

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Transcription of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Friday, March 26, 2021, Noon  
Electronic Meeting

**Meeting called to order at 12:01am.**

**Full attendance listed in the meeting minutes.**

Monroe Harris: Welcome everyone. Thank you all for being here. I hope that everything is good with you and your families. Thank you for being here with us for this Board meeting. Let me go through the necessary comments. Please understand that there will be a transcript of this meeting which will be posted online along with a copy of the meeting minutes. As you all remember, stay muted unless we are voting or are in discussion, and when you speak please say your name. If you experience any technical difficulties, please get in touch with Kay or Caprice. Email them, so they can do some troubleshooting for you. In accordance with requirements of electronic meetings, we offered a public comment period. There were no requests for public comment, so we will proceed with the approval of the minutes from the January 13th meeting. Are there any additions or corrections to the minutes? If there are none, can I get a motion to approve the minutes?

Ken Dye: So moved. This is Ken.

Michel Zajur: Second.

Monroe Harris: All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye.

Monroe Harris: Are there any nays? I believe there are no nays, Caprice. So we are good. Again, thank you all for being here and happy spring. I am so happy that it is getting warm and we can get out of the house more and hopefully get together and enjoy each other sooner than later. It is my pleasure to welcome again new board members Jim Cheng and Matt Cooper. They are on the call. Welcome to your first board meeting. Thank you for being here. Thank you for your treasure and your talent. We will put them to good use. Since we met last, and throughout this whole Pandemic in this unprecedented condition that it put us in, the museum has been busy. I just wanted to take a few minutes to just acknowledge some of the accomplishments and accolades that our staff have received recently. It includes kudos to Sarah Eckhardt for her *Louis Draper* exhibition. It has been in numerous articles. It has been in New York. It is just an excellent example of the type of work that our curators do. So, congratulations to Sarah. A restitution of *Our Siblings* by Erich Heckel made the news, and the team is to be commended for that. You all know about the Kirchner acquisition. Valerie Cassel Oliver was featured on an HBO documentary titled, *Black Art: In the Absence of Light*. *Art Daily* magazine had an article on *Awaken*, curated by our own John Henry Rice. Kudos to him. To Alex, to Michael, and to all the staff, congratulations and work well done. Also to all of the Board members, thank you all for your support of exhibitions and for making a strategic plan that allows the space, so that all of our curators and staff can do the creative work that they do. They are doing a great job. I think that you all are as well. Next on the agenda, it is my pleasure to have Lilo give a report of good news from our Foundation. Lilo.

