

**ASSOCIATED ARTISTS OF PITTSBURGH**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 16, 2014, 6:30 PM – Ice House Conference Room**

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

Absent: Mia Tarducci Henry

Guests: Juliana Morris, Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Review and Approval of March Board Minutes.

Minutes were sent to Directors via email prior to the meeting, and no changes were suggested. John Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes and Ann Thompson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Replacement Director.

The Board interviewed Brian Siewiorek, Production Director of WYEP, and unanimously voted to appoint him to the Board to fill the vacancy created by Cindy Busch's move from the Board to the Advisory Board. Brian has served on the Chatham Baroque Board and is a volunteer with several other nonprofits. Brian's term will end in November 2015.

Interview of P.J. Zimmerlink.

The Board interviewed artist member P.J. Zimmerlink as a candidate to be recommended by the Board for election at the November director voting. P.J. formerly worked at the Westmoreland Museum as Preparator for 16 years, and presently works at Phipps Conservatory. He is a graduate of the Tyler School of Art, and has a studio in Hempfield Township. P.J.'s interest in AAP's Board comes at a self described "nuts and bolts" level, particularly in volunteering and working with AAP and its members on the way shows are hung, proper lighting, and addressing the know-how of what makes a good and bad show. P.J. also addressed AAP's commission structure with artists, and would like to see artists receive a larger share of proceeds on sales brokered by AAP.

After his interview was concluded, the Board unanimously voted to include P.J. as a nominee for election on the November 2014 Board ballot.

## Executive Director's Report.

Juliana Morris reported on progress of preparations for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual at the Westmoreland Museum of Contemporary Art. The exhibit will open on May 31, 2014, and the official opening will be June 14, 2014.

The Spring Member Meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2014, and will be held at the IceHouse.

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

In January, John Lewis and Ms. Morris visited with The Heinz Endowments to follow up on AAP's proposal to receive operating funds from The Heinz Endowments. As a result, AAP has received a \$20,000 grant from Heinz for the current fiscal year, and a commitment for another \$20,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. The grants were conditioned on AAP demonstrating that it is building its Advisory Board and is taking steps to raise funds from private donors. A considerable portion of the meeting was devoted to assuring Heinz that AAP did not intend on using its funds to make a financially unsound real estate commitment, and to address the November 2013 communications from "Friends of AAP" which had created the perception of improprieties at AAP.

In terms of a first step to developing private donors, as a result of a meeting with and making a proposal to Dollar Bank, the bank has donated \$2,500 as a sponsor of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual.

A proposal has been made to the Buncher Foundation to also financially assist AAP in meeting budget for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual.

John Lewis and Ms. Morris met with Lauri Fink of the Hillman Foundations and reported that the meeting went positively. The primary topic discussed was that the Hillman Foundation will support projects (not operating funds), and to explore the type of project which might be acceptable to Hillman to fund. There was discussion about AAP's past perceived financial missteps with large real estate projects (Penn Avenue and East Liberty), and that any project funded by Hillman would need to be backed up with a sound business plan which demonstrated a relatively quick path to financial self sufficiency.

The Fine Foundation has provided AAP with a \$5,000 grant again this year to fund Education programming.

## Advisory Board Project.

The Board reported on the following results in the attempts to reach out to the Advisory Board:

- Cecile Shellman reached out to Elaine Effort, who reported that she is very eager to remain involved with AAP. Cecile also spoke to Jody Guy, who is a supporter but who has questions about what AAP is doing.

- Andy Urbach spoke to Jack Weiss, who reported that he is happy to do things to assist AAP upon request. Andy also spoke to Harry Thompson, who indicated that his age may make it an impediment for him to remain on the Advisory Board in an active role, but he is willing to be a donor to AAP.
- Ann Thompson had no luck reaching Jane Arkus. She spoke to Richard Parkasian, who appreciated the letter which he received about his continuing role on AAP's Advisory Board.
- Kathryn Stanko spoke to Ken Beer, who remains committed to being on the Advisory Board, and who indicated that he would like to personally talk to John Lewis. John will reach out to him. With Dr. Ed Friedman, Kathryn discussed with him and obtained his agreement to host an AAP Advisory Board event at his home, which will be scheduled for July 2.
- Ken Antol reported that the number which he had for Harry Schwalb was not working, and that he had reached out to James Frantz without a response, and would continue trying to reach Mr. Frantz.
- Scott Hunter reported that he learned that Elvira Peake may be ill and may have moved to Florida. Scott also spoke to Barbara Jones, who remains readily willing to be involved on AAP's Advisory Board.
- Emily Meyer reported that Laura Horner remains committed to AAP, and that she volunteered to recruit other persons to be supporters of AAP.
- David Stanger reported that Graham Shearing remains willing to be on the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board outreach project discussion will be continued at the May Board meeting.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.