

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

October 3, 2023

Present: Baker, Fullerton, Gorham, Jackson, Jbara, Labadie, McElhone, Michaels

Absent: Ferraro, Justice, Morehouse, Stinson

Meeting Agenda

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
 - The agenda was accepted as presented.
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – July 11, 2023
 - The minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Informational Updates
 - Wonder Media is open through December 2023. It was a collaboration between the KVM and WMU instructor Sue Ellen Christian. KPS had a big visit with middle schoolers last March. Some elements of the exhibit will be retired.
 - Explore Your World is an exhibit from Perth, Australia, which closes on October 15. It has been very popular. The CEO of the exhibit house will be coming tomorrow to see how we have been dealing with the exhibit, including the 12-hour time difference between here and Australia.
 - The Splat! flyswatter exhibit will be open through January 7 and is really about the experience of collecting in general.
 - Off the Shelves opens at the end of the month. The midcentury tv in the logo was found in the trash and donated in 2003.
 - There was a reshooting of the video of the play about Henrietta Lacks, which originally accompanied the HeLa exhibit. This exhibit included Jermaine Jackson's traveling museum about Lacks. Tomorrow, October 4, is Henrietta Lacks Day in Kalamazoo. Jermaine's exhibit will be in the Radisson lobby, and special donuts will be made by Sweetwater's. In January and February, he will be involved in a series of activities with K College. He is hoping to make October 4 a statewide recognition day, including a statue, which would be the first in the US.
 - Art of the Comics event was held last Saturday, which included workshops for kids and a meet and greet with costumed superheroes.
 - Chemistry Day is October 14; our new STEM Coordinator is a chemist, so she has some great ideas. The KVM has a long history of hosting Chemistry Day.
 - Museum Mayhem Halloween program will offer activities and planetarium shows for kids.
 - Post-Holiday Parade Fun will be November 18 and may involve hot chocolate; the details are still being worked out.
 - The website now has an AI bot trained to answer questions. KVCC has had one for over a year, and it has gone well.
 - Visitor numbers: 2,669,876 since moving to this location in 1996; 3,179,659 since becoming part of KVCC in 1991; 82,000 in the past fiscal year.

3.1 Strategic Planning Updates

- Strategic plan survey will be shared with this group. Next steps will soon be shared; the current plan is good through the end of the year. Our focus is on involving the community.

3.2 Updates from Collections Manager Regina Gorham

- Murphy Darden Collections Review: items were selected to be added to the KVM’s collection from his art and history collection items. Over 3000 items were inventoried and reviewed for accession.
- Collections blog: there is no room for storytelling within most collections management software, so the blog will focus on sharing stories about specific objects.
- Collections deaccessioning project has progressed—objects that are duplicative, in poor condition, or judged not to be relevant to our current mission are sold at auction, and proceeds to go to collections care. An auction on October 7 will be offering about 1,700 items; this is the first time since 2008 that this has happened.
- High-density storage will be installed for large objects. We will gain 30% storage space between this and the auction.
- Off the Shelves exhibit will feature large items not usually (or never) displayed so that the new storage can be installed. This will feature a lot of furniture and will open on Halloween.
- Collections database numbers: total of 416 individuals accessing the database. We typically have one inquiry per day for donations, research, and images.
- A third person has been hired full time in collections for cataloguing items. We’re close to half of items being accessible via Argus.

4. Advisor Discussion

- How long have things been sitting waiting for auction?
 - We started the process in 2017. Pallets sat for a while between being boxed up and sent to auction.
- How much of what the museum had while in the library is still here?
 - We still have the original collection (Peck Collection) that began the museum in 1881. The museum has moved multiple times before the collections came here. We have notes and records going back to 1927.
- Will some of the Wonder Media items become a traveling exhibit?
 - Some will be available online, but a lot of the content is already dated.

5. Next Meeting – January 9, 2024 @ 5:30 PM (Future Meeting – April 2, 2024)

6. Adjournment

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