

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Minutes of the Trustee Education Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 25, 2021, 2:00pm  
Electronic Meeting

There were present:

Jil Harris, Chair  
Betty Crutcher, Vice Chair  
Lynette Allston  
Carol Ann Bischoff  
Joan Brock  
Ken Dye  
Anne Edwards  
Suzy Szasz Palmer  
Monroe Harris, Trustee President, Ex-officio

Absent:

Gil Bland  
Satya Rangarajan  
Rupa Tak

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Jeffrey Allison  
Kay Baker  
Candy Banks  
Kelly Bisogno, Virginia Department of Education  
Maura Bisceglia  
Caprice Bragg  
Cammy Carleton, Council President  
Matt Cooper  
Stephanie Cooperstein  
Celeste Fetta Neff  
Mary Frediani, Foundation Liaison  
Cherry Gardner  
Carolyn Garner, Foundation Liaison  
Tom Gutenberger  
Jan Hatchette  
Jim Klaus, Foundation Co-President  
Hubert Phipps  
Jennifer Sisk, Foundation Liaison  
Michael Taylor  
Ashlin Wilbanks

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jil Harris called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** Proposed by Ms. Joan Brock and seconded by Dr. Betty Crutcher to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Trustee Education Committee meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Harris reported there were no requests for public comment.

IV. EDUCATION UPDATES

Director of Education Ms. Celeste Fetta Neff presented an overview of the department's Black History Month initiatives, which included 14 programs that were accessed by more than 5,000 households. Ms. Fetta Neff highlighted a few of these programs, including the African American Read-In, the African American Read-In for Families, and RVA Community Makers with Hamilton Glass. She then discussed the department's virtual Family Day: ChinaFest, which was launched on February 6. Typically a daylong event for families on the museum campus, this year's event was hosted on VMFA's website and YouTube page and included 24 educational videos and art projects. During February, more than 12,000 households were reached.

Ms. Fetta Neff next discussed interpretation, walking the Committee through an educational component of the upcoming exhibition, *The Dirty South: Contemporary Art, Material Culture, and the Sonic Impulse*. This component will feature an interactive touchless map with highlighted southern hot spots featuring videos about the music and art in these locations while connecting those ideas back to pieces featured in the exhibit. Ms. Fetta Neff concluded her report by congratulating two VMFA educators. Twyla Kitts, Teacher Programs Coordinator, received the National Art Education Association Museum Division, Southeastern Region Educator of the Year Award and Sarah Rasich, Distance Learning Content Specialist, was recognized by the Virginia Association of Museums as their Educator of the Year.

V. VMFA ON THE ROAD/STATEWIDE UPDATES

Mr. Jeffrey Allison, Manager of Statewide Programs and Exhibitions and the Paul Mellon Collection Educator, announced the recipients of the 2021-2022 VMFA Fellowships. The fellowships are awarded in four categories; professional, graduate art history, graduate visual arts, and undergraduate visual arts. Examples of the fellows' work was shared with the Committee.

Mr. Allison concluded his report by noting that *VMFA on the Road* will be back on the road on March 27 at the Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival. He highlighted other spring destinations including, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, Fairfax, and the Natural Bridge. Ms. Joan Brock inquired about the details of Artmobile residencies. Mr. Allison responded that

the length of a residency depends on the event or the needs of the statewide partner. He added that *VMFA on the Road's* COVID safety protocols include limiting the number of visitors per state guidelines, social distancing, mask wearing, and cleaning between visits.

Ms. Carol Ann Bischoff inquired on how the exhibition, *Virginia Arcadia: The Natural Bridge in American Art*, and the *VMFA on the Road* exhibition, *A View from Home: Landscapes of Virginia*, connect to the Commonwealth's fourth grade curriculum. Ms. Fetta Neff noted that videos that have already been filmed for both exhibitions are available on VMFA's YouTube channel and *Learn* site. She said that one location in *Virginia Arcadia* is especially useful in beginning those conversations with K-12 students about where the site is located and its impact. Ms. Bischoff recommended that Mr. Allison reach out to local scout troops prior to the Natural Bridge residency to encourage interest. Conversation then turned to how virtual programming has encouraged membership throughout the museum, where to find recorded content, and whether future virtual content should be monetized through ticketing. Dr. Michael Taylor acknowledged the overwhelming positive feedback for online events, noting that many can be accessed on the museum's YouTube channel. He also expressed hope that virtual programming will encourage individuals to become members, thus allowing the events to be free and assist in fulfilling the department's mission of outreach within the Commonwealth.

#### VI. OTHER BUSINESS /ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Harris adjourned the meeting at 2:51pm.

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