

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

Arcadia Commons Campus

**Kalamazoo Valley Museum**

Advisory Team

5:30 PM

July 10, 2018

*Present: L. Baker, Deittrick, Hollins, Jbara, Johnson, Laabs, McElhone, Stinson*

*Absent: C. Baker, Baskerville-Jones, Larson*

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Acceptance of the Agenda
  - The Agenda was accepted as presented.
2. Acceptance of the Minutes – April 10, 2018
  - The Minutes were accepted as presented.
3. Informational Updates
  - An article on Albert White, who was brought up at the last meeting, was featured in Museography about 12 years ago. We have a tool that may have a connection to Albert White, but the connection is unsure.
  - Lexie Schroeder Kobb, our new Assistant Director of Museum Program Services, starts on Monday, July 16. She will be invited to the next MAT meeting. She is replacing Elspeth Inglis, who was with us for 25 years.
  - New organizational chart was shown, including Mark Reed and LaRue Russell (planetarium operators) now reporting to Kathy Godin, our science educator.
  - Ron Cleveland is also retiring on October 1, from the Exhibits department.
  - We had 133,067 visitors next year. The Dinosaurs exhibit brought big numbers to the Museum. The annual attendance goal of 119,000 will go up.
  - We are getting close to our 3 millionth visitor in this building since we opened in 1996.
  - Web visits keep climbing.
  - IDEA Team was established a year and a half ago. Staff members on this team are looking at internal and external opportunities. KVM met with 447 people at Kalamazoo Pride this year. We had information about IDEA, cards about diversity, activities and takeaway games, coloring sheets for visitors.
  - We have made an official inquiry about the Fountain of the Pioneers to see if we can acquire the salient portions for reinterpretation to explore the forced removal of Native American people from the Kalamazoo area. We are waiting to hear from the city about how to proceed.

- Two Growlers' Education Day outings have been very successful, interacting with over 500 middle school-age children.
- We have received the SOS Explorer program, which is the flat-screen version of our globe. It will be used in the Innovation Lab for school groups.
- FY Capital Projects were shared: Design Build Front Desk & First Floor Gallery Renovations, Collections Storage Mobile Shelving Storage Conversion, Permanent Wall Construction 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Exhibit Gallery, Dedicated Virtual Data server, Building Improvements, Computers scheduled for replacement for office workstations, Foundation Grant Requests.
- Murphy Darden is a local collector of African American art and history items, and we are working with him to inventory the collection. We are taking videos of Murphy talking about specific items of interest. We hope to finish by September 1. We will likely use the info we gain in future exhibits.
- Early College Summer Camps have begun, where middle school students can explore careers.
- Summer Hands-On Wednesdays are running through August 15, and we are always looking for volunteers.
- We are working on the Rain Garden out front and behind Anna Whitten Hall. We are having outdoor interpretive labels printed. At the September Art Hop, we will have a ceremonial ribbon cutting to introduce the exhibit to the public.
- Front Desk & First Floor Gallery Renovation Project: we are meeting with Tower Pinkster to rework our first floor gallery and create a true rectangle, put in better lighting, rework the front desk.
- The fire pump was replaced as of June 22. It operates all the sprinkler heads in the building.
- Kalamazoo A—Z Exhibit is open through August 26. It features 306 artifacts from our collections.
- Cats & Dogs is open through September 9, putting visitors in the minds of our pets. We are the first American showing of the exhibit, which was developed in France.
- Upcoming exhibits include Frank Lloyd Wright, Bikes, What We Carried, Math Moves.
- Our racetrack was refurbished by Roto because it was wearing out too quickly. It is now more durable.
- Future exhibits include: Amusement Park Science & Team Up, Patient No More, Ripley's Amazing Micro Sculptures, The Secrets of Bees, What We Carried, XOXO: An Exhibit About Love & Forgiveness.
- We are looking for more individuals to be involved on the MAT, including students, someone with a disability, etc. in order to be inclusive.

### 3.1 Strategic Planning Update

- We are in the final drafts of the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan. We are investigating the Mission Statement and whether it needs to be tweaked. We are already activating some of the plans we've made.

#### 4. Advisor Discussion

- Is the Strategic Plan being done in-house?
  - Yes, it is all in-house. We have gone from 6 initiatives to 5, and we will share soon.
- Do you have a youth board?
  - We do not, but we have Lexie coming in, and she may have a new interest in pursuing youth-based programming.
- How would we get students involved?
  - The previous person worked here (Brittany Aris), but we could go through the Public History program at WMU or K. We do a lot with interns, so it's possible we could recruit someone through that network as well.
- In the Pride event, you had the tent set up. Does that go to different events?
  - We get requests often for us to go out to events around Kalamazoo, but it's a matter of staffing for us. We are looking to develop a volunteer corps, and they could potentially help with outreach into the community.
- Can an outreach person be put in the budget?
  - There are positions that are outreach coordinators, and Lexie has "community outreach" in her job description. It's not an unreasonable request.
- Seniors are unable to get to the building, so it would be nice to have a way to get them inside. It's very hard to get people up to the door.
  - We can check to see what other museums are doing on a museum blog. Bill will talk to Disability Network and see if they have ideas.
- On August 7, there is a "Say Yes to Seniors" campaign. Contact Lucinda Stinson if you want more info.
- Are there Frank Lloyd Wright homes in Kalamazoo?
  - In Winchell there are four, and six in Galesburg. The exhibit is photographs and will be in WorldWorks because of potential construction in the first floor gallery. An article in the upcoming museON is about local Frank Lloyd Wright homes.

#### 5. Next Meeting – October 2, 2018 @ 5:30 PM

#### 6. Adjournment