Lilo Ukrop: Thank you, Monroe, and thank you all for the opportunity to work closely with the Trustee Board. The Foundation has been busy. We had a February meeting. Lots of Zoom calls due to the Pandemic, but we continue to move the needle. We are most excited and thankful for Jay Olander and Hossein for being able to secure the acquisition of 2905 Grove Avenue. We purchased it in late January. One of our strategic plans has been to try to secure our perimeter, as much as we can, really for the next hundred years, the more we can secure property-wise around the museum, we feel like the more opportunities we will have available in the future. It is a building next to the Studio School. We are looking and exploring revenue opportunities for it, including adding it to our Bed and Breakfast portfolio. It was an exciting, tough negotiation. We have been talking to the owner for a long time. Jay and Hossein finally made it happen, so we are thrilled that is in our portfolio now. Our endowment portfolio, no surprise, has done really well, as the markets have. We have about over \$300 million under management right now. Year over year performance was about 22%. As of February 29<sup>th</sup>, our quarter to-date was 2.3%, and our six month performance was 14%. It continues to mystify us, I guess, but we are enjoying the ride. So thanks to Charles Johnson and Hossein and to our managing partners out in Denver for continuing to protect and grow that asset for all of us to benefit from. We have been working, as you all have been, on both fiscal 21 and fiscal year 22-23 budgets. With the Pandemic, as you know, revenue is down in some of our key places, but we continue to work closely to try meet the budget needs. We review and monitor on a quarterly basis the reserve funds that Hossein has been able to put aside that we have all benefited from and being able to close these budgets. Know that the Foundation is here to support the Trustee Board and the museum as a whole to try to help bridge the museum through these challenging financial times. Fundraising is going and glowing. We work incredibly hard on trying to attract fundraising for future exhibitions. We are really excited about the efforts behind *The Dirty South*, which you will hear more about today. That opens in mid-May, and we have had an amazing amount of support from all sorts of friends and family for that exhibition. It is a really important one. We continue to work to support the general operating budget as well. Our team, through Zoom calls and Zoom meetings and not really in-person, have been able to really raise some money, so again I applaud Tom and his team for moving that needle. As you all are probably aware, we are in the quiet stage of the campaign. We are really excited about the progress there as well. We will be still under the radar with friends and family for the next year, and then hopefully be prepared to go public with the campaign. So far we are tracking right where we are expected to be in spite of the Pandemic. We are really thrilled to welcome Brock Saunders as a new Foundation Director. He is young, enthusiastic, energetic. That has been one of our pillars of our plan to continue to backfill the organization with young people that understand the future of art and fundraising and museums. He is a real asset we believe. Then finally, as good governance we continue to review policy and procedures of the Board committees just to make sure that Board policies reflect the good work of our Foundation Board. So we are busy, and we are thrilled to be on this Foundation Board. If you all need anything or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jim or me at any time. Jim, can you think of anything I left off? Any questions or thoughts? Awesome. Thank you. Thank you, Monroe.

Monroe Harris: Thank you, Lilo, for that wonderful report. If there are no questions, I will turn it over to Alex for his report.

Alex Nyerges: Thank you. Good morning, or good afternoon, everybody. I am going to start off with attendance. We actually have good news in a way. Despite the Pandemic our attendance, after *Sunken Cities* has been holding strong and has actually been increasing. It is not because we are having any special events. Obviously, those still are not happening. Although, the Governor has

raised the limits and that will give us some ability to do smaller gatherings and have more people in the building, I will say that on the last couple of weekends we have had lines outside of people just coming to enjoy the museum and see *Natural Bridge* and the other smaller special exhibitions that we have. That is a good sign people are ready to get out. In terms of *Sunken Cities*, we closed it on the 18th of January. As I think everybody knows and you will hear more about this in the fiscal report, we had originally budgeted for 210,000 visitors. We ended up with just shy of 70,000 visitors, so about one third of what was originally projected. On the good side 11% of those were first time visitors, and we had visitors from 35 different states which is actually pretty remarkable given the fact that people are not traveling for the most part. More recently, virtual programs have gone through the roof, virtual lectures with thousands of participants and the same with gallery talks, member programs, and thousands of visitors on virtually. Then we got an all-time peak when we did Cocktails with a Curator with Peter Schertz. He had more than 1,000 people attending. I hope everybody has had a chance to see, but *Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge* is up and running. It is an absolutely beautiful show curated by our own Chris Oliver, our Assistant Curator of American art. Opening on May 22, which is coming upon us fast, is the *Dirty South* curated by Valerie Cassel Oliver. You will hear more about that and a report from Tom in terms of the sponsorship. Those of you who have signed up to be sponsors of this I say thank you, because it is going to be a pretty remarkable exhibition, groundbreaking. It will be popular without a doubt. Then I am going to turn our attention to the Governor's proposed budget. The good news is last year we were not hit with anything. The better news is all the news this year is actually really good. I am going to turn to Katie, if you can give us a brief update on what is happening down in Capital Square.

