

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023, 1:00pm
Claiborne Robertson Room

There were present:

Betty Crutcher, Co-Chair
Gilbert Bland
Anne Edwards
Martha Glasser, *virtual (personal)*
Marianne Littel
Michel Zajur, *virtual (health)*
Lynette Allston, Trustee President, ex-officio

Absent:

Jil Harris, Co-Chair
Rooz Dadabhoy
Ken Dye
Ann Goettman
Kirsti Goodwin
Bill Keyes
Anne Smith
Rupa Tak
Ashlin Wilbanks

By Invitation:

Jeffrey Allison
Kay Baker
Candy Banks
Maura Bisceglia
Kelly Bisogno, Department of Education
Caprice Bragg
Loran Brueggen
Stephanie Cooperstein
Celeste Fetta
Courtney Freeman
Cherry Gardner
Carolyn Garner
Jan Hatchette
Maggie McGurn
Colleen Milewski
Courtney Morano
Amanda Qreitem
Sarah Rasich
Christina Shin
Michael Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Dr. Betty Crutcher called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

II. EDUCATION UPDATES

Celeste Fetta, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) Joan P. Brock Director of Education and Assistant Deputy Director for Art and Education, reported that 45 fifth through eleventh grade students from Richmond's East End participated in *Benjamin Wigfall's Church Hill* during three separate weeklong sessions in July 2023. Each session included guided tours of *Benjamin Wigfall and Communications Village*, *Whitfield Lovell: Passages* and the permanent collection; activities exploring themes in the exhibition; and behind the scenes visits to VMFA's archives, Studio School, Photography Studio, and the David and Susan Goode Conservation Studio. Ms. Fetta also noted the success of VMFA's September 2023 *Family Day, Celebrate the Art of Latin America: Colombia*, when 3,300 visitors filled the museum to enjoy performances by Latin Ballet of Virginia and Tradicion Dance Company, live artist demonstrations by Diego Sanchez and Alfonso Perez Acosta, Columbian Coffee Tastings with Blanchard's Coffee, and a VMFA Conservation Demonstration. Ms. Fetta's report concluded with a presentation from the division's Distance Learning team, where Ms. Sarah Rasich, VMFA Distance Learning Content Specialist, provided an overview of the program, with updates on key partnerships with the Virginia Department of Education's Virtual Virginia program and The Clemente Course for Veterans at Virginia Tech, as well as testimonials from teachers on the positive impact of the DLP experience..

III. STATEWIDE UPDATES

Mr. Jeffrey Allison, VMFA Manager of Statewide Programs and Exhibitions and Paul Mellon Collection Educator, provided an update on the new *VMFA on the Road* trailer which is currently being repaired by ExPlus, Kentucky Trailer and Riggs Ward Design after determining that an interior cabinet exceeded the weight limit. He and his team expect it to be fully operational and have the new exhibition, *Love, Laughter, Tears: An Artists Guide to Emotions*, prepared to open in January 2024. Mr. Allison also noted that the museum is celebrating the addition of its 24th Statewide Museum Level Partner, the Stainer Gallery at Washington and Lee University. The exhibition, *Salvador Dalí: Les Chants de Maldoror*, curated by VMFA's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Art and Education Dr. Michael Taylor, will open there on January 11, 2024, after which it will travel to Piedmont Arts in Martinsville, Virginia from March 30, 2024 to May 11, 2024.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS /ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and approved by the committee at 1:53pm.

Recorded by: Stephanie Cooperstein
Executive Administrator