

The Ontario Museum of History & Art

BOW Special Meeting/ Fieldtrip

December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

2 PM to 3:30 PM

Minutes

**Present: Ada Lopez, Rick Caughman, Helen McAlary, Chris Kueng, Debra Dorst-Porada, Darlene Sanchez, Dan Beers, John Worden**

**Absent: Randy del Turco, Jerry Weems**

**I. Introduction**

- Director John Worden welcomed everyone to this special in - person meeting which is classified as a field trip
- John thanked the project partners, including Ontario Municipal Utilities, Ontario Public Library, Claremont University, OMSD, and CJUHSD.
- The meeting's intention is to give everyone an outline of the themes, goals, process, and schedule for completion.

**II. Overview**

- AN IMLS Grant is being used for this project and covers the fabrication of the exhibit itself. The construction process of the gallery space itself and the modular units is not accounted for by this grant.
- The grant is designed to allow for a multi-year project.
- The construction projects, including the gallery space where Built on Water will be located, ADA restroom, offsite collections storage, and the conversion of the Carlson Gallery into a hands-on educational space, are the first phase of the Museum's 30 year Master Facilities Plan.
- The grant schedule has been updated to account for COVID.

**III. Goals and Themes**

- In addition to the Museum's regular audience of community members and visitors, the targeted audience is students K-12.
- The goal of the exhibit is to tell the story water in the region – where does our water come from and why is it important to conserve it. The exhibit will share the sense of innovation, which has existed since Ontario's founding with the Chaffey's, with the general public. Teaching the next generation of water conservators is also a key exhibition goal. Active Learning and continuous evaluation are emphasized.
- Exhibition themes include Conservators of Water, Earth Science, and Water Consumption. These broad themes contain various sub-themes.

**IV. Educational Standards**

- Over 60 educational standards are tied to the exhibition
- Technology and Interactive learning will be emphasized in Built on Water. For example: a kiosk is envisioned that would allow visitors to become the engineer by using the interactive.
- The exhibit fully utilizes both STEM and humanities subject areas.
- A teacher Advisory Group was utilized to help shape how the exhibit can best meet the educational needs of students

Chris Kueng asked what school partnerships are involved and encouraged the Museum to involve the smaller school districts.

**V. Construction and Design**

- The conceptual design by Picnic Design was shared with the group.
- The development of Multi-Use Display Cases (not funded by the grant) will allow the exhibition to have the continuous ability to be updated and modified to serve different audiences. The approach is in contrast to the Gem of the Foothills exhibition, which does not allow for the museum best practices necessary for museum accreditation. Gem of the Foothills is static, cannot be reconfigured to accommodate larger school tours, does not allow objects to be easily rotated, and does not include interactive learning components.
- \* The HVAC will be replaced to meet accreditation standards for maintaining proper temperature and humidity, which is a key challenge in a historic building that was not designed to be a museum.
- Window coverings will also be installed to control light levels and a better environmental seal - also allowing the wall to be used to a fuller extent.
- While the gallery is small, design choices are being made to incorporate every inch of space for the design.

Rick Caughman inquired about various design elements and exhibit occupancy.

Councilmember Dorst Porada inquired about the HVAC

**VI. Timeline**

- a. A soft opening is planned for the end of 2021 to allow for evaluation of the exhibition and adjustments. The project timeline has been adjusted to be fully opened to the public in early 2022.

Councilmember Dorst Porada inquired further about the exhibit completion timeline.

**VII. CIP Construction Projects**

- Public Works Project Manager Dan Beers Dan summarized the museum construction projects, including the Southeast Gallery (where Built on Water will be located), ADA restrooms (where the staff entrance hallway meets the main hallway), Offsite Collections Storage, and the Carlson Gallery's change into a hands-on educational space.
- In 16 weeks, the bathroom, offsite storage and the main phase will be completed, and fabrication can begin.
- Offsite Collections Storage will be located at the Public Works facilities, to be used to house artifacts located on the first floor of the museum.

**VIII. Discussion**

- *Discussion occurred about various exhibition design elements still under development.*
- *Councilmember Dorst Porada offered her assistance in ensuring the museum has the resources needed to complete the project.*
- *Participants encouraged the museum to expand potential sources of artifacts with other museums and water agencies.*
- *Access to interview local dairy farmers from South Ontario would be helpful.*
- *Chris Kueng encouraged project documentation as it occurs for posterity.*

The meeting was concluded at 3:30 PM

*Chris Kueng 1-26-2021*

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Signature