

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

October 1, 2019

Present: Baker, Blanchard, Fullerton, Jbara, Justice, McElhone, Morehouse, Washington

Absent: Hollins, Stinson

Meeting Agenda

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – July 16, 2019
3. Dr. L. Marshall Washington, KVCC President, Will Provide Update Regarding the College's Strategic Plan
 - Strategic Plan Timeline, Board FY20 Goals/Priorities, Outwardly-Focused Strategic Focus Areas (Student Success, Quality Education, Community Impact, Engagement, Resource Management), Strategic Initiatives (18 total), College-Wide Exercise: Relate Strategic Initiatives to New Focus, Student Voices Advisory Exercise, Key Results: Student Voices Advisory.
 - For the entire Strategic Plan, visit kvcc.edu, type “strategic plan” in search box; it appears on the “Transparency” page. (The exact link is <https://www.kvcc.edu/about/StrategicPlan2020-2022.pdf>)
 - Has there been any pushback for the new Plan?
 - There has been some resistance to the new plan because some individuals believe we have to include “everything” in it. We have only included targeted items from the Board on the Plan. There has been a lot of support for the changes.
 - The process to build the Strategic Plan took a lot of time, but everything we do now ties to the Plan. It provides focus and will lead to clearer expectations for everyone.
4. Informational Updates
 - 4.1 Strategic Planning Update
 - Current and new members introduced themselves.
 - Brief history of the Museum was shared, including 1881 (first donation), and 1996 (opening of current building).
 - Museum’s Strategic Plan Five Strategic Initiatives was presented.
 - Programs for individuals on the autism spectrum were experimented with, and we realized that we can integrate the principles we learned into everyday programming.
 - We are in the process of renting an exhibit on mental health on 2023 that is along the same lines as our Race: Are We so Different exhibit from 2010 and Voices for Social Justice.
 - What We Carried: Fragments and Memories from Iraq and Syria exhibit included information from area immigrants.

- Juneteenth event was held June 15, 2019, to celebrate the arts, freedom, dance, etc. We are planning to host the event with Yolonda Lavender again.
- Opening in a few weeks is Filling in the Gaps: The Art of Murphy Darden. Mr. Darden is 91 and has been making art and collecting items relating to African American culture and history for decades.
- Willard Wigan exhibit featuring artwork that can fit in the eye of a needle is coming soon in our first floor gallery, and Patient No More: People with Disabilities Securing Civil Rights is opening in November.
- The Mystical Arts of Tibet will take place here in November in coordination with Connecting Chords Music Festival.
- New part-time staff members are Meggie Anderson, Garrett Sander, Gray Willson.
- Attendance numbers were shared. We want to keep moving forward to reach higher figures and provide high-quality experiences that are relevant to all.
- Website numbers were shared.
- We are seeking input from all members, and we're looking to make this a very interactive group in order to learn how we can make the Museum resonate better with the community.
- At future meetings, other staff members will be invited to share about different aspects of the KVM's offerings.

5. Advisor Discussion

- Visit numbers dropped. Where there changes that affected this?
 - Most of this has been construction, extreme cold weather, and the fact that we had big exhibits earlier, like Dinosaurs. Trying new programs like Statewide Astronomy Day will boost our attendance.
- How is the new exhibit space doing since Challenger was taken out?
 - Challenger was replaced because the national group wasn't keeping up with programming, and limited patrons could visit because it was locked most of the day to the public. The new Innovation Lab is more hands-on, and we are still rebounding from the switch. Transportation costs for schools are often prohibiting schools from taking field trips.
 - Maximizing instructional time and budget are considerations for Kalamazoo Public Schools. Scholarships for visits or the ability to "take the Museum on the road" are potential ideas.
 - Setting up a "teaching collection" that can be loaned or staff who can visit are possibilities.
 - KPS students have free Metro Transit passes and could possibly be sent by their teachers, though anyone under 16 must have a chaperone.

6. Next Meeting – January 7, 2020 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meeting – April 14)

7. Adjournment