

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 10:00am  
Claiborne Robertson Room

There were present:

Brian Ball, Chair  
Janet Geldzahler, *Virtual (medical-caregiver)*  
Pamela Royal  
Lynette Allston, Trustee President, Ex-officio

Absent:

Jim Cheng  
Matt Cooper

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Jame Anderson, SmithGroup  
Kayla Badia  
Kay Baker  
Dayal Baxani  
Caprice Bragg  
Edie Cabaniss  
David Cary  
Nicole Chakeris  
Stephanie Cooperstein  
Ken Dye  
Ann Goettman  
Tom Gutenberger  
Andrew Harris  
Jan Hatchette  
Tim Hill  
Marianne Littel  
Deb Love, Office of the Attorney General  
Curt Manchester, Office of the Attorney General  
Sally Marvin  
Charlotte McGee, Foundation President  
Bob Mooney  
Whitney Murphy  
Jay Olander  
Marie Royce  
Dayton Schroeter, SmithGroup  
Anne Smith  
Michael Taylor  
Brett Thompson, Gilbane  
Charlie Whitaker

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Brian Ball called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

## II. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** A motion was made by Dr. Pam Royal and seconded by Janet Geldzahler to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting of the Building Committee as distributed. Motion carried.

## III. EXPANSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATES

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer, reported that the museum expansion's preliminary design was submitted on November 22, 2024 and is under review by the Commonwealth of Virginia Art and Architectural Review Board (AARB). He reported cost estimates continue to be reviewed to ensure alignment with direction from the Department of General Services. Nyerges shared that renovations to the Leslie Cheek Theater are nearly complete, with the venue anticipated to formally open in March 2025. It was also reported that since the theater renovations are forecast to be underbudget, additional back-of-house upgrades to the facility are being made.

## IV. EXPANSION DESIGN UPDATES

Jame Anderson, Principal in Charge, and Dayton Schroeter, Design Director, of the SmithGroup presented the plan's overall concept and interior and public space highlights. It was noted that to be in compliance with the plan's mandated 173,700 square foot project area, the terrace of the 1985 building will be removed. Anderson recapped the plan's commitment to architecture, universal accessibility, intuitive wayfinding, connectivity, moments for pause, and green spaces. Anderson reviewed a schedule of milestone dates, noting that next steps include a review by the Department of Planning and Budget. After a brief discussion regarding the congestion, security, and glass/mesh components of the plan, the presentation concluded.

## V. GROVE AVENUE STORAGE FACILITY UPDATE

Nyerges reported that plans for the Grove Avenue storage facility continue, and as they progress, updates will be provided. He noted that a meeting took place on November 22, 2024 with residents to discuss the project. Nyerges added that groundbreaking is expected to begin in March 2025, with construction to be completed in the fall of 2025.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT/OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved by the committee at 11:02am.

Recorded by: Stephanie Cooperstein,  
Executive Administrator