



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
June 25, 2024 • 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

- Kueng
- Caughman
- Gerstheimer
- Weems
- Garcia
- 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
- Valle-Mancilla, Museum Curator
- Padilla, Administrative Assistant

MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR May 28, 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 PORADA

STAFF REPORTS

1. Directors Report
2. Creative Strategist Report – Danielle Giuduci Wallis
3. Creative Strategist Report – Denise Silva

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

MUSEUM ASSOCIATES/LIAISON COMMENTS

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

June 25, 2024

NEXT MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING(S)

Next meeting:

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT **6:00 PM**

MOTION TO ADJOURN /



Agenda Report
June 25, 2024

SECTION: STAFF REPORT

Prepared By: Marissa Kuchek
Staff Member Presenting:
Marissa Kuchek
Approved By: Marissa Kuchek

Action: Report & File

SUBJECT

Director's Report

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Education

Public Programs: On June 6th, as part of First Thursday programming the Education Division hosted their annual Noche de los Ninos/ Night of the Children event. The event's activities premiered an *In the Vault Session* in collaboration with the Collections team by selecting toys from the museum collection and using these objects of inspiration for the day's activities. For example, toys from the collection included a kaleidoscope, teddy bear, wooden pull toy, Jumpin' Jeep Car and hand-made felt hand puppets. The evening's program included hands-on making where participants were invited to create their own kaleidoscope, hand puppets or paint a wooden toy. The Museum Associates sponsored a free snack table and a toy raffle to conclude the event. The

event contributed to serving our bilingual audiences and welcomed over 200 participants.

Outreach: Museum Assistants participated in the Library's Books & Bites reading program kick-off event on June 3rd. On June 15th, Education staff contributed to Ontario Pride by hosting a "Letter Writing" activity and designing personal letters and postcards using block-printing.

Other: Education division recently attended the Museum Educators of Southern California Annual Institute at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens on June 17th. This year's theme looked at Centering Diverse Voices, Shaping Equity, this year's ASO is to revamp our school tour program and this conference addressed best practices. This past month, the Education team has hosted one tour, which include a total of 45 participants.

Collections

The Collections team has continued inventory at the offsite storage and main collections room. The team is on track to complete 50% of the offsite inventory by the end of June. Last month 1507 items were inventoried surpassing the division's goal by 107 items. With the help of the front desk attendants, donor files are being scanned and uploaded onto the CatalogIt database. This fulfills the requirement from, the American Alliance of Museums to have copies of collection files. The team participated in Education's *Noche de Ninos* program by hosting an *In the Vault* program, six vintage toys were placed on display for the event. The team assisted the Exhibition division with art intake for the *Art of Healing: Holistic Expressions* exhibition, which included accompanying the Exhibition division to Marina Del Ray to pick up artwork and freeze-treating over two dozen bamboo leaves for safe installation. The division welcomed researchers to the offsite storage for the first time. The Curator of Collections assisted members of the Biane family with going through the Biane Collection looking for information. This would not have been possible without the hard work the Collections team put in on conducting inventory.

Exhibits

The Ontario Museum of History & Art (OMHA) and the Chaffey Community Museum of Art (CCMA) are pleased to present their biennial joint exhibition, *The Art of Healing*. The exhibition explores the contribution of the region as a healing destination. Through commissions from contemporary artists and select artworks from the San Antonio Hospital Collection, the exhibition pays homage to local community institutions and influential medical figures, including the first Ontario woman doctor, Dr. Idris H.B. Gregory. OMHA will showcase *The Art of Healing: Holistic Expressions*, and CCMA will present *The Art of Healing: Highlights from the San Antonio Hospital Collection*.

The Art of Healing: Holistic Expressions is part of the bi-annual joint exhibition between the Ontario Museum of History & Art and the Chaffey Community Museum of Art. *The Art of Healing: Holistic Expressions* explores the connection between the healing process and artistic practices. Through painting, drawing, sculpting, writing, or other forms of expression, the featured artists in the exhibition, Amabelle Aguiluz, Flora Kao, Denise Silva, Melissa Elyn Watkins, and Caylin Yorba-Ruiz, use these techniques to as a powerful avenue for healing and self-discovery.

The exhibition will also include a participatory engagement area in Gallery 4. Local artist, Andrea Lopez painted a mural that presents a prompt for museum patrons, giving them an opportunity to participate in this exhibition. Gallery 4 will also be activated for a workshop led by artist Flora Kao, who will present a similar process for her on-site installation, *Sacred Grove*. The exhibition opens Thursday, June 27, 2024, and closes Sunday, October 20, 2024. Visitors will be invited to a community reception with light refreshments, a workshop, and other activities.

The exhibits department reviewed traveling exhibitions for our future exhibit schedule, and the Museum has found an interesting exhibition through Exhibit Envoy, titled, *Mission Gráfica: Reflecting a Community in Print*. The exhibition showcases California's long tradition of activist printmaking and offers historical context for understanding our present moment.

The department traveled to LACMA for a convening of the Art Bridges cohort on May 23rd. The team ranked potential exhibits and dates for our participation in the program between 2025-2029.



ONTARIO
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & ART

Agenda Report June 25, 2024

SECTION: STAFF REPORT

Prepared By: Danielle Giudici Wallis
Staff Member Presenting:

Approved By: Marissa Kuchek
Action: Report & File

SUBJECT: Creative Strategist Report

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

1. Introduction

The following is an overview of my work as the Ontario Museum of History and Art's Creative Strategist for the Built on Water exhibition, funded by the Inland SoCal Creative Corp. The scope of work included research, development, implementation and reporting regarding arts activities and programs designed to engage community members in exploring environmental themes related to the exhibition.

