

Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President Chris Kueng called the Museum Board of Trustees meeting to order at 6:05 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by President Kueng

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	President	Chris Kueng
	Board Members:	Jerry Weems
		Shannon Gerstheimer
		Christian Garcia
	Council Liaison	Debra Porada
	Museum Associate Liaison	Leslie Sherwood-James
	Executive Director	Helen McAlary
	Museum, Arts & Culture Director	Marissa Kuchek
	Senior Administrative Assistant	Nelva Costello
ABSENT:	Board Member	Rick Caughman

Board members introduced themselves to new Museum staff members introduced by Museum Director Marissa Kuchek.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 26, 2023 were approved by a 4-0 vote with a motion from Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer and seconded by Board Member Christian Garcia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON DEBRA PORADA

Council Liaison Debra Porada discussed the imminent establishment of a sports park in Ontario and emphasized the positive impact it will have on the City. Additionally, she alerted attendees to a recently passed bill in the California Assembly that prohibits the use of synthetic grass in public fields affecting numerous public field and schools with such surfaces.

Ms. Porada urged individuals to pay attention to their receipts in Ontario to ensure that retailers are applying the correct increased sales tax of 8.75%. She encouraged people to notify her if they observe any discrepancies so that the EDA can inform the respective retailers about the accurate tax amount that should be collected.

Change to order of item on the agenda:

A motion to move Old Business above Staff Reports on the agenda was unanimously approved through a 4-0 vote, motioned by Board Member Shannon Gerstheimer and seconded by Board Member Jerry Weems.

OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan Update and FY23-24 Annual Goals

Director Kuchek included in the agenda packet a chart with “Strategic Plan Update/Checklist” and discussed the plan, pointing out items that were discussed. She also thanked the Board for their feedback and pointed out the items on the chart that the Museum would have as annual goals for the next year and were divided into the following categories:

- Dynamic Experience
- Engaging Diverse Communities
- Physical Environment
- Develop Additional Resources

The last item on the “Plan/Checklist” listed is “Achieve Museum Accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums”, which Director Kuchek was proud to announce she was just notified was going to happen very soon. She thanked everyone involved in all the work required for this great accomplishment, especially Museum Curator, Michelle Sifuentes who was present.

(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Museum Director)

Award for former Board member

Director Kuchek informed the Board that former Board member Randy del Turco is now a Planning Commissioner and as such, the Museum prepared an award for his many years of service on the Museum Board of Trustees and wanted the current Board to see it as it would be delivered to Mr. del Turco.

Staff Report

Director Marissa Kuchek.

Education:

Public Programs: In September, the Education Division coordinated four programs.

- First Thursdays is a new series where the Museum is open late from 5pm – 8pm. During the program, the galleries are open late and guest artist host workshops or a drop-in activity.
- Our Emerging Artist series continued with a program titled: Meet the Arts Associations.
- Studio Saturdays is a new recurring series that was also added this fall.

- In October, the Education Division coordinated two programs. This month's first Thursdays featured calavera mask making. And this year's reception for our 25th annual Dia de Muertos exhibit. *Recuerdos de Sabores*.

Built on Water:

Curator of Education, Miriam Valle-Mancilla hosted an inspiration Station with former Curator of Exhibitions, Leslie Matamoros for the Western Museums Associations' (WMA), Annual Meeting in Pasadena, CA on October 8th. They highlighted two projects created in conjunction with *Built on Water* exhibit *Water Keepers*: a mobile application that explores the past, present and future of water management through a gamified experience and *Wings of Transformation; A Monarch's Journey* a Virtual Reality (VR) experience that uses social emotional learning to explore our local ecology through the lens of the monarch butterfly's migration. Earlier this month the team received news that their conference proposal was accepted for California Association Museums Annual Meeting in Long Beach where they will share more about the development of *Built on Water* later in March 2024.

Community Outreach:

On September 30th, the Education Division and Museum Associated participated in KinderFair, annual event at Ovitt Library. Staff also participates in KinderGo where staff reads to Kindergarteners at their school.

Collections:

The Collections team has inventoried over 500 items and has moved 345 inventoried items to the offsite storage. On October 5th the team attended a Disaster Preparedness Training at the Western Association of Museum's annual conference: Damaged Paper Recovery workshop. The team learned how to deal with photographs, documents, and books that have been damaged by water or by soot.

(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Museum Director)

STAFF REPORTS

Assistant Curator of Exhibits, Samantha Herrera

Exhibitions: *Dia de los Muertos: Recuerdos de Sabores* (Flavorful Memories)

The Ontario Museum of History & Art is celebrating its 25th anniversary exhibition of the *Dia de los Muertos* exhibition. The exhibition focuses on favorite foods, an essential element of an altar where it is tradition to offer the departed their favorite foods and drinks.

The exhibition includes thirty-six artists and seven organizations that created an *ofrenda* (altar) for the exhibition:

- Chaffey High School – Newcomer Students
- Chaffey High School, MECHA Club
- Colony High School
- Rancho Cucamonga High School, National Spanish Honor Society

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- Lytle Creek Elementary School
- City of Ontario Community Life & Culture Administration and Housing Services Departments
- City of Ontario, Lewis Library

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS

Museum Associate Liaison commented that she was so excited about the accreditation of the Museum and especially wanted to thank Museum Curator Michelle Sifuentes.

Leslie Sherwood-James also commented on Museum Associates Board retreat taking place on Saturday, October 28th and will be looking at their action plan to be on same page with the Museum.

Board member Gerstheimer commented on the attendance of the Museum, it is looking great and thanked staff for the report and felt that the outreach efforts are being effective. Also thanked Michelle for her work on getting the Museum's accreditation. She also commented on the daunting task that was surmounted for the accreditation to finally happen. Ms. Gerstheimer thanked and congratulated the entire staff.

Board member Christian Garcia congratulated staff and appreciated the events and thanked everyone and commented how much his family also enjoyed it. He likes the artist community that has emerged along with the businesses and the "living downtown" that now exists.

Board member Jerry Weems also congratulated staff on getting the Museum accreditation and pointed out how Museum Director Marissa Kuchek "hit the ground running" when she arrived, and it seemed like she had been here 10 years not almost 2. He appreciated the leadership displayed here. He welcomed the Museums new staff members.

President Kueng echoed the congratulatory sentiments by all and said he never had any doubt of accreditation since the Museum had all "its ducks in a row". He appreciated all the work done and thanked everyone and was very excited, he also wanted that accomplishment used as a marketing tool.

President Kueng closed the meeting in memory of John Machado, a commissioner of the Public Art Program Advisory Commission, who passed away this month.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

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NEXT MEETING

Tuesday November 21, 2023 at 6:00pm in Historic Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT

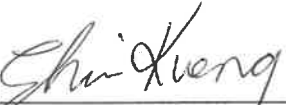
Motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting was made by Board Member Garcia with a second by Board Member Weems with a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM

Submitted:



Nelva Costello
Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:



Chris Kueng
President