

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

**Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

July 11, 2023

*Present: Baker, Bunke, Ferraro, Fullerton, Jackson, Jbara, Justice, Labadie, McElhone, Stinson*

*Absent: Michaels, Morehouse*

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
  - The agenda was accepted as presented.
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – April 4, 2023
  - The minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Informational Updates
  - Julie Bunke, our manager of exhibits and interactive experiences, was here previously and has returned in a new position. She will be talking about some exhibit updates tonight.
  - Google comments from patrons were shared. Reviews pulled by Elizabeth Barker show positive reactions.
  - Summer of Soul Juneteenth Film & Panel took place June 16, 2023. Turnout of 59 people came for the viewing of a film and a panel of music experts from the local area.
  - DEI office and KVM participated in Kalamazoo Pride on June 3, 2023, sharing a tent. We had at least 1500 interactions based on buttons that we gave away.
  - Spring Break program has been very successful. Daily attendance for programs was 814, not including planetarium shows. Stephanie Willoughby, our new program coordinator, is another returning staff member and was previously head of children's programs at the Vicksburg Library.
  - Mental Health Fair had 300 participants and addressed local resources for mental health.
  - Earth Day Celebration: community-wide program included rain garden tours. We are currently offering these tours on Saturdays. We have 100% collection of rainwater in our front entryway. Our Food Innovation Center is getting outdoor signage soon to describe what is happening in their spaces as well.
  - Statewide Astronomy Night and Foodways Symposium took place, which were collaborations with multiple partners.
  - We are in the process of getting a bot for our website. It will answer frequently-asked questions posed by patrons online.
  - Collections updates: Murphy Darden collections review is underway. Collections blog will be an online resource; it expands on the records you can currently search on our online database. Deaccessioning project has been approved by the Board, and after a lengthy

process, we will be disposing objects following established college protocols, primarily through an auction.

- Nearly 2.7 million people have visited this building. Over 3.1 million visitors have come since joining the college. In a few years, we will be back on track with attendance. Over 22,100 records are now searchable on our online collections database.

### 3.1 Strategic Planning Updates

- Strategic plan ends in 2023. We are moving to update the current plan. We have developed a survey kiosk with four or five questions asking patrons about our current plan. We will review comments to see if we are receiving the type of feedback we're looking for, and we'll create a larger-scale survey when ready.
- Current five strategic initiatives were shared.

### 3.2 Updates from Manager of Exhibits and Interactive Experiences Julie Bunke

- Moments in Time: Kalamazoo County Photo Documentary Project showed a good representation of photos from across the decades.
- Mental Health: Mind Matters was extremely well received. One school group came from Wisconsin, so it had a wide reach.
- Delta Sigma Theta exhibit just closed. We're gravitating toward more community-driven exhibits. We will be having another sorority exhibit soon. Kudos to Alecia Cross, who is our exhibits program coordinator, who designed the exhibit with cooperation from Delta Sigma Theta.
- Wonder Media is up through the end of the year. It was created in cooperation with Western Michigan University. It was eye-opening to see the views of middle and high schoolers who came in with school groups; they knew about many of the issues already.
- Splat: The Buzz About Flyswatters exhibit is truly a one-of-a-kind exhibit. It is based on a collection from a Dutch collector, Iza van Riemsdijk. We learned a lot about working with an international exhibit. This is the first time this exhibit has been shown in the US.
- We are having special showings of the original The Fly movie coming up in the theater.
- Iza gave a talk about her exhibit on June 17, 2023, which was very entertaining and well attended.
- Explore Your World is opening this Saturday. It shows how to use maps, GPS, and other methods to find your way through the world.
- A furniture exhibit will be coming next. New mobile storage will be installed in collections, so we will be displaying many of the items that need to be moved to accommodate the installation. We will talk about the significance of these items, which may not have been out on exhibit for some time.
- Skin: Living Armor is coming from the Science Museum of Minnesota. They create some excellent exhibits.
- Kalamazoo State Hospital will be the subject of an upcoming exhibit. We will talk about people who worked there and lived there. We're going to highlight why it started and what purpose it served. Research will start in earnest in the next month.

- Popup exhibits will include a local designer who created many local business logos.
4. Advisor Discussion
- On the mental health exhibit, thank you for changing the wording on the advertising that came across as ableist.
  - Is there a staff member who will be able to assist with the survey kiosk for strategic planning?
    - The kiosk is near the front desk, so staff will be available. When the survey is emailed, it will be readable with a text reader.
      - Please reach out to Michael at the Kalamazoo Literacy Council to make sure the survey is readable.
  - It's cool to see what's happening on the back end of things for the museum. One of the important aspects of having diversity on a board is making sure that all voices are heard.
  - A friend who had a child on the autism spectrum had to leave the planetarium because the lights are triggering. Is anything done about this so that everyone can enjoy the shows?
    - We have done special showings in the past, and there's the possibility of having regular shows that will accommodate all patrons.
    - Disability Network might be able to help with some ideas with sensory-friendly showings.
    - It really depends on the person and the day for autism what the triggers are. It's not just children or individuals with autism who have sensory issues. There is an autism conference that happens at the Radisson once every year, and it would benefit the KVM to get information from this group.
    - The museum originally did a sensory Saturday program, but we switched to having everyday accommodations that will benefit those with sensory issues.
  - Group introductions were made from all group members for members who are new to the MAT.
5. Next Meeting – October 3, 2023 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meeting – January 9, 2024)
6. Adjournment

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