

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
Minutes of the Building Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 1:45pm  
Founders Conference Room (Lower Level)

There were present:

Brian Ball, Chair  
Janet Geldzahler  
Pamela Royal  
Lynette Allston, Trustee President, Ex-officio

Absent:

Jim Cheng  
Matt Cooper

By Invitation:

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer  
Jame Anderson, SmithGroup  
Belilta Asfaw, SmithGroup  
Kayla Badia  
Kay Baker  
Caprice Bragg  
Edie Cabaniss  
David Cary  
John Covin  
Stephanie Cooperstein  
Thomas Courtney  
Betty Neal Crutcher  
Ann Goettman  
Tom Gutenberger  
Melinda Hardy  
Andrew Harris  
Jil Harris  
Jan Hatchette  
Tim Hill  
Jon Lavis, TDC  
Curt Manchester, Office of the Attorney General  
Bob Mooney  
Whitney Murphy  
Susan Nelson, TDC  
Jay Olander  
Katie Payne  
Dayton Schroeter, SmithGroup  
Michael Taylor  
Brett Thompson, Gilbane  
Charlie Whitaker  
Chris Wood, SmithGroup

I. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Brian Ball called the meeting to order at 1:47pm.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

**Motion:** A motion was made by Janet Geldzahler and seconded by Pam Royal to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting of the Building Committee as distributed. Motion carried.

III. EXPANSION AND RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATES

Alex Nyerges, Director and Chief Executive Officer, reported that the museum expansion's preliminary design has been resubmitted to the Division of Engineering and Buildings and included updates where necessary. It was approved by the Art and Architectural Review Board in February. He reported cost estimates continue to be reviewed to ensure alignment with direction from the Department of General Services. Through value engineering with the architects, staff have found possible areas of cost savings that do not sacrifice quality or functionality. Nyerges shared that renovations to the Leslie Cheek Theater are complete and finished under budget.

IV. EXPANSION DESIGN UPDATES

Jame Anderson, Principal in Charge, and her colleagues of the SmithGroup presented the plan's overall concept and interior and public space highlights. It was noted that to follow the plan's mandated 173,700 square foot project area, the terrace of the 1985 building will be removed. They reiterated the plan's commitment to architecture, universal accessibility, intuitive wayfinding, connectivity, moments for pause, and green spaces. Anderson reviewed a schedule of milestone dates, noting that next steps include a review by the Department of Planning and Budget. After a brief discussion regarding possible congestion in the event space and the effect of humidity on the glass, the presentation concluded.

VI. ADJOURNMENT/OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved by the committee at 2:33pm.

Recorded by: Stephanie Cooperstein  
Executive Administrator