

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

April 4, 2023

Present: Baker, Ferraro, Jbara, Kobb, Labadie, McElhone, Michaels, Morehouse, Stinson

Absent: Fullerton, Jackson, Justice

Meeting Agenda

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
 - The agenda was accepted as presented.
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – January 3, 2023
 - The minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Informational Updates
 - Murphy Darden and Hela Story exhibits have closed. We are thankful to Jermaine Jackson for his assistance in enabling us to show the original play and mini exhibit.
 - Fretboard Festival has undergone a lot of changes recently. We've had over 1250 views of videos from this year. Many people who used to gather at this event met up for the first time in three years.
 - Fretboard Boomerang Concert was held at the Dale Lake Auditorium, and we had 352 attendees. It was the first show with new sound and lighting equipment in the auditorium. This group will be playing at the Kennedy Center later this month.
 - Dr. Washington allowed us to close the museum to the public in order to allow the KPS visits. For many staff members, this was the first they've seen of large groups like this.
 - Delta Sigma Theta sorority exhibit opened, celebrating 50 years of their local chapter.
 - Photo documentary project running through June 4.
 - Mind Matters exhibit running through June 18.
 - Mental Health Fair will be on May 20 to involve community partners.
 - KVM webpage was updated this morning. There is a 360 tour of the building available.
 - Earth Day Celebration will be community wide. We will include rain garden tours given by one of our staff members who is a master gardener.
 - Explore Your World exhibit is coming this summer, as well as Splat: The Buzz About Flyswatters. We will be the first US museum to exhibit this collection from the Netherlands.
 - Black Film Festival will be hosted Friday, June 16. Yolonda Lavendar is coordinating.
 - Attendance so far is 58,593 this fiscal year. We're at 2.6 million in this building and 3.1 million since joining KVCC. Online collections records now have over 22,000 searchable records.
- 3.1 Strategic Planning Updates

- Look for a survey within the next couple of months. We're developing the questions with Tracy Labadie and Evan Pauken. We will probably have an outreach to this group before the next MAT meeting.

3.2 Programs Updates from Lexie Kobb

- We've started to see our program attendance really bounce back from the pandemic. Our new program coordinator, Stephanie, has taken over creation of programs. Carol Kercher, new STEM coordinator, will be beginning in May. She has expertise in chemistry and is very familiar with public programming in chemistry, so we have some new opportunities.
- Fretboard Festival has been entirely virtual for the past two years, and we've had experience with recording the festival. We went hybrid this year, recording all of the concerts and posting them online as well. Old videos continue to get views.
- We were struggling this year looking for diversity at Fret. Bryan Heany discovered that the boomerang concert trio was coming through the area a month after Fret, so we were able to bring them in.
- March 14 and 16 were KPS 6th and 8th graders' visits to the Wonder Media exhibits. We partnered with several departments in the college to give kids (270 students) career exploration half of the day and the exhibit on the other half. Deb Coates headed the program from the college side.
- Stephanie's second big program week happened this past week with spring break. We did yoga, interactive programs, hands-on projects, etc. This was tied to the mental health exhibit. Explore Your World will be our summer theme, based on our new third-floor exhibit.
- Foodways Symposium will be starting April 10 with a virtual keynote address, April 15 outdoor festival in coordination with the Food Innovation Center. "Food and Media" is our theme this year. We had hundreds of people last year even though it snowed.
- Statewide Astronomy Night (SWAN) will happen April 29, with free planetarium shows and guest lectures.

4. Advisor Discussion

- It's so valuable to give kids career exploration; this should be brought to the board.
- A lot of kids aren't seeing job opportunities for non-four-year degrees, as this is essential.
- Colleagues International had a group from Romania visit the KVM, and the head of the group had many things to share about the Mental Health exhibit. Things that happen here are shared broadly.
- National Museum of American Diplomacy is just opening, and there may be interest in bringing something from it to Kalamazoo.

5. Next Meeting – July 11, 2023 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meeting – October 3, 2023)

6. Adjournment

MAT Attendance							A=Absent
	January-22	July-22	October-22	January-23	April-23		P=Present
Ferraro	P	P	P	P	P		
Fullerton	P	P	P	P	A		
Jackson	X	X	X	P	A		
Justice	A	A	P	A	A		
Michaels	X	X	X	P	P		
Morehouse	P	A	P	A	P		
Stinson	P	P	P	A	P		