

# **OAKLAND COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY**

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*Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Chairperson*

Barbara Whittaker  
*Vice Chairperson*

Gretchen Adler, *Secretary*  
Jen Miller

December 19, 2023

Vice Chairperson Rajpal called the meeting of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Committee Room A at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12E, Pontiac, Michigan.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Gretchen Adler, Barbara Whittaker, Jen Miller

## **MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:**

None.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Whittaker moved approval of the minutes of October 30, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Adler.

Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Adler moved approval of the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY – ELECTION OF OFFICERS – CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

Nominations were opened for the Election of Chair.

Miller nominated Dr. Swarn Rajpal as Chair. Seconded by Whittaker.

There were no further nominations and nominations were closed.

Vote on Chair:

Ayes: Adler, Whittaker, Miller, Rajpal (4)

Nays: (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, Dr. Swarn Rajpal was elected as Chair.

Nominations were opened for the election of Vice Chair.

Adler nominated Barbara Whittaker for Vice Chair. Seconded by Miller.

There were no further nominations and nominations were closed.

Vote on Vice Chair:

Ayes: Adler, Whittaker, Miller, Rajpal (4)

Nays: (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, Barbara Whittaker was elected as Vice Chair.

Nominations were opened for the election of Secretary.

Adler nominated herself for Secretary. Seconded by Whittaker.

There were no further nominations and nominations were closed.

Vote on Secretary:

Ayes: Adler, Whittaker, Miller, Rajpal (4)

Nays: (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, Gretchen Adler was elected as Secretary.

#### **ART AUTHORITY – REVIEW AND APPROVE ART AUTHORITY SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Walt Herzig, Deputy County Executive, indicated that he has been having conversations with David Woodward, Chair, Board of Commissioners and Julie McFarland, Executive Director, Public Affairs and Community Engagement, Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) to negotiate a new ten-year service agreement. However, more time is needed to finalize the details of the agreement. The Agreement to Extend the Art Institute Services Agreement Between the Oakland County Art Institute Authority and the Detroit Institute of Arts, Inc. was provided for approval by the Oakland County Art Institute Authority at today's meeting.

Miller moved to authorize the Chair of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority to sign the agreement to extend the Art Institute Services Agreement between the Oakland County Art Institute Authority and the DIA expiring on January 31, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A discussion was held regarding what date in January the Oakland County Art Institute Authority could meet to approve the proposed ten-year agreement prior to the expiration of the extension. It was agreed to set an Authority meeting for Monday, January 22, 2024, with no objections.

#### **DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS – 2024 SERVICE AGREEMENT PROGRAM PLAN REVIEW**

Julie McFarland explained that every year in December the DIA goes over the Program Plan with the Oakland County Art Institute Authority for the upcoming program year. A draft Program Plan was provided to allow the Authority to give feedback and suggestions for adjustments, if needed.

Ms. McFarland provided a presentation for the 2024 Program Plan, which included the service agreement summary (free General Admission, School Program, Senior Program and Community

Partnerships Program). Regarding the school program, the DIA offers something for all K-12 aged students during the summer, as well as during the school year, to serve those throughout the year. The DIA is designing a pilot for an in-school program and will be budgeting, resourcing and training next summer. The pilot is planned to be launched in the fall of 2024. An evaluation will be conducted after the pilot program, and recommendations will be made for the full implementation of the program. The DIA also offers educator professional development throughout the year, and the DIA would like to work with Oakland Schools to determine where the needs are for professional development in Oakland County. Guided and self-guided resources are available, and also resources to help teachers connect to exhibitions.

Regarding the senior program, the DIA met and exceeded goals for docent-led or self-guided museum visits for seniors, which are booked by group leaders, senior centers and other providers for senior group events. Free transportation is provided for 25 or more. and recently they started Melodies at the Museum, which is once a month, but an extra performance was provided in December. It is held in the film theatre which offers accommodations for those with mobility issues.

Community Partnership Programs continue in 2024 with the Inside Out Program in Auburn Hills, Clinton River Trail, Highland Township, Huntington Woods, Novi, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, Orion Township, Pontiac, Rochester and Oakland Community College. Additional Community Partnerships include Partners in Public Art, Drop in Art-Making at Fairs and Festivals, and Arts Beats and Eats. Exhibitions for 2024 include the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Group Art Exhibition, After Cubism: Modern Art in Paris, 1918-1948 and Regeneration Black Cinema, 1898-1971.

#### **ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY – CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2024**

A discussion was held regarding upcoming meeting dates for the Oakland County Art Institute Authority in 2024, and the following meeting dates were scheduled:

Monday, January 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

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Pamela L. Worthington, Committee Coordinator

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Gretchen Adler, Secretary

**NOTE:** The foregoing minutes are subject to Authority approval.