

Friends of the Visual Arts  
dba Willamette Art Center

March 13, 2023 – 5:00 pm  
Board Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:**

Board members: Jesse Breon, Pam Baldwin, Jennifer Beugli, Sage Dunham, Kevin Herzberg, Claudia Hill, Jennifer Lassen, David McConnell. Heather Skinner via Zoom.  
None are absent.

Staff: Doug Dacar, Sue Karnosh.

**Call To Order:** President Sage Dunham at 5:05 pm.

**Secretary's Report:** Claudia Hill

Claudia reported that meeting minutes will be emailed out for comment and correction after each meeting. A corrected/revised draft copy will be resent, and a printed draft copy will be posted on the WAC bulletin board. The final minutes will be adopted at the following meeting. This will allow membership to have timely access to minutes and still follow Robert's Rules of Order regarding minutes.

The January 2023 and February 2023 Board Meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave McConnell:

Umpqua Bank Savings	\$53, 892	
Umpqua Bank Checking	\$58,063	
CASH	\$397	<b>TOTAL \$112,352</b>

**President's Report:**

Item 1: Civility and fun. Sage noted that tonight's meeting is a full schedule with intense discussion likely. He restated the board's purpose to support the Willamette Art Center and its mission.

Item 2: Complaints. Sage encouraged board members to recognize complaints about WAC as an opportunity to bring forward as ideas for improvement, even if they don't seem well thought out. Ideas can be refined into suggestions through discussion. He reminded the board that we are the ones who can turn ideas into positive changes.

Item 3: Glazes. Sage reported multiple complaints of unexpected and inconsistent cone 10 glazing results.

**Director's Report:** Doug Dacar

- Glazes and Firing.
  - Cone 10 firing is generating complaints. Doug listed clay manufacturing quality, kiln unknowns and glaze application techniques as possible factors. With so many

variables, there is seldom an obvious answer. Doug is conducting some test firing and will continue to work with Nikki to investigate kiln issues.

- Cone 6 glazes are not always food safe when combined with the clays provided in our studio. This needs to be conveyed to all students, instructors and open studio users.
- Grant funding activity:
  - Doug is completing the Oregon Arts Commission grant this month.
  - Kelly is contributing to the Miller Grant application. (Family Clay Sunday is breaking even or bringing in revenue so far.)
  - Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) awards were both approved. The facility award is \$2812 more than last year. The Artisan Village award is \$2500 more.
- Marion Polk Food Share:
  - Marion Polk Food Share (MPFS) has invited the WAC board to tour their facility and hold a board meeting there. Doug will coordinate time and place.

**Staff Report:** none

**Unfinished Business:**

1. 2023 Budget. Dave provided clarification regarding the budget issues noted last meeting. The budget shows income to exceed expenses. Dave moved and Jesse seconded a motion to accept the revised budget. All in favor; motion passed.

**New Business:**

1. Cone 6 glazes. Sage introduced a motion that the WAC Board match a donation of up to \$1000 for buying cone 6 glazes. Discussion followed. The motion is tabled.
2. Instructor Contracts. Sage moved and Dave seconded a motion to include the following in the Instructor Contract Package: Compensation at \$25.00 per hour; one 25# bag of clay per instructor per term for each class (clay limited to the type sold to students); 10 firing tickets; complementary access to open studio hours for class preparation; demonstration clay to make items for Empty Bowls or Artisan Village; and \$50.00 for each student enrolled in excess of ten in a class. Following discussion, motion passed with one opposed. Kevin abstained from voting as he is an instructor.
3. Class Tuition and Fees. Sage moved and Dave seconded a motion to increase class tuition by 25% to \$245.00. Costs of clays, glazes, shipping and other expenses have increased substantially over previous years. An increase is needed to cover expenses. Discussion followed. WAC prices are lower than other studios. Scholarships are available for qualifying individuals, which is noted in every Newsletter. Motion revised and Dave seconded a motion to increase class tuition by 20% to \$234.00. Motion passed unanimously.

### Committee Reports:

- **Membership:** Jennifer Lassen is continuing to sign up committee members and volunteers for member night. Costs and dates to be determined. Committee will meet this month.
- **Artisan Village:** Kevin is donating time to work on the budget. He is working on more effective signage to direct fair-goers to the AV area, and with Heather using social media to reach a wider audience and increase participation. Setup will be done by volunteers this year. Bisqueware for Raku has been ordered.
- **Scholarships:** Currently there is one application. Scholarship application information is always in the newsletter. Doug reviews applications and contacts applicants within two weeks.
- **Empty Bowls:** Margrethe has reached out to additional professional potters who have volunteered in the past. She sent out a request for folks to come in to glaze what they have already made. Throw-A-Thons are scheduled Saturday March 18 and March 25. The previous Throw-A-Thon added 80 pieces, for a total of about 200. Our target is 1500.
- **Marketing/Communication:**
  - Heather and Pam posted the Feb/March newsletter on March 1.
  - Heather started a weekly Instagram feature called “WAC Artist of the Week.”
  - Heather and Pam encourage everyone to share photos, videos or other content doable on social media, including items by other people willing to display their work. Glazing ideas and unusual or interesting project creations are just two of many possibilities for social media postings and future newsletters.
  - Heather and Doug are working with Salem Art Association (SAA) on a zine project. The WAC edition will focus on “Community” with a theme of “Ceramics As A Metaphor For Life.”
- **Strategic Planning:** Pam reminded Board members to take notes, fill in attendance sheets and track accomplishments for all meetings. Put them in Sue’s basket. All grant applications require this documentation.
- **Safety/Facility:** Jesse reported the committee will meet this month.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Next Board Meeting: TBA

Submitted by Claudia Hill  
Board Secretary, 2023

Approved by Sage Dunham, President

Date \_\_\_\_\_