Katie Payne: Yes. First, I just want to make sure everyone noticed on social media that the First Lady wore her VMFA mask when she was vaccinated last week. She was very intent that we share it with you all. She did it purposefully, and we are very happy for the advertising. As far as the General Assembly Session, the regular session has been completed. The budget conference report was passed February 27 and is sitting on the Governor's desk. The legislature will come back for a one day reconvene session April 7 to adopt any changes or amendments that the governor makes to the budget. Very quickly we had a very good outcome both on the operating and capital sides. In operating, we got restored the \$400,000 for IT upgrades and art storage space, which was temporarily un-allotted last year because of the Pandemic. We also received about \$10,000 for the last few months of this year and \$115,000 a year going forward for some temporary wage positions. Either to hire more housekeepers and security staff or to convert our current folks in those positions from part-time to full-time positions to help continue addressing the Pandemic. Monument Avenue, the transformation project, was changed slightly during the legislative session, but in a very good, positive way. Everyone is very excited for us to take on this project. We heard no criticism at all of the project itself, but the consensus was to change the funding slightly, so that we receive \$250,000 immediately and then \$750,000 July 1 to get us through this initial phase of hiring employees and consultants and doing the administrative work that will be necessary to tackle a project of this size. Then come back to the Governor and the Legislature on September first of 2022 with a draft work plan of our timeline and our proposals for their review and approval. Then they will appropriate capital money for us to do the actual work. All indications right now are that the Governor is in agreement with that approach. He may propose additional funding, but it looks like that is probably more likely to happen in December in his outgoing biennial budget that he will propose before he leaves office. On the capital side, we had no change to the expansion project, which was good. We had an additional capital project approved for \$5.8 million to finish off replacing the HVAC units in the main museum building and to redo the roofing above those units, which will mean that every unit in the main museum building is up to date and top of the line. Other

than that, we are coming back April 7 for that one day session. Then we expect to have a very short Special Session sometime in the late spring or early summer to maybe start to appropriate some of the federal stimulus money that was recently passed. The majority of that money has a much longer timeline. It is valid until 2024, so it is most likely that the majority of it will be appropriated during the next biennial budget instead of during a special session I am happy to answer any questions.

Jim Klaus: I had one question, Katie. The money now that the budget will be finalized for the capital campaign, is there any requirements for us to start the project or raise the private funds? Is there anything we need to be aware of? Hurdles we need to meet? I mean if it takes us four years instead of three years, is there any problems that we need to be aware of?

Katie Payne: There is nothing in the appropriation itself that sets any sort of timeline. Through informal discussions with Secretary Layne, it is supposed to be done on a rolling basis. When we accumulate enough private contributions and we can show the commitments are made, they will start allocating the state money. There is no deadline on it in the budget right now.

Alex Nyerges: Any other questions for Katie? I am going to highlight two things. One, that \$5.8 million of capital money for finishing off the heating and cooling system means all of our systems in the museum building proper will be absolutely state of the art with low velocity HIPPA filters that give us basically the best kind of environment other than a surgical suite in a hospital. Katie and Hossein and Caprice kudos for pulling down nearly \$6 million of capital money. This is just a reminder of one of the great things about being an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia is the fact that most all of our colleagues, when they have to replace air conditioning let me tell you what really happens. They let it and die. Then do emergency kinds of things. Even with renovations and expansions, these things are not included, so we are very fortunate. Now we have circled all the way through the entire 1936, 1954, 1970, and 1985 buildings, and the roofs and our heating and cooling systems will be virtually brand new. That is to the credit of the Commonwealth, so thank you for that. Then on Monument Avenue. The change there is a good one. We hope it sticks, because that will allow Michael to begin hiring staff. We are juggling all of this with everything else that we are doing, which is not a small task. We will be very happy to get this project going. Everybody believes it is already running, and I am spending, as Michael and others are spending a lot of time reaching out to people, listening to people, gathering ideas, and then putting together the timetable, plan, and so on. For the FY22 budget, you will hear more about this when David and Hossein come back with Fiscal Oversight. We are still working on that. There are a couple of challenges. We continue to be impacted by Covid. We do not have the revenues we expected to have on food, beverage, rentals, and the like that we thought would commence beginning in January. That was then, and this is now. We do not believe we will see any real softening on events before the end of the fiscal year, so you will hear more about that in a moment. On a brighter note though, the capital campaign despite a Pandemic and despite only getting 30% of our normal visitation, our revenues from the contributed side of the house are up. The capital campaign is producing, so Tom if you want to give us a quick snapshot of that?