2. Background

I hold a B.A. in Visual Art and Education, an M.F.A. in Studio Art from Stanford, and have extensive experience in arts administration, education, and as a working artist. The focus of my practice for the last decade has been environmental issues and using public participatory strategies, which have informed the design of programming for this project.

3. Proposal Overview

My proposal included a series of workshops addressing the questions posed by the "Built on Water" exhibition: where does water come from, who does water belong to, do we have enough water, and who are the water guardians? It included 6 phases:

- **Phase 1: Research**- meet with key stakeholders, organizations and conduct topic specific research. Present findings to OMHA staff.
- **Phase 2: Prototyping** – Testing processes and materials; submit final project proposal
- **Phase 3: Reporting** - Submission of tracking mid-project reporting to Inland SoCal Creative Corps.
- **Phase 4: Implementation** – Execute the project; key dates include Studio Saturday, Earth Day, and May Art Walk.
- **Phase 5: Presentation** - Outcome and project summary to be presented to the city council and museum board.
- **Phase 6: Closeout** - Submission of final tracking report to Inland SoCal Creative Corps.

4. Research

Significant effort was put into research, including readings, meetings with key stakeholders, and touring and photographing various facilities and sites: Mill Creek Wetlands, Chino Basin Waterwise Community Garden, Agua De Lejos Treatment Plant, Ontario Municipal Utilities Company ground water treatment facility, Seven Oaks Dam, Lytle Creek, Model Colony Room at Ovitt Family Library, University of Riverside Botanic Garden, California Botanic Garden, Huerta Del Valle Community Garden, and attendance of the Santa Ana River Conservation Symposium. These experiences deepened my understanding of the watershed, water rights, and the regional ecology.

5. Prototyping

Prototyping involved exploring materials and processes toward the development of specific engagement activities. Processes included photographing, creating digital negatives, cyanotype (testing papers, chemistry, and exposures), Cricut and laser cutting for the stencils, learning new software in the service of these processes, and testing paper pulps and additives. It also included procurement of materials and tools, and the fabrication of equipment necessary for these activities.

6. Key Workshops and Events

- **Studio Saturday: Cyanotype Printing**, March 23, 2024 from 1:00- 4:00pm (2 sessions)
- **Seed Saving Workshop and Seed Library Planning** at Huerta Del Valle Community Garden on April 6, 2024, from 9:00- 11:00am. Offered in collaboration with Maggie O'Neill from University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources Master Gardener Program
- **Studio Saturday: Earth's Canvas & Upcycled Artistry, Papermaking with Plants**, April 20, 2024 from 12:00-4:00pm
- **Art Walk: Zine Workshop**, May 18, 2024, 6:00-9:00pm
- **Seed Library Installation**, June 22, 2024, 9:00-11:00am

7. Key Takeaways

- This role provided an ideal platform to engage with community on environmental issues in a fun and informal setting, and to address often overwhelming environmental issues in a positive way that encourages stewardship
- Institutional affiliation allowed for connections with various environmental organizations, showcasing the arts as a valuable tool for addressing environmental challenges.
- The program brought new audiences to the museum and accessible arts and environmental programming to the community.
- Dialogue among participants fostered community building and a sense of belonging.

8. Conclusion

The Creative Strategist Program has effectively combined arts and environmental education to engage the community, promote environmental stewardship, and enhance the museum's outreach.

9. Recommendations

- Continue to support and expand the Creative Strategist Program to further engage diverse community members.
- Explore additional funding opportunities to sustain and grow the program.
- Leverage the successful model of this program to develop similar initiatives addressing other critical environmental and social issues.



Agenda Report
June 25, 2024

SECTION: STAFF REPORT

Prepared By: Denise Silva
Staff Member Presenting:

Action: Report & File

Approved By: Marissa Kuchek

SUBJECT

California Native Plant Garden Engagement with Creative Strategist Denise Silva

AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

The primary goal of this project is to inspire residents of the Inland Empire to visit the Ontario Museum of History & Art's native plant garden. The project aims to deepen the community's understanding and appreciation of California native plants, emphasizing their medicinal uses. By fostering a connection with these plants, the project seeks to create a distinct visual language for the museum that resonates with the community.

Denise Silva, Creative Strategist will communicate knowledge and inspiration through two key components:

- 1. Inspirational/Educational Art Posters:**
 - o **Purpose:** To feature the native plants found in the museum's garden.

- **Content:** Each poster will highlight different native plants, focusing on their unique characteristics, cultural significance, and medicinal uses.
 - **Distribution:** These posters will be made available to the community to spread awareness and education about native plants, they will be offered to local educators.
2. **Garden Activity Sheet**
- **Purpose:** To provide a tool for museum attendees to enhance their experience during both guided and self-guided tours of the garden.
 - **Content:** The journal will include information about the plants, prompts for reflection, and space for personal notes and observations.
 - **Usage:** It will serve as an interactive self-guided experience, encouraging visitors to engage more deeply with the garden and document their learnings.

Expected Outcomes

- **Increased Engagement:** By providing educational resources, the project aims to attract more k-12 visitors to the museum's native plant garden
- **Enhanced Knowledge:** The posters and garden activity will educate the community about the importance and benefits of California native plants.
- **Community Connection:** The project will foster a sense of connection between the community and the native plant garden, promoting conservation and appreciation of local flora.
- **Visual Identity:** The distinct visual language created through the posters and activity sheet will enhance the museum's identity and strengthen its role as a cultural and educational hub in the Inland Empire.

By combining artistic inspiration with educational content, the project will encourage a meaningful exploration of the native plant garden, enriching the community's relationship with California's native plants.