

OAKLAND COUNTY ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY

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Dr. Swarn Rajpal, Chairperson

Barbara Whittaker
Vice Chairperson

Jen Miller, *Secretary*
Bo Cheng

April 9, 2024

Chairperson Rajpal called the meeting of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority to order at 9:01 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Committee Room A at 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 12E, Pontiac, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Swarn Rajpal; Barbara Whittaker; Jen Miller; Bo Cheng, Remote/Non-Voting

MEMBERS ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Whittaker moved approval of the minutes of January 22, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Rajpal introduced Shelley Taub to the Authority and audience.

COMMUNICATIONS

Whittaker moved to receive and file the Communications, as presented. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW AUTHORITY MEMBER – BO CHENG

Chair Rajpal introduced newly appointed Authority member, Bo Cheng, to the Authority and audience.

ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY – ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Nominations were opened for the election of Secretary.

Whittaker nominated Jen Miller for Secretary.

There were no further nominations and nominations were closed.

Moved by Whittaker. Seconded by Rajpal that Jen Miller be elected as Secretary.

Vote on Secretary:

Ayes: Whittaker, Miller, Rajpal (3)

Nays: (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, Jen Miller was elected as Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kailey Phelps, Treasurer Cash Accounting Supervisor, Oakland County Treasurer's Office, provided a brief overview of the Treasurer's Report for FY 2023-2024, Month 2, as of February 29, 2024. The report consists of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority (OCAIA) interest earned, assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenue, expenditures, non-expenditure payments, and the tax collection/payments that have been transferred to the DIA as of February 29, 2024. Chair Rajpal asked for clarification regarding the Plante Moran Audit invoicing process.

Miller moved to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ART INSTITUTE AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Rajpal gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Art Institute Authority members and provided a brief history of the creation of the OCAIA. A discussion was held regarding the potential creation of Bylaws and if there would be a benefit to doing so. It was noted that the Articles of Incorporation will likely need to be updated because of changes to length of terms of Oakland County Board of Commissioners members. Chair Rajpal indicated that he will contact the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the County Executive to consider the potential appointment of alternate members pursuant to Article III, Section 2, Alternate Members, of the Articles of Incorporation. Jen Miller volunteered to collect Bylaws of other local Art Authorities to assist with creating draft Bylaws for the OCAIA.

REPORT FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2024, DIA BOARD MEETING

Chair Rajpal provided a report from the February 21, 2024, DIA Board Meeting. Highlights from the meeting included:

- Introduction of the new chairman of the DIA Board, Lane Coleman
- Director's Report from Salvador Salort-Pons, Director, DIA
- Finance Report from Kate Spratt, Chief Financial Officer, DIA; and
- An update regarding the DIA's outreach to Michigan Native Americans.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (DIA) REVIEW OF 2023 YEAR END REPORT

Julie McFarland, Executive Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement, provided a presentation on the 2023 Year End Report. The presentation began with recognition that the DIA was named the best art museum in American for the second year in a row by USA Today. It also included information about community participation with free admission, the school program, the senior program and community partnership programs.

Ms. McFarland shared that 124,000 Oakland County residents used their free admission benefit in 2023. 30,000 residents used their discount for the last month of the Van Gogh in America exhibit.

There were over 17,000 Oakland County students who participated in the free field trips to the museum, which met and exceeded goals. Although there were still some virtual participations, the trend is returning to more in-person museum experiences. An in-school pilot program is currently in development. The DIA is planning to run the pilot with one school district this year and are in the process of identifying that district.

There were 73 senior groups that participated in the Senior Program last year, which exceeded the DIA's goals. The "Melodies at the Museum" monthly music performance has been particularly successful. The DIA surveyed seniors about what they'd like to hear, and Motown has proven to be popular. Free transportation to the museum for seniors is being offered for groups of 25 or more. "Behind the Seen" art talks are available to adult civic and social groups, libraries, senior centers and other community-accessible locations in Oakland County. There were 142 art talks provided in 2023.

The Inside/Out communities for 2024 are Highland Township, Huntington Woods, Novi, Pontiac, Rochester, Oakland Community College, Clinton River Trail, Orion Township, and Oakland County Parks. In addition, the DIA will participate in "drop-in art making" at fairs and festivals this year.

Judith Dolhart, Deputy Director, Art, Education and Program, DIA, introduced the Upcoming exhibits for this year: Regeneration Black Cinema, 1898-1971; Tiff Massey: 7 Mile + Livernois; and Ofrendas, Celebrating el Dia de Muertos.

Whittaker moved to receive and file the DIA's 2023 Year End Report. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

PARTNERS IN PUBLIC ART (PIPA) UPDATE

Julie McFarland gave an update on the Partners in Public Art (PIPA) initiative for 2024. Ani Garabedian, Manager, Community Engagement Program, DIA, heads the PIPA initiative for the DIA. Oakland County had previously not participated by direction of the Chairman of the Oakland County Art Institute Authority. The document provided was modeled after plans which worked well in both Macomb and Wayne Counties. The document also includes an open application. They would like to do what they can in 2024, but the goal is to have processes fully in place by 2025.

Miller moved to accept the Partners in Public Art Update and the provided application. Seconded by Whittaker.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Whittaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Miller.

Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Aaron Snover, Committee Coordinator Senior

Jen Miller, Secretary

NOTE: The foregoing minutes are subject to Authority approval.