Tom Gutenberger: Thanks, Alex. I did a report out at the External Affairs meeting, so I will be quick. We are a year and a half into the seven year capital campaign. The goal, as you remember is \$365 million, and you have heard that we got the \$125 million from the state. We also have \$58 million in private support, so we are at \$183 million right now, which is basically a little over halfway to our goal. This fiscal year we have increased the campaign total in terms of gifts and pledges by 38%, and just thank you to all the Committee members and thanks to all of you who have helped

throughout this process. Knock on wood, we are still seeing a lot of success during the Pandemic. We have got some really great gift conversations that continue to go on, so people have been really supportive. What we are seeing is people are making hybrid gifts for the most part. That is what our campaign consultants said they are seeing other places. People are making annual gifts to support operating, making a commitment to either endowment or the expansion project, and they are usually fulfilling those in two ways. One is five year pledges, part of that being a planned gift or different gifts. That is what we are seeing, and that is what is happening nationally. We are on track to hit our planned giving goal, as well. Things are going well in that space and then just overall fundraising. We have surpassed our goal, and we are at \$7.8 million for the year. The challenge that we have got right now is still just in the general membership. It is because that is really benefit driven, but we really tried to change our messaging around philanthropy rather than benefits. Even though we are doing well overall in fundraising this year, we are down in general memberships. That is just the place that we are struggling, but we are going to focus on that for the rest of the year. Happy to answer any questions or elaborate on any of that, but I just wanted to try and be quick and brief.

Alex Nyerges: On that last note, I will say that the general membership is down because that is the percent of our membership that is really transactional. The vast majority of our members are very loyal and had been overly generous especially from the \$1,000 category and up. The transactional members of the people who come to see something like *Sunken Cities*, they will come to see the *Dirty South*. They need the incentive of free admission, because otherwise if they are not coming they do not have that incentive. We will see that change as the year 2021 progresses, and for the positive which will also then help us obviously fiscally.

Tom Gutenberger: Thank you for adding that. You are correct. We are actually up in our leadership membership which is \$1,000 and up. We are up dollars and donors in that space, so people are sticking with us. That is the piece of good news, and that is why we are up. The higher level donors are continuing to support us by increasing their gifts and having more coming in.

Alex Nyerges: Development staff are doing a spectacular job, and many of the people on this call as Board members have been helping and making gifts, increasing their support. Then, of course as Tom mentioned, the hybrid gifts. Those are the kinds of things if you have been thinking about what to do if you have not made a gift yet, that would be the suggestion. Both Tom and I would urge you, and we are happy to walk you through how you can leverage gifts. How you can give more than you probably even expected, so thanks Tom and thanks to all your people. That Mr. President is the end of my report. I am glad to answer any questions people may have, if any.

Monroe Harris: Thanks Alex does anybody have any questions for Alex. All right thank you for the report. The next item is the Committee reports. The first Committee report will be the Building Committee. I propose that the Board of Trustees Meeting go into closed session to discuss the proposal process. The relevant exemption is Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia. May I have a second please?

Jeffrey Humber: Second. Jeff Humber.

Monroe Harris: Thank you. All in favor?

Board Members: Aye.

Monroe Harris: Are there any nays? There are no nays.

**At 12:20pm the meeting went into closed session**

**At 12:49pm, by motion proposed, seconded, and carried, the meeting resumed in open session.**

Monroe Harris: The next item is the Fiscal Oversight Committee. David?

