

ASSOCIATED ARTISTS OF PITTSBURGH
Board of Directors Meeting
July 14, 2014, 6:30 PM – Ice House Conference Room

Board Members present: John Lewis, Andy Urbach, Ann Thompson, Scott Hunter, Cecile Shellman, David Stanger, Ken Antol, Kathryn Stanko, Brian Siewiorek

Absent: Mia Tarducci Henry, Emily Meyer

Guests: Juliana Morris, Executive Director, Ryan Lammie, Potential Board Member (excused after his interview).

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

Review and Approval of June Board Minutes.

Minutes were sent to Directors via email prior to the meeting. It was brought to the Board's attention that Michael Frischling's name was missing from the minutes, and upon that acknowledgment the minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Interview of Ryan Lammie

The Board interviewed new artist member Ryan Lammie as a candidate to be recommended by the Board for election at the November director voting. Although Ryan is new to the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, his presence in the community is already strong, particularly because he is well connected and understands the Pittsburgh arts climate. Ryan is Executive Director of Radiant Hall Studios in Lawrenceville, which is currently under consideration for formation as a 501c3 non-profit organization. He has expertise in art handling, project management in exhibit installation, studio operations, and networking. A 2011 alumnus of The Pratt Institute with a BFA in Painting, he participated in an immersive arts residency program at Yale University which he described as transformative and collaborative. His interest in AAP stems from his desire to vitalize the organization through collaboration with various arts groups. He sees a need for exhibit space in Pittsburgh, and believes that Radiant Hall Studios could be a good solution to some of these issues. When asked about specific opinions about AAP, he demurred as he is not familiar enough with AAP to cite specifics.

After his interview was concluded, the Board debriefed the conversation, noting that Ryan's involvement in Radiant Hall Studios would not be a conflict of interest, and agreeing to submit Ryan for a November electoral vote.

Executive Director's Report.

Juliana Morris thanked the Board, staff, and volunteers for the successful opening of the 103rd Annual at the Westmoreland Museum of Contemporary Art on June 14, 2014. Attendance surpassed expectations, with a door count of 320 people. Board members agreed that the quality of art was superior. Juliana remarked that the show at the Westmoreland was adjudicated and hung in a different style than the one curated at Carnegie Museum of Art for the prior Annual.

Juliana and John Lewis met with new Advisory Board Member Greg Barrett over coffee. She said Greg was wonderful and is eager to help in any capacity.

Juliana mentioned planning for the next Annual; a suggestion had come in to potentially hold it at Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio. Some directors expressed concern about the distance, but Juliana mentioned that Elizabeth's ongoing geographic study of the members may reveal that the 45-minute to 1-hour travel time and the Institute's location could prove favorable. Joan Milsom has been very helpful in connecting Juliana with Butler Institute leadership.

The Advisory Board event at the Friedman residence was canceled due to lack of response. Juliana and Kathryn note that the advisory board needs to be revamped, but that it takes time to develop a mature organization and garner buy-in. All agreed that the previously-proposed joint Board of Directors and Advisory Committee meeting should be a priority, and that Advisory Board members should be willing to commit time, talent and/or financial resources.

The Carnegie Museum has advised that its facilities will be available for AAP's 105th Annual in 2016.

The Most Wanted Fine Art show was successful in terms of attendance at artist talks. Scott Hunter gave a count of 20-25 people at each talk.

Juliana Morris discussed being on a meeting for the Mayor's Committee, which may open opportunities for art to be displayed in the Mayor's Office. Among the individuals she spoke with were Christiane Leach from Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council and Morton Brown from the City of Pittsburgh. While partnership with AAP to bring in artists is desirable, a big call is not possible at this time, as there are no available funds.

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant was submitted: a \$2,500 ask for general operating funds. If funded, AAP could be eligible in the future to submit an application for the entry track grant, allowing for more potential funding and opportunities with PCA.

The scheduled Frame House exhibit was postponed until August. Harry Schwalb might jury this exhibit. September 1 is the next Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Gallery Crawl. Tom Sokolowski has agreed to jury an upcoming exhibit.

The Exhibition Committee has met to discuss details of upcoming shows. They have been actively brainstorming. Committee members are excited about the possibility of Butler Institute of American Art for a 2015 Annual venue.

Kathryn Stanko reported on the Education Committee. The anticipated \$350 did not come in from the Intermediate Unit. An exhibition is being installed on July 29. The Fine Foundation grant came in at \$2,500 to support Elizabeth's position and to help with education.

Kathryn Stanko suggested that Dollar Bank could be more prominently (visually) recognized at Westmoreland Museum of American Art for their support of the Annual. Brian S. suggested that the signage was adequate for their level of support.

John Lewis led a brief discussion of the Advisory Board nominees. Barry Friedman, whose resume was attached to the July 14 board packet, is a law partner of John Lewis', and is friends with Joe Smith of Dollar Bank. Dan Gilman, whose information was also available for review, was recommended by Andy Urbach.

John Lewis opened a discussion about the new proposed Board Committee structure. The idea came up in the Executive Committee meeting. The July 14 Board Agenda listed suggested committees and committee members, without identifying a committee chair for each (to be decided later). All board members present were in agreement that this structure could be helpful.

Ann Thompson remarked that it is important that no single person should determine who is on the board. Andy Urbach agreed that perception is important.

John Lewis suggested that the newly formed Advisory Board/Board of Director committee, Finance Committee, and Executive Director Review Committee set up meetings and have coffee prior to the next board meeting, and report at the August meeting.

Budget

Juliana Morris and John Lewis reported on the preliminary budget. John Lewis said that as a best practice, the board should have a running financials report included with the minutes. John Lewis and Juliana Morris agreed to meet briefly before each board meeting to discuss financials.

Executive Director Review

An annual review of Juliana Morris' executive director position is due the week of July 21.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.