



**Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 19, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Paul Giancola called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Directors attending: David Allen, Judy Chemers, Paul Giancola, Eric Jungermann, Sara Lieberman, Mike Medici, Alice Olsan and Phyllis Stern.

Directors absent: Zach Bonsall, Joe Baker, Rachel Wohl Blank, Janis Leonard, Dorothy Lincoln-Smith, Tom Morgan, Ali Salass, Mitchell Stillman, Max Underwood and Mai Yahn.

Staff attending: Bill Banchs, CEO, SCC; Cassandra Coblenz, associate curator; Pat Evans, registrar; Barbara Meyerson, interim director; Lesley Oliver, marketing and pr manager; Alexandra Parker-Moquay, director of development; and Elizabeth Theisen, administrative and special projects coordinator.

Guest: Linda Millhaven, Chair, SCC Trustees.

**Regular Agenda:**

**1. Report from the Chair**

Chair Paul Giancola introduced guest speaker Linda Millhaven, Chair of the SCC Trustees. Ms. Millhaven presented a proposal, drawn up by the Trustees that would reorganize and revise the roles of the division operating Boards.

Ms. Millhaven outlined the following proposed modifications:

- That the Boards will be renamed to indicate its' new roles as more of an advisory capacity with less financial components.
- Ideally the SMOCA Board would help out more with programming and be defined more as supporters of the Museum in the community.

In general discussion, the Board raised the following points:

- Make sure that the City doesn't influence programming.
- Eliminating the name "Board" would lessen the impact of the Board and lessen its' clout in the community.
- The 10% representation on the SCC Trustees seems low and unbalanced. It was suggested that three member representation might be better.
- The proposed charter is not much different that the Museum's current By-laws.
- Three advocates from each Board should present reviews of the CEO to the Trustees.

In response, Ms. Millhaven clarified the following:

- The CEO has no authority to direct or influence the programming of any division. The Trustees expect the Boards to represent the communities' wants and needs and relay them to the staff.
- All Division Directors report to the SCC CEO, not the chair of the Trustees. The Boards report directly to the Trustees.
- This Board strongly disagrees with the proposal to change the name from Board to Council.
- This Board feels it is more equitable to have three representatives at the Trustee meetings.

## **2. Approval of April minutes**

Tabled until June meeting due to lack of quorum.

## **3. SMOCA Director Search Status**

Interim Director Barbara Meyerson reported that as of this time there are 31 candidates, with some postings not closing until mid June. Preliminary phone interviews will be held within the next two to three weeks. After that, resumes will be sent out for review and a timeline and qualifications matrix will be put together to be distributed at the next Director Search Committee meeting on June 19.

## **4. Reaccreditation Self-Study Review/Change in Collections Policy**

Registrar Pat Evans briefed the Board that an amendment needs to be made to the current Collections Policy, per the American Association of Museums Reaccreditation Committee. The committee asked for clarification regarding the Museum's deaccession process as outlined in section 6.5 of the Collections Policy which currently states:

### **6.5**

#### **Use of Net Proceeds from Disposition**

Net proceeds derived from the sale of deaccessioned objects (i.e., the proceeds of the disposition less all related expenses) shall not be used as operating funds. Such net proceeds shall be designated "for acquisition only" and shall be used only for the **care or** growth of the Museum Collection, consistent with acquisition procedures.

The proposed edit reads as follows:

## 6.5

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Ms. Evans pointed out that amending this policy would only be a formality as the Museum has not deaccessioned any objects in the collection. All museums accredited by the AAM are required to cover deaccessioning as a part of their Collection Policy.

**Due to lack of a quorum, an electronic vote of the Board will be conducted, with the results to be announced at the June meeting.**

## 5. Finance report/Development report

Giving an update on the current budget status, Ms. Parker-Moquay noted that the budget projections have been revised for 09-10 to account for the current economic downturn. The contributed revenue goal is now set at \$156K. Due to the amount of unfulfilled pledges in the past, the Pledge Policy will be changed to requiring a formal signed pledge form, rather than just a verbal agreement.

## 6. Attendance/Marketing report

Lesley Oliver, marketing and pr manager, reported that April attendance was the highest ever since the Museum opened in 1999. The successes of the Culture Pass, Culinary Festival and the Modern Phoenix Expo, which brought in 1,200 people into the Museum/Performing Arts atrium in just one weekend. As a result of these numbers, the Museum is already ahead of last year's attendance. We are aiming for a 40K attendance benchmark by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Oliver gave updates on recent Museum news in the press, including: the sold out Photography Symposium, high Art Start attendance and the Nina Katchadourian installation in *Seriously Funny*.

## 7. Education program update

Curator of education, Carolyn Robbins updated the Board on the following:

- 175 people attended the Visions gallery opening
- The Picture Books/Museum Looks program held in conjunction with the Scottsdale Public Library wrapped up. This program involved parents and preschoolers reading books coordinated with the current exhibitions, then coming to the Museum to see the associated artwork.
- Summer programs will be offered every Thursday evening during June and July
- Docents will present six art talks at the Granite Reef Senior Center.
- Banner Alzheimer's program will re-launch next month.

## 8. Exhibition update

Cassandra Coblentz, associate curator, reported that the photography symposium held

in conjunction with *Callahan, Siskind, Sommer* was a significant accomplishment for SMOCA. Several important photographers and scholars from across the country attended and praised the event. In order to save money, the closing dates of the current exhibitions have been extended into the summer, with *Seriously Funny* closing July 5 and *Callahan, Siskind, Sommer* closing August 9. The Museum will be the second venue to host *Nick Cave* from the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, a show that was featured on the cover of *Art Papers* and in a recent *New York Times* article. This is an excellent opportunity for collaboration with both the Center for Performing Arts and Public Art. For the upcoming *Unexpected Wegman* show, an in-house collection show, William Wegman has agreed to come speak in the fall if the funds can be found for his trip. Lisa Settee, who represents Wegman has agreed to help the Museum with this.

Ms. Coblenz noted that the curators are unsure how to collaborate on the festivals such as Latin Jazz due to the timing of exhibitions. In general, museums programs three to five years out, so exhibitions cannot be put together within a six month time span. The upcoming *Remix, Rewind, Replay* exhibition offers several areas for collaboration including music and dance. The potential China series will be a bit more difficult, however.

**DATES TO HOLD:**

**May 28: Sketching in the galleries, 6:30 pm**

**June 4: Creative writing workshop (Part I), 6:30 pm**

**June 11: Creative writing workshop (Part II), 6:30 pm**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Theisen, recorder