

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MUSCATINE ART CENTER  
May 15, 2025**

**Present:** Mark Latta, Aarzoo Baharani, David Meloy, Kathleen Haltmeyer, and Vince Lawson

**Present On the phone:** Mark Seaman

**Absent:** Sara Fitzer-Huston

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Latta at 12:00 PM.

**Minutes:**

Minutes of the April 17, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Baharani/Haltmeyer) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Bills for Approval:** Bills in the amount of \$4,014.58 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Lawson/Meloy) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

**Credit Card for Approval:** A credit card in the amount of \$90.00 was presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Lawson/Haltmeyer) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Long-Range Planning:**

Alexander presented at the in-depth City Council on May 8<sup>th</sup>, an overview of the Institutional Plan, the background for developing the action steps in the plan, and the progress made since the plan was adopted and presented to City Council. She will be presenting May 15<sup>th</sup> on the agreement with BNIM.

**Finance & Budget:**

No report.

**Collections:**

No report

**Building & Grounds:**

The volunteers for the Friends of the Japanese Garden have been working very hard. The event is this weekend from 1:30 – 4:30 PM. Kimble Bromley and Jim Elias will be plein air painting in the garden and the Mad Creek Mudcats will be performing. Vendors are selling a variety of items. Friends are providing a beverage station with a free will offering to benefit the Japanese Garden.

**Community Engagement**

The Japan America Society of Iowa (JASI) is organizing a state-wide "Cranes of Friendship" project, where communities across Iowa are creating origami cranes to symbolize friendship and peace. The origami workshop will be hosted by the Muscatine Art Center on May 29<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with Muscatine Sister Cities. The cranes (with a goal of installing 1,000 cranes from Iowa) will be installed at the Iowa State Fair this summer. The first of

the American Cruise Line Riverboats will tour Muscatine on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen boats are expected through October 14, 2025. The Japanese Garden is one of the gardens included in the Muscatine County Arts Council's garden tour on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Annual Ice Cream Social is Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 p.m. Pandelirium Steel Drum Band from the University of Iowa is this year's featured group. Artist Tim Schiffer will greet visitors. Several local artists will participate in plein air painting. Artist Laura Palmer is making coloring book pages based on Muscatine Art Center collection items, the front of the historic house, and other prominent features like the Torii Gate and Prayer of Peace. Denny Palmer updated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo for this year's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

#### **Personnel:**

The City's Nominating Committee approved the reappointment of David Meloy and Vince Lawson for a second 3-year term starting on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2028 and approved the new appointments: Mark Post starting on May 15, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2027; Diana Tank starting on May 15, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026; Kelsie Foley starting on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2028; Laurie Johnson starting on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2027, and Becky Schmertman starting on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2028.

Education Coordinator Rachael Mullins plans to attend the Iowa Fine Arts Education Summit on June 17<sup>th</sup> in Ankeny. The Summit is an opportunity for Iowa K-12 fine arts teachers; nonprofit, college and university arts educators; and teaching artists to network, learn and explore ideas through Iowa's Fine Arts Education Standards. A motion was made by Baharani to approve Mullins travel to the Fine Arts Education Summit. Seconded by Haltmeyer. Motion carried.

Qualified applicants have submitted resumes for consideration for both the Summer Collections Intern (funded by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust as part of the Collections Management Project) and Summer Education Intern (funded by the Arts Dollars grant through Quad City Arts). The first interviews were on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the two positions have been filled.

**Director's Report:** In Packet

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:**

Next Board meeting – June 19, 2025 at 12:00 P.M.

**Adjourn:**

Moved/seconded by (Lawson/Haltmeyer) to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Aarzo Baharani  
Secretary  
Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees