

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Draft Minutes of the Art and Collections Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:15am  
Reynolds Lecture Hall

There were present:

Anne Edwards, Chair  
Cindy Conner *videoconference; personal*  
Janet Geldzahler  
Martha Glasser *videoconference; personal*  
Michele Petersen  
Suzy Szasz Palmer  
Ashlin Wilbanks *videoconference; health*  
Lynette Allston, Trustee President, ex-officio

Absent:

Matt Cooper  
Sara O'Keefe  
Tom Papa  
Hubert Phipps  
Pam Reynolds

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Kay Baker  
Candy Banks  
Caprice Bragg  
Stephanie Cooperstein  
Endy Ezeoluomba  
Courtney Freeman  
Ann Goetmann  
Tom Gutenberger  
Melinda Hardy  
Andrew Harris  
Jan Hatchette  
Cindy Marquez, Office of the Attorney General  
Anne Smith  
Michael Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Anne Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:19am.

## II. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** Proposed by Ms. Michele Petersen and seconded by Ms. Susy Szasz Palmer to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Art and Collections Committee meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

## III. COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT POLICY

Ms. Courtney Freeman, VMFA Interim Deputy Director of Conservation and Collections, spoke about the need to update the Collections Management Policy in preparation for the American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation process in 2024. The current policy (distributed to committee members in their meeting packets) was approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2017. Ms. Freeman described next steps including a requested review of the 2017 policy by the committee followed by a discussion of proposed revisions, and subsequent recommendation of an updated Collections Management Policy to the full Board of Trustees for approval. Ms. Edwards noted the importance of this task and the need for the committee to meet prior to the next full Board of Trustees' meeting for a discussion.

## IV. AFRICAN ART COLLECTION PLAN

Dr. Ndubuisi Ezeoluomba, VMFA Curator of African Art, presented a collection plan for the African art galleries, noting that it is inspired by the Igbo word, Igwebuike, meaning "aggregation is strength." This plan envisions extending the collection's chronological scope to include contemporary art, within an enlarged post-expansion gallery space. Mr. Ezeoluomba's vision includes displaying larger than life works of art, such as *Samburu Warrior* by Velaphi Mzimba. With this plan, Dr. Ezeoluomba seeks to flesh out the narrative of African history, reflecting the transition from colonial to independence eras, as well as the modern day.

Dr. Ezeoluomba invited committee members to join him for a tour of the museum's African galleries at the meeting's conclusion.

## V. OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded and approved by the committee at 11:10am.

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