David Goode: Thank you. The committee met just before this meeting, and we addressed the obvious challenge of the fiscal situation and present conditions, which we all know about. I will give you the 30,000 foot report of where we are, then Hossein is available if we have specific questions. We first looked at the current fiscal year, which is very much a work in progress. Although, I will say that Alex and his staff, all of the personnel in the museum, have done an exemplary job of making things work in the Pandemic. However, if we had to close the books as of right now knowing what we do, they expect we would be doing so with a deficit of about \$300,000 and with considerable help from the Foundation in the form of endowment reserves. That will not happen. We will have a positive number, or at least a break even number. Management has a challenge to do that, because if we had to do it now we would be about \$300,000 in the hole. We do, however, have sufficient cash to work through the year. The Committee reviewed that in some detail with Hossein. We do have the ability to call upon some reserves, so that we are satisfied that we will be okay for this fiscal year. We did look and we are mindful that *Sunken Cities*, which we had in the budget as a significant money maker closed out with about a million dollar deficit. That was much better than it could have been. Considerable work was done to make *Sunken Cities*, but as we all know the situation about that. We then turned and looked at the prospective budget for next fiscal year, which also represents a number of challenges. Management has, obviously, some work to do in order to make improvements and work through that, so that we will be able to address it at the next meeting of the Board and present a balanced budget. For that, we have almost \$3 million of work to do in order to accomplish that. We do again have our sights on reserves, so that we could do the accounting on it appropriately. Our challenge is to make sure that we do not have to use any more of that rainy day fund reserves than we have had in past years. Our expectation is that we will be able to come back at the next meeting and present you with both a good report on the this year and a balanced budget. The Committee anticipates that it may need other meetings, so I think I will stop there. I will entertain any questions for me or for Hossein.

Monroe Harris: I think that the Board is leaving it up to your expertise, David.

David Goode: We have a very good, hard working Committee, and Hossein and Alex and Michael and all of the staff and museum really is addressing this, in my opinion, in an exemplary way so far. I am pretty confident that we will be able to present what we are required to have. That is a balanced budget for this year and for the next, but there is work to be done.

Monroe Harris: Are there any questions for David or Hossein? Well, thank you for the report, and we look forward to hearing good news as we move forward.

David Goode: We will do our best.

Monroe Harris: Thank you. The next item is External Affairs. Ken cannot be with us, so I am happy to report that Pam Royal is going to stand in on his behalf. Thank you, Pam for doing that.

Pam Royal: Good afternoon, all. I have the great privilege but daunting task to present on behalf of our Committee Chair Ken Johnson. The External Affairs Committee met this morning, and you have heard much of what was presented to us. I will do some additional highlights. We certainly got a government relations update from Katie, and most of that you have heard already from her, so I need not be redundant. One thing that I would add, we did review a VMFA land acknowledgement. It seeks to honor the history of the land where the museum resides and the history and legacy of indigenous peoples that presided in this space as well. A sub-committee has been appointed by the External Affairs Committee. We will review that document, present back to our Committee, and it will come to the full Board in June. We had an exciting communications update by Jan who continues to do phenomenal work on the museum's behalf. We are now working with West Cary Group to develop a communications plan which really seeks to better communicate around our work and efforts around diversity. A strategy of the plan is really to excite and engage the community and to help all folks feel like they can be a part of us. We certainly know that we are part of them. The tag that they have come up with is "See yourself here." I do the presentation no great justice by just saying to you that it was exciting for us. It engaged us when we saw it, and it really showed us the multitude of ways in which people can interpret that. We anticipate reopening and doing things on-site in a much grander way, so more to hear on that about really how we engage the community and really strike conversations against a broad range of folks. We are going to measure it as always using metrics to track how we are doing. More to hear from those efforts. We then had a report from our advancement and membership team. Tom and Alex have summarized much of that. Certainly we were and I am sure you are amazed at the work that has been able to be accomplished in terms of our fundraising goals. One additional point that I might have was noting specifically our work around the *Dirty South*. We have 50 sponsors, and it has raised one of the largest amounts for any exhibition with a target goal of \$900,000. We to date have raised \$1.1 million. How do we know this works? Even in these most trying times around a Pandemic, how do we know it is working? I think that proves that it is working. We are going to use the lessons learned from this effort in terms of how we have engaged the Community around virtual gatherings as we look forward to our fundraising efforts with our next exhibition with Man Ray in the fall. I think that I am done, and thank you. I certainly will entertain any questions and if any of the management team have anything else to add, certainly I will love to hear that now. Thank you very much.

