

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
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