asking the schools district to send out a digital flyer to their students and parents on their email platform. President Kueng suggested paper flyers through the school sites in case families don't have access to digital. Board Member Caughman shared that making it event and audience specific, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday has been specific programming, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays are another audience, so that people don't feel like they can just come next

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week. Board member delTurco asked about staffing at CCMA and the Museum and City Council Liaison Dorst-Porada suggested each board member taking a night to volunteer so there is more staff. Executive Director McAlary advised that Ontario PD can be contacted to come walk through the facility to make suggestions about the safety of the building. City Council Liaison Dorst-Porada suggested having the in-n-out truck at the grand-opening/launch party for the extended hours, which the board agreed would attract large groups.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**MUSEUM ASSOCIATES COMMENTS**

Museum Associate Liaison Sherwood-James shared her excitement to be working with Director Gonzalez-Kuceck. As an introduction to Director Gonzalez-Kuceck, she provided why she became a board member liaison and her favorite artifact in the museum collection. Additionally she shared of the death of a local artist, Tom Cypert.

**MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS**

Board Member Jerry Weems congratulated Director Gonzalez-Kuceck and provided why he became a board member, how long he has been involved with the museum as an artist, and provided that his favorite part of the museum. He concluded with providing kudos to Michelle Sifuentes for her hard work.

Board Member delTurco welcomed Director Gonzalez-Kuceck, provided background on himself along with how long he has been on the board and his favorite exhibits.

Board Member Caughman welcomed Director Gonzalez-Kuceck, gave Michelle kudos for her hardwork, gave background information on himself, and shared his favorite artifacts, and discussed the Built on Water exhibit and the opportunity that the donation that was received provides to be able to pursue some entertaining aspects for the exhibit. He concluded by sharing his thoughts about having extended hours on Thursdays.

President Kueng shared his background with being on the board, his favorite artifact, and his hope to see a future children's exhibit. He concluded with sharing his appreciation for the museum staff and their work to help the museum grow over the years.

President Kueng closed the meeting in honor of Tom Cypert and Jan Taylor.

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**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Board officer elections in March for President and President Pro Tem.

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday February 22, 2022 at 6:00pm in Historic Council Chambers

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting was made by Board Member Caughman with a second by Board Member del Turco with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM

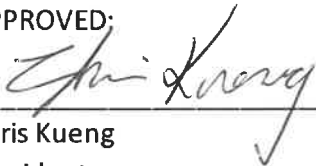
Submitted:



Lacey Rightmer

Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:



3-22-2022

Chris Kueng

President