Monroe Harris: Thank you Pam That was a great report and a lot of exciting things going on. On that diversity piece, one of the discussions that came out of that meeting, and I think you brought it up, was the fact that when we start looking at diversity all we have to do is take a snapshot of this Board right here. You put that out to the public and this speaks for itself. We are doing a lot of really good things here at the museum. We just need to get the word out.

Pam Royal: Not only the board, but look at our leadership team, our management.

Monroe Harris: I think there are a lot of things that we take for granted that we have already been doing, so thank you for bringing that point up. Are there any questions? Thank you, again. Next we have Jil and Education Committee.

Jil Harris: Yes sir, thank you. This Committee likes successful numbers, so I am going to throw a few impressive ones at you all at once. Since our last Board meeting Celeste Fetta and company have

run 14 programs that have reached over 5,000 households for Black History Month in February. They reproduced virtually the African American Read-In and the African American Read-In for Families. That had 1,300 virtual views. As well, we hosted Open Studio Sunday, First Friday with the actor Clifton Davis, Dance after Work with a focus on hip hop, and Chinafest which continues to be extremely well-received. I believe I heard Celeste say that Chinafest had an audience of over 12,000, so that is huge. It is a continuing annual focus for us, which is great. There were discussions with the Education Department about continuing to have a virtual component post-Covid, and programs offered online since we have seen such success with large numbers of participants throughout the Commonwealth and in the country. I think the plan is for us to continue those for audiences who may not be able to come into the museum. The upcoming exhibit *Dirty South* will have an educational component, of course. There will be an interactive but no touch projections that will reinforce the impact of the exhibit itself. This will be located at the stairwell at the end of the exhibition, where we usually have a pop-up museum shop. Instead of the pop-up shop this will be the interactive program that our education team is putting together. I would also like to add to Monroe Harris's recognition of staff awards. Two of those that were awarded to the education staff members. Twyla Kitts received the South Eastern Region Educator of the Year Award for Outstanding Service, and Sarah Rasich who runs our distance learning program received the Virginia Association of Museums Educator of the Year Award for providing an exceptional experience for school students. Kudos to those women and to the entire Education team. Jeffrey Allison also spoke with us. He announced VMFA Fellowship winners for 2021 and 2022. I have to say that the depth and the breadth of the work produced by those fellowship recipients was extremely impressive, and I hope somehow everyone will get to see those images. Jeffrey also talked about *VMFA on the Road*. It will be back on the road tomorrow, and we will be using all Covid protocols, of course. The exhibit is the *Landscapes of Virginia* which strategically complements Chris Oliver's *Virginia Arcadia: the Natural Bridge in American Art*, which is currently in the museum. *VMFA on the Road* will be in residence at the Natural Bridge from June 21 through 23. The schedule for *VMFA on the Road* is online if you would like to check that out. It starts, as I said, tomorrow at the Cherry Festival in Richmond. That is all I have.

Monroe Harris: Thank you. Other questions for Jil or the Committee? Again, we have so many amazing staff is. All of the awards that we are receiving, even in these times, it is outstanding. Thank you so much for sharing. Okay, next we have the Art and Collections Committee. Meg, Thank you.

