



WOODSTOCK ART GALLERY

Woodstock Art Gallery Advisory Board Meeting Minutes 24.01

Date: February 20, 2024
Time: 3:45pm
Location: Woodstock Art Gallery, 449 Dundas Street, 3rd Floor

Members in Attendance:

Aaron Dawson
Connie Lauder
Sara Lauzon
Carol McWilliam
Brian Meehan
Angie Poirier
Leslie Sorochan (Chair)
Magda Stroińska

Absent: Simon Brothers

Staff in Attendance: (non-voting)

Mary Reid, Director/Curator, Karen Houston, Manager of Culture; Stephanie Porter, Head of Education; Deanna Logan, Education Coordinator; Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator; Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance; Stephan Cam, Digital Projects Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 3:45 pm.

Mission: As the region's only public art gallery, the Woodstock Art Gallery fosters the wellbeing of our community by preserving our local artistic heritage and cultivating new expressions and experiences of art.

2. Introductions: WAG Staff: Stephanie Porter, Head of Education; Deanna Logan, Education Coordinator; Sara Cuthbert, Gallery Operations Coordinator; Kellen Hodgins, Facility Maintenance; Stephan Cam, Digital Projects Coordinator.

Regrets: Simon Brothers



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3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Brian Meehan
Seconded by: Aaron Dawson
Carried

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Declaration: None

5. **Year-In-Review Presentations**

WAG staff presented an overview of 2023 and plans for 2024. Leslie Sorochan, Board Chair, thanked the WAG Team for their positive and informative presentations and acknowledged them for everything they do every day.

6. **Approval of the minutes from last meeting**

Moved by: Angie Poirier
Seconded by: Connie Lauder
Carried

7. **Matters arising from the last meeting – None**

8. **Director/Curator's Report**

Circulated with Board Packet

Updates: Due to unforeseen circumstances unfortunately the portrait Gallery of Canada had to cancel the Letitia Fraser exhibition. The *John Hartman: Many Lives Mark this Place* exhibition reception at the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC is planned for September 26, 2024. The jurors for the *Visual Elements 66: Annual Juried Exhibition* have been confirmed. They are Terry Graff, Darryn Doull and Lindsay Liboiron.

9. **Committee Reports**

a. Fundraising Committee: Call for Members

Mary Reid asked for new members to join the committee in 2024. Carol McWilliam and Angie Poirier have agreed to sit on the committee. A meeting will be struck in April 2024.

b. Collections Committee: 2023 Donations

Motion: To accept all listed items above as presented by the Collections Committee and deliberated upon in 2023 but were missing in the November report to the Board.

Moved by: Magda Stroińska
Seconded by: Carol McWilliam
Carried



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c. Policy Review Committee: Call for Members

Motion: To strike an ad hoc Policy Review committee. Members joining are Magda Stroińska and Sara Lauzon. The policies that will be reviewed are Education, ToR- Operational Volunteer Committees, Exhibitions and Research. There is interest to develop a smudging policy for the Gallery. Goal is to finalize this work by June 2024 meeting.

Moved by: Aaron Dawson

Seconded by: Angie Poirier

Carried

9. New Business

a. Executive Elections 2024

Motion: The Executive and Nominating Committee nominates for 2024 Woodstock Art Gallery Executive Committee the following Slate of Officers:

- Aaron Dawson, Chair
- Angie Poirier, Vice-Chair
- Brian Meehan, Treasurer
- Leslie Sorochan, Past-Chair

for the 2024 term effective at the March 19, 2024 Advisory Board meeting.

Moved by: Connie Lauder

Seconded by consensus.

Unanimously carried.

Congratulations shared and thanks extended to the outgoing executive members.

b. Board Recruitment

Currently the Advisory Board will have three positions open. The Gallery has done a call out for new members in early January with a focus on backgrounds in legal, human resources and finance. We have received one application to date of which Reid will meet with prior to discuss the role of the Board in broad strokes before passing the application along to the Executive and Nominating Committee for review. Mary Reid also has feelers out with two other possible candidates.

c. Board Meeting Schedule 2024

Circulated with Board Packet for information only.



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d. 2023/ 2024 Operating Budget Statement

Question was raised around how staff wages are calculated. They are all calculated but the Treasury Department.

[Connie Lauder departed at 4:45pm]

e. Director/Curator Performance Review

Leslie Sorochan, Chair drafted and conducted the annual performance review of Mary Reid, Director/Curator on Feb 7, 2024. Karen Houston, Manager of Culture was in attendance at this meeting.

Motion: That the Advisory Board officially endorsed the Director/Curator Performance Review as signed by the Chair.

