

Friends of the Visual Arts
dba Willamette Art Center
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – 5:30 pm
Willamette Art Center Classroom

**Board Meeting
Minutes**

Attendance:

Board members: Carla Axtman, Pam Baldwin, Wendy Cornelisen, Sage Dunham, Dana Field, Renita Hiebert, Claudia Hill, Dave McConnell. Josie Hummert (by phone).

Staff: Lisa Joyce.

Call To Order: Board President Sage Dunham at 5:34 pm.

Secretary's Report: Claudia Hill

November 2024 minutes were provided for review. Dana moved to accept the minutes with corrections. **Motion seconded and passed.**

President's Report: Sage thanked members for serving on the board, for making the Willamette Art Center a better place and moving the organization in a positive direction.

Treasurer's Report: Dave McConnell

Umpqua Bank Savings	\$53,919.76		
Umpqua Bank Checking	\$107,798.71		
Petty Cash	\$397.00	TOTAL	\$162,115.47

This total is slightly higher than in the past.

Director's Report: Lisa Joyce

Grants. Applications are in for the Facility grant and the Event grant. The Oregon Arts Commission grant appears to have been approved (per a press release) but has not been received.

Studio update. Doug is reviewing and researching formulas, and has put out several new glazes to try.

Attendance. Access has been difficult due to the strictures presented by Fair management, and attendance has suffered, as have sales of passes and firing tickets. Normal access will resume in January.

Winter Session Enrollment. Additional slots were added to the Kids' Creative Clay class. Overall enrollment for classes is 94% at this time.

Staff Report:

Doug has re-organized parts of the chemical shed and has taken a preliminary inventory of materials. He provided insight on how he is working through the glaze issues. Test tiles will be forthcoming and conveniently displayed. In early January Doug and Lisa will meet with instructors to fill them in regarding clays and glazes. Monitors will also be updated. He is continuing with ongoing maintenance

Old Business:

Facility search has begun informally with interest and offers of help from various individuals. There is still a need for others, especially those with project management experience.

New Business:

Appointing and confirming officers. A slate of nominees for officer positions was proposed. Dave moved to approve the slate of candidates. Motion seconded and passed. The 2025 officers elected to the Willamette Art Center Board of Directors are Carla Axtman, President; Dana Field, Vice President; Josie Hummert, Secretary; Wendy Cornelisen, Treasurer.

Scholarship policy. Lisa presented a revised scholarship application for review. The revision puts the application online, and removes the five-year penalty for misuse of the scholarship. Following a brief discussion, Wendy moved to adopt the scholarship policy as proposed. Motion seconded and passed.

Ongoing Education. Lisa welcomed Renita as the newest board member. To help ensure a successful, cohesive board, Lisa presented an outline of tips for new and existing board members. She will also provide an on-boarding orientation meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Budget:** Dave reported on the budget.
 - The latest budget shows revenues to exceed expenses for the year by \$6,000. This may increase when the delayed grant comes in.
 - Both revenues and expenditures are down from last year, but by approximately the same amount.
 - The Empty Bowls donation expenditure will be finalized after a final review of expenses.
 - The main uncertainties making it difficult to plan the 2025 budget include the elimination of Artisan Village and location issues.

- **Empty Bowls:**

Gross Sale Figures are as follows:

Empty Bowls			
Gross Revenue			
	Sponsorships	8,463.00	
	Raffle Tickets	1,570.00	
	Wood Carvers and Turners	2,010.00	
	Bowl Sales	25,089.00	
	In-kind Donations	664.50	
	Donations at Event	524.00	
			38,321.00
Expenditures			
	Salaries	2,921.90	
	Supplies/Materials/Advertising/Utilities	1,425.59	
	Square Fees	690.52	
			5,038.01

- **Marketing/Communication:** Lisa reported the marketing focus has been Empty Bowls. This month's emphasis is on class enrollment and the fundraising year-end appeal. Communication has centered on updating patrons regarding access to the studio, with multiple changes on

which gate to use, and where and when to park. Family Clay Sunday is providing excellent PR for the organization. Examples of successful outreach to a wider audience include Salem Electric's company party and this year's second Stained Glass workshop.

- **Membership:** The 2025 Membership Campaign is open through the website.
- **High-Volume Artists.** The committee will examine how to structure firing ticket prices to reflect providing educational services and providing a commercial service. Lisa has been discussing with Doug how best to track work from the two groups and how to communicate a pricing change.
- **No report:** Auditing, Fundraising, Nominating/bylaws, Personnel, Safety/Facilities, Strategic Planning.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Submitted by Claudia Hill
WAC Board Secretary, 2024

Approved

_____ Date _____

Sage Dunham, President

Parking Lot

Next Board Meeting January 8th @ 5:30 pm at IKE Box Cafe, 299 Cottage Street NE