Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 2:00pm

Theater Level Conference Room #1

There were present:

Jil Womack Harris, Vice Chair

Lynette Allston

Dr. Betty Crutcher

Kenneth M. Dye

Anne Noland Edwards

By Invitation:

Jeffrey Allison

Carol Ann Bischoff

Joan Brock

Edie Cabaniss

Adriane Dalton

Celeste Fetta

Cherry Gardner

Jody Green

David Goode

Jeffrey Humber

Karen Palen

Suzy Szasz Palmer

Jayne Shaw

Dr. Michael R. Taylor

Charles Whitaker

Lulan Yu

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jil Harris called the meeting to order at 2:01pm and welcomed the group. She thanked Chair Terrell Harrigan for her service and noted that Ms. Harrigan was the first chair of the Education Committee and a longtime supporter of VMFA’s 2020 Strategic Plan.

Next, Ms. Harris asked everyone present to introduce him or herself since there were many new trustees present.

1. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** proposed by Mr. Ken Dye and seconded by Ms. Anne Noland Edwards to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, December 11, 2018 Education Committee meeting as distributed. Motion approved.

1. EDUCATION UPDATES

Director of Education Celeste Fetta noted that the Education department includes 24 staff members and is broken up into four areas of expertise: Education Programs headed by Lulan Yu, Educations Programs Manager; Interpretation headed by Courtney Morano, Interpretation Manager; Statewide initiatives including VMFA on the Road headed by Jeffrey Allison, Paul Mellon Educator & Statewide Programs Coordinator; and Studio Programs, which are headed by a number of staff members. Ms. Fetta noted that VMFA’s educational philosophy and audience is infants to infinity.

Next, Ms. Fetta gave an update on Evans 360, VMFA’s Distance Learning Program. She noted that Evans 360 received funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for FY20 and FY21. She also noted that since completing the pilot year, VMFA plans to have Randi Korn and Associates complete an evaluation of the program.

Regarding January and February programs for 2019, Ms. Fetta reported that VMFA held events such as Rhythm of Art/Westrock Art Education Center reopening, RVA Community Makers, Black History Month Programs, and ChinaFest. In total 45 programs have already served 15,000 people in February alone. Regarding upcoming programming, Ms. Fetta noted that the Museum will host the Virginia Docent Exchange in April.

1. VMFA ON THE ROAD/STATEWIDE UPDATES

Ms. Fetta then introduced Mr. Jeffrey Allison, Mellon Educator & Statewide Programs Coordinator, who provided an update on VMFA on the Road. Mr. Allison noted that VMFA on the Road has served more than 30,000 people since it launched in October 2018. A recent residency at the Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville, VA, served 200 students per day. Additional residencies have taken place in Scottsville, Martinsville, and Amherst, and are scheduled through May 2020.

Mr. Allison then reported on the 2019 Fellowship program, noting that there were 26 winners from a total of 780 applicants this year. A total of $5.5 million has been given away to fellowship winners since the inaugural award. Mr. Allison also noted that an educational exhibition titled *Cultivating History: Food, Crops and Art* will travel as part of a statewide partnership with the Oak Spring Garden Foundation.

1. TEEN PROGRAMS UPDATE

Education Programs Manager Lulan Yu gave an overview of the public programs offered by VMFA, noting that the museum has family day and community outreach programs, adult programs, performing arts events and teen programs. She then introduced Adriane Dalton, Teen Programs Coordinator, who provided the committee with an update on teen programs. Ms. Dalton noted that the teen programs largely revolve around the Museum Leaders in Training (M.LiT) and Teen Stylin’. Ms. Dalton described M.LiT to the committee as M.LiT is a free, 12-week career-development and leadership-training program for teens that requires a competitive application process. She noted that M.LiT participants learn team-building, research, public speaking, time management, and general career-preparedness. She then played an audio guide for teens, which came about as a result of the last M.LiT program.

Next, Ms. Dalton explained Teen Stylin’ to the group; started in 2005, Teen Stylin’ is a free, application based 12 week studio program that challenges students to create a one-of-a-kind wearable artwork inspired by an object from VMFA’s collection objects. She noted that each year has a theme and the project results in a runway show in addition to a walk through the galleries to display the wearable artwork next to the work from VMFA’s collection.

1. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

Due to time constraints, Vice Chair Jil Harris noted that the committee would delay their planned tour of the *Rhythm of Art* exhibition for the next meeting. She also noted that the tour would be available to all board members after the meeting of the full board of trustees the following day. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm.

**Motion:**      proposed by Ms. Harris and seconded by Mr. Dye to adjourn the meeting at 3:02pm. Motion approved.

Recorded by: Jody Green

Administrative and Project Coordinator to the Director