

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Advisory Team

12:00 PM

October 6, 2020

Present: Baker, Fullerton, Hollins, Jbara, Justice, McElhone, Morehouse

Absent: Blanchard, Ferraro, Lee, Stinson

Meeting Agenda

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
 - The Agenda was accepted as presented.
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – July 7, 2020
 - The Minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Informational Updates
 - The spreadsheet in the Agenda/Minutes is to keep track of attendance in accordance with the bylaws. It is a useful reminder to stay engaged.
 - The KVM remains closed and has been closed since March 13. We have been working at delivering more online content, including virtual exhibits and tours, and a podcast has recently been launched and posted. Interpreters worked on scripts and recording starting in April. Online offerings are an exciting opportunity to offer more accessibility.
 - We met last Thursday to begin updating the website, a project which was conceived several years ago. Funding is now in place, and we outlined with the vendor what we would like to see. The vendor would like to set up meetings with stakeholders who are invested in the Museum, and Bill would like to get feedback from MAT members after we get the proposal back.
 - If this project had started last year, it would've looked very different. We look forward to seeing more inclusive content on the website now that we have more experience with online offerings. Staff will be able to do updates to the site, which they are not currently able to do, and this could lead to shifting of job responsibilities or even new positions.
 - We are moving ahead with Chemistry Day on October 17, with preregistration required. There is a small fee for an activity bag for supplies to do the experiments along with the chemists. We typically get 600 – 1000 participants in a typical year, but this year will obviously be different. We would normally try to do a free online signup, but we want to be sure that participants will show up and engage with the content. Dr. Washington is giving a short introduction, and we have some live content to go along with the pre-taped content.
 - Fretboard and Storytelling Festival in Jan, Feb, and March have been shifted to all online, pre-taped along with some live opportunities. We hope to gain a lot of information by post-COVID on how to deliver both online and in-person programming.

- We worked with Yolonda Lavender for the Juneteenth festival, which was our first experience with an online program. We had over 1500 visitors, and visitors could pop in and out in this 5-hour program.
- We're currently working on a reopening plan to guide us in the process. We will be welcoming small groups in 90-minute blocks, with time to clean and ready the building for the next group of participants. MAT members are invited to come to evaluate the experience for the initial reopening run. Bill will share more details as they become available.
- SHARE is having their annual Summit on Racism, which will be a virtual event. KVCC and KVM are sponsors, and you are encouraged to sign up and participate. SHARE also has other programs that are free that the Museum is actively participating in.
- We are continuing to do the fourth iteration of the photo documentary project where volunteer photographers take photos around Kalamazoo. When it is finished, there will likely be a lecture series.
- We are actively collecting local history in COVID times, and we just accepted 8 Black Lives Matter murals. We have had interest from the Black Arts and Cultural Center in doing a joint exhibit. We are committed to collecting a diverse assortment of artifacts for our Collections, and these items may not be available twenty years down the road.
- We are fortunate that the College continues to be conservative and is not opening too soon, to the detriment of our staff and guests. Beyond being welcoming, we are committed to being a safe space.

4. Advisor Discussion

- Are staff members back in so that Sonya can get more documents for her daughter for the Murphy Darden project?
 - Please reach out to Tammy, and she can come in for a set period of time and get you set up.
- What is the ultimate goal with the BLM murals?
 - We are going to talk to the artists and use the artwork as a basis for future exhibits. This is different than usual, but it's a good way to set up a community project. This will provide an oral history that can be referred back to and can also provide online content.

5. Next Meeting – January 5, 2021 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meeting – April 6, 2021)

6. Adjournment

MAT Attendance	July-19	October-19	January-20	April-20	July-20	A=Absent
						P=Present
Blanchard	P	P	P	P	P	
Ferraro	P	P	A	P	P	
Fullerton	P	P	P	A	A	
Hollins	A	A	P	P	P	
Lee	P		A	P	P	
Justice	P	P	A	A	A	
Morehouse	P	P	P	P	A	
Stinson	A	A	P	P	P	