Moved by: Brian Meehan
Seconded: Carol McWilliam
Carried.

f. Letter of Agreement

Circulated with Board Packet. Typo was identified and letters will be recirculated to Board by email. Reminder to Board members to please return signed to Mary Reid prior to next meeting in March.

g. Donor Thank You Calls & Script

The Advisory Board is being asked to make thank you calls to those donors coming out of the end of year Giving Tuesday campaign. A draft script that was provided will be circulated again with an update and Board members can adjust as needed. Mary Reid will email each Board member a list of approx. 10 to 12 people to call. Board members are asked to call their donors before the March Board Meeting and report back any matters or information to Mary Reid if follow up is required. If a Board Member is unable to make these calls to also let Mary know asap.

h. 4th Floor Update

Brian Meehan and Mary Reid will be meeting with colleagues at Museum London on February 26 to discuss their recent renovation/event space. Community Consultations are scheduled for Feb 28 at 6pm and March 2 at 11am.

i. June Board & Staff Retreat

Mary Reid to reach out to Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery regarding a visit in June.



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- j. *Me Artsy* – Chapter Discussion led by Magda Stroińska, *A Dancing Path* by Santee Smith. Smith happens to be the chancellor of McMaster University were Stroińska, is a professor emeritus. Smith received degrees in physical education and psychology from McMaster. A versatile artist, Smith comes from a long line of artists who reside in the Six Nations the Grand River. Smith started dancing as a form of physical therapy and has used the medium of dance to connect herself with her indigenous heritage. An important concept is in giving thanks and this has led to a new perspective regarding the Land Acknowledgment statements. For Smith dance is about healing, renewal, and understanding the world. Through Smith's essay Stroińska made the connection between the value of indigenous female bodies and that of mother earth, and how contemporary society is treating both.
- k. Chair Report – Leslie Sorochan provided the following remarks:
So many things have come together in the past year, more specifically the last few months. Earlier in the year the John Hartman portraits at the High Commission of Canada in the UK was a highlight. Now it will be traveling to Washington. There was the collaboration with Lourdes University which initiated future cultural exchange opportunities. For me, it has been deeply gratifying to see how cultural exchange has expanded the scope of the Gallery and have its significance acknowledged by the city. As the year closed, the long-awaited combined investment of more than \$ 1 million dollars to transform the 4th floor was confirmed. So now we move from ideas, through concept, to the RFP for architectural design of this new space.

On a more personal note, I was able to be a part of the change in my old neighbourhood which gained a park dedicated to Florence Carlyle, and where the first commissioned work was the installed in the Bruce Flower Sculpture Garden. I think that it is brilliant when I hear friends talking about Nicholas Crombach's sculpture or the new bike racks that have appeared around this traditionally hockey town. Art out of the building and Into the Community.

When I was a teenager, I would drop by the gallery and ask if I could help. They handed me a dust rag and told me to clean the frames of the Carlyles. That was a unique introduction to the collection. It has been incredible to see the collection expanding, adding dimension and context to the Carlyles as well as the addition of significant pieces not only of local, but regional and national importance.

None of this comes without excellence in leadership, and a team that not only supports each other, but also supports the vision for the gallery that speaks to its relevance into the future. The new hire of the Digital Projects Coordinator



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along with the long-awaited Head of Collections are welcome additions moving us forward. An evolving board with its new members Angie, Sara, and the return of Simon and Carol address the importance of new ideas and different perspectives. Aaron is stepping into the role of Chair, and it is gratifying to leave it in such capable hands.

Even though I no longer live in the city, I am still deeply connected with this place. I am forever posting about programs, exhibitions, the return of A Taste of Art, lectures, and new works to the collection. When I am at home, I look forward to opening my Border Crossing Magazine, to see our Gallery in its pages.

I am so pleased to have been able to contribute through whatever capacity I could over the years and have been so proud to be the Chair of the Advisory Board.

10. Events De-Briefing / Announcements

- i. Monday February 19 – Family Day / Winter Open House – 1 to 3pm

Feed back: Well done and well attended. The personal stories shared by the artists about their work was very good and informative. Sound system worked well.

Upcoming:

- ii. Wednesday Feb 28 @ 6pm & Saturday March 1 @ 11am – 4th Floor Public Consultations
- iii. Sunday March 3 – Rec and Leisure Fair – Goff Gymnasium – 1 to 4pm
- iv. Thursday March 7 – Budget Presentation to City Council @ 1:30pm
- v. Wednesday March 13 – March Break Open Studio Drop In – 10am to 2pm
- vi. Saturday June 8 – Spring Open House – 1 to 3pm / Cultural Canvas 2pm to 8pm in Museum Square

11. Round Robin Check In & Meeting Evaluation

12. Next Meeting: March 19 @ 3:45pm @ Woodstock Art Gallery – 3rd floor

13. Adjournment @ 5:45 pm