Meg Gottwald: We met this morning, and we had a really great meeting. Michael Taylor was our first speaker, and he was describing to us that a year ago we had on the books that we were going to be having an exhibition coming from the Uffizi. With all that has happened with Covid, there was this necessity to rethink and regroup and reimagine and be flexible and creative. It was decided, and I think brilliantly so, that we should have a show that was curated in-house and using much of our own collection. I am so excited about this show that is coming up October 30 through February 21. It is going to be a Man Ray exhibition, which I think is just going to be incredible. It will be focusing on his photography. As you probably all know, Man Ray was born in Brooklyn. He was an American artist who then moved to Paris, particularly between the two world wars. That is when his real focus was, and he became just an excellent portrait photographer and treated photography in a new and different way that was much more psychological. It was looking at it in the modernist way of presenting things, very concerned with light, composition, space. The show will be showing not only his photography, but the way his photography was then used in various other publications, magazines and advertising. It will show his students and their works, as well. I really think it is going to be a blockbuster show in its own right. I think it is going to be incredible. Our second

presentation was by Debbie Linn who is a new addition to the Conservation Department. She showed us a presentation about an 18th century South Asian scroll, which was just magnificent. It is 50 feet long, and it is just these gorgeous colors with gold details. Beautiful. They had it rolled out in the conservation lab. She showed us these different tools that were used. There is something called a CRONO X-ray fluorescence spectrometer that can be hovered over the work itself, and then the various pigments can be discerned from using photons and electrons. I will explain it to you later. Anyway, it allows us to see that the elements that were used to see if there was any under drawing or see if there were any changes made later on in the work's history. Because of that length, 50 feet, we really had to be creative in figuring out how to display it. Our own museum staff had to design it, and then figure out how it is actually going to work. The work will be shown in nine foot increments, so it needs to be able to roll every so often. I am not sure how often that is going to happen. It needs to be able to move, so that viewers will be able to over the course of time see this scroll in its entirety. I think that was a really interesting project, but I think our staff should be really proud of how very innovative they are. There were a lot of questions that then came up from our various Committee members. We were wondering whether the presentation that we had been shown could be shown to a larger audience somehow. Figuring out how to do that online on our website would be great. They talked a little bit about how the case was designed, and how this was manufactured. We talked about how we can communicate to our viewers that the scroll will be changed, so that people do get a chance to see all parts of it. We talked about how that fancy electron machine can be used with other institutions. Other institutions can bring works to us, so that we can help them in understanding their works as well. I really wanted to shout out to the Conservation Department, the staff. They did great and to David and Susan Goode who have sponsored a really important part of the Arts and Collections Committee. I really feel like we have a whole lot to be proud of and to be excited about. That is my report, any questions?

Monroe Harris: It is exciting Meg, and thank you for the report. Does anyone have any questions for Meg? If you do not, thank you. Thank you again, Meg. Alright, so our last Committee report is our Acquisitions. I propose the Board of Trustees meeting go into closed session to discuss proposed art purchases, gifts, deaccessions, and loans. The relevant exemption is Section 2.2-3711(A)(6 and 10) of the Code of Virginia. May have a second?

Tom Papa: Second.

Monroe Harris: All in favor.

Board Members: Aye.

Monroe Harris: Are there any nays? No nays.

**At 1:01pm the meeting went into closed session**

**At 1:17pm, by motion proposed, seconded, and carried, the meeting resumed in open session.**

Monroe Harris: Tom, thank you for your time. Do you want to make a motion?

Tom Papa: Yes. I moved that the Board of Trustees ratify the recommendation the Art Acquisitions Sub-Committee made in the March 25, 2021 meeting to approve the gift, purchase, loan, and deaccession considerations as fully described in the meeting packets. Do we have a second?

Sara O'Keefe: Second.

Tom Papa: All in favor?

Board Members: Aye.

Tom Papa: Anybody opposed? I deemed the motion to have carried.

Monroe Harris: Amazing. The motion is approved, so thank you very much. Thank you, Tom. Thank you, Michael. Thank you everyone again. We just continue to grow in just great ways. I just want to thank all of you, all staff and Board members, for making VMFA the great museum that it is. Our work today has ended, so enjoy the rest of your day. We are adjourned.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.**

Transcribed by: Stephanie Cooperstein  
Executive Administrator to the Chief Strategy Officer and Deputy Director  
for Strategic Planning, Government and Board Relations