

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

January 3, 2023

Present: Baker, Ferraro, Fullerton, Jackson, Jbara, McElhone, Michaels

Absent: Justice, Morehouse, Stinson

Meeting Agenda

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
 - The agenda was approved as presented.
 - 1.1 Welcome to New Members
 - Jodi Michaels of Global Ties Kalamazoo just joined us, and Jermaine Jackson, who is with the Kalamazoo Public Libraries, will be joining us later. Jermaine was also behind the HeLa exhibit here. Jodi has been in Kalamazoo for nearly 15 years and has lived in the middle east and was born in Canada. Global Ties Kalamazoo does “exchanges for everybody.”
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – October 4, 2022
 - The minutes were approved as presented.
3. Informational Updates
 - AAM reaccreditation was granted in July 2022. AAM noted proactive efforts in diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion. Next reaccreditation will be around 2030.
 - Jermaine Jackson was the curator of our HeLa exhibit and play. He has a traveling exhibit about his great aunt, Henrietta Lacks. The play was an original produced by Buddy Hannah; there were two presentations last year, and there will be an encore presentation January 15. There may be a live presentation at Loy Norrix High School. The exhibit will be open through the end of February.
 - Wonder Media exhibit will be here until December 2023. It was created in partnership with Sue Ellen Christian of WMU, who authored a book on the subject. She has also been working with middle school students as focus groups, and working with KPS to visit later this year. They are committed to bringing their middle schoolers to this exhibit.
 - One of the new exhibits that will be opening in February is Mental Health: Mind Matters. Additional programming with community partners will be coming in the next few weeks.
 - Moments in Time: The Kalamazoo County Photo Documentary Project is an exhibit on display right now. We have 40 years of images from volunteer photographers, and on January 21 at 1:30 pm, we will have a reception celebrating the project. The images have general descriptions.
 - Holiday Break Events and Programs include Space Discovery Days, live birds of prey from the Kalamazoo Nature Center, sand painters, and craft projects, including owl magnets.

- Our new website has been up for just over a year. We are already talking about making updates because the technology is always changing. We're getting close to half of our collections being searchable online—currently at over 22,100 items.
- Rain Garden Tours took place over the summer—it is an outdoor exhibit in front of the museum and behind Anna Whitten Hall.
- Annual Foodways Symposium will take place in April. It is a hybrid event with virtual and in-person experiences, in coordination with the FIC.
- Projects for this fiscal year include MJST ramp access project, administrative office renovation to split one office into two workspaces. These projects are on hold until the hire of a facilities manager. FY 2022 highlights included theater AV update, planetarium update, collections care and management initiatives, ADA door openers for third floor restrooms, and reaccreditation expenses for AAM reaccreditation. Theater updates will lose one seat but gain a lot in accessibility.
- We just purchased an inset projector so that we can project square images onto the planetarium dome.
- Murphy Darden, a local collector and educator, is donating his collection to the museum. A small case exhibit will be opening on the first floor next month. Some of his works have been reproduced and are being displayed at Texas Township. This is a dedicated move toward ambient learning.
- We've had just over 30,000 visitors this year. We expect those numbers to go up as we transition back to typical programs. We've had over 3.1 million people come to the museum since joining KVCC and 2.6 million since we've been in this building.

3.1 Strategic Planning Updates

3.1.1 KVCC Strategic Plan Updates from Tracy Labadie

- None.

3.1.2 KVM Strategic Plan Updates from Bill McElhone

- We're currently operating under the 2018-2023 strategic plan, but we will be updating it soon.
- We will be calling upon MAT members to help update the plan, including steering committee, surveys, etc.

4. Advisor Discussion

- Recovery Institute may be a good partner for the Mental Health exhibit. They work with ISK and people with lived mental health experiences. They give panels for free.
- 2020 was not a fortuitous year for a photo project, but it was an interesting one.
- There is much more of a focus on community outreach now, so we're really looking for connections through the MAT.
- Our current goal for finishing the new strategic plan is September. Tracy Labadie, who has participated in the college's strategic planning, will be helping guide this process.
- Jodi has been to most exhibits/programs presented here, and people in Armenia are collaborating with Sue Ellen, so it really is world class. Scientists have toured the HeLa exhibit with Jermaine.

5. Next Meeting – April 4, 2023 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meeting – July 11, 2023)

6. Adjournment

MAT Attendance					
	October-21	January-22	July-22	October-22	A=Absent P=Present
Blanchard	A	P	A	A	
Ferraro	P	P	P	P	
Fullerton	A	P	P	P	
Justice	A	A	A	P	
Morehouse	P	P	A	P	
Stinson	P	P	P	P	